

LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE

EXTENSION OF THE WALLEYE MANAGEMENT PLAN (2015-2019)

The Lake Erie Committee (LEC) is extending the Walleye Management Plan (WMP) an additional five (5) years. After a review of the available data and consultation with stakeholders in all of the Lake Erie jurisdictions, LEC determined that no change to the WMP is required. The current WMP is a five year plan with a commitment to evaluate the plans performance commencing at the end of the plan cycle in 2019. By extending the WMP, the plan performance evaluation would commence in 2024.

The LEC has decided to adjust the review period for the following reasons;

- The current WMP is working well with harvest policy adapting to annual fluctuations in Walleye abundance.
- Recruitment of strong year classes in 2014 and 2015 and moderate recruitment in 2017, minimize the risk to the Walleye fishery
- The Walleye sport and commercial fisheries are performing very well
- To allow LEC agencies to continue to shift effort towards completion of the development of a Yellow Perch Management Plan
- To allow for the completion of current research over the next 4 years that will contribute new information for incorporation into the next WMP including;
 - The extent of the east basin stock contribution
 - Migration rates from west to east basin
 - Composition of mixed stock fisheries
 - Refinement of estimates of natural mortality (M)

The LEC will continue to monitor data trends to ensure ongoing sustainability of the Walleye population and the fisheries that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Brian Locke

