

# Agenda



## **2025 Lower Lake Committee Meetings**

March 18-20, 2025  
Embassy Suites Niagara Falls Fallsview  
Niagara Falls, Ontario

# LAKE ONTARIO COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00 am**    **1. Opening Remarks and Introductions**  
                  - Chris Legard (*NYSDEC*)
- 10:05 am**    **2. Lower Trophic—Intro/overview**  
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- 10:15 am**    **3. Status of Lake Ontario Lower Tropic Levels:2020-2024**  
                  - Jim Watkins (*Cornell University*)
- 10:35 am**    **4. DFO Lower Trophic Program for Lake Ontario**  
                  - Kelly Bowen (*DFO*)
- 10:50 am**    **5. Nearshore— Intro/Overview**  
                  - Chris Legard (*NYSDEC*)
- 11:00 am**    **6. Nearshore Fish Community Status Report: 2020-2024**  
                  - Jessica Goretzke (*NYSDEC*)
- 11:10 am**    **7. Are Stocked Walleye Reproducing in Hamilton Harbour?**  
                  - Jon Midwood (*DFO*)
- 11:30 am**    **8. Status of Lake Ontario Lake Sturgeon: 2020-2024**  
                  - Kyle Morton (*USFWS*)
- 11:40 am**    **9. Utilizing Acoustic Telemetry to Inform Management Decisions on  
Lake Sturgeon in Lake Ontario, New York**  
                  - Kyle Morton (*USFWS*)
- 11:55 am**    **LUNCH**
- 1:25 pm**     **10. American Eel Passage in the Upper St. Lawrence River and  
Lake Ontario**  
                  - Dave Stanley (*OPG*)
- 1:40 pm**     **11. The Dawn of a New Don—A Naturalized Don River Mouth, City  
of Toronto**  
                  - Brynn Coey (*TRCA*) and Ken Dion (*Waterfront Toronto*)

# LAKE ONTARIO COMMITTEE

## Tuesday, March 18th

- 1:50 pm**      **12. NOAA Habitat Restoration Projects in Lake Ontario**  
- Greer Harewood (*NOAA*)
- 2:05 pm**      **13. Offshore Pelagic—Intro/Overview**  
- Steve McNevin (*OMNR*)
- 2:15 pm**      **14. Status of Lake Ontario Offshore Pelagic Preyfish: 2020-2024**  
- Jeremy Holden (*OMNR*)
- 2:30 pm**      **15. Research Update: Evaluating Coregonine Spawning Habitat Restoration and Embryo Translocation**  
- Brian Weidel (*USGS*)
- 2:45 pm**      **16. Spatial Units to Inform Lake Ontario Bloater and Cisco Restoration**  
- Josh Egan (*GLFC*)
- 3:00 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:20 pm**      **17. Status of Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Fisheries 2020-2024**  
- Mike Connerton (*NYSDEC*)
- 3:35 pm**      **18. Parentage-Based Tagging Lake Ontario Chinook Salmon: Insights and Future Directions**  
- Nicholas Sard (*SUNY Oswego*)
- 3:50 pm**      **19. Status of Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon: 2020-2024**  
- Tom Gristey (*OMNR*)
- 4:05 pm**      **20. Status of Lake Ontario Sea Lamprey Control: 2020-2024**  
- Christine Boston (*DFO*)
- 4:20 pm**      **ADJOURN**

Join us for our reception starting at 5:30  
in the Embassy Lobby Lounge!

# LAKE ONTARIO COMMITTEE

## Wednesday, March 19th

- 8:55 am**      **21. Offshore Benthic– Intro/Overview**  
                     - Chris Legard (*NYSDEC*)
- 9:05 am**      **22. Status of Lake Ontario Offshore Benthic Preyfish: 2020-2024**  
                     - Jeremy Holden (*OMNR*)
- 9:20 am**      **23. Status of Lake Ontario Lake Whitefish: 2020-2024**  
                     - Sara Beech (*OMNR*)
- 9:35 am**      **24. Lake Whitefish Research: New Findings on Diet and Habitat Use**  
                     - Emma Bloomfield (*OMNR*)
- 10:05 am**     **25. Status of Lake Ontario Lake Trout: 2020-2024**  
                     - Collin Farrell (*USFWS*)
- 10:20 am**     **25. Identifying Lake Trout Spawning Distributions in Lake Ontario–  
Year 2 Update**  
                     - Alex Gatch (*USGS*)
- 10:35 am**     **26. Substrate Imagery to Evaluate Lake Trout Spawning Habitat;  
CSMI 2023 Project Update**  
                     - Lucas LeTarte (*USGS*)
- 10:50 am**     **27. LOC Session CLOSE**  
                     - Steve McNevin (*OMNR*)



# LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE

## Wednesday, March 19th

- 4:00 pm      **1. Opening Remarks and Introductions**  
                    - Dave Nihart (*PFBC*)
- 4:05 pm      **2. Status of Walleye Stocks**  
                    - Michael Thorn (*OMNR*)
- 4:35 pm      **3. Status of Yellow Perch Stocks**  
                    - Megan Belore (*OMNR*)
- 5:05 pm      **ADJOURN**

## Thursday, March 20th

- 9:00 am      **4. Opening Remarks and Introductions**  
                    - Dave Nihart (*PFBC*)
- 9:05 am      **5. 2024 TAC Announcement**  
                    - Dave Nihart (*PFBC*)
- 9:10 am      **6. STC Update**  
                    - Mark Haffley (*PFBC*)
- 9:25 am      **7. Status of Coldwater Species**  
                    - Tom MacDougall (*OMNR*)
- 9:50 am      **8. Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Erie**  
                    - Lexi Sumner (*DFO*)
- 10:15 am     **BREAK**
- 10:30 am     **9. Status of Forage Fish in Lake Erie**  
                    - Zak Slagle (*ODNR*)

# LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE

## Thursday, March 20th

- 10:55 am**      **10. Habitat Projects and Assessment**  
                         - Cleyo Harris (*MDNR*)
- 11:20 am**      **11. Lake Erie AIS Update**  
                         - Trisiah Tugade (*DFO*)
- 11:40 am**      **12. Yellow Perch Western Basin Telemetry Results**  
                         - Mark Dufour (*USGS*)
- 12:00 pm**      **LUNCH**
- 1:15 pm**        **13. Lake Erie Saildrone Update**  
                         - Mark Dufour (*USGS*)
- 1:35 pm**        **14. ON Creel Survey Results**  
                         - Arthur Bonsall (*OMNR*)
- 1:55 pm**        **15. That's No Steelhead: Tributary Bass Migration in the Great Lakes**  
                         - Zak Slagle (*ODNR*)
- 2:15 pm**        **16. Smallmouth Bass Snorkeling Survey in Ontario**  
                         - Arthur Bonsall (*OMNR*)
- 2:35 pm**        **17. Lake Erie Committee Session Wrap-up and Closing Remarks**  
                         - Dave Nihart (*PFBC*)
- 2:45 pm**        **ADJOURN**

