

Lake Michigan Committee

Terms of Reference

Committee Name

Lake Michigan Committee

Area of Concern

For deliberations of the LMC, Lake Michigan shall be considered to include all of Lake Michigan and, to the extent that they affect fish stocks of common concern, its bays, harbors, and tributaries.

Committee Purpose

1. To consider issues and problems of common concern to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and/or the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA).
2. To develop and coordinate joint state/provincial/federal/tribal management programs and research projects.
3. To consider issues pertinent to, or referred by, the GLFC that are within the LMC's authority or under its auspices.
4. To decide issues for referral to the GLFC or Council of lake Committees (CLC) for direction, resolution or support.
5. To serve as a forum for state, tribal, and federal agencies, and others, on a need/request basis.
6. To decide protocol for LMC operation, establish operational procedures for internal committees and develop meeting agendas.

Meeting Schedule

The LMC shall meet at least annually at a time and place determined by the members. The meeting shall be sufficiently in advance of the April CLC meeting and Annual June Meeting of the GLFC to allow the preparation of material, reports, and recommendations for GLFC review and action at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the LMC may be convened from time to time to deal with special items of business.

Membership

The LMC shall consist of an appointed staff member from the Illinois DNR (ILDNR), Indiana DNR (IDNR), Michigan DNR (MDNR), Wisconsin DNR (WDNR), and CORA. Representatives should be authorized to speak for their respective agencies.

Officers

1. Chair: The Chair shall be a "voting" member and shall serve for two years. The chair shall rotate among the member agencies in the following order beginning in 2007: IDNR, ILDNR, CORA, WDNR, and MDNR. The new Chair's term of office shall begin immediately following the Committee's annual meeting in odd numbered years; the outgoing Chair shall be responsible for presenting the Committee's report at the Commission's Annual Meeting.
2. Vice Chair: The representative of the agency following the designated Chair's agency as identified in number 1 above will serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall perform the functions of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

Resource Experts and Consultants

The LMC may request, as the need arises, expert advice or study on problems identified by the Committee.

Role of the Secretariat

The Secretariat provides liaison between the LMC and the GLFC, by assisting the LMC in the development and distribution of meeting agenda and minutes, and the preparation of briefing materials and reports as required. The Secretariat also assists in making meeting arrangements. In fulfilling its role, the secretariat will apply diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competence standards of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (<https://glfc.org/deic-statement.php>).

Decisions

Decisions will be reached by a consensus of the membership. When consensus cannot be achieved, the concerns of all agencies shall be described in the LMC's report to the GLFC. Conflict resolution may be pursued as outlined in A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

Technical Committee and Task Groups

The LMC may, as it deems necessary, establish a technical committee comprised of representatives from agencies that are signatory to the Joint Strategic Plan. Individual task groups may also be appointed to address specific resource issues. The LMC will determine the Terms of Reference for both the Technical Committee and appointed Task Groups.

Reporting

The LMC shall transmit to the GLFC prior to the GLFC's Annual Meeting, a report of the LMC's annual meeting including agency reports, reports of special committees and resolutions.

The LMC may request endorsement of its recommendations by the CLC and refer to the CLC items which have implications beyond the LMC's jurisdiction.

Approved by the Lake Michigan Committee, October 7, 2024