

Draft Workgroup Strategic Plan

(Drafted October 2001)

Workgroup Name: Fisheries Network

Objectives/Tasks	Responsibility	Timeline	Status	Products	Notes
1. Establish coordinated monitoring network for Lake Michigan Fisheries.				[link all products when completed]	
1.1 Approve list of fisheries biological parameters and associated metrics of GLFC-LMC.	LMMCC workgroup	Undetermined	Specific biological parameters in place for GLFC lakewide assessment program.	Approved, prioritized list of fisheries biological parameters and associated metrics.	List should include metrics or parameters and be prioritized by importance to basinwide management.
1.2 Compile list of participating agencies and individuals	GLFC Lake Michigan Committee	Initial list 10/01; ongoing updates	GLFC lakewide assessment plan task group in place-need commitment to this workgroup; need other entities to participate.	Membership contact list.	Should ultimately include individuals with knowledge of monitoring procedures and authority to change them.
1.3 Develop lakewide assessment program	Several management entities, with coordination from Lake Michigan Technical Committee (LMTC) of the GLFC.	N/A	Completed and now being implemented. (See below.)	Lakewide assessment program for the Lake Michigan fishery.	
1.4 Implement lakewide assessment program	(Same as above)	Annually, specific reporting times unknown	Commercial fisheries are currently monitored by state and tribal agencies-will integrate with lakewide assessment data. Lakewide assessment of forage fish is currently being carried out by the USGS/NBS.	Assessment of the Lake Michigan fish community in a coordinated, collaborative, and standardized fashion. Annual and multi-year reports.	Initially, assessment work will focus on targeted sampling for three key predators: lake trout, chinook salmon, and burbot. Supplemental data will be obtained from sampling schemes already in existence.
1.5 Incorporate principles of GLFC's "Fish Community Objectives for Lake Michigan" into the assessment program	GLFC-LMC, with recommendation from LMMCC workgroup?	Ongoing	Document published in Nov., 1995. Includes list of objectives related to biological integrity and physical and chemical stresses relevant to the lake's ecosystem. Workgroup consensus needed on document's objectives?	Ongoing framework for current/future decision-making; major reports on progress toward achieving the objectives at three-year intervals.	Will help define a unified direction and purpose for management activities around the lake.

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1.6 Utilize multi-agency document "A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries" for guidance in cooperative effort.	Full group	Ongoing	Management Information Strategy spells out need for cooperation and basin-wide commonality in and accessibility to information collected and used to measure and predict the effect of decisions.	Buy-in agreement by this workgroup to abide by management objectives/strategic procedures of this document. The strategic procedures include an "Information Sharing" component which outlines guidance/protocol for: ? Data Standards ? Models ? Information Access ? Data Sharing	The Joint Strategic Plan was signed by many entities around the Great Lakes basin.
1.7 Implement recommendations of the USFWS Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study (Report to Congress)	Full group	Need to ask what has been done.	Recommendations from the study came out some time in the 1990s.	Progress Report/Follow-up on original study.	Some key recommendations include: ? Conduct Comprehensive and Standardized Ecological Monitoring ? Standardize Fish Community Assessment Data and Establish Comprehensive Fishery Databases ? Fish Community Assessment Program ? Fish Community Modelling ? Coordinate State and Native American Tribal Harvest ~monitoring and Management: Measure Commercial and Recreational Fish Catches ? Ecological Information Clearinghouse/Geographic Information System
1.8					
2. Determine necessary data collection protocols					
2.1 Establish methodological standards	Indicator leaders, LMTC	Variable; first standards by 1/02	Several QA/QC protocols are available. Need for review. Standards in place for GLFC lakewide assessment.	Methodology standards for data collected	
2.2 Implement metadata standard; Incorporate strategic procedures for data standards from the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.	Full group. (Metadata team?)	Initial standards by ??? (already in place?)	GLFC will coordinate development and implementation of standards for recording and maintaining fishery management and assessment data.	Approved basinwide metadata standards	Network member organizations need to agree to adopt standards

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2.3 Establish site selection procedures and data collection timetables	GLFC-LMTC	Procedures for initial lakewide assessment set; data collection annually	GLFC lakewide assessment sampling sites to remain same each year; locations at each site randomly selected.	Coordinated data collection plans	
2.4					
3. Establish data sharing protocols					
3.1 Incorporate standard metadata into relevant data sets.	Network members	Spring/Summer 02 field season	No assessment of metadata compliance procedures known.	Data sets with greater sharability.	
3.2 Establish real or virtual shared database of monitoring data	Network members; GLFC-LMTC	2006	GLFC lakewide assessment program appears to be the first such effort.	A shared database of monitoring data.	
3.3 Establish information access via Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.	Full group	Ongoing	GLFC will maintain current Internet links to Party (to Joint Strategic Plan) and others' databases to facilitate access.	Includes catalog of Great Lakes fishery assessment and research programs which are planned or in progress.	The agencies are encouraged to provide their data to other agencies upon request if the collecting agency has had reasonable time to verify and interpret the data.
3.4					
4. Develop a coordinated funding plan	Network members; GLFC and the GLC	???	No discussions have yet to take place	Funding plan to support ongoing Great Lakes fisheries monitoring.	
4.1					