Fisheries Management Plan for Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior

Presentation for
“Making a Great Lake Superior”

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Plan Development

• Revised 10 year plan created in 1995
• Operational plan - decision making criteria
• Used as reference document when issues arise
• Work within the GLFC framework – FCO’s for L.S.
• Utilized a high level of citizen participation
Plan Process “Players”

- Host a “kick-off” Lake Superior Fisheries conference
  - Interested citizens
  - Identified issues to address

- Advisory Group – Citizens with a “stake”
  - Club/Organization representatives
  - Non-affiliated angler representatives
  - Geographical angler representation

- General Public – audience, open house, comments

- DNR Group
  - Managers, biologists, hatchery, region, CO
Role of L.S. Advisory Group

- Provide input, ideas
- Provide feedback, critique
- Liaison with organizations, clubs, groups
- Discuss issues – gain understanding
- Where possible, reach consensus
Planning Process

Kick-off Conference
Dec. 2004

MNDNR - DMT
Approved

Distributed
Final Plan
Sept. 2006

Open House Mtg (3)
Media, Web Site, etc
Dec. 2005

6 Advisory Group Mtgs
Winter/Spring 2005

Media/
Advisory Group/
Small Groups

ID Issues

Draft Plan (II)

Draft Plan (I)
FAQ’s
Summary Sheet
Decision Making Process

Issue

LSAG input

General Public input

MNDNR N.S. Mgmt. Group Recommendation

MNDNR Division Mgmt. Team

Lake Superior Management Plan
Value of Management Plan Process

- Communication between agency and stakeholders
- Shared perspectives – gained understanding
- Minimizes “brush fires” by dealing with issues up front
- Documents common understanding of decisions made
  - criteria established
  - actions that will occur
Significant Changes in Lake Superior Management Plan for Minnesota

- Strategies based on biology
- Pro-active management
- Reflect changes in fish community lake-wide
- Not everyone agreed – most understood
Prey/Commercial Species

- Reduce commercial fishing licenses from 50 to 25

- For cisco moved from unlimited fishery with spawning closure to total allowable catch (TAC)
  - 10% of the average spawning stock biomass based on hydro-acoustic survey - 3-year average
  - Allocation determined by commercial operators and MNDNR – provide for both fillet and roe market
Lake Trout

- Discontinue stocking MN2 in 2007 and reduce yearlings stocked in MN1 to approx. 170,000
- Extend the lake trout angling season from Sept. 30th through the 1st full weekend in October
- Established criteria to reduce harvest
  - Annual mortality rate > 45%
**Chinook Salmon**

- Discontinued the Chinook salmon stocking program
  
  - If fewer than 75 pair of Chinook salmon return to the French River trap, for 3 consecutive years, the program will be discontinued.

- Since 2000 the average contribution of stocked Chinook salmon to the MN summer fishery was <5%
Contribution of MN Stocked Chinook Salmon to Summer Fishery in Minnesota

% contribution

Year

Wild & other

MN hatchery
Lake Trout - “Expanded Assessment”
Limited Commercial Fishery

- “Expanded Assessment” proposed in the draft LSMP
- Removed in the final plan
- Introduced as legislation by local representatives as law
- Passed and signed - 2007
Lake Trout Fishery

- Special Permit – June 1 – Sept. 30
- 2007 – 3,000 LAT in MN-3; 2010 - 2,000 LAT in MN-2
- Limit operators & LAT taken per statistical grid
- Regulatory authority for permit conditions
Summary

- Planning process builds relationships
- Provides sharing of various perspectives
- Impossible for everyone to get what they want
- Transparent, participatory decision making
- “You Didn’t Listen To Us!!!”
- Biologically based guide for future fisheries management in Lake Superior
Questions ??