

Fisheries Management Plan for Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior

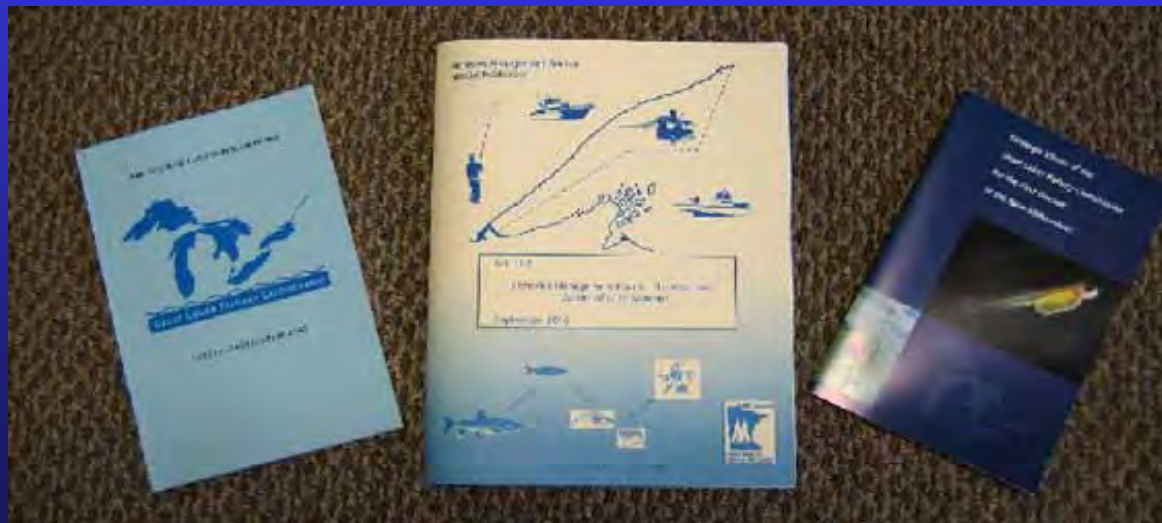
Presentation for
“Making a Great Lake Superior”



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MNDNR, Lake Superior Fisheries

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”

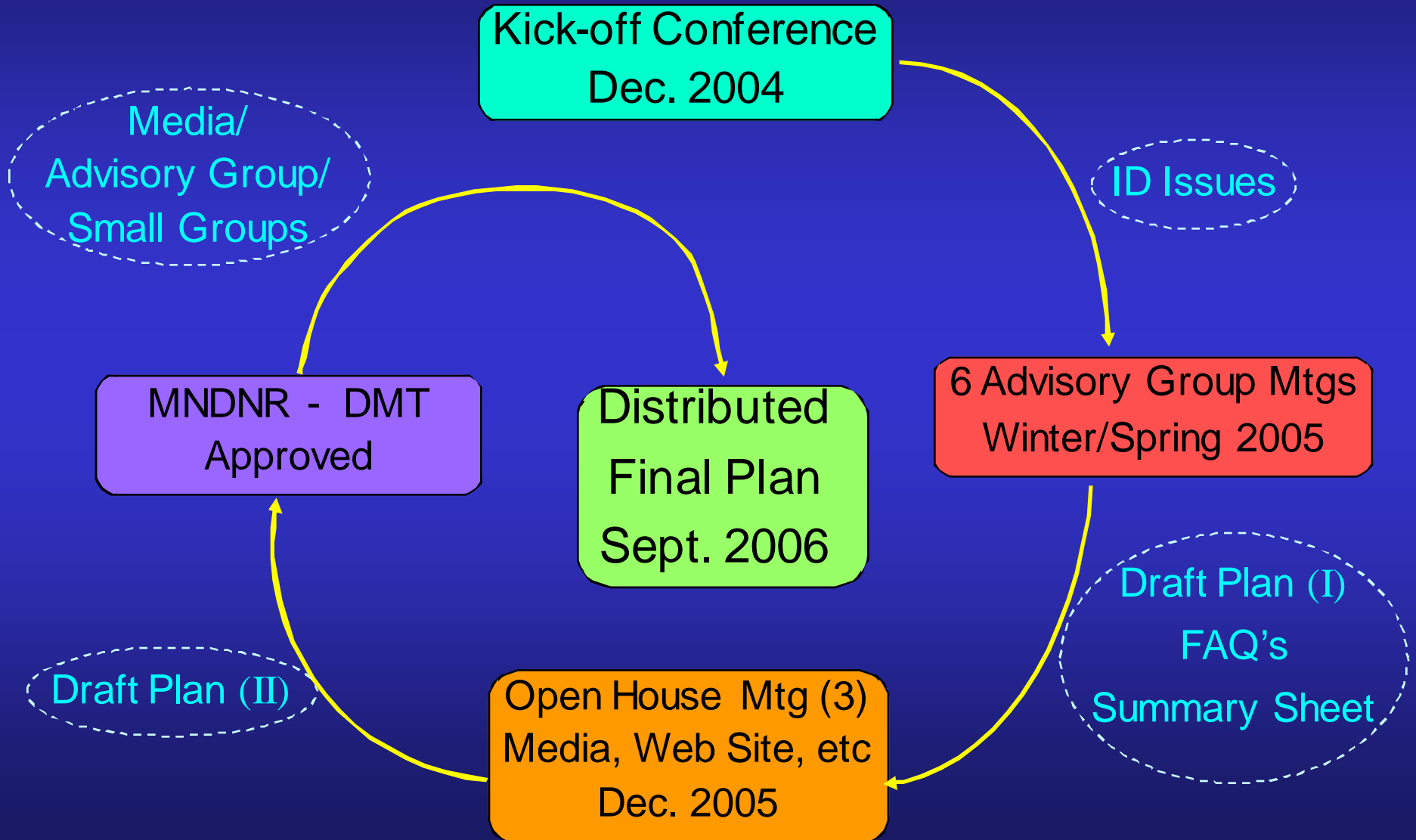
- Host a “kick-off “ Lake Superior Fisheries conference
 - Interested citizens
 - Identified issues to address
- Advisory Group – Citizens with a “stake”
 - Club/Organization representatives
 - Non-affiliated angler representatives
 - Geographical angler representation
- General Public – audience, open house, comments
- DNR Group
 - Managers, biologists, hatchery, region, CO

Role of L.S. Advisory Group

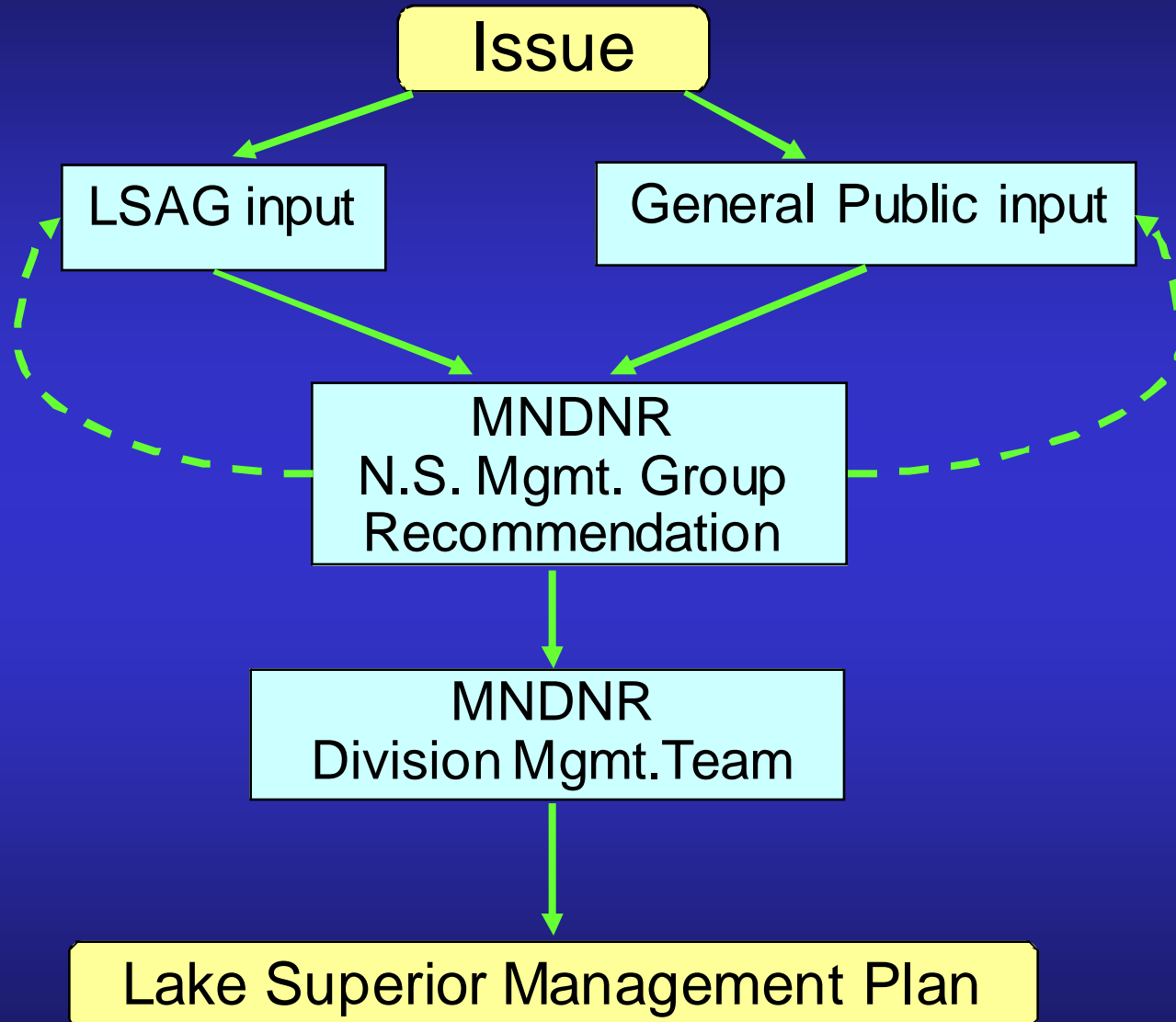
- Provide input, ideas
- Provide feedback, critique
- Liaison with organizations, clubs, groups
- Discuss issues – gain understanding
- Where possible, reach consensus



Planning Process



Decision Making Process



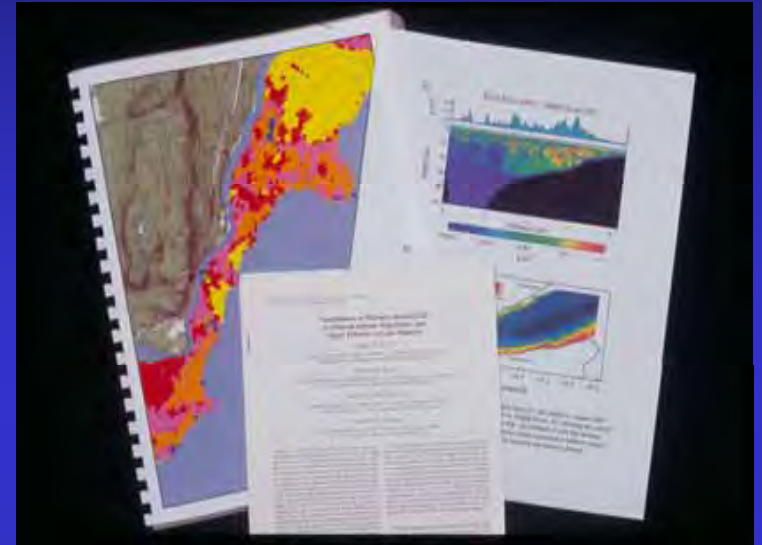
Value of Management Plan Process

- 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

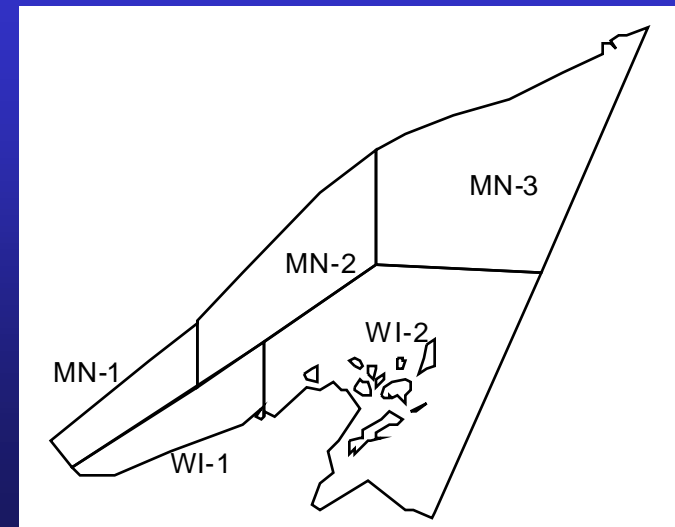


- Reduce commercial fishing licenses from 50 to 25
- For cisco moved from unlimited fishery with spawning closure to total allowable catch (TAC)
 - 10% of the average spawning stock biomass based on hydro-acoustic survey - 3-year average
 - Allocation determined by commercial operators and MNDNR – provide 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 $> 45\%$

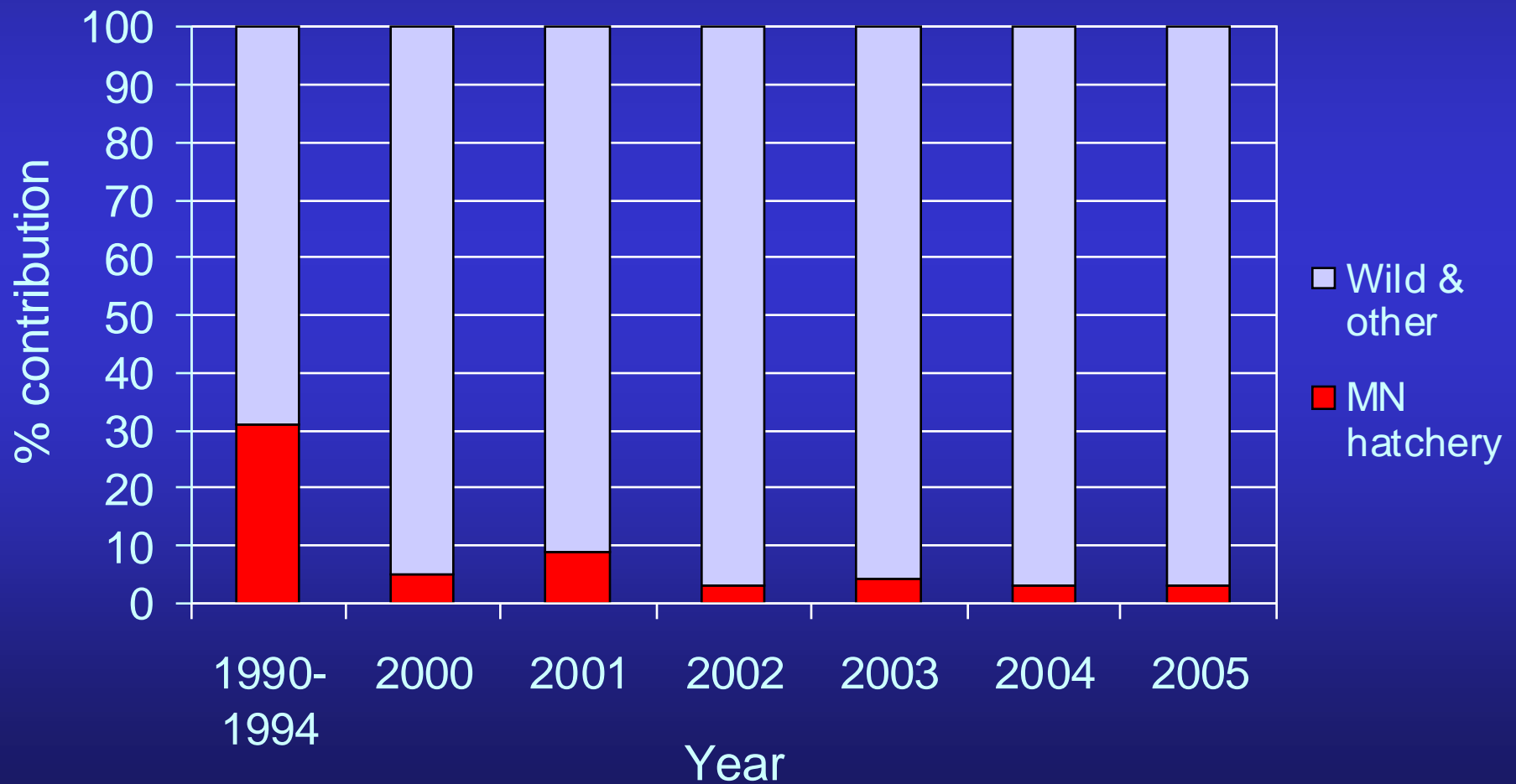


Chinook Salmon



- 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



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

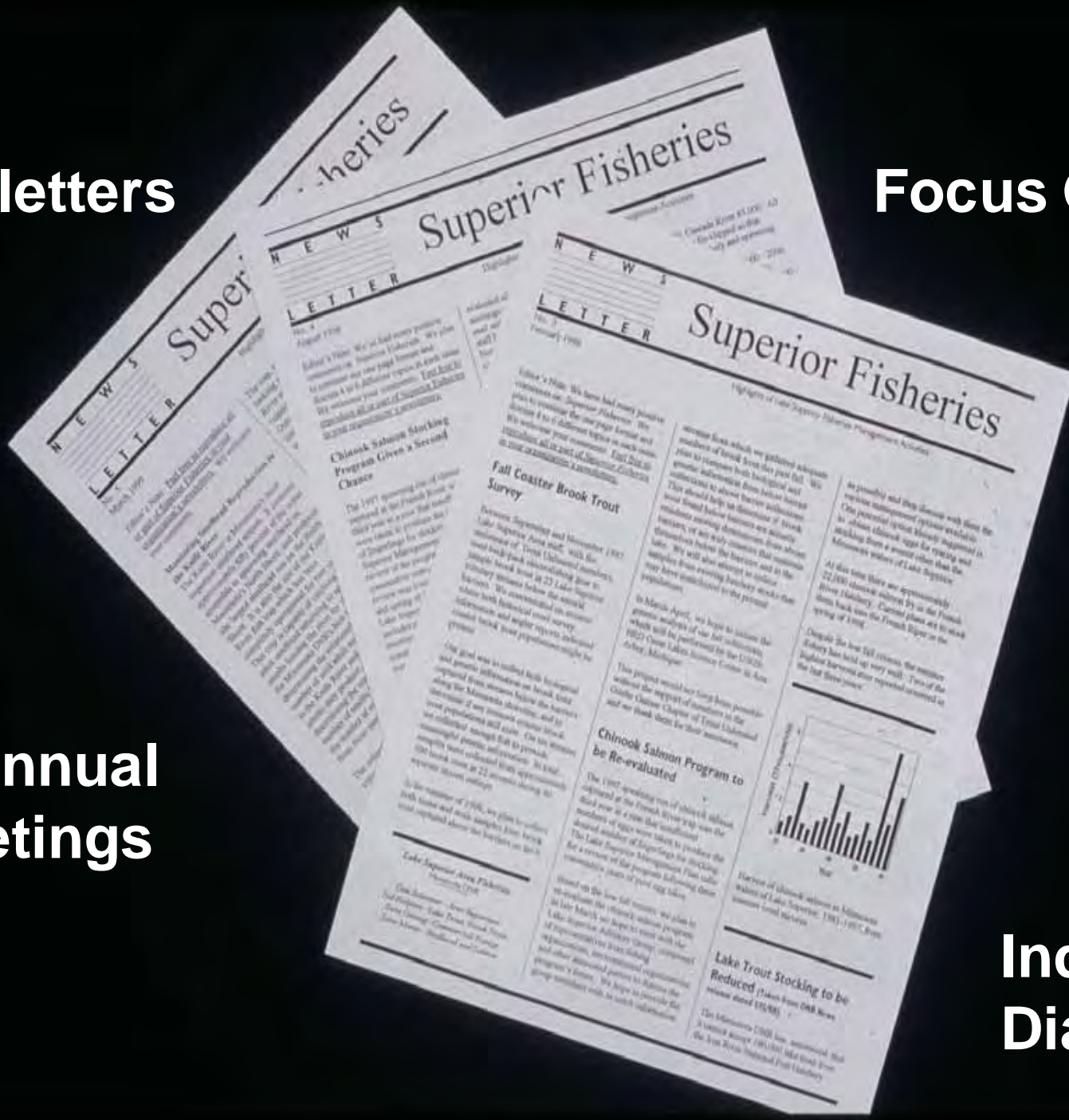


Newsletters

Focus Groups

Bi-annual Meetings

Individual Dialog



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 ??

