Menominee River AOC Fish Reference Site Monitoring

# 2013 Interim Report

EPA Grant Funding Source: WDNR GLRI Capacity Grant GL-00E00712-1 CAP\_4\_2013

## **Prepared by**

WI AOC Coordinator:

Benjamin Uvaas WDNR, Office of the Great Lakes 2984 Shawano Avenue Green Bay, WI 54313 Ph. 920-662-5465 E-mail <u>benjamin.uvaas@wisconsin.gov</u>

#### With Assistance from the Fisheries Data Roundup Project Team

Sharon Baker Patrick Hanchin Steve Choy Donalea Dinsmore Mike Donofrio Andy Fayram Tammie Paoli Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Michigan Department of Natural Resources United States Fish and Wildlife Service Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

# **Table of Contents**

REVIEW OF DELIVERABLES COMPLETED	1
SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	1
RESULTS	2
LOWER SCOTT FLOWAGE	2
LOWER (MENOMINEE) RIVER	3
PESHTIGO RIVER	3
ESCANABA RIVER	3
CONCLUSIONS	3
	_
REFERENCES	5

# List of Appendices

Appendix A	Photocopies of field data sheets
Appendix B	Photographs of field work conducted
Appendix C	June Lower Menominee River Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Appendix D	July Lower Menominee River Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes

#### **Review of Deliverables Completed**

In 2012, a project team of fisheries experts from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were assembled to review existing fisheries data for the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern (AOC) and establish restoration targets (recruitment targets) for select fish species. This effort was coined the "Fisheries Data Roundup". The AOC was broken into two sections; the Lower Scott Flowage (Menominee River upstream of the Menominee Dam) and the lower river (Menominee River below the Menominee Dam). After reviewing available data, the team determined that yellow perch had achieved their restoration target for the lower river, but recommended collecting additional fisheries data for the Lower Scott Flowage, lower river, and reference sites before assessing other species. Recommended data collection was completed in 2013 by fisheries staff from the WDNR and MDNR with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This report details the results of 2013 data collection efforts and the conclusions reached from those data.

A scope of work and quality assurance project plan were developed and uploaded to the WDNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database. The WDNR completed electrofishing surveys on the Lower Scott Flowage, lower river, and Peshtigo River reference site. The MDNR completed survey work on the Escanaba River reference site. Data from surveys conducted in Wisconsin waters have been uploaded to the fisheries management database. Photocopies of field data sheets and photographs of field work in progress are included as appendices A and B of this report.

The project team met twice to discuss results from the Lower Scott Flowage. Their recommendations are included in the "Conclusions" section of this report. Additional data is still required before the project team can make recommendations for the lower river.

An unanticipated budget surplus will allow for data collection efforts to continue in 2014 without requesting additional funding. Work will be consistent with the 2013 quality assurance project plan and scope of work, although data will not be collected from the Lower Scott Flowage. Quarterly and interim reports will continue to be submitted to the WDNR SWIMS database.

#### Summary of Challenges Encountered

Field crews did not experience notable difficulties or challenges while conducting their work.

# <u>Results</u>

# LOWER SCOTT FLOWAGE

Survey Date	4/25/2011	5/24/2011	5/22/2012	5/20/2013	Average	Restoration	2011-2013 Calculated
	Species (	Catch Totals	2013)	Goal Percentile	Percentile		
Bluegill		3	4	5	3.4	25th	4.6
Largemouth Bass	1	0	0	0	0.1	-	20.3
Northern Pike	14	8	1	0	1.7	-	30.5
Rock Bass		28	14	14	14	-	47.8
Smallmouth Bass	7	87	11	41	14.5	-	44.1
Walleye	31	24	0	7	4.7	-	50.9

**Table 1.** Spring electrofishing catch totals and average catch-per-effort (CPE) in the Lower Scott Flowage. Average CPE and calculated percentile are derived from information found in the Lower Menominee River AOC Fisheries Data Roundup Final Report (2013).

Survey Date	9/16/1987	10/4/1989	7/31/2003	8/4/2003	10/3/2011	10/1/2012	Average	Restoration	1987-2012
		2012)	Goal Percentile	Percentile					
Bluegill	7	16	0			5	2.8	25th	24.3
Largemouth Bass	5	0	0	0	2	4	0.9	-	53.4
Northern Pike	1	11	0	3	7	0	2.0	-	3.6
Rock Bass	53	80	21			38	18.3	-	94.5
Smallmouth Bass	26	8	0	29	50	22	12.0	-	81.2
Walleye	16	22	18	0	7	12	4.1	-	16.8

**Table 2.** Fall electrofishing catch totals and species specific average CPE in the Lower Scott Flowage. Average CPE and calculated percentile are derived from information found in the Lower Menominee River AOC Fisheries Data Roundup Final Report (2013).

# LOWER (MENOMINEE) RIVER

Survey Date	10/23/2012	9/23/2013	2014	2015	Average
		2013)			
Muskellunge	2	0			0.67
Largemouth Bass	5	4			3.00
Northern Pike	1	1			0.67
Smallmouth Bass	1	0			0.33
Walleye	12	0			4.00

**Table 3.** Fall electrofishing catch totals and species specific average CPE in the lower river.Average CPE is based on catch totals and 1.5 mile survey effort.

## PESHTIGO RIVER

Survey Date	10/1/2013	2014	2015	Average							
Spe	Species Catch Totals										
Muskellunge	0			0.00							
Largemouth Bass	0			0.00							
Northern Pike	4			1.78							
Smallmouth Bass	5			2.22							
Walleye	0			0.00							

**Table 4.** Fall electrofishing catch totals and species specific average CPE in the lower river. Average CPE is based on catch totals and 2.25 mile survey effort.

#### ESCANABA RIVER

Survey Date	10/7/2013	2014	2015	Average							
Spe	Species Catch Totals										
Muskellunge	0			0.00							
Largemouth Bass	0			0.00							
Northern Pike	18			7.41							
Smallmouth Bass	16			6.58							
Walleye	9			3.70							

**Table 5.** Fall electrofishing catch totals and species specific average CPE in the lower river. Average CPE is based on catch totals and 2.43 mile survey effort.

## **Conclusions**

Members of the project team met on 6/19/2013 and 7/29/2013 to discuss Lower Scott Flowage survey results. Meeting records are included with the Lower Menominee River Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes and are stored by the WDNR in Green Bay. They are also included in this report as appendices C and D.

During the June meeting, the team qualitatively concluded that while smallmouth and rock bass populations did not require assistance, other Lower Scott Flowage targets species could benefit from habitat improvement work. Only one habitat improvement project is identified in the Lower Menominee River Remedial Action Plan within the flowage, referred to as the "11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool" project. However, concerns over project longevity, pending sediment contaminant characterization work, and need were discussed at the July meeting. The team concluded that due to the uncertain impact of future sedimentation and the perceived quality of existing habitat that restoration work at the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool should only be part of the Lower Menominee River AOC Remedial Action Plan if a future sediment remediation disturbs the area. The intent is to return habitat disturbed during sediment remedial activities to a beneficial state. If sediment remediation is not found to be necessary, no further habitat improvement actions in the Flowage are required by the Remedial Action Plan.

Other than bluegill, all target species were above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile restoration goal in at least one monitoring season (Tables 1-2). The team stopped short of saying that all target species populations were OK, but did discuss the reasons why this may be the case. Those reasons included:

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool is not surveyed during electrofishing events because of shallow water depth and dense vegetation. Both factors could cause damage to electrofishing equipment, but also attract bluegill and juvenile fish.
- A Fyke net survey conducted in 2006 near the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool found bluegill to be common.
- Downstream fish passage improvements planned for the Park Mill Dam will benefit all Lower Scott Flowage target species.

It is the conclusion of this interim report that Lower Scott Flowage target species populations are currently meeting their restoration targets. However, this target will not be considered achieved until results of Lower Scott Flowage sediment characterization work has been obtained. If sediment remediation is required in the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool area, post-remedial habitat restoration is required before this target will be considered achieved.

No conclusions were reached regarding lower river targets species during this reporting period. (Tables 3-5). Two years of additional data collection is required prior to making any assessments. The WDNR and MDNR are planning to continue data collection in 2014 and 2015.

# **References**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), 2013. *Lower Menominee River AOC Fisheries Data Roundup Final Report.* WDNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313.

Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee, 2013. Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minute: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313.

Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee, 2013. Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minute: July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313. Appendix A Photocopies of field data sheets

	1209	den: St	、入屁	rid 4	15,095	511/-	-87.5	78648
Department of Natural Resources	CZ	ridge"	LA	KE ELECTE	ROFISHING	DATA CO	LLECTION	SHEET
il		$\mathcal{O}$	ror.	111 2000-100		.e	1	4-92
Long Menomince	AND Codes	Dat	9,2	3/3 com	Ma c.	at the collect	Lange	Kuss
Target Eich: 2104,		Dai	.e/		иу: <u>/ челл</u>	m. 61 F	$\int_{1}^{1} \operatorname{Time}_{1} dt$	<u>~, ~~ ~</u>
	uvey Type:				n <sub>2</sub> 0 n	Services A		
Adverse Conditions:	<u> </u>				50		120	-11_10
Volts: <u>~ (</u> Amps: <u>~ (</u>	Current Ty	G, AC/DU/P		uise Rate:	13		· <u>~ ~ ~</u>	Smi
Gear Type: <u>1900/05/004200</u> Sta	rt 11me:	7,00	End I	1 me: (-)		_ Distance Sr		
# of Dippers: (1/2) Entire Shoreline S	hocked: (Y/N	/I) Dip net m	esh size:	<u>/// H</u> 20	O Clarilty: ((	Clear/Turbid/	Very Turbid)	
1 o th	in the state	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	and a state of the				11 - an an ang ang pang pang tang isa pang ar 20 ma kan diga	
ATP.	Y Poul	1,5 . RGIII	1 M 12	P. Sport			T	· · · · ·
363	220	NUTT	114	122				
	233		117	113			1	
	167		87	109				
	84							
	160					·		<u> </u>
						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
			· · · ·					
			· .					
	<u> </u>		•					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								
			· · · ·				<u> </u>	
					-		[	
	·				-1		<u> </u>	· ·
			• - •					
						/	1	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u>  ·</u>					$\vdash$	prac	14/
							मुरिष्मिद्वाः	RA
The start the the	hite's.	IC. hop	·				HICKS &	<u>ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ</u>
		ES			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	P. y	9/30/	'3 ·
	/ */	(2)				·	· · · ·	
	12/1-1						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Carp	19 Bally	CONTRA SA	27 V)					
	2-1-3-140	CALLER AND						
5+61111	1 P	1	1			<u> </u>		
	1- CC-IF	NCH.					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	R	1 / 01						
perhorse 1	Empre	Ha sh	INCO.			· ·		
							ļ	
* ()	$\vdash$	F	· · · _ · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			<b> </b>		
						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
1111		· · ·		· · ·			<u> </u>	<b> </b>
				-		-		

Department of Natural Resources

# LAKE ELECTROFISHING DATA COLLECTION SHEET Form 3600-186 Straft fime Collection 4-92 grad in 743.800

.

dverse Conditions:	104	South	v1d	нос	onduct	2	Station:	Peshtleo	R. S. no
olte: $\frac{3}{2}$	ne: [14	Current Ty	DE CAC/DC/E	mised DC) Pr	lse Rate:	60	Duty Cycle	, 2 s <sup></sup>	
ear Type: 3000	Should Star	1 Time:	20 4 (C / M	End T	ime: 7 4	3 10 44	Distance Sh	ocked:	2.5
of Dianomy (1/1) Entit		oolada (VA)	() Din nat a	ach ciza: 1/	<sup>,</sup> ч	O Claribus ((	- Near/Turbid/	Veor Turbid)	
01 Dippers. (1/2) Entr	ie Shorenne Sh	IOCKCU. (1/I)	n) Dipneen	icsit size		о сшилу. (			
		~	1						
	1/3 Herdian	The Control	41)   Car 11	Chinak	Chillberte	000000		T	<u> </u>
	- 44 A-1	2	2	1	1	2			
	1.11	<u>                                      </u>							
	\$ 17								
	 Es								
		1							
SMR	232 410								<del></del> .
NP	662								
<u>- SWR</u>	308								
<u>N F</u>	3.43	<u> </u>		<u>.</u>					
Yiperch	66								
NP	\$\$\$								
R. 4. 8. 225	1.00								
						4			<u></u>
Rock Bass	168				•				
5M8	3.7/					· · · ·			
<u> </u>	380								
V. Perita	(38								
V. Pesch	153								
	86								
	1100								
	-								
						·····			
		<b>1</b> .~							

Department of Natural Resources LAKE ELECTROFISHING DATA COLLECTION SHEE Form 3600-186								HEET ev. 5-95			
Lake ESCANADA REDER	MWB-Code:	Date:	1017	/ <u>/ 3</u> Count	y: DELTA	Collec	tor: <u>ICRA</u>	mer			
Target Fish: NPP, MASULAS, PAS	Survey Type: _		$\underline{\qquad \qquad Mark Given: \underline{N/A} H_2 O Temp: \underline{SSS} Time \underline{O} : \underline{SSS}}$								
Adverse Conditions:	Nër		H_2OC	Conduct:	15 St. 62 m	_Station: _	57.0650	086 and			
Latitude: 45. 79415 Longitu	de:87,07	182 6 8	stort	104:7	5.77865	, IOAI	- 377				
Volts: Amps:	Current Typ	e (AC/DC/Pul	sed DC) Puls	e Rate:	PPS_I	Outy Cycle:		0			
Gear Type: boomshacker S	tart Time:	8:30 4	End Ti	me: <u>9,</u>	19 pm 1	Distance Sho	ocked: <u>6</u>	,909 H.			
# of Dippers: (1/2) Entire Shoreline	Shocked: (Y/M	/I) Dip net m	nesh size:	<u>78'</u> -H2	O Clarilty:	(Clear/Turbi	d/Very Turbid)	0			
Sitt -7 ESCANAGA LIVER	- Southe	nes los	centre s	ide) bei	nK of	nei	chenne	l			
NOP	Smb	WAE	LmB	MUS			1				
22.	3 6.5	11.4									
18.5	11.9	13.4									
21.6	7.4	13.3									
16.3	18.0	15.2									
12.5	3.7	12.4									
pl.8	7.3										
14.4											
12.9											
NEII	NES	NET	WED.	NO							
						/					
				8			-				
	<i>i</i>										
							-				
			-								
70											

Other fish: (Can include rarely caught species and fish greater than 30 inches.)

D

Department of Natural Resou	Date:	LAKE ELECTROFISHING DATA COLLECTION SHEET Form 3600-186 Rev. 5-95 —Date: 10/113 County: Dorm Collector:										
Lake <u>Cocception</u>	N. Ressu	wB-Code:	Date.	/ Ma	rk Given: 🥒	1A H.O.	Temp: Si 8	Time				
Adverse Conditions:	1200	shallon	د	H <sub>2</sub> O Conduct:Station:								
Latituda: 45, 7941 5	Longitude	-87,075	y beste	1.	17:45,78	8439 10	087,070	09 e en	لم ا			
Volts: Amps:	S.O	Current Type	AC/DC/Puł	sed BC) Puls	e Rate: 6	DPPS	Duty Cycle:	~				
Volts Alles.	Ken Stort	Time: 102	75 Nr.	End Ti	me: 11.0	3 nn	Distance Sho	cked: 4,	slob ft.			
# of Dippers: (1/2) Entire	Shoreline Sho	ocked: $(Y/N)$	(1) Dip net m	esh size:	3/6" н	, O Clarilty:	(Clear/Turbic	I/Very Turbid)				
Tto FS conclus	R Sore -	southe	4 (G/a	dstrage S	:6) 60	nk of	mah	Chan	el			
	NIDP	Sank	1.105	Iark	and				7.			
	700		Linc	071.0								
	10.5	7.8	11.3									
	13,0	8.1										
		8.4										
-	N= 3	NES	NEI	NO	10:0							
								-				
								_				

...

2

Other fish: (Can include rarely caught species and fish greater than 30 inches.)

Department of Natural Resou	LAKE ELECTROFISHING DATA COLLECTION SHEET Form 3600-186 Rev. 5-95											
Lake Escanado	REVERM	WB-Code:	Date:	1017	1 <u>13</u> Coun	ty: Det M	) Collec	tor:	AAME RE			
Target Fish: MP, mass la	ine boysu	rvey Type: _		Ma	urk Given: 🔟	<u>//А</u> н <sub>2</sub> 0	Temp: <u>58 . 8</u>	5 Time	:			
Adverse Conditions:	very ?	the how		H <sub>2</sub> O Conduct:Station:								
Latitude: 45,78678	_ Longitude:	-87,068	28 E 52	ters	147:45	, 789 31	100:-8	7,069626	- 949			
Volts: Amps:	5.0	Current Type	e (AC/DC/Pul	sed DC) Puls	e Rate:	al pps	Duty Cycle:	e				
Gear Type: boom show	the Star	Time:/	1:17 pa	End Ti	ime:	9pm	Distance Sho	ocked:/	1,377 \$4,			
# of Dippers: (1/2) Entire	Shoreline Sho	ocked: (Y/N	I) Dip net m	nesh size:	<u>78"</u> H	O Clarilty:	(Clear/Turbio	Wery Turbid)				
Site 7 Escondo R.	ver - ne	or the last	( Gladst.	me side	Small	side e	tenne (	behine	1 islands			
	NOP	SMB	WAG	lond	mas							
	70.1	18.0	18.9									
	13.5	6.3										
	12.5											
	NEU	11:1	1151	NED	NEN							
	12 1	12 60										
							_					
						_						
									· · · · · · · · ·			
8												
									J			

(2)



**<u>Appendix B</u>** Photographs of field work conducted (more available upon request)

Appendix C June Lower Menominee River Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee Meeting June, 19 2013 1:00pm – 3:00 pm CDT

WDNR Service Center, Peshtigo 101 N Ogden Rd Peshtigo WI 54157-0208

Dial-in Audio Number: 1-(855)-947-8255 Access Code: 8793-849# 1-(630)-424-2356

#### **Meeting Objectives**

- 1. Determine the next steps regarding assessing the feasibility for modifying fish access and/or carp exclusion from the Seagull Bar pocket.
- 2. Conclude whether or not all target fish species in the Lower Scott Flowage are meeting their recruitment goals. If not, determine the next steps towards conducting habitat improvement work in the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool.
- 3. Members of the TAC are aware of recent activities associated with the Island Rookery and Menekaunee Harbor habitat restoration projects, and have an opportunity to provide feedback.

#### Participating

Patrick Hanchin MDNR, Sharon Baker MDEQ, Betsy Galbraith USFWS, Mike Bryant EPA, Ben Uvaas, Andy Fayram, Cheryl Bougie, Tammie Paoli, and Dave Hoffman WDNR

#### Seagull Bar Pocket: Fish Access and Carp Exclusion

Donofrio, Paoli, and Uvaas noted the presence of a significant number of adult common carp spawning in the Seagull Bar pocket over several dates this spring. The purpose of this discussion was to determine if pursuing the exclusion of carp from the pocket should be an activity required to remove the F&W BUIs. The group discussed various carp exclusion methods while considering other variables which included: maintaining navigation, baseline turbidity and vegetation data, water level variation, and access for desirable species like northern pike. Paoli shared her experiences with the carp exclusion structure at Winegar Pond in Peshtigo. The two structures completed cost of about \$400K and required significant permitting to install. The structures are actively managed by WDNR to allow for the passage of desirable fish species during their spawning runs, and they are also designed to allow for seasonal navigation. Lastly, the structures are only designed for about a 3' rise in Green Bay's water level, which is currently 6' below its historic high point. There is currently no known dataset indicating that the spawning of common carp in the Seagull Bar Pocket is negatively impacting another fish species, water quality, or the vegetation community.

→ The Committee determined that there is not enough information available at this time indicating carp exclusion work here should be required for BUI removal. The team supports carp exclusion efforts here as a "tier 2" or Lakewide Management Plan project, but considers it outside what is necessary to remove BUIs.

#### Fisheries Data Roundup: Lower Scott Flowage Results

The Committee reviewed the Lower Scott Flowage Data which now includes electrofishing data from May 2013. Rock bass and smallmouth bass CPE rates were above goal (25<sup>th</sup> percentile) in both seasons and bluegill were below goal in both seasons, while northern pike, walleye, and largemouth bass were above in one season and below in another. They felt that the best way to interpret these results were to group the species into qualitative categories. In that spirit, Lower Scott Flowage rock and smallmouth bass populations "do not need help," while bluegill, northern pike, walleye, and largemouth bass populations "may benefit from assistance through habitat improvement."

# **USFWS 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pool Project**

Steve Choy of the USFWS has successfully competed for project funding in an internal opportunity for work with a contaminant link in AOCs. The project will assess the existing habitat and design a habitat improvement project at the 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Pool (shallow water area west of 11<sup>th</sup> Ave boat launch). Habitat restoration work will focus on the needs of fish species that may benefit from assistance through habitat improvement, but will also benefit other fish and wildlife species. Work will take place in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a shovel-ready design. Also in 2013, USEPA GLNPO will characterize the Flowage's sediment for contamination. The TAC strongly supported this design work, but wanted to wait until the implementation timeframe was available before tying it to removal of the fish and wildlife BUIs.

 $\rightarrow$  Choy, Galbraith, and Uvaas will contact individuals from the TAC to provide technical expertise on design development when the time comes.

## **Agency Updates**

<u>Island Rookery Habitat Restoration-</u>Baker informed the group that the Great Lakes Commission will be serving as the fiscal agent for this project. Expertise from the TAC is currently being utilized to develop the project scope. A request for bids will be developed shortly and released in early July. Additional assistance may be requested of the TAC for review of the received bid proposals. All restoration work will take place after the fledging season to avoid disrupting the rookery.

<u>Menekaunee Harbor Restoration-</u> Uvaas and Bougie updated the committee on the Menekaunee Harbor Restoration project. Ayres and WDNR have revised the project scope to include the design of habitat restoration in their existing contract with the City of Marinette. Next the City Council needs to review and approve of the scope and revised contract. Afterward approval, Ayers will approach members of the TAC to provide their technical expertise on restoration design aspects. Plans and designs are expected to be approximately 60% complete by September, and will include multiple opportunities for public input during development.

## Other News

→ Uvaas is responsible for draft minutes and will supply a doodle poll link to select the date for the next TAC meeting.

## **Contact information**

Ben Uvaas, Wisconsin DNR Benjamin.uvaas@wisconsin.gov 920-662-5465 Sharon Baker, Michigan DEQ BakerS9@michigan.gov 517-335-3310 Appendix D July Lower Menominee River Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July, 29 2013 9:00 – 11:00am CDT

> WDNR Service Center, Peshtigo 101 N Ogden Rd Peshtigo WI 54157-0208

Dial-in Audio Number: 1-(855)-947-8255 Access Code: 8793-849# 1-(630)-424-2356

# **Meeting Objectives**

- 1. Determine whether or not the TAC supports USFWS design work at the 11th Ave Pool
  - a. If not, determine how to address fish populations below recruitment goal in flowage
- 2. Modify and approve of the South Channel Decision Tree

# Participating

Mark Erickson CAC, Patrick Hanchin MDNR, Sharon Baker and Ryan McCone MDEQ, Steve Choy USFWS, Mike Bryant EPA, Ben Uvaas, Andy Fayram, Vic Papas, Mike Donofrio, and Tammie Paoli WDNR

**11th Avenue Pool and Fisheries Data Roundup Results for the Lower Scott Flowage** <u>Sedimentation/Project Longevity</u> - Uvaas, Baker, and McCone worked prior to the meeting to find a ballpark sedimentation rate for the Lower Scott Flowage. They searched for permitting documents indicating if parts of the Flowage had been dredged in the past, contacted the dam owner, and spoke with local fisheries staff. All sources indicate that the flowage has not been dredged in recent history. Donofrio added that there may be bathymetric maps of the flowage from the 1970s that could be compared to 2012 maps produced during FERC relicensing. Later it was found that the Flowage was not surveyed in the 1970's and 2012 maps wouldn't be helpful.

→ An approximate sedimentation rate could not be developed. Donofrio requested GLNPO to collect bathymetric information as part of the sediment assessment work if possible.

<u>Project Need</u> – The TAC previously identified bluegill, northern pike, walleye, and largemouth bass populations as below the recruitment goal (25<sup>th</sup> percentile compared to other flowages upstream) in one or both monitoring seasons, and added that they "may benefit from assistance through habitat improvement". Bluegill was recorded as the only species below recruitment goal in both seasons. Donofrio added that the 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Pool area is not surveyed during electrofishing surveys in the flowage because of shallow water and dense vegetation. Fyke netting conducting in 2006 near the pool found that bluegill and other panfish were common. Others added that electrofishing during the summer, opposed to spring of fall, yields greater numbers of panfish like bluegill. Downstream fish passage efforts are also expected to benefit all species of fish.

→ Participating TAC members felt that a habitat improvement project should not be required to remove BUIs, but supported the project as a means to improve the fishery.

→ If GLNPO sampling finds that sediment remediation is required, habitat restoration should be a component of the work. Shallow water habitat (<3' deep) should be emphasis of any future habitat work.

<u>Existing USFWS Funds</u> – Choy confirmed that USFWS has already set aside funds to complete site assessment work and develop a habitat restoration plan for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Pool. He added that the Service would prefer to see funds spent on projects required for BUI removal, and that funding could be redirected to another site in the AOC as long as it has a contaminated sediment linkage and is required for BUI removal.

 $\rightarrow$  Choy, Uvaas, and Baker will explore other opportunities in the AOC for this funding.

# **South Channel Decision Tree**

Remediation of the Ansul arsenic site is currently underway, but the next phase of remediation and how it will impact habitat restoration efforts in the South Channel is currently unknown. Uvaas developed a decision tree to record the TAC's priorities spanning a variety of future scenarios. Meeting participants suggested utilizing USFWS funding set aside for 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Pool work for bio-monitoring of the South Channel, restructuring the table for clarity and, eliminating the option of the South Channel habitat work not being required for BUI removal at this time.

- $\rightarrow$  Uvaas will update the table and include the revision with meeting minutes.
- → Choy will follow up with others at USFWS to determine if bio-monitoring is an allowable use of these funds.

# Agency Updates

<u>Island Rookery Habitat Restoration</u> - The Great Lakes Commission is serving as the fiscal agent for this project. Baker and Uvaas thanked TAC members for their assistance in refining the project scope. A request for bids was released July 16<sup>th</sup> and bidding closes August 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional assistance may be requested of the TAC for review of the received bid proposals. A selection will be made August 16<sup>th</sup>. All restoration work will take place after the fledging season to avoid disrupting the rookery.

<u>Menekaunee Harbor Restoration</u> - Uvaas updated the committee on the Menekaunee Harbor Restoration project. The Marinette City Council has approved of the revised contract with Ayres which includes the design of habitat restoration. Ayers conducted a series of interviews with stakeholders and TAC members to develop conceptual designs for the harbor. Ayres will request the TAC to provide their technical expertise on restoration design specifics when being developed. All plans and designs are expected to be approximately 60% complete by September.

 $\rightarrow$  Design alternatives to be discussed August 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at Marinette City Hall

# Other News

→ Uvaas is responsible for draft minutes and will supply a doodle poll link to select the date for the next TAC meeting.

**Contact information** Ben Uvaas, Wisconsin DNR <u>Benjamin.uvaas@wisconsin.gov</u> 920-662-5465

Sharon Baker, Michigan DEQ BakerS9@michigan.gov 517-335-3310