

# **Council of Lake Committees**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Committee Name**

Council of Lake Committees

### **Area of Concern**

For deliberations of the council, the area of concern is as defined in the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries (1954):

Lake Ontario (including the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario to the 45th parallel of latitude), Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and their connecting waters, . . . and the area of concern . . . shall also apply to the tributaries of each of the above waters to the extent necessary to investigate any stock of fish of common concern, the taking or habitat of which is confined predominantly to the Convention Area.

### **Committee Purpose**

1. To consider issues pertinent to, or referred by, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission that are within the council's authority or under its auspice.
2. To consider issues and problems of common concern to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the 1854 Treaty Authority, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and/or the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority—these may be of interest to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
3. To develop and coordinate joint state/provincial/federal/tribal programs and research projects.
4. To develop issues for referral to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for its direction, resolution or support.
5. To serve as a forum for state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies, and others, on a need/request basis.
6. To determine protocol for council operation, establish operational procedures for internal committees, develop meeting agenda, and elect officers.
7. To respond to requests made to it by any of the lake committees for endorsement of their separate recommendation to the Commission, and to discuss issues which have implications in the area beyond the jurisdiction of the originating lake committees.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The council shall meet annually and sufficiently in advance of the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to allow the preparation of material, reports, and recommendations

for commission review and action at the annual meeting. Additional council meetings may be convened by the council chair to deal with special items of business.

### **Membership**

The council will be composed of a representative from state, tribal and provincial agencies represented on lake committees:

Lake Ontario Committee - New York, Ontario

Lake Erie Committee - Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania

Lake Huron Committee - Michigan, Ontario, CORA

Lake Michigan Committee - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, CORA

Lake Superior Committee - Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin, CORA, GLIFWC, 1854

Treaty Authority, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Each agency will designate alternates who will serve in the absence of regular members.

### **Officers**

The council will, at the first meeting of any odd-numbered year, elect a vice-chair for a 2-year term from among the members of the council. The current vice-chair will become the new chair, also to serve a 2-year term. Prior to the first meeting of each odd-numbered year, the officers shall solicit nominations for new officers from the CLC membership and report those nominations for consideration by the council. One of the officers is to be from the United States and the other from Ontario. The outgoing chair shall be responsible for presenting the council's report at the Commission's annual meeting.

### **Advisors**

Concerned federal agencies in Canada and the United States will be notified of council meetings and invited to send representatives as resource persons/observers. In addition, the two sea lamprey control agents will be invited to send one representative each as a resource person/observer.

### **Role of Secretariat**

The secretariat provides liaison between council and Commission, by assisting the council 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 local meeting arrangements. In fulfilling its role, the secretariat will apply diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competence standards of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (<https://www.glfc.org/deic-statement.php>).

### **Decisions**

Decisions of the council will be made by consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved, the concerns of all agencies shall be described in the council report to the commission.

### **Subcommittees**

The council may, as it deems necessary, establish subcommittees.

### **Reporting**

The council will report as required at the commission's annual and interim meetings.

Approved: October 23, 2024