

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE NAME

Lake Superior Committee

AREA OF CONCERN

For deliberations of this committee, Lake Superior shall be considered to include all of Lake Superior above the compensating gates at Sault Ste. Marie on the St. Marys River and, to the extent that they affect fish stocks of common concern, its bays, harbors, and tributaries.

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

1. To consider issues and problems of common concern to Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the 1854 Treaty Authority, and the Red Cliff Band, consistent with, and pursuant to the provisions and strategies as outlined in the Joint Strategic Plan.
2. To develop and coordinate joint state/provincial/federal/tribal programs, plans, and research projects.
3. To address issues referred by, or that are pertinent to, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission or Council of Lake Committees that are within the committee's authority or under its auspices.
4. To serve as a forum for state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies, and others, on an as needed/request basis.
5. To decide protocol for committee operation, establish operational procedures for internal committees, develop meeting agenda, and elect officers.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the committee. The meeting shall be sufficiently in advance of the Council of Lake Committees meeting and Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to allow the preparation of material, reports, and recommendations for Commission review and action at its Annual Meeting. Additional committee meetings may be convened by the committee Chair to deal with special items of business.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee shall consist of a senior staff member from Michigan DNR, Minnesota DNR, Ontario MNRF, Wisconsin DNR, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the 1854 Treaty Authority, and the Red Cliff Band. Representatives should be able to speak for their respective agencies. To ensure accomplishment of lake committee objectives and assignments, agencies are expected to commit appropriate personnel and resources to LSC activities in their annual agency work plans. Each agency can designate an alternate who may serve in the absence of the member. The committee may be assisted by experts and advisors from all agencies concerned.

OFFICERS

1. Chair: The Chair shall be the designated representative from a member agency, and shall serve for two years. The chair shall rotate among the member agencies in the following order beginning in 2023: GLIFWC, MI DNR, OMNRF, CORA, Red Cliff Band, WDNR, 1854 Treaty Authority, MN DNR. The new Chair's term of office shall begin immediately following the committee's annual meeting in odd-numbered years; the outgoing Chair shall be responsible for presenting the committee's report at the Commission's Annual Meeting.
2. Vice-chair: The representative of the agency following the designated chair's agency as identified in number 1 above will serve as the Vice-chair. The Vice-chair shall perform the functions of the chair in the chair's absence.

ADVISORS

The committee may request, as the need arises, expert advice or study on issues or concerns identified by the committee.

ROLE OF SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat provides liaison between committee and Commission, by assisting the committee 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 meeting arrangements.

DECISIONS

Decisions will be reached by a consensus of the membership. When consensus cannot be achieved, the concerns of all agencies shall be described in the committee's report to the Commission.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The committee may, as it deems necessary, establish sub-committees and/or specialized Task Groups.

REPORTING

The committee shall transmit to the commission prior to the Commission's Annual Meeting, a report of the committee's annual meeting including agency reports, reports of special committees and resolutions. The committee chair, or the outgoing chair in odd-numbered years, will participate in a panel or other appropriate verbal report at the Commission's annual meeting.

The committee may request endorsement of its recommendations by the Council of Lake Committees and refer to the Council of Lake Committees items which have implications beyond the committee's jurisdiction.