



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Workshop 6

Green Bay, August 7, 2012
Milwaukee, August 9, 2012



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Stakeholder Meetings

Collaborative Process

- The stocking reductions in 1999 and 2006 were determined by agencies and brought to the public for comment.
- This process involved stakeholders from the beginning.

Workshop 1 - Stakeholder Meetings

- April 2011 in Michigan, June 2011 in Wisconsin
- Stakeholders represented various Lake Michigan angling organizations from Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Workshop 2 Overview - Stakeholders

- November 5th Portage, Indiana

Workshop 3 Overview - Stakeholders

- January 23rd Chesterton, Indiana



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Public Meetings

Workshop 4 – Stakeholders and public

- April 14, 2012, Benton Harbor, MI
- Reviewed information, presented stocking options, received feedback and presented link to online survey for further comments

Workshop 5

Milwaukee WI – May 1

Green Bay, WI May 8

- Reviewed information, presented stocking options, received feedback and presented link to online survey for further comments

Stocking Options

Option 1 - 50% reduction in Chinook salmon, then evaluate after 5 years

Option 2 - 50% reduction in Chinook salmon, alter Chinook stocking based on feedback policy

Option 3 - 30% reduction in Chinook salmon and 10% others (except lake trout), alter stocking based on feedback policy

Option 4 - 30% reduction in Chinook salmon and 10% others, alter stocking based on feedback policy

Comparison of Options

	Low Alewife biomass	Low Chinook weight (<13 lbs)	Low Chinook harvest	Low Chinook catch rates (<8 / 100 hrs)
Option 1	14%	23%	21%	19%
Option 2	12%	20%	21%	19%
Option 3	4%	12%	10%	9%
Option 4	3%	11%	7%	6%
Status Quo	23%	35%	20%	20%



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Online Survey results

OPTION 1: 50% reduction in Chinook salmon stocking for 2013.
Average Rating: FAIR (1.97) (Poor = 1, Fair = 2, Neutral = 3, Good = 4, Excellent = 5)
Ranking: 69% WORST, 11% BEST (Worst = 1, Best = 4)

OPTION 2: 50% reduction in Chinook salmon stocking for 2013.
Average Rating: between FAIR and NEUTRAL (2.61)
Ranking: 2% WORST, 20% BEST

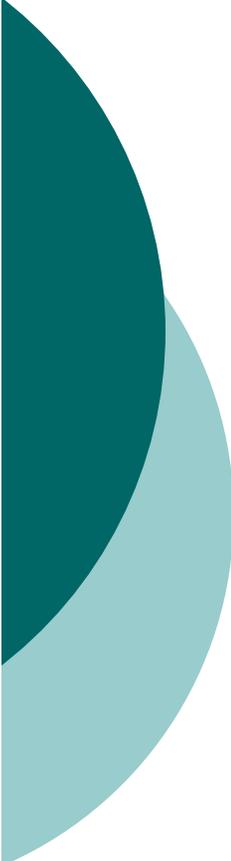
OPTION 3: 30% reduction in Chinook salmon stocking and 10% reduction in coho salmon, steelhead, and brown trout stocking for 2013.
Average Rating: NEUTRAL (2.96)
Ranking: 8% WORST, 15% BEST

OPTION 4: 30% reduction in Chinook salmon stocking and 10% reduction in coho salmon, steelhead, brown trout, and lake trout stocking for 2013.
Average Rating: between NEUTRAL and GOOD (3.28)
Ranking: 20% WORST, 54% BEST

Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Online Survey results

Rate your level of comfort with the four options (Poor = 1, Fair = 2, Neutral= 3, Good = 4, Excellent = 5)

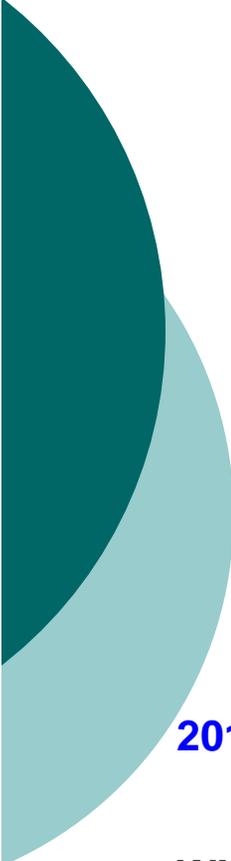
	Average rating	IL	IN	MI	WI	
Option 1	1.97	1.84	2.09	2.21	1.54	FAIR
Option 2	2.61	2.33	3.12	2.95	1.95	FAIR to NEUTRAL
Option 3	2.96	3.46	2.44	2.83	2.80	NEUTRAL
Option 4	3.28	3.25	3.00	3.12	3.69	NEUTRAL to GOOD



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Online Survey results

Rank the four options below (Worst = 1, Best = 4)

	Average rating	IL	IN	MI	WI
Option 1	1.68	1.61	1.84	1.88	1.27
Option 2	2.56	2.30	2.78	2.80	2.25
Option 3	2.77	3.11	2.56	2.54	2.92
Option 4	3.00	3.01	2.84	2.78	3.54



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Use 2012 stocking quotas as the base for all future changes to stocking numbers

2012 CURRENT STOCKING PLANS BY WISCONSIN

	Brown trout	Chinook	Coho	Rainbow	Steelhead
WI	672,000	1,164,000	500,000	120,000	510,000



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Option 2 - 50% reduction in Chinook salmon, alter Chinook stocking based on feedback policy

- Michigan will take larger percentage (66.8%)
- Wisconsin's reduction will be 37.8%

Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Chinook Salmon	2012 Plan	2013 Plan	%Reduction
WI	1,164,000	723,674	37.8
IL	250,000	155,428	37.8
IN	225,000	139,885	37.8
MI	1,688,500	644,762	61.8
TOTALS	3,327,500	1,663,750	50.0
MI stocking in Natural Reproducing streams = 405,000			

Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Chinook Salmon	2012 Plan	2013 Plan	%Reduction
WI	1,164,000	723,700	37.8
IL	250,000	230,000	8.0
IN	225,000	200,000	11.1
MI	1,688,500	560,000	66.8
TOTALS	3,327,500	1,713,700	48.5
MI stocking in Natural Reproducing streams = 405,000			



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

- Results from online survey indicate a strong desire from Wisconsin anglers to reduce other species
- Option 4 had the highest rating of any option
- Option 4 was ranked the best option



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Chinook salmon equivalents may be used instead of Chinook salmon for the reductions

- Wisconsin must take at least a 30% reduction in Chinook salmon (349,200)
- The remaining reductions can be taken in Chinook salmon or other species based on the following equivalent table. (~90,792)

Chinook salmon equivalents	
1 Chinook salmon =	2.2 Brown Trout
	3.2 Coho Salmon
	2.4 Rainbow Trout
	2.3 yearling Lake Trout
	5.8 fall fingerling Lake Trout



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Female age 3+ Chinook salmon from Strawberry Creek Weir, Wisconsin will be the feedback parameter

- Ask Lake Michigan Technical Committee and Salmonid Working Group to look at that parameter and suggest others if appropriate
- Basically, increase stocking when weights above 19.8 lbs (9 kg) or decrease when weights below 15.4 lbs (7 kg) – 3 year average
- Between 19.8 and 15.4 lbs, look at trends and adjust if needed

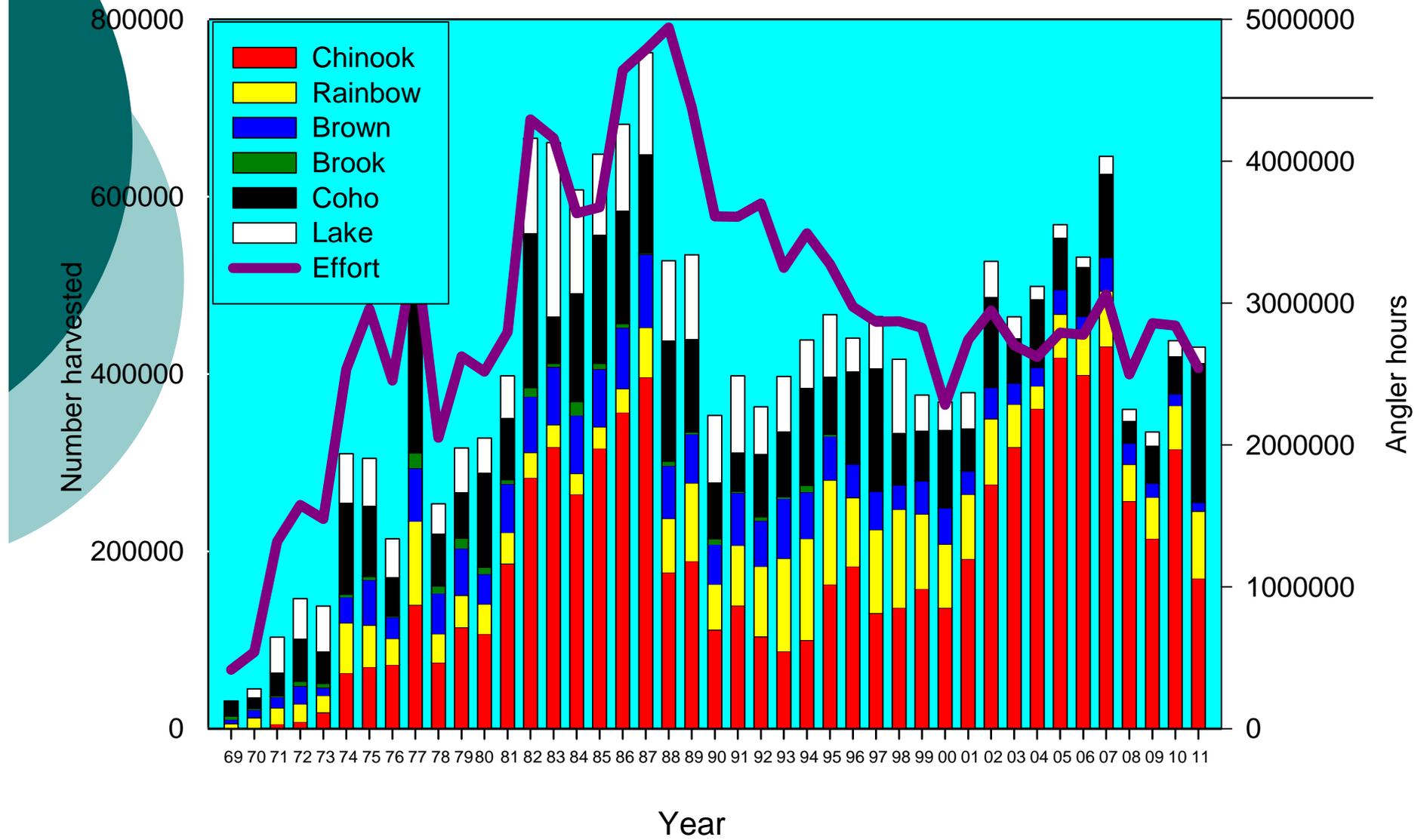


Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Tentative Decisions

Reductions in Lake Trout can occur

- Limit reductions to secondary sites (i.e. near shore sites)
- Risk that if these fish are not produced it may be hard to get them back
- Maximum = 250,000 fingerlings
- Maximum = 150,000 yearlings
- 108,000 chinook salmon equivalents

Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout harvest and effort from 1969 to 2011





Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Likely to Occur

Option 2 - 50% reduction in Chinook salmon, alter Chinook stocking based on feedback policy

- Michigan will take larger percentage (66.8%)
- Wisconsin's reduction will be 37.8%

Reductions will occur in 2013 – Chinook only

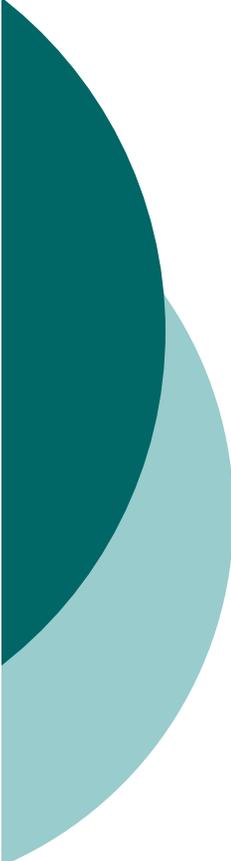
Reductions in 2014 and 2015 MAY include other species

Reductions will be the same percentage across all stocking locations (44.5%) with Strawberry Creek held constant at 175,000 per year (no reduction from 2012 stocking levels).



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process Next Steps

- Comments made during this meeting are being recorded and will be discussed
- Written comments via mail or email are acceptable
- Continued meetings with LMC members to reach final agreement
- Final stocking numbers no later than October 1, 2012 for appropriate egg take
- Exact numbers per port by December, 2012



Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Strategy Process

- Comments and Questions?
- Bradley.eggold@wisconsin.gov
 - 414-382-7921
- William.Horns@wisconsin.gov
 - 608-266-8782