

Ottawa County MSU Extension
12220 Fillmore Street Suite 122
West Olive, MI 49460

Lake Michigan Salmon Stocking Workshop



Lake Michigan College
Benton Harbor, MI
Saturday, April 14, 2012
1:00 – 4:30 PM (Eastern)



Information Inside

Meeting Location

Mendel Center
Lake Michigan College
Napier Avenue Campus
2755 E. Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

The campus is located east of I-94 Exit 30. Parking for the workshop is off of Yore Rd. in the lot north of the Mendel Center.

A variety of lodging options and restaurants are available in Benton Harbor at I-94 Exit 29, Pipestone Rd. A map will be sent to you upon registration.

Please contact Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator, Dan O'Keefe, at okeefed@msu.edu or (616) 994-4580 if you have any questions regarding this workshop.

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Salmon and trout are currently stocked in numbers that may be too high for available prey fish to sustain. Fisheries managers around Lake Michigan are considering strategies to achieve a better balance between predator and prey fish.

This workshop will give participants an overview of their decision process, which has included input from organized sport fishing group leaders in all four states surrounding the lake.

Under current stocking practices, computer simulation suggests:

- 23% chance of low alewife biomass (<100 kt)
- 35% chance of low Chinook weight (<13.2 pounds for 'four year old' salmon)
- 20% chance of low Chinook catch rate (<8 fish per 100 angler hours)

This indicates a relatively high risk of fishery collapse if stocking is not reduced. In addition to Chinook salmon, cuts to coho salmon, steelhead, brown trout, and lake trout are also being considered. Attendees also will learn of alternative management strategies that would reduce stocking when baitfish numbers are low but allow for higher stocking rates when baitfish are plentiful. This workshop will give anglers and conservationists the chance to comment regarding the future of the Lake Michigan fishery.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1:00 – 1:10 Welcome and Overview of Meeting**
- 1:10 – 1:25 Review of Stocking Strategy Process**
- 1:25 – 2:05 Status of Lake Michigan**
- 2:05 – 2:20 Basic Review of Structured Decision Analysis Model**
- 2:20 – 2:40 Presentation of Stocking Options for Public Comment**
- 2:40 – 2:45 Public Review Process**
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break**
- 3:00 – 4:25 Discussion and Feedback from Public**
- 4:25 – 4:30 Next Steps**

Come Prepared!

Visit the Michigan Sea Grant website for the latest on development of stocking options for Lake Michigan.

- Lake Michigan fishery news articles
- Video of past presentations
- Handouts on status of fishery
- Options to consider on April 14 (coming soon)

www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries/stocking

Pre-Registration is Required

Registration deadline is April 10, 2012

This is a half-day workshop being offered free to the public. Each participant must register individually using the web page below. If you do not have Internet access, call Mary Frein at (616) 994-4580 to register by phone.

For those who cannot attend the meeting, an online meeting option is available. Online participants must pre-register and will receive instructions for participation via e-mail.

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries/stocking/index.html>

This workshop is offered by the five Lake Michigan fishery management agencies, in cooperation with Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University.

