

Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee of the Lake Ontario Committee

October 2013

Committee Name: Lake Ontario Technical Committee (LOTC)

Responsibilities:

LOTC provides technical advice and support to the Lake Ontario Committee (LOC) by,

- 1) Conducting work assignments as requested and prioritized by the LOC;
- 2) Coordinating federal, state, provincial and non-governmental science-based assessment and research programs focused on the topics described by the LOC;
- 3) Facilitating technical information sharing and discussion;
- 4) Creating *ad hoc* working groups, as needed, to complete work assignments;
- 5) Reporting to LOC on findings, technical information, and recommended management actions and research needs;
- 6) With LOC direction, coordinate, organize and present the LOC report to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission at the annual meeting of the Lake Ontario Committee;
- 7) On a five year cycle and with LOC direction, coordinate, organize and prepare a written "State of Lake Ontario Report", including updates on status of progress toward achieving Lake Ontario Fish Community Objectives, for submission to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

LOTC Membership:

LOC will appoint two co-chairs for the LOTC, one from each of the two management agencies, to coordinate activities and membership of LOTC:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR).

The LOTC and its *ad hoc* working group members are representatives of federal, provincial and state agencies, and include non-governmental organizations. Members may include experts from:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- New York Sea Grant
- Cornell University
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Other academic institutions
- Co-chairs may invite individuals with needed expertise to attend meetings, represent specific issues as required, and participate in *ad hoc* working groups.

Consensus:

The LOTC will work toward consensus; however, if consensus cannot be achieved, the LOTC co-chairs shall present the varying opinions, positions and options to the LOC for resolution.

Meetings:

The LOTC co-chairs will coordinate, with input from LOC, and host at least two meetings per year that bring LOTC members together to exchange information, address specific LOC charges, and facilitate completion of LOTC tasks. Meetings will be face-to-face when possible; however, other methods of meeting will be utilized as appropriate, including conference calls and web-based meetings (e.g. WebEx). As needed, LOTC co-chairs will provide assistance to *ad hoc* working groups to conduct web-based meetings to facilitate completion of work assignments.