



Law Enforcement Committee

COORDINATING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE GREAT LAKES JURISDICTIONS

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

MISSION

The mission of the Law Enforcement Committee is to protect, enhance and promote the safe and wise use of the natural resources in the Great Lakes for present and future generations and in doing so, the Law Enforcement Committee shall:

Promote recognition that the Great Lakes fisheries resource is a shared, renewable resource whose protection and enhancement requires close cooperation between all jurisdictions charged with the responsibility of resource protection.

Promote recognition and acceptance that law enforcement is an integral part of effective Great Lakes fisheries and fisheries habitat management.

Promote cooperation among all Great Lakes law enforcement jurisdictions by:

1. Identifying and promoting Great Lakes law enforcement priorities and tactics;
2. Sharing of law enforcement information;
3. Supporting investigations that span jurisdictional lines;
4. Supporting development and dissemination of information about emerging enforcement technologies and techniques; and
5. Development and recommending consistent regulations and commensurate penalties among jurisdictions.

Provide a basin update annually to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Ensure law enforcement information is made available for incorporation into fisheries management decision-making.

Participate in the management of fisheries resources and fish habitat by preventing exploitation by unlawful means.

AREA OF CONCERN

For deliberations of this committee, the area of concern is the illegal take, possession, transportation, sale and release of aquatic resources and the conservation and protection of fisheries habitat from “Lake Ontario (including the St. Lawrence River for Lake Ontario to the 45th parallel of latitude, Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and their connecting water.” It also includes the tributaries of each of the above waters to the extent necessary to ensure effective enforcement in the Great Lakes basin.

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1854 TREATY AUTHORITY

CHIPPEWA-OTTAWA
RESOURCE AUTHORITY

DEPT. OF FISHERIES
AND OCEANS, CANADA

GREAT LAKES INDIAN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMMISSION

ILLINOIS DNR

INDIANA DNR

MICHIGAN DNR

MINNESOTA DNR

NEW YORK DEC

OHIO DNR

ONTARIO MNR

PENNSYLVANIA F&BC

UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD

UNITED STATES FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE

WISCONSIN DNR



COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

Provide a forum for the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies within the Great Lakes basin.

Provide a conduit for the transfer of information between fisheries managers and law enforcement to promote the development of enforceable regulations.

Guide and direct any subcommittees appointed by the Law Enforcement Committee.

Work with Lake Committees to determine the appropriate role of law enforcement to support fisheries management and fisheries habitat objectives.

Identify and evaluate issues associated with compliance of fishery regulations in the Great Lakes basin, and to support agencies in their resolution to deter illegal activities.

Draft recommendations for consideration by the Council of Lake Committees on the cooperative procedures and the practical fishery management policies required to reduce and prevent illegal commercialization in the Great Lakes basin.

Advise the Council of Lake Committees on all matters pertaining to effective law enforcement in the Great Lakes basin.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee shall meet at least once per year sufficiently in advance of the Council of Lake Committees meeting to allow the preparation of material, reports, and recommendations for its review and action. The chair, to deal with special business items, may convene special meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are appointed by each resource agency with enforcement responsibility in the basin. Members should have the authority to effectively represent their respective agency. Agencies are encouraged to bring guests to the Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

OFFICERS

Chair – The chair shall be a member and serve a 2-year term. The outgoing chair shall be responsible for presenting the committee's report at the Council's annual meeting.

Vice-Chair – The vice-chair shall serve a concurrent 2-year term, but may not be from the same country as the chair. The vice-chair shall be responsible for assisting the chair with presenting the committee's report at the Council's annual meeting.

ADVISORS

Advisors may be appointed to membership on the committee for indefinite terms, as required to enhance the progress of committee work.

DECISIONS

The business of the committee shall be conducted by consensus of agencies present. The concerns of all members shall be described in the committee's report to the Council of Lake Committees.

REPORTING

Detailed reports of Law Enforcement Committee meetings will be furnished by the chair to all committee members. Summary reports and committee recommendations for Council of Lake Committees approval will be presented during the Council's annual meeting.