

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
COLDWATER TASK GROUP (CWTG) OF  
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Adopted October, 1980  
Revised March, 2004

**TITLE:** The Lake Erie Coldwater Task Group (CWTG)

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake Erie Coldwater Task Group was formed in October 1980 as the Lake Trout Task Group to address lake trout rehabilitation issues. In 1992, the group's name was changed to the Coldwater Task Group to address population assessment of other Lake Erie coldwater species like burbot, whitefish, lake herring and the stocked and naturalized trout and salmon species. The main functions of the CWTG are to: address charges from the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) and the Standing Technical Committee (STC), report on lake trout rehabilitation, report on status of Lake Erie coldwater species and their fisheries, and monitor and report on the control of sea lamprey populations in Lake Erie and its tributaries.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Lake Erie Coldwater Task Group's philosophy will be based on the following principles:

- **Sustainability** of Lake Erie coldwater component fish stocks, their fisheries, harvests, and their broad distribution of benefits;
- **Wise Use** of the Lake Erie coldwater species resources to promote their health for the future;
- **Support** of efforts to restore and rehabilitate native coldwater Lake Erie species that are at risk, as deemed necessary by the LEC, where biologically, genetically and technologically feasible to benefit the resource; and
- **Monitoring** of sea lamprey control and assessment activities and progress in the Lake Erie basin.

To achieve this mission, the members of the Coldwater Task Group uphold the following tenets:

- **Membership-** LEC member agencies will provide personnel to address CWTG charges. Task group members are selected by their parent agencies. Non-agency personnel can be appointed to the CWTG at the discretion of the STC and LEC, following the Terms of Reference for LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership. If a member is withdrawn from the group, the parent agency may provide a replacement person if the agency is not represented sufficiently. Two co-chairpersons, selected by CWTG consensus and approved by the STC

and LEC, will be comprised of one U.S. representative and one Canadian representative. These roles will alternate periodically at the discretion of the CWTG, STC and LEC. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.

- **Cooperation-** The members of the CWTG will share responsibilities in collecting and collating interagency data, running analyses, producing reports and presentations. Data and intellectual property produced for the CWTG by agencies and the task group will be distributed according to the defined Task Group's Data Sharing Protocol, and may only be released by the consent of the originating agency and all task group members.
- **Objectivity-** The CWTG maintains objectivity through emphasis on a scientific approach.
- **Transparency-** The members of the CWTG will share information with the STC, LEC, other Task Groups, and will communicate results and distribute reports to stakeholders and the public.
- **Science and Technology-** The CWTG will use the latest available techniques to assess status of Lake Erie coldwater species. Coordination of agency stockings of lake trout and naturalized coldwater species (brown trout, rainbow trout, coho salmon and chinook salmon) will be completed on an annual basis.

**CHARGES:** Charges are assigned to the CWTG by the STC and LEC in order to meet the primary objectives and to address specific tasks important to the LEC. On an annual basis, the STC and LEC determine whether the charges have been completed satisfactorily or if they require further elaboration.

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWABLE HARVEST:** The CWTG does not determine annual recommended allowable harvest levels (RAH) for any coldwater species. If charged by the LEC, the CWTG will provide general recommendations and summary trends in abundance, growth, harvest, and related demographic information to support LEC endeavors in TAC management of a coldwater species.

**REPORTING:** One Co-chairperson of the CWTG, or a designated member, will report formally at the annual meeting of the LEC on the activities of the CWTG. The Co-chairpersons of the CWTG or individual Task Group members may be asked to report on critical issues to the Chair and/or LEC membership at other times, including the annual Pre-LEC meeting, seasonal LEC and/or STC business meetings, and other times as necessary. An annual written report summarizing CWTG charges and activities toward those charges will be produced for the LEC, with the scheduled release to the public at the conclusion of the annual LEC meeting.

**CONSENSUS APPROACH:** CWTG issues are resolved by consensus of the members. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, then it will be referred first to the STC, then to the LEC for resolution.

**DATA SHARING:** All data used to create the CWTG report are shared freely among agencies. The report is available to the public online at [www.GLFC.org](http://www.GLFC.org), and from the distribution of reports at the annual LEC meeting. Agencies may not share with the public any other agency and/or task group data or intellectual property without the expressed consent of the originating agency.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The CWTG meets as deemed necessary by its' members, the STC members or the LEC, to address charges, with the intent to meet at least twice annually.

**SUPPORT:** Salary and traveling expenses of the members of the CWTG will be the responsibility of the parent agencies, unless otherwise provided through an arrangement of the GLFC or other external funding sources.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
FORAGE TASK GROUP (FTG) OF  
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Revised March, 2004

**TITLE:** The Lake Erie Forage Task Group (FTG)

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake Erie Forage Task Group was formed in 1986 to describe the status and trends of the forage base in Lake Erie. The main functions of the FTG are to: address charges from the Lake Erie Committee and the Standing Technical Committee; monitor and report on the status of forage by basin; and work to standardize assessment and agency reporting. Charges to the Task Group have included: bioenergetics simulations to estimate forage consumption; assessment of the pelagic forage fish community through basin-wide acoustic surveys; fishing power corrections for trawling vessels; and standardized lake wide lower trophic level monitoring and reporting. The FTG presents the results of these activities in an annual report and presentation at an annual meeting of the Lake Erie Committee.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Lake Erie Forage Task Group's philosophy will be based upon the following principles:

- **Sustainability** of Lake Erie forage fish stocks and invertebrates to support a healthy ecosystem,
- **Support** for efforts to rehabilitate native species that are at risk of extirpation, or those that have been extirpated, within reasonable economic, ecological, and technological constraints,
- **Promotion** of policies and actions that recognize the importance of a healthy and diverse ecosystem to provide maximum benefit to many different user groups.

To achieve this mission, the members of the Forage Task Group uphold the following tenets:

- **Membership-** LEC member agencies will provide agency personnel to address FTG charges. Advisors and non-agency personnel can be appointed to the FTG as approved by the LEC. Co-chairpersons will come from within the Task Group membership, with one Canadian and one U.S. agency representative. Each co-chairperson serves for two years with selection of one new co-chairperson annually by FTG members. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.
- **Cooperation-** The members of the FTG will share responsibilities for collecting and collating interagency data, running analyses, producing reports and creating

presentations. Data and intellectual property produced for the FTG by agencies and the task group will be distributed according to the defined Task Group's Data Sharing Protocol, and may only be released by the consent of the originating agency and all task group members.

- **Transparency-** The members of the FTG will share information with the STC, LEC, other Task Groups, and will communicate results to stakeholders and the public.
- **Technology-** The FTG will use the latest available technologies to assess the status of Lake Erie forage species and the ecosystem. This has included the development of a hydroacoustics survey program.

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWABLE HARVEST:** The FTG does not determine annual recommended allowable harvests for any forage species. The FTG will provide general recommendations and summary trends in abundance, growth, and related demographic information to support LEC endeavors in quota management of a forage species.

**REPORTING:** One co-chairperson or other designated task group member of the FTG will report formally at the annual meeting of the LEC on the activities of the FTG. In addition, the co-chairpersons of the FTG or individual task group members may be asked to report on critical issues to the Chair and/or LEC membership at other times, including the annual Pre-LEC meeting, seasonal LEC meetings, and/or STC business meetings, and other times as necessary. An annual written report summarizing FTG charges and activities toward those charges will be produced for the LEC, with the scheduled release to the public at the conclusion of the annual LEC meeting.

**CONSENSUS APPROACH:** FTG issues are resolved by consensus of the members. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, then it will be referred first to the STC and then to LEC for resolution.

**DATA SHARING:** All data used to create the FTG report are shared freely among agencies. The report is available to the public online at [www.GLFC.org](http://www.GLFC.org), and from the distribution of reports at the annual LEC meeting. Agencies may not share with the public any other agency and/or task group data or intellectual property without the expressed consent of the originating agency.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The FTG meets as deemed necessary by its' members, the STC members or the LEC, to address charges, with the intent to meet at least twice annually.

**SUPPORT:** Salary and traveling expenses of the members of the FTG will be the responsibility of the parent agencies, unless otherwise provided through an arrangement of the GLFC or other external funding sources.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
HABITAT TASK GROUP (HTG) OF  
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Revised March, 2004

**TITLE:** The Lake Erie Habitat Task Group (HTG)

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake Erie Habitat Task Group was formed in 1999 to address charges from the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) and the Standing Technical Committee (STC) that required a coordinated response to habitat issues. Charges to the HTG have included development of Environmental Objectives (to support achievement of Fish Community Goals and Objectives), development of a strategy to work with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) initiative for development of a Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP), liaison and support of an international geographic information system (GIS) implementation, and inventory of rehabilitation projects.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Lake Erie Habitat Task Group has adopted the following principles:

- The Fish Community Goals and Objectives are a shared vision amongst management agencies.
- Healthy environments and habitats provide the template for conservation and rehabilitation of healthy aquatic communities and sustainable fisheries.
- Healthy environments and habitats are a product of a dynamic equilibrium of physical structuring forces (*i.e.* climate, hydrology, and geology and the processes that act on them) as seen via weather, water flows, currents, water levels, sediment and nutrient loads, and coastal processes.
- Actions to achieve Environmental Objectives will support achievement of the shared Fish Community Goals and Objectives.

The mission of the HTG is to support achievement of fish community goals and objectives through achievement of supporting environmental objectives. To achieve this mission, the members of the Habitat Task Group uphold the following tenets:

- **Advocacy-** The HTG will work with LEC member agencies to ensure conservation and resource management agencies are aware of the Lake Erie Environmental Objectives, and will promote actions that recognize the importance of healthy environments and habitats to fish community structure and function.

- **Monitoring-** The HTG will work with LEC member agencies to develop strategies to: 1) summarize information concerning the status of Lake Erie habitats, 2) report on progress towards rehabilitation of degraded habitats, 3) identify emerging habitat issues and concerns, and 4) support the application of best available science to current and emerging habitat issues.
- **Science and Technology-** The HTG will support application of the latest technologies to habitat information management such as acoustics, remote sensing, GIS, and spatial analysis.
- **Objectivity-** The HTG maintains objectivity through emphasis on a scientific approach.
- **Membership-** LEC member agencies will provide agency personnel to address HTG charges. Advisors and non-agency personnel can be appointed to the HTG as approved by the LEC. Co-chairpersons will come from within the Task Group membership, with one Canadian and one U.S. agency co-chair representative. Each co-chairperson serves for two years with selection of one new Co-chairperson annually by the HTG members. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.
- **Cooperation-** The members of the HTG will share responsibilities for collecting and collating interagency data, running analyses, producing reports and creating presentations. Members will follow the Protocol for Use of Habitat Task Group Data and Reports to prevent misinterpretation of data or unauthorized use (see HTG 2003 report).
- **Transparency-** The members of the HTG will share information with the STC, LEC, other Task Groups, and will communicate results to stakeholders and the public. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.

**CHARGES:** Charges will be assigned to the HTG by the STC and LEC in order to meet the primary objectives and to address specific tasks important to the LEC. On an annual basis, the STC and LEC determine whether the charges have been completed satisfactorily or if they require further elaboration.

**REPORTING:** One Co-chairperson of the HTG, on an alternating basis, will report formally at the annual meeting of the LEC on the activities of the HTG. In addition, the Co-chairpersons of the HTG or individual Task Group members may be asked to report on critical issues to the STC and to the Chairperson or LEC membership at other times, including the annual Pre-LEC meeting, seasonal LEC and/or STC business meetings, and other times as necessary. An annual written report summarizing HTG charges and activities toward those charges will be produced for the LEC, with the scheduled release to the public at the conclusion of the annual LEC meeting.

**CONSENSUS APPROACH:** HTG issues will be resolved by member consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, then it will be referred to the STC, then to the LEC for resolution.

**DATA SHARING:** All data used to create the FTG report are shared freely among agencies. The report is available to the public online at [www.GLFC.org](http://www.GLFC.org), and from the distribution of reports at the annual LEC meeting. Agencies may not share with the public any other agency and/or task group data or intellectual property without the expressed consent of the originating agency.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The HTG will meet as deemed necessary by its' members, the STC, or the LEC, to address charges, with the intent to meet at least once annually.

**SUPPORT:** Salary and traveling expenses of the members of the HTG will be the responsibility of the parent agencies, unless otherwise provided through an arrangement of the GLFC or other external funding sources.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
WALLEYE TASK GROUP (WTG) OF  
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Adopted October, 1980  
Revised March, 2004

**TITLE:** The Lake Erie Committee Walleye Task Group (WTG)

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake Erie Walleye Task Group was formed in October 1980 to address walleye harvest strategies and population assessment. The main functions of the WTG are to address charges from the LEC and the Standing Technical Committee (STC) and to recommend appropriate harvest levels for the Lake Erie walleye fishery within a specific (annual) timeline. The WTG presents the results of these activities in an annual report and presentation at an annual meeting of the Lake Erie Committee.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The WTG is dedicated to employing the best science in order to support international management of walleye on Lake Erie. In so doing, the WTG will adhere to the following principles:

- **Sustainability** of Lake Erie walleye component stocks, their fisheries, harvests, and a broad distribution of benefits,
- **Wise Use** of the Lake Erie walleye resource to promote its health for the future.

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:** The primary objectives of the WTG are to:

- Describe the status of walleye stocks in Lake Erie using state of the art fishery and experimental assessment techniques.
- Provide sound scientific advice and background material to the LEC for the annual allocation process.

To achieve the mission and objectives, the members of the Walleye Task Group uphold the following tenets:

- **Membership-** LEC member agencies will provide personnel to address WTG charges. Task group members are selected by their parent agencies. Non-agency personnel can be appointed to the WTG at the discretion of the STC and LEC. If a member is withdrawn from the group, the parent agency may provide a replacement person if the agency is not represented sufficiently. Two co-chairpersons will be selected by WTG consensus and approved by the STC and LEC. The Co-chairpersons will be comprised of one U.S. representative and one Ontario representative. These roles will alternate periodically at the discretion of

the WTG, STC and LEC. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.

- **Cooperation-** The members of the WTG will share responsibilities addressing charges; in collecting and collating interagency data, running analyses, producing reports and giving presentations.
- **Objectivity-** The WTG maintains objectivity through emphasis on a scientific approach.
- **Transparency-** Information and methodology must be disseminated completely to facilitate comprehension and input by LEC, other agency representatives, stakeholders and the public in general.
- **Science and Technology-** The WTG will use the latest available techniques to assess the status of Lake Erie walleye stocks and their associated fisheries. Task group members will address management and research initiatives as charges that emerge from the STC or LEC.
- **Restoration and Rehabilitation-** If walleye populations are considered degraded or at risk, the WTG will advise the LEC regarding approaches for restoration and rehabilitation of the Lake Erie walleye stocks.

**CHARGES:** Charges are assigned to the WTG by the STC and LEC in order to meet the primary objectives and to address specific tasks important to the LEC. On an annual basis, the STC and LEC determine whether the charges have been completed satisfactorily or if they require further elaboration.

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWABLE HARVEST:** Annually, the WTG provides a recommended range of allowable harvests (RAH), based on current adopted harvest strategies, to the LEC. The methodology used for annual RAH derivation must be clearly documented. RAH derivations will take into account the status of stocks, biological risks associated with various levels of exploitation, and other potential threats to the stability of the walleye resource. After Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is established by the LEC, quotas will be further allocated to the jurisdictions by a clearly-defined sharing formula.

**REPORTING:** One WTG co-chairperson, or a designated member, will report formally on the activities of the WTG at the annual meeting of the LEC. The co-chairpersons or individual WTG members may be asked to report on critical issues or charges to the LEC or STC chairperson or membership at other times, including the annual Pre-LEC meeting, seasonal LEC meetings, and/or STC business meetings. An annual written report summarizing WTG charges, activities toward those charges, and harvest recommendations will be produced for the LEC, with the scheduled release to the public at the conclusion of the annual LEC public meeting.

**CONSENSUS APPROACH:** WTG issues are resolved by consensus of the members. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, the issue will be referred first to the STC and then to the LEC for resolution.

**DATA SHARING:** All data used to create the WTG report are shared freely among agencies. The report is available to the public online at [www.GLFC.org](http://www.GLFC.org), and from the distribution of reports at the annual LEC meeting. Agencies may not share with the public any other agency and/or task group data or intellectual property without the expressed consent of the originating agency.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The WTG meets as deemed necessary by its' members, the STC members, or the LEC, to address task group charges, with the intent to meet at least twice annually.

**SUPPORT:** Salary and traveling expenses of the members of the WTG will be the responsibility of the parent agencies, unless otherwise provided through an arrangement of the GLFC or other external funding sources.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
YELLOW PERCH TASK GROUP (YPTG) OF  
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Adopted October, 1980  
Revised March, 2004

**TITLE:** The Lake Erie Committee Yellow Perch Task Group (YPTG)

**BACKGROUND:** The Yellow Perch Task Group was formed in 1980 to address yellow perch harvest strategies and population assessment in response to declining abundance of yellow perch in Lake Erie. Since the task group's inception, the status of yellow perch stocks in Lake Erie has been described using an accumulation of shared fishery and survey data, which in turn have been used to generate population estimates and yield projections. The YPTG has traditionally recommended allowable harvest (RAH) range based on single or multiple yield strategies. The other main functions of the YPTG are to address charges from the LEC and the Standing Technical Committee (STC) that pertain to scientific research and management issues of Lake Erie yellow perch. The YPTG presents the results of these activities in an annual report and presentation at an annual meeting of the Lake Erie Committee.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The YPTG is dedicated to employing the best science in order to support international management of yellow perch on Lake Erie. In so doing, the YPTG will adhere to the following principles:

- **Sustainability** of Lake Erie yellow perch component stocks, their fisheries, harvests, and a broad distribution of benefits.
- **Wise Use** of the Lake Erie yellow perch resource to promote its health for the future.

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:** The primary objectives of the YPTG are to:

- Describe the status of yellow perch stocks in Lake Erie using state of the art fishery and experimental assessment techniques.
- Provide sound scientific advice and background material to the LEC for the annual derivation of TAC and allocation of agency harvest quotas.

To achieve the mission and objectives, the members of the Yellow Perch Task Group uphold the following tenets:

- **Membership-** LEC member agencies will provide personnel to address YPTG charges. Task group members are selected by their parent agencies. Non-agency personnel can be appointed to the YPTG with the consensus of the STC and LEC. If a task group member is withdrawn from the group, the parent

agency may provide a replacement person if the agency is not represented sufficiently. Two co-chairpersons selected by YPTG consensus and approved by the STC and LEC, will be comprised of one U.S. representative and one Ontario representative. These roles will alternate periodically at the discretion of the LEC, STC, and the task group. See the **LEC Task Group Responsibilities and Membership** for further discussion.

- **Cooperation-** The members of the YPTG will share responsibilities addressing charges; in collecting and collating interagency data, running analyses, producing reports and giving presentations.
- **Objectivity-** The YPTG maintains objectivity through emphasis on a scientific approach.
- **Transparency-** Information and methodology must be disseminated completely to facilitate comprehension and input by LEC, other agency representatives, stakeholders and the public in general.
- **Science and Technology-** The YPTG will use the latest available techniques to assess the status of Lake Erie yellow perch stocks and their associated fisheries. Task group members will address management and research initiatives as charges that emerge from the STC or LEC.
- **Restoration and Rehabilitation-** If yellow perch populations are considered degraded or at risk, the YPTG will advise the LEC regarding approaches for restoration and rehabilitation of the Lake Erie yellow perch stocks.

**CHARGES:** Charges are assigned to the YPTG by the STC and LEC in order to meet the primary objectives and to address specific tasks important to the LEC. On an annual basis, the STC and LEC determine whether the charges have been completed satisfactorily or if they require further elaboration.

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWABLE HARVEST:** Annually, the YPTG provides a recommended range of allowable harvests (RAH), based on current adopted harvest strategies, to the LEC. The methodology used for annual RAH derivation must be clearly documented. RAH derivations will take into account the status of stocks, biological risks associated with various levels of exploitation, and other potential threats to the stability of the walleye resource. After quotas are established by the LEC, these quotas will be further allocated to the states and province by a clearly defined sharing formula (presently based on size of jurisdictional water areas within each Management Unit).

**REPORTING:** One YPTG co-chairperson, or a designated member, will report formally on the activities of the YPTG at the annual meeting of the LEC. The co-chairpersons or individual Task Group members may be asked to report on critical issues to the LEC or STC chairperson or membership at other times, including the annual Pre-LEC meeting,

seasonal LEC meetings, and/or STC business meetings. An annual written report summarizing YPTG charges, activities toward those charges, and RAH or harvest recommendations will be produced for the LEC, with the scheduled release to the public at the conclusion of the annual LEC public meeting.

**CONSENSUS APPROACH:** YPTG issues are resolved by consensus of the members. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, the issue will be referred to the STC first and then to the LEC for resolution.

**DATA SHARING:** All data used to create the YPTG report are shared freely among agencies. The report is available to the public online at [www.GLFC.org](http://www.GLFC.org), and from the distribution of reports at the annual LEC meeting. Agencies may not share with the public any other agency and/or task group data or intellectual property without the expressed consent of the originating agency.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The YPTG meets as deemed necessary by its' members, the STC members, or the LEC, to address task group charges, with the intent to meet at least twice annually.

**SUPPORT:** Salary and traveling expenses of the members of the YPTG will be the responsibility of the parent agencies, unless otherwise provided through an arrangement of the GLFC or other external funding sources.

**Announcements**  
LEC April 1, 2004  
Annual Meeting

Coordinated Perch Management Strategy 2001-2003 final report is expected within the next few weeks. A sign-up sheet is on the back table for names & e-mail addresses of those who would like to receive a copy.

LEC Task Groups have reviewed and renewed the “Terms of Reference” that guide the cooperative functioning of the technical and scientific aspects of our work. These should be posted on the GLFC web-site by the end of the week.

LEC has set the Lake Erie 2004 yellow perch TAC at 11 million pounds. The basis for this decision is an  $F(0.1)$  policy that is based on a spawner recruit relationship. This is an interim method, and is an improvement over previous  $F 0.1$  methods in that it takes into account the spawner recruit relationship for yellow perch and does not have the same reliance on parameters such as growth and knife edge recruitment. This is an interim policy that goes some measure towards addressing concerns expressed by the Myers & Bence review. In 2005, the Yellow Perch Task Group will be investigating this policy and others (including simulations) for future use within a yellow perch management plan schedule for implementation in 2005.

LEC has set the Lake Erie 2004 walleye TAC at 2.7 million walleye. This is consistent with the projected imbalanced age structure & low population level of age 2 and older walleye in the lake at this time. The LEC is optimistic and hopeful that the strength of the 2003 year-class will be sustained through survival and growth and contribute to a more robust age structure and improved walleye fishery in the future. The LEC wants to acknowledge the thoughtful participation of the commercial and recreational fisheries throughout the year and at last evening public session; we also express our thanks to Dale Burkett for his exemplary facilitation.

The LEC wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for the full range of their support during the last year. It

was essential to have the institutional framework of the GLFC and the Strategic Great Lake Fisheries Management Plan within which we processed the challenges and complexities of walleye management issues during 2003.