



Fishery Research Priorities

Great Lakes fisheries are managed by provincial, state, and tribal agencies, with support from the Canadian and U. S. federal governments. Fishery management agencies agreed in 1981 to cooperate through a non-binding agreement called [A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries](#).

Fishery management is coordinated for each lake through "lake committees" comprised of state, provincial, and U.S. tribal agencies with primary management jurisdiction on each lake, supported by federal agencies. Lake committees develop strategic fishery management goals for each lake, called Fish Community Objectives (FCOs) and set agreed-upon harvest levels for key fish species of common interest. More detailed management guidance is provided through rehabilitation plans and management plans for each lake. Lake committees also provide a "state-of-the-lake" report every five years to summarize recent trends in fish populations and progress toward FCOs.

Below summarizes the resources available for each of the committees. Investigators are strongly encouraged to review these documents and where feasible, develop proposals relevant to the Lake Committee needs. Relevance to these research needs is considered during pre-proposal evaluation.

Council of Lake Committees

- [Developing Research Priorities for Lake Whitefish in the Upper Great Lakes](#)
- [Environmental Principles for Sustainable Fisheries in the Great Lakes Basin \(2016\)](#)

Lake Superior Committee

- [Lake Superior Committee Research Priorities \(2016\)](#)
- [Fish Community Objectives for Lake Superior \(2003\)](#)
- [Lake Superior Committee Environmental Priorities \(2019\)](#)

Lake Huron Committee

- [Lake Huron Committee Research Priorities \(2014\)](#)
- [Fish Community Objectives for Lake Huron \(1995\)](#)
- [Lake Huron Committee Environmental Priorities \(2021\)](#)

Lake Michigan Committee

- [Lake Michigan Committee Research Priorities \(2014\)](#)
- [Fish Community Objectives for Lake Michigan \(1995\)](#)
- [Lake Michigan Committee Environmental Priorities \(2020\)](#)

Lake Erie Committee

- [Lake Erie Committee Research Priorities \(2009\)](#)
- [Fish Community Objectives for Lake Erie \(2020\)](#)
- [Lake Erie Committee Environmental Priorities \(2019\)](#)

Lake Ontario Committee

- [Lake Ontario Committee Research Priorities \(2015\)](#)
- [Fish Community Objectives for Lake Ontario, 2013](#)
- [Lake Ontario Committee Fish Habitat Priorities \(2020\)](#)
- [Research priorities for lake trout restoration in Lake Ontario, 2022](#)

Great Lakes Fish Health Committee

- [Great Lakes Fish Health Committee Research Priorities \(2014\)](#)