

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE
STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) OF
THE LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE (LEC)**

Adopted March, 1976
Revised March, 2004

TITLE: The Lake Erie Committee Standing Technical Committee (STC)

BACKGROUND: The Lake Erie's Standing Technical Committee was formed in 1976 as the Scientific Protocol Committee. In the early 1980s, the name was changed to the Standing Technical Committee, or STC, and new Terms of Reference were adopted. The main functions of the STC are to organize and help facilitate work in the form of charges from the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) to the STC and individual Task Groups, and the STC organizes and presents an annual meeting of the Lake Erie Committee to discuss pertinent management and research issues. STC members will act as the senior scientific advisory group for the LEC and will take action to commission special studies, to critically review task group findings or methods, or to direct scientific studies on behalf of the LEC. The STC will provide a key leadership function for task groups and for the LEC on biological and scientific issues.

MEMBERSHIP:

Chairperson: The Chairperson of the STC will reside with, and rotate in synchrony with, the agency chairing the Lake Erie Committee, but these two Chairpersons will not normally be the same person

Members: STC membership will consist of one representative from each fish management and research agency with legislated or mandated policy and implementation obligations for fish management on the Lake Erie, as follows:

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC)
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR)
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)

Task Groups: The STC will organize Task Groups and ad-hoc Working Groups to address specific tasks which have been referred to it (as Charges) from the LEC. Such Task Groups and Working Groups may include qualified representatives from the above member agencies as well as members from:

- Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- United States Geological Survey – Biological Resources Division (BRD)
- The scientific and academic communities at large, as invited by and approved by the LEC.

See the individual task group Terms of Reference and the Lake Erie Committee's Task Group Responsibilities and Membership statement of specific details. Current Task Groups include: Walleye, Yellow Perch, Coldwater, Forage, and Habitat. Other task or work groups may be formed in response to specific LEC or STC needs (e.g. the Statistics and Modeling Work Group and the Sampling/Assessment Work Group) or to address new or emerging fisheries resources and management techniques.

PURPOSE: To establish a group of fisheries management professionals representing agencies with active mandates for fishery management on Lake Erie. To examine resource management, biological, and/or scientific fisheries issues referred to them by the LEC. To make recommendations regarding management and research direction to the LEC and member agencies. To conduct work assignments as requested by the LEC including:

1. Providing agencies represented on the LEC with technical information, management alternatives, and guidelines useful in making fishery management decisions; policy issues will not be assigned to the Lake Erie STC, Task Groups or Working Groups by the LEC;
2. Reviewing proposed work assignments (STC, Task Group, and Working Group Charges) with the LEC and agreeing on work to be conducted;
3. Completing assignments as agreed upon and reporting back to the LEC at its annual meeting;
4. Arranging for resource persons and independent reviewers to assist the LEC, Task Groups and Working Groups as required;
5. Recommending to the LEC the need for the formation of a Task Group or Working Group to address a specific issue outside of the scope of the STC, or the need to suspend/eliminate a Task Group or Working Group whose Charges have been met and are no longer required;
6. Coordinating activities with such Task Groups or Working Groups to ensure completion of assigned Charges;
7. Consulting with the LEC to propose, develop and/or recommend research projects pertinent to Lake Erie fisheries issues.

REPORTING: The Chair of the STC will report formally at the annual meeting of the LEC on the activities of the STC, its Task Groups and ad-hoc Working Groups. In addition, the Chair of the STC, individual Task Group Chairs and ad-hoc Working Group Chairs will 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.

CONSENSUS APPROACH: STC issues are resolved by consensus of the members. If consensus cannot be achieved on an issue, then it will be referred to the LEC for resolution. Additionally, the STC can provide resolution guidance for task groups if they reach an impasse.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The STC meets as deemed necessary by the STC members of the LEC, with the intent to meet at least annually. Additional meetings may be held with task group chairpersons to ensure that tasks are fulfilled satisfactorily or to address specific LEC issues.

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