

# Changes from the 1995 Lake Superior Management Plan

## A summary of the major changes/additions made to the 2006 Lake Superior Management Plan from the 1995 plan based on public input and discussions within the Department of Natural Resources.

### **Fish Community**

- Added short sections on Invasive Species, and Global Climate Change, which briefly discuss relationships to Lake Superior fish community.

### **Commercial Fishery**

- Reduce commercial fishing licenses from 50 to 25.
- Establish lake herring total allowable catch (TAC) based on 10% of the lower limit of the average spawning stock biomass estimate determined by hydroacoustic surveys. TAC would be based on a 3-year average and would be in place for 3 years
  - Allocation of TAC would to be determined by discussions among commercial operators and MNDNR
- Limit rainbow smelt harvest to current operator and limit gear to 5 pound-nets.

### **Lake trout**

- Extend the lake trout angling season from September 30th through the 1st weekend in October
- Promote voluntary release of lake trout greater than 25 inches and implement more restrictive angling regulations if harvest criteria are exceeded.
- Discontinue stocking in MN2 in 2007 and reduce yearlings stocked in MN1 to 170,000.

### **Chinook salmon**

- Discontinue the Chinook salmon stocking program
  - The stocking program is no longer effective as measured by the poor return to the French River trap. Far fewer than the necessary 75 spawning pair have returned in each of the evaluation years.
  - Since 2000 the average contribution of stocked Chinook salmon to the summer boat fishery was less than 5%, with approximately 95% coming from natural reproduction.

### **Pink Salmon**

- Added chapter to describe status and role of pink salmon in Lake Superior fish community.

## **Rainbow Trout**

- Continue implementation of the 2003 Rainbow Trout Management Plan
- Multiple changes and updates to the 2003 Rainbow Trout Management Plan:
  - Redistribute some Kamloops stocking from French and Lester Rivers to McQuade Harbor/Talmadge River area.
  - Meet with Rainbow trout focus group in winter of 2007 to determine future of Knife River smolt stocking program.
  - Included results from a recent study conducted by University of Minnesota researchers on the genetic impacts of hatchery-reared smolts.
  - Added the need to investigate interactions between stocked steelhead and resident brook trout; and displacement of wild steelhead by hatchery-reared steelhead.
  - Numerous minor word changes and clarifications from the *2003 Rainbow Trout Management Plan for the Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior*.
- Continue steelhead rehabilitation strategy focused on the Knife River system –
  - Set target of 1,000 spawning fish by 2010 to objectives, may modify rehabilitation methods based on new information and discussions with Rainbow Trout Advisory Group.
- Minor changes in sanctuary dates to simplify regulations.
- Monitor populations of cormorants on Knife Island and if deemed necessary reduce their potential impact on emigrating steelhead.

## **Chapter 10 - Brook trout**

- Simplify regulations by reducing the above boundary bag limit from 10 to 5 to match the rest of the state.
- Work with Grand Portage Band of Chippewa to monitor results of the various brook trout stocking strategies being implemented by the Band.

**Along with the changes described above, many minor modifications and word changes were also made to the draft based on public comment.**