

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

Place: LSSU, Erie Room
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

When: February 1st, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- December 6th, 2016

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Degradation of Aesthetics BUI (Canada): Draft support letter – Paula Antunes

4. Presentations

- N/A

5. Office Reports

- RAP Office
 - IJC public meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario – March 2, 2017
 - Opportunity to provide comments on the draft Triennial Assessment of Progress Report
- SPAC update

6. Agency Updates

- Agency updates will be provided during the meeting

7. Memberships

- For new members, applications must be received & prospective members present for confirmation – standard procedure.

8. New Business

- Grass carp in the Great Lakes - Discussion
- Microplastics in the Great Lakes – Discussion

9. Public Comments

10. Next Meeting

**Four Agency Report to the St. Marys River BPAC
LSSU, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
February 1, 2017**

Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

Fish Tumours BUI

- ECCC has received preliminary results from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's analysis of liver samples taken from 100 White Suckers collected in August 2015. It is preliminary, because the diagnosis is done blind (i.e., the lab techs do not know anything other than the species). The lab has been sent the fish data (age, gender, etc.), which will be factors to consider in their final report expected before end of March.

Loss of Fish Habitat BUI

- The delisting criteria for the fish habitat component of the BUI is to, "*enhance rapids/aquatic habitat conditions through feasible conservation and restoration measures identified in the Stage 2 RAP*". ECCC and the Batchewana First Nation have signed a contract to advance a proposed aquatic habitat restoration on Whitefish Island, starting with project planning and design, community consultation and approvals, construction logistics and material sourcing, and pre-construction data collection/monitoring. BPAC will be engaged and kept informed throughout the process, expected to ramp-up in February and March.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (MOECC)

- Curniss McGoldrick has started in her new role as Great Lakes Advisor. She hopes to attend a BPAC meeting in the near future so that she can meet everyone.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

- Ted Smith was recently promoted to a new position within US EPA, so he will no longer be working with the St. Marys River Area of Concern. John Perrecone will fill that role until a permanent replacement is identified.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

- With the completion of the Little Rapids Project last fall, Ashley Moerke is leading a team from LSSU to complete post-construction monitoring in the area in 2017, primarily looking at aquatic biota.