

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

2019



FISHERIES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



Who are we?

CHAIR

Peter Sword (Zone C)

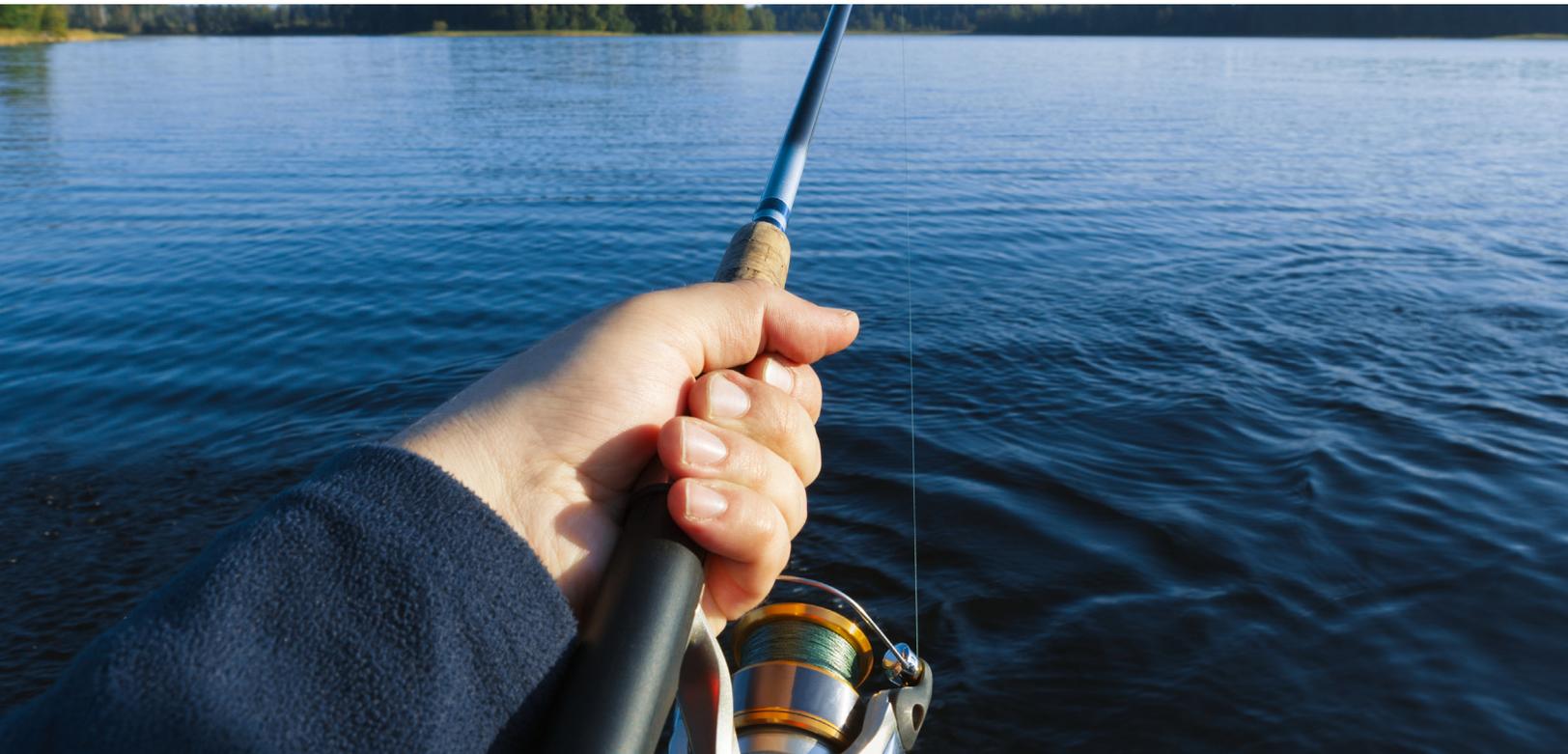
MEMBERS

Felix Barbetti (Zone J)
Jim Bertulli (Zone D)
Tom Brooke (Zone E)
Leslie Dungog (Zone G)
Merrill Elliott (Zone F)
Jim Kelly (Zone G)
Brian McLeod (Zone A)
Jack Osadzuk (Zone H)
Dan Polsky (Zone D)
Brian Sutcliffe (Zone E)
Joe Tetreault (Zone J)
Bruce Tufts (Zone F)
Dennis Wiseman (Zone H)
Adam Weir (Staff Liaison)



Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) Councils

Much of the committee's time is spent discussing the activities of the various FMZ councils throughout the province. There has been some frustration over the last year or so, because of the lack of meetings taking place. At least three of the FMZ councils have yet to be formed. A number of FMZ councils, particularly in the Northwest, have went dormant after initial planning processes and have not met in four or five years, others have virtually shut down for a year or more in the middle of planning processes, and others are awaiting final ERO notices to be posted so fisheries management plans can be implemented.



New Regulations for Multiple Lines and Chumming

In June 2019, the MNRF posted a proposal to allow the use of multiple lines when fishing for Common Carp and clarification of existing provisions as they relate to chumming. The committee reviewed a jurisdictional scan on multiple line opportunities and provided input to help inform the OFAH submission. We are still awaiting a decision on this proposal.



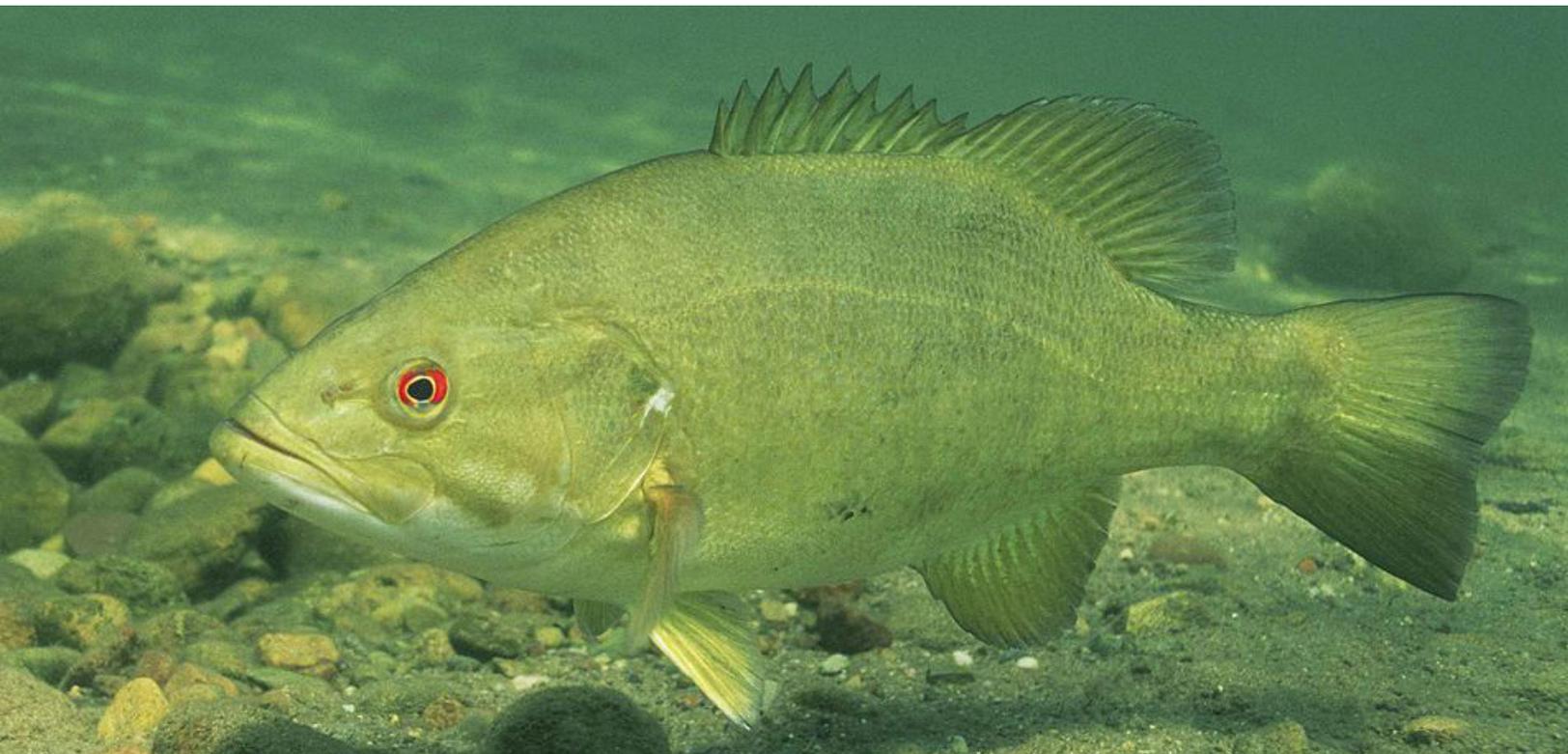
Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA)

The committee recommended supporting the contents of the new agreement in principle, but also provided a number of key recommendations including highlighting and making fisheries a priority. Most importantly, the committee recommended that OFAH advocate for adequate funding of COA initiatives; otherwise, the actions outlined in the COA are toothless.



Setting a Precedent for Bass Regulations in Ontario

The committee was engaged in proposed bass regulation changes in FMZ 20, and received presentations from Queen's University research scientists on potential conservation concerns with the current season timing (particularly in eastern Lake Ontario), and the MNRF's Lake Ontario Management Unit on proposed management options. The committee supported a proposal to separate the seasons for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. We are still awaiting a decision on this proposal.



OFAH Fisheries-related Programs

The committee received presentations from both the OFAH's Community Hatchery Program Coordinator and the OFAH's Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program Coordinator to hear updates on program activities.



Brook Trout and Aurora Trout

Brook Trout continues to be an important discussion topic for the committee as we continue to prepare for future discussions on the future of Brook Trout management in Ontario. In 2019, we received a presentation from an MNR aquatic ecologist on Brook Trout, and an OFAH Student Research Grant recipient who studied Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) Seasonal Habitat Selection and Detection in Haliburton County. The committee also received a presentation titled Overview and History of Aurora Trout in Ontario from an MNR research scientist.



Bait Management

The committee continued to discuss bait management and provided input on the OFAH submission to the proposal ERO 019-0518, Ontario Bait Management Strategy, released on September 30, 2019. When and if this strategy will be implemented is unknown at this time.

