MICHIGAN AQUACULTURE AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ISSUES

Ron Kinnunen

Michigan Sea Grant College Program





A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR A THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN MICHIGAN

Final Project Report

Michigan capable of \$1 billion from aquaculture

- Flow-through
- RAS

• Net-pens





Contributing Authors: Joe Colyn, Originz, LLC Gary Boersen, Originz, LLC Bill Knudson, Michigan State University



US Seafood Trade



What is Causing US to Fall Behind in Aquaculture?

- Catfish production dropped from 608 million lbs in 2005 to 301 million lbs 2014 due to global competition
- Regulations restricting expansion
- Indoor recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) failures and high risk



Michigan Aquaculture



15 year track record Source: USDA Aquaculture Census

Somewhere in Ontario waters of Lake Huron

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO Image Landsat / Copernicus Image NOAA © 2016 Google

Google Earth

44°31'37.40" N 83°19'48.80" W elev 599 ft eye alt 884.87 mi 🔾

20,200 ft

0

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe Image © 2016 TerraMetrics

2003

Google e



North Wind Fisheries Manitoulin Island, Ontario





Meijer's - Petoskey, MI 2017

Meijer - Lansing, MI 2014





December 2014

- 2 proposals for commercial net-pen aquaculture operations submitted to State of Michigan Quality of Life Group (QOL – all state agencies)
- At least one offered \$2 million for research, monitoring, and an adaptive management framework





Summer 2015

Environmentalists oppose Great Lakes net pens, support current aquaculture practices

Mark Johnson (989) 732-1111 mjohnson@gaylordheraldtimes.com | Posted: Monday, November 23, 2015 3:35 pm

MICHIGAN — Two proposals are on the table to allow a fish-raising practice that some say would benefit the economy, while others say it would put the Great Lakes at risk.

"We're not against aquaculture, just this particular kind of aquaculture... We already know how to do aquaculture in Michigan"

nderway, allowing citizens to express their opinions on the ture proposals with state agencies including the Michigan Departments elopment, Natural Resources, and Environmental Quality. A public ast week to gather some of these comments.

say the net-pen proposals thern Lake Huron – f aquaculture practic

e, just this particula Mitt Watershed Co

Recirculating aquaculture systems, a practice The Michigan, raise mass amounts of fish using tanks from the fish, a practice she said is suited to vaca "Recirculating aquaculture... is already being implemented in Michigan, raise mass amounts of fish... a practice.. well suited to vacant warehouses "

for rainhour trout in northern I also





Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2015 Study

- Freshwater Cage Aquaculture: Ecosystems Impacts from Dissolved and Particulate Waste Phosphorus
- Operations are contributing about 5 % of the annual total phosphorus loads to the North Channel
- Phosphorus additions to the environment from net pen aquaculture operations under the current level of fish production can generally be characterized as "low."



Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2015 Study

• Offshore phosphorus loading is of less concern and higher phosphorus loads may be considered advisable as a means to help mitigate concerns regarding low levels of forage fish and the poor condition of sport and commercial fish species.



Introduced Legislation

SB 526 introduced (with committee hearings)

• Would have prohibited all aquaculture operations whose discharges are hydraulically connected to the Great Lakes



"Concentrated fish poo is just not Pure Michigan,"

"A typical 200,000 fish operation creates as much waste as a city of 65,000 people, which would make the Great Lakes a giant toilet bowl."



Fish Waste

	Humans	Fish	Human: Fish
Number	65,000	200,000	
Fecal (kg/yr)	3,036,800	144,000	21.1
Phosphorus (kg/yr)	11,863	2,400	4.9
E coli (Kg/yr)	24	0	na



Lake Huron charter boat harvests 1990-2015

• Phosphorus shunt cycle

1285

PERSPECTIVE / PERSPECTIVE

The nearshore phosphorus shunt: a consequence of ecosystem engineering by dreissenids in the Laurentian Great Lakes

R.E. Hecky, R.E.H. Smith, D.R. Barton, S.J. Guildford, W.D. Taylor, M.N. Charlton, and T. Howell

Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 61: 1285–1293 (2004)

The HACCP Approach to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by Aquaculture and Baitfish Operations

AIS-HACCP Training Materials





CD with resources

AIS-HACCP







Supporting training video (22 min)

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VHSV

- Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Rhabdovirus
- Four known isolates
 - 3 European
 - 1 North American



- Causes large scale hemorrhaging in internal organs and osmotic regulation failure
- Large scale mortalities seen
 - In rainbow trout and turbot in Europe
 - In Pacific herring in Puget Sound, WA
- Not a human pathogen

Biosecurity Plans

- No "one-size-fits-all" solution
 - Varies with type of operation, species, life stage reared
- Range
 - Simple and quickly implemented
 - Foot dips; disinfection; signs
 - Other economic investment or effort
 - Dedicated quarantine equipment or facilities
- Cost-Benefit







Ecological Changes Related to Aquatic Invasive Species



Affects on Commercial Fishing Gear



Affects on Commercial Fishing Gear



Lake Whitefish Recruitment Issues



Great Lakes Whitefish

- Important fishery
- Reduced growth and condition
- Declines in *Diporeia*
 - Energy-rich prey source
 - High in HUFA levels
 - Transfer of essential FA
 - Switch to *Dreissena*
 - Low in essential FA
- Population health









Population Models and the Management Process

- Fishery monitoring
 - Age and size composition
 - Effort and Yield
- Data Time Series
 - Begins in mid 1980s
 - LWF data thru year 2016 used to establish 2018 harvest limits



Lenart 2018

Model Outputs

- Unit-specific estimates
 - Abundance
 - By age and year
 - Biomass*
 - Spawning and total by year
 - Mortality*
 - By age and year



*Management targets





Lenart 2018

Status of Stocks Summary- Trends

 Not including the "mortality" trend, only 3 of the 33 individual scores for lakes MI and HU are positive



Michigan Commercial Fishing Statute

Proposed Structure (Statute – Rules – Orders)

- Statute: Hard Regulatory Items
 - License Requirements
 - Rule and Order Authorities
 - Acceptable Fishing Gears
 - Data and Harvest Reporting
 - Commercial Species Lists
 - Fees, Fines, and Penalties

Proposed Structure (Statute – Rules – Orders)

- Rules: Items that require limited flexibility
 - Fishing Seasons
 - Depth Restrictions
 - Size Limits
 - Bycatch Allowances
 - Reporting Methods and Timelines

Proposed Structure (Statute – Rules – Orders)

- Orders: Items that require immediate flexibility
 - Emergency Actions
 - "Items of agreement"

Proposed DNR Authorities

• Clearly defined DNR authority to issue orders, rules and license conditions.

What's Next???

• 2020 Consent Decree

Questions?

