

FINAL

Sportfishing Restoration & Spending Plan

for the

Lake Ontario System

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NYSDEC

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SECTION I. BACKGROUND

Purpose

The purpose of this *Plan* is to describe the use of funds from the settlement of a major natural resource damages (NRD) claim. More specifically, it describes projects selected to restore injuries to sportfishing in the New York waters of the Lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River (hereafter referred to as the Lake Ontario system). This *Plan* also describes the public role in its development and provides reasons why some proposed projects are unlikely to be implemented.

This *Plan* has been prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) in its capacity as Trustee for New York's natural resources. The geographic scope of the area addressed extends from the base of Niagara Falls, through Lake Ontario and downstream to the Robert Moses Power Dam on the St. Lawrence River, and includes tributaries to these waters upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish.

Basis of Claim

Several federal statutes, as well as State law, authorize federal and State officials to act on behalf of the public to restore natural resources affected by releases of contaminants. Under the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)* of 1980, the *Oil Pollution Act (OPA)* of 1990, the *Clean Water Act (CWA)* of 1977, and State common law, parties responsible for contaminating the environment and causing injury to natural resources are also liable for natural resource damages, which are to be used to restore the injured resources. Natural resource damages are compensation for the injury to, loss of, loss of the use of, or destruction of New York's natural resources, including land, biota, air, surface and ground waters.

The natural resource damages assessment process involves determining the nature and extent of injury to the public's natural resources, and restoring the use and enjoyment of either the injured or lost natural resources, or the services provided by these resources. The NRD process seeks to ensure that the public is compensated for the losses they suffer as a result of the injuries.

In June of 2006, New York State announced that the Department and the Office of the Attorney General had reached a settlement of the State's NRD claim for the Lake Ontario system. Defendant Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC) agreed to pay the State \$12 million in five equal payments over four years. The first installment of \$2.4 million was paid within 30 days of the June 21, 2006 court approval; each of four additional payments is due on the anniversary of the approval date.

The claim arose under the federal CERCLA ("Superfund") and New York State common law, and compensates the people of the State for injuries to natural resources caused by the release of harmful chemicals to the environment.

Description of Injury

The settlement was based on an assessment of the damages to the State's natural resources, in particular a loss of recreational fishing benefits resulting from the imposition of fish consumption advisories because of the presence of contaminants in the fish. The damages were calculated by measuring the difference between the value to anglers of fishing for the contaminated fish, and what the value would have been if the fish had not been contaminated.

This settlement represents the final claim in a lawsuit filed against OCC's predecessor, Hooker Chemical, in 1983. The \$12 million settlement is one of the largest settlements in the nation of a NRD claim based on lost recreational fishing use. Funds recovered as a result of a NRD claim are to be used to restore/enhance either the injured natural resources themselves or the services provided by the lost or injured natural resources. In this case, because recreational fishing was injured, the recovered damages will be used to restore/enhance the recreational use of the fish and to restore/enhance the fishery itself.

Restoration Strategies

The general hierarchy for the use of NRD funds, in order of greatest to least preference, is to restore or replace the injured resources. If neither of these approaches is possible or practical, then equivalent resources could be acquired. As stated previously, this settlement was based on the loss of (injury to) recreational fishing benefits resulting from the imposition of fish consumption advisories. Chemical contamination of fish resulted in fish consumption advisories extending from the Lower Niagara River downstream through Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Migratory fishes have transferred contaminants into tributary systems as well. Restoring the injured resource by reducing contaminant levels in fish to the levels prior to the release of toxic chemicals into the system would require extensive sediment dredging/disposal, which would be impracticable and cost prohibitive. Using available NRD funds for toxic clean-up efforts in the Lake Ontario system would be insignificant and therefore ineffective, as these contaminants now reside in sediments and biota throughout the entire system. In addition, toxic "hot spots" within the Lake Ontario system have already been identified, and efforts to remediate contamination in these areas are being coordinated through individual Remedial Action Plans (RAPs). The Department has therefore chosen to use these NRD funds to restore and enhance recreational sportfisheries within the Lake Ontario system.

Matching funds and contributions to this program from other agencies, non-governmental organizations and programs such as RAPs, the Open Space plan and the Fisheries Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund (FEMRF, as detailed in the following project descriptions) will be actively sought out to increase the longevity of this fund. This effort will also reduce redundancy of restoration efforts.

The Draft Restoration Plan

The Department prepared a *Draft Lake Ontario Sportfishery Restoration Plan*. The *Draft Plan* established four categories of projects that could serve to restore and/or enhance recreational

sportfisheries throughout the Lake Ontario system:

- 1) ***Public Fishing Access*** - improvement to or creation of boat launch sites, fishing piers, access channel improvements and purchase of public fishing rights;
- 2) ***Habitat Restoration*** - creation/enhancement of habitats that support warmwater, coolwater and coldwater fishes and/or their prey, such as walleye spawning bed improvements, stream bank stabilization, fish passage, and lamprey barriers;
- 3) ***Angler Outreach and/or Education*** - fishing hotlines, outreach addressing where and how to fish, instruction on reducing exposure to contaminants when eating Great Lakes fish, visitor center interpretive displays, sportfishing promotion etc.; and
- 4) ***Fish Population Management and/or Enhancement*** - improvements to existing NYS Great Lakes hatchery facilities that will improve the Department's ability to effectively manage fisheries. Proposed projects must result in a defensible benefit to sportfisheries in the Lake Ontario system.

Public Participation

In January 2007, the Department released a *Public Participation Plan for the Development of the Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for the Lake Ontario System* (see appendix A) to ensure meaningful input to the restoration planning process. The *Participation Plan* prescribed public notice of the *Draft Plan* to the public through press releases, the *Environmental Notice Bulletin* and a series of public meetings to be held at locations throughout the Lake Ontario system.

A 60-day notice period was offered following the release of the *Draft Plan* to afford the public an opportunity to review the *Plan* prior to public meetings and to submit their thoughts subsequent to the meetings. Copies of the draft *Plan* were provided to the New York State Library Document Distribution Center, as well as NYSDEC Headquarters in Regions 6 (Watertown), 7 (Syracuse), 8 (Avon), and 9 (Allegany). Five public meetings, one each in NYSDEC Regions 7, 8, and 9, and two in Region 6, were scheduled approximately half-way through the review period.

Notices of opportunities for review of the *Plan* were provided both formally and informally. Formal notice in the New York State *Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB)* was published weekly from 17 January 2007 through 20 March 2007. Additionally, notices were provided on the Department's website, through press releases, and by direct mailings. A constituent letter and fact sheet summarizing the *Plan* and announcing public meetings and comment periods was posted on the Department website, and these documents were also mailed to interested constituents including non-governmental organizations, individuals, local government officials, elected state and federal officials, federally recognized native American tribal authorities, and N.Y.S. and federal natural resource agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

Attendance at public meetings ranged from 12 to about 47 individuals. In total, approximately 150 proposals or project ideas about how the NRD funds should be used to restore the Lake Ontario sportfishery were received from the public, non-governmental organizations, county legislatures as well as staff from this and other governmental agencies .

* * *

Section II Project Selection

Project Evaluation Process

Approximately 150 project proposals were received from the public, non-governmental organizations, county legislatures as well as staff from this and other governmental agencies for consideration in this program. These proposals were accepted for review by this program as outlined in the *Public Participation Plan For Development of the Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for the Lake Ontario System*. Projects were reviewed and evaluated by a committee of Department personnel (Project Evaluation Team) consisting of the following:

Bureau of Fisheries Chief Doug Stang
Great Lakes Section Head Bill Culligan
Region 6 Fisheries Manager Frank Flack
Region 7 Fisheries Manager Dan Bishop
Region 8 Fisheries Manager Web Pearsall
Region 9 Fisheries Manager Paul McKeown
Lake Ontario Unit Leader Steve LaPan
Bureau of Habitat Chief Steve Sanford
Lake Ontario Natural Resource Damages Coordinator Chris Balk

The Project Evaluation Team developed a standard evaluation form to evaluate projects. This form allowed for all project proposals to be scored on their own merits. Project proposals were compiled and reviewed, and a numerical score was derived for each project proposal by each team member using this form. Each project proposal was given an official score that is the cumulative score from all of the panel member's evaluation forms for that particular proposal.

Some proposals were rejected collectively by the entire panel because the project did not meet one or more of the six general requirements presented in **SECTION II C.**, while others were only rejected by part of the panel. In cases such as this, the cumulative score for that proposal reflects only the points that were awarded to it by the panel members who chose not to reject it.

. Some projects were reviewed and discussed at meetings due to their complexity while others were self explanatory and scored at the team member's convenience. The Lake Ontario NRD coordinator then compiled all evaluation forms, documented project proposal rejections, and derived the composite scores for each project proposal. . After all evaluations were completed the Project Evaluation Team met again to resolve any questions regarding scoring and produced the project ranking list based on composite project scores.

Project Proposals were evaluated based on the following general criteria:

1. **Technical Feasibility** - Is the proposed action possible given constraints such as availability of services, materials, equipment, expertise, construction and operational limitations, expected life span of benefits, maintenance considerations, and administrative, legal, or regulatory requirements? Projects that are technically and

operationally feasible with measurable benefits, and those employing proven methods, received preference.

2. **Effectiveness** - Can the effectiveness of the project be measured, and will the action serve to restore/enhance sportfisheries and/or the injured natural resources, or the public's access to/enjoyment of sportfisheries in the Lake Ontario system? Effectiveness depends on the extent of the benefits to Lake Ontario sportfisheries or natural resources (local vs. system wide), extent to which the alternative might cause additional injury, and the extent to which the proposal improves the rate of recovery, as well as level of risk and expectations for success.
3. **Relative Cost and Cost Effectiveness** - Priority was given to proposals that provide the greatest benefit for the least cost in comparison to other proposed projects. Projects with a matching fund source were encouraged. In general, priority was given to projects that provide the greatest relative benefit to the sportfishing resources of the Lake Ontario system.

Project Lists

Of the approximate 150 project proposals, 80 were scored by the review committee. The remainder included comments rather than project proposals (not scored), or were rejected based on lack of merit. The Project Evaluation Team produced the following lists:

- A. **Selected Projects** - These projects are listed in order of rank with the best scoring proposal listed first. The estimated costs for each of the proposals are preliminary and used for planning purposes only. More detail on actual costs will be determined as implementation proceeds. Cost estimates associated with this list are in no way a guarantee of funding, and are subject to change. The current total of the cost estimates for these projects surpasses available funding by about \$317,500.
- B. **Other Scored Projects** - These projects ranked beyond estimated available funding and therefore will not be pursued at this point in the program. However, project proposals on this list may be considered at a later date depending on the actual costs of implementing the selected projects.
- C. **Rejected** - These proposals were rejected based on the review criteria presented above. Each is listed in Table 1 with the reason for its rejection.

The \$12 million settlement has been apportioned to include \$10.8 million for projects and \$1.2 million for fund administration. Providing a cost estimate for selected projects does not guarantee that project will receive any or all of those funds. The cost estimates were developed to approximate how many projects the \$10.8 million can accommodate. As project implementation begins detailed spending plans for each project will be developed as needed.

The \$1.2 million administrative fund includes but is not limited to the salary, fringe benefits and travel reimbursement for the Lake Ontario NRD program coordinator, as well as vehicle charge

backs, utilities, internet access, and equipment such as computers, phones, office supplies, and field gear over the life of the fund.

The job description developed for the Lake Ontario NRD program coordinator is as follows:

- Develop annual work plans that reflect Department, Division, Bureau, and Regional program priorities.
- Prepare and manage an annual budget. Assure that purchases are made following proper Department procedures and policies.
- Coordinate contracts with Division and Department staff. Assure that all contracts meet Department criteria and administrative procedures. In cooperation with Regional, Propagation, and Operations staff, propose requests for proposals/bids and manage bidding process.
- Participate on Department Selection Committee to evaluate potential Lake Ontario NRD projects.
- Oversee construction projects and contracts to assure compliance with NRD goals and objectives.
- Participate in statewide Bureau of fisheries meetings and Great Lakes Section meetings, as requested. Provide briefing material, program summaries, and status reports, as needed.
- Participate in working groups established to address Great Lakes fisheries issues.
- Review and compile progress reports, as well as monthly and annual summaries of accomplishments.
- Develop and cultivate media contacts to facilitate accurate and timely information releases and features related to Lake Ontario NRD program accomplishments, and program initiatives.
- Organize public meetings to gather input on the Lake Ontario NRD program, solicit projects, and inform the public of progress.
- Attend meetings and correspond with angling groups, sportsman's organizations, and environmental groups regarding Lake Ontario NRD programs.
- Handle public and legislative requests for information on Lake Ontario NRD program.

List A. Selected Projects

Each project description includes a justification, except for public fishing access projects, which share the following common justification:

Public Fishing Access - Since December, 1982 when the Department(DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation(OPRHP) published the Strategic Plan for Economic Development through Expansion of Waterway Access to the Great Lakes, the agencies undertook a program to alleviate deficiencies in angler access opportunities. “The goal of such a program would be to maximize recreational and economic benefits associated with management of the Great Lakes Fisheries resources by providing safe and convenient waterway access opportunities commensurate with the level of public desire for utilizing these resources.”

Although much has been accomplished since 1982, the 2006 NYS Open Space Conservation Plan states “recreation in the waterways continues to be a primary concern as urban areas demonstrate increasing demand for swimming, boating and fishing opportunities.” The plan has identified the conservation of the Great Lakes shoreline and providing expanded public access opportunities to the Great Lakes as priorities. Unfortunately, this shoreline in certain areas has been forever altered through the construction of industrial complexes, residential development and other public works. Access to the fisheries of the Great Lakes has been and continues to be a problem for anglers.

In the 1996 New York Statewide Angler Survey, Lake Ontario (and bays) was the most heavily fished body of water in the State. The St. Lawrence River was second and the Niagara River was eighth in terms of use by anglers, both residents and non-residents. Lake Ontario was also rated number one for needing new or enhanced public access as nominated by boaters in the 1990 Statewide Survey of Boating Use at Public Waterway Access Sites in New York State.

Inadequate access to the Great Lakes is caused by the lack of publicly owned sites, as well as poorly maintained or functionally outmoded sites. Since 1989, the Department has utilized the Federal Aid to Sport Fishing Restoration Fund for recurring annual maintenance costs associated with the entire statewide water-access facility network to help alleviate the maintenance problem. At that time the decision was made that all new construction and upgrading/modernization of new or existing deficient sites will be dependent upon General Fund capital appropriations and minor Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal) matching grants. Unfortunately, over the last 20 years the amount of money available from these two funding sources has been extremely scarce. This has severely thwarted access site development and modernization.

In recent years, the funding of the Environmental Protection Fund and bond acts have enabled acquisition projects to move forward successfully, but a lack of capital funds for the modernization and development of many of these newly acquired sites have left them undeveloped or need major renovations. Completion of the public fishing access projects below will improve angler satisfaction within the Lake Ontario system.

- 1. Improvements to the NYSDEC Salmon River Fish Hatchery (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by the Oswego County, Orleans County and Niagara County Legislatures, Lake Ontario Sportfishing Stakeholders Coalition, Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, Eastern Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association, and numerous other groups/individuals).** Lake Ontario is the most heavily fished fresh water in New York State. The 1996 Angler Survey estimated that 3 million angler days of effort were expended on Lake Ontario and its major tributaries, with an additional 200,000 angler days of effort on the Lower Niagara River. Both of these very heavily fished waters are very dependant on stocking of trout and salmon to satisfy angler desires. Major fisheries for brown and rainbow trout, as well as Chinook and coho salmon would not exist if the Department did not stock large numbers of the these fish. In fact, over 3 million are stocked annually, most of which are raised at the Department's Salmon River Fish Hatchery.

The Salmon River Hatchery provides the integral support needed for these world class fisheries, yet struggles with water temperatures that are less than ideal. During the summer, rearing water temperatures are substantially warmer than desirable, bringing about frequent disease outbreaks. During winter, hatchery water temperatures are always colder than desired, resulting in slower growth and additional disease issues. The hatchery uses well water in an attempt to buffer the effects of the less than optimal temperature regime of it's river water source, however chronic shortages of well water fall short of solving the described problems. The Department has tried to find additional ground water for several years by drilling various wells with limited success.

This project consists of the hiring of an expert consulting firm to evaluate the overall water supply and hatchery practices at the Salmon River Hatchery. The consultant is expected to make recommendations on ways to improve trout and salmon culture at the hatchery by changing the way existing water supplies are used, as well as review options for finding new groundwater, or possibly recommending changes in hatchery practices such as recirculating the current available water supply. While it is impossible to plan for all the permutations of recommendations that may come out of the consultant study, the set aside fund for this project was agreed to by the review committee as an amount that would be in the ballpark for possible hatchery renovations.

The estimated cost for the consultant study is \$200,000. This project also sets aside \$2 million to implement the recommendations of the consultant.

- 2. Purchase Automated Fish Marking Trailer (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by the Oswego County, Orleans County and Niagara County Legislatures, Lake Ontario Sportfishing Stakeholders Coalition, Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, Eastern Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association, and numerous other groups/individuals).** The Lake Ontario System is jointly managed by the Department and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Both agencies agree that the most important management consideration for the continued success of Lake Ontario salmonid fisheries is maintaining a balanced predator/prey relationship. This primarily involves balancing a cyclically abundant alewife (prey)

population with a predator population comprised mainly of trout and salmon. The Department has been intensively stocking Lake Ontario with these species since 1970 and it now supports a world class fishery. However, recent surveys indicate that significant production of wild fish, especially Chinook salmon, is now occurring. Annual evaluation programs assess the success of trout and salmon year classes or cohorts, and include programs such as creel surveys, netting assessments, and public contacts. The Department also monitors alewife abundance through netting and hydroacoustic assessments.

In recent years, the predator/prey balance has become increasingly precarious due to declining alewife abundance. The ability to control or influence predator populations is imperative for maintaining the predator prey balance. While management can influence this balance by adjusting stocking numbers, we have no control over how many fish are recruited to the population from the wild. Hence, one of the most significant pieces of information that is lacking in the management of the Lake Ontario fishery at this time is the contribution of wild fish (especially Chinook salmon) to the fishery. The only feasible and accurate method of determining the relative contributions of stocked and wild fish to the fishery is to mark all stocked fish and monitor the proportions of stocked and wild fish in our annual assessment programs.

In addition to looking at the Chinook salmon population, this equipment can be used to study other desirable Lake Ontario stocked species of sport fish such as steelhead, lake trout and brown trout. These studies could evaluate survival rates of stocked fish as survival can vary greatly from year to year depending on timing, water temperatures, stocking sites, stocking numbers at a given site, stocking method, etc..

This project is for the purchase of an automated fish marking trailer that has the ability to mark very large number of Lake Ontario stocked fish in an efficient and effective manner. Various attempts to hand mark stocked fish have been made in the past with little success due to the high stocking numbers, disease problems, and physical handling stressors on the fish. The “Autofish” marking trailer developed by Northwest Marine Technology has the ability to clip and tag 60,000 fish per day with little or no effect on the health of the fish. This technology is currently used extensively in the Pacific Northwest and will allow the Department to annually mark 1.6 million Chinooks, 500,000 steelhead, and 500,000 lake trout that are stocked into the lake. While the initial goal of the marking program involves determining the contribution of wild Chinook salmon in the Lake Ontario population, further studies are planned involving other fish species such as lake trout and steelhead. The need for this equipment for the Lake Ontario system is likely to exceed its expected life span of 20 plus years.

The Autofish trailer costs approximately \$1.3 million dollars and comes with a four year on-site warranty. This project will also purchase enough tags for three years and provide funds to make some minor modifications to Salmon River Hatchery to accommodate the trailer (\$200,000).

Estimated Cost - \$1,500,000

- Lindsey and Stony Creeks Angler Parking Areas, Jefferson Co. (Public Fishing Access project proposed by NYSDEC and the Public at the Watertown Public Meeting).** Two, five car angler parking areas will be built on these Lake Ontario Tributaries. Lindsey's will be on Co. Rt. 87 or the Sandy Creek - Ellisburg Road. Stony's will be built on the Danley Road or Co. Rt 152. A footpath to the stream will also be brushed out at this location.

Estimated cost - \$20,000 (\$10,000 each site)

- Lower Niagara River Access Trails in Artpark, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the NYS OPRHP, Mike Johannes and the Niagara County Fisheries Development Board).** Modifications/improvements to two existing trails and creation of an additional trail including signage, placement of crushed stone, repairs or replacement of stairs and rails to enhance access and safety. Stabilization of banks above and adjacent to the trails and the creation of gabion fishing platforms at appropriate sites resistant to water level changes.

Estimated cost - \$150,000

- Salmon River stream bank stabilization/trail project (Habitat Restoration and Public Fishing Access project proposed by Paul Moore and NYSDEC).** The Salmon River, located in Oswego County, is the largest cold-water tributary to Lake Ontario and home to the Salmon River Hatchery. The lower 18 mile stretch assessable to lake-run trout and salmon is also the most intensively fished water body in the state with annual effort in excess of one half million angler hours and accounts for approximately 2/3 of the tributary fishing effort for trout and salmon on the New York side of Lake Ontario. The river suffers from inherently unstable bank material combined with sediment transport problems. The river has historically been relatively unstable but the problem was exacerbated with the implementation of year round base flows mandated in the 1996 FERC licensing of the hydroelectric project on the river. Prior to the license, generation occurred in a peaking mode which resulted in alternating periods of very low flow (dam/turbine leakage plus tributary input) and 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) during times of peak demand for electricity. The lower, but continuous base flows resulted in reducing the river's ability to transport the sediment (bed load) to the extent that it did with the daily flushing flows of 2,000 cfs. The result has been a general aggrading (build up) of materials in the channel which results in filling in pools, widening of the channel, increased braiding of the channel and increased bank erosion during times of high flows. Intense angler traffic further contributes to the bank stability/erosion problems. This project will attempt to address these problems by identifying key problem areas and constructing in-stream improvement structures designed to facilitate sediment transport while creating diverse fish habitat (i.e., pools, runs, etc.). The trail system will be designed to take angler traffic off of the more susceptible banks and encourage access at less vulnerable points along the river. Completion of this project will improve trout and salmon habitat and make angling along the Salmon River safer and more pleasant for participants.

Estimated cost - \$500,000

6. **Village of Lewiston Boat Launch, Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the Village of Lewiston and Jeff Draper).** Repair/improve existing boat launch, including replacement of temporary aluminum docks and repair of damaged concrete pads on the launch. In addition, the Fish Cleaning Station will be expanded to accommodate increased use, and improvements will include heating, an upgrade of the grinder motor and ventilation improvements. The bathrooms will also be upgraded.

Estimated cost - \$75,000

7. **Golden's Marina Renovation, Jefferson Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by NYSDEC and the Public at the Watertown Public Meeting).** A modern boat launch will be constructed on the Isthmus to Point Peninsula on Co. Rt. 57 in the Town of Lyme. The old marina has already been dredged but a real property survey and construction design need to be undertaken before modernization of this boat launch site can be accomplished.

Estimated cost - \$300,000

8. **Boat Launch/Ice-fishing Access on Sandy Pond, Oswego Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by American Bass Anglers, Inc., Katie Malinowski, Michael Cusano and others).** Build a boat launch that will also provide ice-fishing access to Sandy Pond. Region 7 staff will seek out a landowner willing to sell property to enable the siting of this project.

Estimated cost - \$500,000 (construction cost only, implementation of this project depends on the funding of land acquisition through the Environmental Protection Fund)

9. **Chaumont Bay Boat Launch Sites and Ice-fishing Access, Jefferson Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed at the Watertown Meeting).** Region 6 Fisheries and Real Property staff will continue to look for potential boat launch and ice fishing access sites in the Chaumont Bay area including Guffin's Bay and Three-mile Bay. Region 6 staff will seek out a landowner willing to sell property to enable the siting of this project.

Estimated cost - \$500,000 (construction cost only, implementation of this project depends on the funding of land acquisition through the Environmental Protection Fund)

10. **Sandy Creek Fishing Access Site, Monroe Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by NYSDEC).** This 50 car and trailer launch site has a heavily used, paved parking lot in need of re-sealing. Re-sealing now will save added repair costs in the future.

Estimated cost - \$25,000

11. **OPRHP Niagara River Trails; Schoelkopf/ Whirlpool/ Devil's Hole, Niagara Co., (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation).** Modifications/improvements to aforementioned trails including signage, placement of crushed stone on trails, repairs or replacement of stairs and rails to enhance access and increase safety. Stabilization of banks above and adjacent to the trails and the creation of gabion fishing platform at appropriate locations resistant to current and water level changes.

Estimated cost - \$150,000

12. **Fisheries Promotion Assistance, (Angler Outreach and/or Education project, proposed by Niagara County Fisheries Development Board, NY Sea Grant, NYSDEC as well as publicly proposed at several of the public meetings).** Sportfishing is very important to the local communities along the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Approximately 40 % of anglers who fish these waters are residents of other states, and approximately 40% of the New York residents live in counties other than the seven that border the Lake Ontario system. DEC estimated the at-location expenditures by anglers along the Lake Ontario System in 1996 at over \$100 million. Many anglers need information about where to fish, where to find available boat launches, campgrounds, etc.. The Department developed some very popular fishing brochures in the early 1980's as part of the "I Love NY" promotion campaign. At present some of the Lake Ontario area Counties are promoting fishing opportunities within their own County, but no one is developing information for the Great Lakes Region as a whole.

This project is to assist ongoing DEC and other's fishing promotion activities. Specifically this project will provide funds for the printing or re-printing of fisheries promotion brochures, such as the "I Love NY Great Lakes Fishing Brochure". DEC staff in Regions 6 thru 9 and various County fisheries promotion staff are expected to work jointly to develop fisheries promotion brochures and other literature directed toward angling tourists who plan to visit the area from other New York Counties, other states, or International locations. This project will cover the cost of printing and some distribution of this information at sportfishing shows, fairs, and other public events. \$100,000 is being reserved from this fund to cover printing costs. Staff time to develop the literature is expected to be covered under existing DEC and county programs.

Estimated Cost - \$100,000

13. **Enhance Fish Island Access Site at Dexter, Jefferson Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the Village of Dexter and the Public at the Watertown Public Meeting).** This project includes floating docks, improvements to the existing boat ramp and installing lighting.

Estimated cost - \$45,000

14. **Maxwell Creek Fishing Access Site, Wayne Co. (Public Fishing Access Project**

proposed by NYSDEC). Paving this 40 car gravel/dirt parking lot would be well received by the angling public and minimize the need for re-grading/surfacing.

Estimated cost - \$50,000

- 15. Port Bay (East) Fishing Access Site, Wayne Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by NYSDEC).** Development of a small, five car lot to allow access to the North end East side of Port Bay. The Department already owns the land.

Estimated cost - \$2,000

- 16. Northern Pike Spawning Marsh Rehabilitation (Habitat Restoration Projects proposed by Chippewa Bay Fish and Game Club, St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman's Club, Thomas Jolliff, Dr. John Farrell, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry).** Water level regulation on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River has resulted in a compression of annual and long-term water level fluctuation, effectively eliminating extreme high and low water levels. These extremes are important in maintaining wetland plant diversity, and their elimination results in the proliferation and dominance of *Typha* (cattails) in historic northern pike spawning marshes. *Typha* is not suitable for spawning, and can also block northern pike access to areas of suitable spawning habitat. Regulation has also resulted, on average, in lower water levels during fall and winter, and in spring when northern pike spawning activity peaks. Low spring water levels decrease the amount of flooded vegetation necessary for pike spawning, which forces pike to search out dead vegetation from the previous year. Lower fall and winter water levels often result in wave and ice scouring and removal of this vegetation in shallow, marsh areas, forcing pike to spawn at greater depths (10 to 15 feet) where vegetation remains. These deeper areas warm much later, resulting in pike spawning 4 to 6 weeks later than normal. Colder water at these depths prolongs egg incubation and delays hatching, and food for newly hatched pike fry is less abundant in this colder, deeper water. These conditions have resulted in greatly diminished northern pike reproduction, resulting in fewer adult pike to sustain quality sport fisheries. NYSDEC netting surveys in the Thousand Islands region have documented a decline in northern pike populations over the past 15 years, coincident with an increase in angler complaints regarding the quality of northern pike fishing. It is hoped that this and other projects focusing on improving northern pike spawning habitat will result in improved sport fisheries.

This project will be implemented collaboratively with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with matching dollars from the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund (New York Power Authority re-licensing settlement with USFWS; "FEMRF" Fund). This experimental program will be tested at NYSDEC's French Creek Wildlife Management Area, and will utilize an amphibious excavator to cut channels in *Typha* mats to restore fish access to isolated areas of suitable spawning habitat. This excavator is being purchased/operated through collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's FEMRF Fund. Ditching may also create areas that maintain suitable spawning

vegetation, thereby providing additional pike spawning habitat. Pre-and post project evaluations will be conducted to determine if northern pike (and other fish species, including muskellunge, another important sportfish) successfully spawn in these “re-connected” areas. The initial cost of this project is approximately \$100,000, with additional matching funds from the FEMRF Fund. In the event that the project is deemed successful, consideration will be given for use of OCCNRD funds to purchase another amphibious excavator to be used exclusively on Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River marshes, at a cost of approximately \$100,000 in matching funds.

Estimated cost - \$200,000

17. **Village of Wilson Boat Launch, Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Gary House and the Town of Wilson).** Repair/Improve existing boat launch, including replacement of temporary aluminum dock(s), replacement of damaged concrete pads and walls, improvements to gravel parking lot.

Estimated cost - \$30,000

18. **Boat Launch at Mud Bay, Jefferson Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Larry Rogers).** To be constructed on existing state land located on Bates Road in the Town of Lyme. Due to the shallow water conditions at this site only a small boat(cartop) beach launch will be constructed. Access road and parking for 10 cars and trailers.

Estimated cost - \$100,000

19. **Hatchery Improvements at Cape Vincent Fisheries Station (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by the Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, Warren Johnson, Mitch Franz, Village of Cape Vincent).** Prior to acquisition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, the NYSDEC Cape Vincent Fisheries Station (Station) served as a federal fish hatchery. Walleye fisheries in eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River have grown in popularity, resulting in increased public demand for a walleye stocking program, in addition to requests for northern pike and muskellunge stocking programs. Currently there are thirteen, one-acre earthen ponds that could be used for raising warm and coolwater fish (i.e. walleye, muskellunge, northern pike) for stocking into Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. It is anticipated that these stocking programs could result in measurable improvements to sportfisheries.

In recent years the Village of Cape Vincent and the Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition have provided funding, manpower, and excavation equipment to begin repairing infrastructure at the Station. Necessary improvements to the property include new underground piping to the ponds, and the construction and outfitting (raceways, pumps, generator, etc.) of a hatchery building. The hatchery building would also likely play a role in proposal 27 (Deepwater Cisco Reintroduction in Lake Ontario, below) to rear native deepwater coregonids for reintroduction into Lake Ontario. Proposed funding for this project includes infrastructure costs (\$830,000), as well as 6 years of funding for a

hatchery manager (Salary Grade-15 plus fringe/indirect costs, \$570,000) (total OCCNRD funds \$1.4 million). A hatchery manager position is necessary, as NYSDEC currently utilizes the Station as a base for the Research Vessel *Seth Green* and the Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit (i.e. there are no staff available or trained to oversee hatchery operations). Additional, potential cost sharing on this project includes NYSDEC (evaluation of stocking success and hatchery administration - \$25,000 annually), the Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition (\$50,000), and the Village of Cape Vincent (\$200,000 personnel/heavy equipment).

Estimated cost - \$1,400,000

20. **OPRHP Fort Niagara Boat Launch, Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the Niagara County Fisheries Development Board).** Repair/Improve existing boat launch, including replacement/repair of wooden fishing docks(s), repairs to concrete pad, placement of large stone along shore to replace existing concrete slabs. Parking lot will be resurfaced and the upstream pier will be modified to accommodate "universal" access for shore and boat use.

Estimated cost - \$50,000

21. **Slater Creek Fishing Access Site, Monroe Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by NYSDEC).** This existing 80 car urban accessible fishing site is in need of repair and re-paving.

Estimated cost - \$75,000

22. **Lake Ontario Watershed Display at the Niagara Falls Aquarium, Niagara Co. (Angler Outreach and/or Education Project proposed by the Niagara Falls Aquarium). Niagara Falls Aquarium-Lake Ontario Educational Display and Outreach (Niagara County).** Located in downtown Niagara Falls, the Aquarium of Niagara Falls, New York (<http://www.aquariumofniagara.org/>) provided entertainment and educational programs to over 170,000 visitors in 2006 showing that this facility presents excellent outreach opportunities. Input from public meetings showed considerable interest in expanding outreach efforts for the Lake Ontario/Niagara River sportfishery and associated fish community issues. The requested grant would be split into two phases; one that could be instituted immediately while the second, larger phase would occur in association with anticipated major building renovations (approximately 2010). Phase I will include angler education efforts, including sportfishing and aquatic seminars and clinics, as well as renovations and repairs for an existing 10,000 gallon tank dedicated specifically to Lake Ontario fish and the development of interactive graphic displays and maps. Fish species resident to the Niagara River and Lake Ontario will be acquired for the aquarium display. Emphasis will be placed on the economic, social and ecological issues related to the sportfishery and how invasive species, industrial development and water quality can influence these trends. Historic changes in the recreational and commercial fisheries will also be included. Phase II will include the construction of a Lake Ontario sportfishing section associated with the expansion of the

existing aquarium facility with the transfer of phase I displays into a section of the aquarium specifically dedicated to the aforementioned issues.
Estimated cost - \$300,000 (phase I & II)

- 23. Repair Cranberry Creek Marsh Water Control Structure (Habitat Restoration Project proposed by Dr. John Farrell, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Thomas Jolliff).** Water level regulation on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River has resulted in a compression of annual and long-term water level fluctuation, effectively eliminating extreme high and low water levels. These extremes are important in maintaining wetland plant diversity, and their elimination results in the proliferation and dominance of *Typha* (cattails) in historic northern pike spawning marshes. *Typha* is not suitable for spawning, and can also block northern pike access to areas of suitable spawning habitat. Regulation has also resulted, on average, in lower water levels during fall and winter, and in spring when northern pike spawning activity peaks. Low spring water levels decrease the amount of flooded vegetation necessary for pike spawning, which forces pike to search out dead vegetation from the previous year. Lower fall and winter water levels often result in wave and ice scouring and removal of this vegetation in shallow, marsh areas, forcing pike to spawn at greater depths (10 to 15 feet) where vegetation remains. These deeper areas warm much later, resulting in pike spawning 4 to 6 weeks later than normal. Colder water at these depths prolongs egg incubation and delays hatching, and food for newly hatched pike fry is less abundant in this colder, deeper water. These conditions have resulted in greatly diminished northern pike reproduction, resulting in fewer adult pike to sustain quality sportfisheries. NYSDEC netting surveys in the Thousand Islands region have documented a decline in northern pike populations over the past 15 years, coincident with an increase angler complaints regarding the quality of northern pike fishing. It is hoped that this and other projects focusing on improving northern pike spawning habitat will result in improved sportfisheries for northern pike.

A water control structure was included in the NYS Department of Transportation's (DOT) construction of the Route 12 bridge over Cranberry Creek (tributary to the St. Lawrence River east of Alexandria Bay). This structure allows water levels in the marsh to be managed independently from the St. Lawrence River, providing the opportunity to restore a more natural water level regime. Water levels in Cranberry Creek Marsh have been periodically regulated by the Bureau of Fisheries to enhance northern pike spawning habitat, however, this required collecting pike below the structure and manually transferring fish above the structure, and in recent years wooden stop-logs have broken, resulting in an inability to control water levels in the marsh. Repair of the structure will include dredging of sediments immediately upstream, replacement of existing wooden stop-logs with aluminum, and the installation of a fish ladder to allow passage for spawning pike upstream and into the marsh. There is a potential for cost sharing with DOT (manpower and equipment), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund.

Estimated cost - \$50,000

- 24. Upgrade Hatchery Pond Complex at Lisbon, NY (also known as “Ogdensburg Hatchery” - Fish Population Management/Enhancement, proposed by St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman’s Club, St. Lawrence County Fisheries Advisory Board, John Gardver, Richard Hollis, Larry Vielhauer)** – Construction and operation of the New York Power Authority’s F.D.R. Power Project in Massena, New York, resulted in the loss of historic walleye spawning areas, and walleye populations in the Ogdensburg to Massena area declined. NYSDEC formerly operated a smallmouth bass hatchery at Lisbon (near Ogdensburg), which is now owned by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Since the mid-1980s, the St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman’s Club has made improvements to the property and reared walleye fry and fingerlings for stocking into the St. Lawrence River. This project entails the construction and clay-lining of two additional 1 acre ponds to increase existing walleye production. It is anticipated that increased walleye stocking from these repaired ponds will result in increased walleye fishing quality in the local waters of the St. Lawrence River. Matching funds for this program are provided by in kind services of the St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman’s Club.

Estimated cost - \$100,000

- 25. Irondequoit Creek Streambank Stabilization, Monroe Co. (Habitat Restoration Project proposed by Monroe County and NYSDEC).** Irondequoit Creek supports a locally important trout and salmon fishery with lake-run fish from Lake Ontario (primarily brown, steelhead and Chinook salmon). In addition, trout are raised at the Powder Mills Park Hatchery for stocking into the creek. Irondequoit Creek generated over 6,000 and 9,000 angler trips in 2005/06 and 2006/07, respectively.

Storm flow events in the creek have caused significant stream bank erosion, resulting in siltation of the streambed, loss of trout habitat, and impaired angler access to the creek. Silt reduction will improve the chances for natural reproduction of lake run trout and salmon, and the placement of large rock along the stream bank will improve habitat for juvenile and adult fish. This project proposes regrading eroded banks at five sites within Powder Mills Park, regrading banks to a 1:2 slope, and the placement of medium/heavy stone over geo-textile fabric

The first year cost estimate for work in Monroe County’s Powder Mill Park is \$82,500. Future phases would include further work in Powder Mill Park with an estimated cost of \$89,500 and bank stabilization work in the County’s Ellison Park with an estimated cost of \$78,500 bringing the total projected cost to \$250,500

Estimated cost - \$250,500

- 26. Deepwater Cisco Reintroduction in Lake Ontario (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey, Robert O’Gorman).** Lake Ontario’s popular trout and salmon fisheries rely on massive quantities of bait fish, or “forage”. The deepwater zone of Lake Ontario was historically inhabited by five species of deepwater ciscoes (coregonids – members of the whitefish

family) that served as forage. Ciscoes were largely extinct in the Lake by the 1950s, and the current forage base is now dominated by exotic alewife, and to a lesser extent rainbow smelt. Alewife populations are subject to large oscillations in abundance, thus trout and salmon fisheries that rely largely on alewife forage can be tenuous. Reintroduction of deepwater ciscoes into Lake Ontario would diversify the forage base, providing more stability in the food web and sportfisheries.

This program entails collection of fertilized eggs from Upper Great Lakes deepwater ciscoes, and transferal to and rearing at a hatchery facility for stocking into Lake Ontario. Currently there is no capacity in existing NYSDEC or federal hatcheries to rear deepwater ciscoes. It is likely that fertilized eggs would need to be collected from the Upper Great Lakes each year for a period of 5 to 10 years. The successful implementation of this project would be contingent upon the capital improvements and the hiring of a hatchery manager at the Cape Vincent Fisheries Station that are proposed under project 20 (“Hatchery Improvements at Cape Vincent Fisheries Station” above). Ciscoes spawn in winter and therefore would not interfere with the coolwater fish production at the facility proposed under project 20. Funding would be used to cover the costs of collecting and transporting fertilized cisco eggs from the Upper Great Lakes to the Cape Vincent Fishery Station. Potential sources of matching funds for this program include the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Estimated Cost - \$50,000

- 27. Public Access Improvements, Village of Morristown, St. Lawrence Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Ron Wright, Morristown Chamber of Commerce).** During fall/low water conditions, the existing public boat launch in the Village of Morristown (St. Lawrence River in St. Lawrence County) is currently too short to launch boats safely. Extending the existing launch ramp will greatly improve angler access to the St. Lawrence River during low water periods. Also, docking at the boat launch is currently inadequate to protect docked boats from damage, requiring installation of staving. While public access signage exists along state route 37 at the west entrance to the village, signage is required at the east entrance to the village.

Estimated Cost - \$50,000

- 28. Sodus Bay boat launch, Wayne Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Fredric Blom).** While there is an approximate 40 car-trailer Town launch at Sodus Bay, a second ramp would alleviate congestion during certain time periods. Currently, there is no State-owned land that would be suitable to build a launch, and acquiring property there is likely to be costly.

Estimated Cost - \$500,000 (construction cost only, implementation of this project depends on the funding of land acquisition through the Environmental Protection Fund)

- 29. Pen Rearing Program Assistance (Fish Population Management/Enhancement**

Project proposed by Michelle Osman and the Niagara County Fisheries Development Board). Salmonid pen rearing projects currently exist at nine locations along Lake Ontario and the Lower Niagara River. All projects have been funded and operated by volunteer angler organizations with fish and technical support provided by NYSDEC-Bureau of Fisheries. Pre-smolt Chinook salmon and steelhead trout from NYSDEC Salmon River Hatchery are stocked into the pens where they are held and fed a regimented diet until smolting occurs or conditions at the pen locations necessitate their release. The intent of the pen programs is to imprint the smolts to these rearing locations, thereby increasing the number that return to these sites as adults. Evaluations of adult returns of Chinook salmon indicated enhanced survival under some rearing conditions while the single evaluation of steelhead pen rearing (Oswego River) showed a seven-fold increase in survival of pen-reared fish. The following materials/activities are beneficial to the rearing process and occasionally need repairs or replacement: frames, netting, floatation, pumps and piping for water circulation, scap nets, net brushes, weigh scales, signs, promotional materials, supplemental piping for stocking to pens, power washers, miscellaneous supplies, pen towing services, water quality monitoring equipment, rental fees for equipment space.

Estimated Cost - \$20,000

30. Salmon River Hatchery Aquaria/ Interpretive Displays, Oswego Co. (Angler Outreach and/or Education project proposed by NYSDEC).

The Salmon River Hatchery continues to be the focal point of the Lake Ontario fishery and the Salmon River Corridor, as well as being the largest hatchery in the NYS Hatchery System. The Salmon River Hatchery produces the majority of all the salmonids stocked into New York's Great Lakes waters. Each year 100,000 plus visitors come to the hatchery. At least 70% of those visitors are anglers. The remaining visitors consist of people who may not fish but have a great interest in the Lake Ontario ecosystem, the Salmon River Corridor, or want to be informed about fish culture and the hatchery system. During the fall egg take for Pacific salmon on weekdays the hatchery averages at least 500 school children visiting the hatchery which gives tremendous opportunity to promote sportfishing and stewardship of the resource. The guest registries signed at the hatchery show that visitations include out of state and international visitors. The facility is also host to many meetings, seminars, lectures, and workshops relating to fishing each year. Youth fishing programs are ongoing at the hatchery. Science and environmental clubs along with University and college level students schedule in depth tours routinely. Each year the hatchery hosts an open house in celebration of National Hunting & Fishing Day, a Congressionally recognized event on the fourth Saturday of September each year, that attracts up to three thousand people in one day. The event is specifically designed to get youth and families involved with hands on experiences of fishing and fish culture. There is probably no other facility along Lake Ontario that reaches as many people and has the capacity to educate the public regarding sport fishing in the Great Lakes. This project would renovate the existing displays at the Salmon River Hatchery and would include: a new aquaria system in the lobby, new interpretive displays, the placement of an underwater camera to view migrating and spawning salmonids, and the development

of a trail along Beaver Dam Brook.

The design and construction of a living stream aquaria system for the lobby of the hatchery would highlight the species raised at the hatchery and represent the Salmon River Watershed from the headwaters to where it enters Lake Ontario. The present aquaria system was built in 1980 no longer properly functions. Present aquaria need to be replaced and a better and simpler plumbing system installed. The new aquarium(?? One tank??) display would be a large self contained system that would replace the existing 5 aquarias (totaling 2,000 gallons). The new system would be designed at waist level for viewing into the aquariums and would spatially open up the lobby .

While significant investment has been made in upgrading static style displays throughout the hatchery in the last 10 years,educational opportunities would increase with the design and construction of interactive displays placed appropriately in the lobby and viewing areas of the start tank room and spawn house. Strategically located interactive displays describing hatchery functions would include computer and touch screen displays that would simulate daily fish culture activities at the hatchery, fish life stages at the hatchery and in the wild, fisheries management objectives such as determining stocking levels, forage base availability, the role of natural reproduction, sea lamprey control, the impact of exotic species and fish diseases as it relates to the Lake Ontario System and the role the Salmon River plays in the overall Lake Ontario fishery.

The present design of the fish ladder allows only for limited fish viewing. Small children cannot see anything in the ladder because the existing wall and fence are too high. They climb on the wall and fence to see into the ladder which creates a personal injury hazard. This part of the project offers a better way for everyone to see migrating fish in the ladder. A portable underwater camera and monitor has been used previously to demonstrate the effectiveness of showing fish this way with great popularity. The placement of a permanent underwater camera in the fish ladder with two monitor viewing stations would enable the public to see migrating fish and enhance their hatchery visitation experience

Presently visitors reach the viewing deck at the end of the ladder where it meets Beaver Dam Brook and then leave the deck and try to walk upstream along the edge of the stream to view naturally spawning salmon and trout. This has caused erosion problems due to the large number of hatchery visitors looking to observe spawning trout and salmon. The erosion problems create a safety hazard due to the slippery conditions on the bank. A trail system as described below would provide a safe venue for observations and facilitate staff giving tours to groups visiting the hatchery with a minimization of the erosion and safety concerns that arise from high traffic areas.

Project can be cost shared with money from the Salmon River Fund.

Estimated Cost - \$100,000

31. Walleye Spawning Habitat Enhancement Fund (Habitat Restoration Projects

proposed by Mike Seymour, John Gardner, Mitch Franz, Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, Warren Johnson, NYSDEC). Walleye are an increasingly popular sportfish that spawn primarily over clean rubble/cobble/gravel in fast moving water. Construction and operation of the New York Power Authority's F.D.R. Power Project in Massena, New York, resulted in the loss of historic walleye spawning areas along the St. Lawrence River, and walleye populations in the Ogdensburg to Massena area declined. Walleye spawning habitats in Lake Ontario tributaries have also been impaired by dam construction, as well as sediment impaction or the removal of rock substrates.

A number of tributaries have been suggested as candidates for walleye spawning habitat enhancement, including the Oswego River, Little Sandy Creek, Stoney Creek, Mill Creek, Black River, Fox Creek, Mud Creek, Barrett's Creek, Oswegatchie River, Tibbett's Creek, and Little Sucker Brook. Walleye spawning habitat enhancement through the placement of washed stone in suitable, fast water sites is generally very successful, provided that an existing population of spawners is present. Prior to approval for funding, Regional DEC Fisheries staff will assess candidate waters to determine presence of spawning walleye, adequacy of existing habitat, and current level of reproductive success. It is anticipated that increased natural reproduction of walleye will result in increased walleye fishing quality in the local waters of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Matching funds for this program on St. Lawrence River tributaries may be available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund.

Estimated Cost - \$200,000.

- 32. OPRHP Four Mile Creek State Park, Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the NYS OPRHP).** This project involves the construction of a new fishing access site with a gravel parking lot, as well as signage and a trail system along the creek at Four Mile Creek State Park.

Estimated Cost - \$75,000

- 33. Multifrequency Acoustic Analysis for Estimating Alewife Abundance in Lake Ontario. (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by Lars Rudstam- Cornell University).** Alewife is a critical link in the off-shore food web of Lake Ontario, providing the most important food source for all major predators such as Chinook and coho salmon, lake, brown, and rainbow trout. Balancing the predator/prey ratio in Lake Ontario is one of the most critical components to sustain a very successful sport fishery. Acoustics uses sophisticated sonar signals to measure abundance of fish species in the open lake, and has been used for many years to estimate alewife abundance in Lake Ontario and the other four Great Lakes. Unfortunately, Lake Ontario is more complicated than the other lakes because of the larger mix of forage species and the larger contribution from mysids (freshwater shrimp). The most common Great Lakes acoustic frequency (120 kHz) proves satisfactory at assessing forage fish size targets when there is a significant difference in size of the various species present.

This project will enhance forage fish assessment by purchasing a 38kHz acoustic unit which would be used in conjunction with other sonar frequencies to help separate the various small forage fish species and mysids in Lake Ontario. The project would also cover cost of acoustic data analysis and developing a standard methodology. The project would be cost shared by Cornell University where several acoustic units and analytical software are in use..

Estimated Cost- \$55,000

- 34. Olcott Pier Access Improvement, Niagara Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the Niagara County Fisheries Development Board).** Improve trail access including resurfacing of trail (blacktop and gravel), fencing, safety rails, lighting and signage.

Estimated Cost - \$100,000

- 35. Improvements to Cape Vincent Aquaria/Interpretive Displays, Jefferson Co. (Angler Outreach and/or Education project proposed by NYSDEC).** NYSDEC operates an aquarium/visitors center at its' Cape Vincent Fisheries Station, and up to 5,000 individuals visit the facility each year. The aquarium hosts a number of warmwater and coolwater sportfish native to local waters, along with displays produced on-site that describe issues relating to Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River fisheries management. In addition, youth angler education programs are linked with visits by school groups, cub scouts, girls scouts, etc.. Funds will be used to fabricate interpretive displays to educate the public on the fisheries and ecology of the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River system, and to improve aquarium displays of local warmwater/coolwater fish species. This project will leave visitors with a greater understanding of and appreciation for NYSDEC's Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River fisheries.

Estimated Cost - \$40,000

- 36. Additional ice-fishing access on Sodus and Blind Sodus Bays, Wayne Co. (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Bob and Kathi O'Gorman).** Ice fishing is very popular on these two bays. The Sodus Bay site only has capacity for eight cars. Available land may be the limiting factor in achieving this goal. An estimated cost of \$25,000 per site for a total of \$50,000 excluding acquisition costs.

Estimated Cost - \$50,000

- 37. Locate Areas Where Lake Trout Spawn in the Lower Niagara River (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project, proposed by Robert O'Gorman Supervisor of the U.S. Geological Survey - Lake Ontario Biological Station, Oswego, NY).** Captures of naturally produced juvenile lake trout are greatest in the vicinity of the Niagara River and large numbers of mature lake trout are known to run the lower river in fall. This suggests that natural reproduction is taking place in the mouth and upstream in the lower Niagara River. To locate the areas where lake trout are spawning successfully,

we suggest funding a telemetry study of lake trout in the lower Niagara River. Mature lake trout congregate in the lower river prior to spawning and could be easily captured by angling for implantation of telemetry tags. Identifying limited areas where lake trout are successfully spawning would insure that this critical habitat is protected and enable us to study the strain composition and behavior of the apparently successful spawning population. This project will fund the purchase of telemetry tags and tracking equipment and partnering with scientists from USGS, OMNR, and USFWS or universities to conduct the study. This work would support efforts of the Lake's managing agencies to re-establish a self-sustaining lake trout population.

Estimated Cost - \$50,000

- 38. Port Bay (North/Wayne Co.) (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by Bob and Kathi O’Gorman).** The area just west of the inlet is a very popular fishing access site which includes a launch. During periods of inclement weather, especially during the winter, access to the site becomes restricted. This project suggests improvements to the access road to allow for year round access, and is currently being evaluated to see if it would be possible.

Estimated Cost - \$500,000

- 39. Sea Lamprey Control Barrier Fund (Fish Population Management/Enhancement Project proposed by NYSDEC).** Sea lampreys are a parasitic fish that attaches to other fish (host) and feeds off of the host’s body fluids, often resulting in the death of the host fish. Historically, sea lampreys contributed to the decline of important sportfish, including lake trout. An intensive, binational sea lamprey control program was launched with the creation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) in 1956. The GLFC uses an integrated pest management approach to controlling sea lampreys, including chemical treatments in spawning/nursery tributaries, a sterile male release program, and low-head barrier dams to block lamprey spawning migrations on known spawning tributaries that are difficult or prohibitively costly to treat with chemicals.

Surveys on Lake Ontario tributaries have recently discovered new spawning populations of sea lampreys, and all indices of sea lamprey attacks on sportfish (primarily trout and salmon in Lake Ontario) indicate that sea lamprey abundance and attacks are increasing. Failure to control sea lamprey populations in this system will result in reduced sportfishng quality. This fund would serve as a match with those from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to construct low-head barriers when deemed necessary on Lake Ontario tributaries.

Estimated Cost - \$60,000

- 40. Experimental Techniques to Enhance Submergent Vegetation Growth and Efficacy of Artificial Spawning Habitat (Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Project proposed by Dr. John Farrell, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry).** Water level regulation on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River has

resulted in a compression of annual and long-term water level fluctuation, effectively eliminating extreme high and low water levels. These extremes are important in maintaining wetland plant diversity, and their elimination results in the proliferation and dominance of *Typha* (cattails) in historic northern pike spawning marshes. *Typha* is not suitable for spawning, and can also block northern pike access to areas of suitable spawning habitat. Regulation has also resulted, on average, in lower water levels during fall and winter, and in spring when northern pike spawning activity peaks. Low spring water levels decrease the amount of flooded vegetation necessary for pike spawning, which forces pike to search out dead vegetation from the previous year. Lower fall and winter water levels often result in wave and ice scouring and removal of this vegetation in shallow, marsh areas, forcing pike to spawn at greater depths (10-15 feet) where vegetation remains. These deeper areas warm much later, resulting in pike spawning 4 to 6 weeks later than normal. Colder water at these depths prolongs egg incubation and delays hatching, and food for newly hatched pike fry is less abundant in this colder, deeper water. These conditions have resulted in greatly diminished northern pike reproduction, resulting in fewer adult pike to sustain quality sportfisheries. NYSDEC netting surveys in the Thousand Islands region have documented a decline in northern pike populations over the past 15 years, coincident with an increase in angler complaints regarding the quality of northern pike fishing. It is hoped that this and other projects focusing on improving northern pike spawning habitat will result in improved sportfisheries for northern pike.

This collaborative project (matching dollars with New York Power Authority Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund (FEMRF) focuses in two approaches to increasing northern pike spawning success. The first approach involves enhancing growth of vegetation through the placement of structures designed to reduce wave energy (i.e. breakwaters), which may also include transplantation or seeding of desired vegetation into a study site. The second approach involves placement of synthetic spawning substrates (i.e. similar to artificial turf) in shallow marsh habitats with little or no existing vegetation. In both cases, northern pike spawning activity will be monitored, and numbers of young northern pike produced will be quantified. The total estimated cost for this project is approximately \$100,000, with \$45,000 coming from the OCC NRD Fund.

Estimated Cost - \$45,000

- 41. Reconfigure the Waterport Dam tail races on the Oak Orchard River, Orleans Co. (Habitat Restoration Project proposed by Ron Bierstine).** Oak Orchard is the third most fished Tributary to Lake Ontario. Every year fish are lost to the fishery due to stranding in the overflow channel of the unregulated dam at Waterport after high water events. During high water, fish enter the overflow channel only to become stranded and exposed to unethical fishing, high temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels. In 2006, an estimated 300 Chinook were trapped and died in the channel after the water level dropped. Brookfield Power, the owners of the dam, met with Department staff to discuss the issue. Brookfield Power hired a consultant to examine various options to exclude fish from entering the overflow channel during high water events. Completion of

this project will make additional adult Chinook salmon available for anglers by eliminating the mortality that occurs following high water events. In addition, the project will eliminate a significant public concern over large numbers of dead fish creating an aesthetic and public relations issue.

Estimated Cost - \$50,000

- 42. Construct walkways on any existing piers or breakwalls (Public Fishing Access Project proposed by the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association).** The project would improve and/or provide fishing access to existing piers or breakwalls, as well as provide parking for these facilities. This establishes a fund to be used for these types of projects across the Lake Ontario system. As projects are identified for implementation, detailed spending plans will be developed as needed.

Estimated Cost - \$500,000

List B. Other scored proposals

The Proposals listed in this section are those that received a score from the ranking panel, but were beyond the amount of available estimated funding. . The following proposals are listed according to rank(46th – 80th)

43. Sportfishing Promotion Trailer
44. Purchase Two Ultra-low Temperature Freezers and a Grinder to Enhance Research
45. Hydroacoustic Study for an adult salmon counting method with support for reporting near real-time data on a website.
46. OPRHP Wilson/Tuscarora State Park Fishing Improvements (Niagara Co.)
47. SUNY Brockport's Natural Resource Center (Monroe Co.).
48. Buy Public Fishing Rights on Four-mile, Twelve-mile, Keg, and Hopkins Creeks (Niagara Co.)
49. Create a walleye run at Barrett and French Creeks (Jefferson Co.)
50. Chinook Salmon lake wide distribution study
51. Youth angling program / mini-league for future anglers
52. Advertising/Marketing of the Lake Ontario Fisheries
53. Tibbets creek spawning bed enhancement for walleye and other species (St. Lawrence Co.)
54. Match funds for improvements to Thousand Island Biological Station Facility
55. Real-time, web-accessible, 3 dimensional fish distribution maps for the Great Lakes
56. Remove barrier at Monitor Mills for fish passage (Jefferson Co.)
57. Public access for ice-fishing on North Pond, Guffin Bay and Chaumont Bay (Jefferson Co.)
58. Introduce an anadromous strain of Brook Trout to selected tributaries of Lake Ontario
59. Build a fisheries exhibit at the Antique Boat museum in Clayton (St. Lawrence Co.)
60. Off -shore pier construction for deep water fishing access.
61. Socio-Economic Assessment study of Lake Ontario Tributary Fisheries
62. Walleye Habitat Identification Study
63. Purchase dredging equipment for navigational dredging
64. Olcott Harbor needs weather protection and Pier access (Niagara Co.)
65. Solve the fish stranding problem at Four-mile, Twelve-mile and Eighteen-mile creeks due to the Lake closing off their mouths (Niagara Co.)
66. Walleye hatchery/visitors center/research center at the mouth of Brandy Brook
67. Short training course on trawl design, selectivity, and efficiency for the Lake Ontario Fish Stock Assessment program
68. Purchase Public Fishing Rights at the Douglaston Run area on the Salmon River
69. Enhance walleye spawning habitat on the Salmon River as well as North and South Sandy Creeks
70. Children's Fishing Derby at Wilson Tuscarora and Joe Davis State Parks
71. Test artificial reef structures in the main stem of the St. Lawrence River
72. Renovate the ponds used by the Niagara River Angler's Association for walleye rearing
73. Access at the State Hospital in Ogdensburg (Chimney Point)
74. Habitat restoration in Whitehouse bay west to pre-NEPCO oil spill conditions.
75. Asian Carp risk analysis study
76. Golden Hills State Park stocking / outreach event
77. Soul Salmon Project, an environmental awareness artwork.

List C. Rejected Proposals

The following section addresses project ideas or proposals that were rejected. In general, proposed actions were rejected because they did not meet one or more of these six general requirements:

1. The proposed action must comply with the Consent Order, i.e. serve to restore or enhance sportfisheries and/or the injured natural resources, or the public's access to or enjoyment and understanding of sportfisheries in the Lake Ontario system.
2. The proposed action must conform with approved project categories (Outreach, Access, Habitat, Management), or warrant consideration despite non-conformance.
3. The proposed action must satisfy regulatory requirements (e.g., Environmental Conservation Law Articles 15 & 24, National Environmental Policy Act, State Environmental Quality Review Act).
4. The proposed action must be consistent with existing/draft Fish Community Objectives (FCOs) for Lake Ontario and/or the St. Lawrence River. FCOs are fisheries management plans developed by NYSDEC and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with public consultation.
5. Any proposed action on private land must ensure public access (as through a deed restriction or conservation easement) for the life of the project, or must provide habitat enhancements such as dam removal or placement of spawning substrate.
6. Any proposed research project must not be currently addressed by the Department and must enhance our abilities to better manage the fisheries of Lake Ontario and/or the St. Lawrence River.

The Project Evaluation Team also developed a consensus reason as to why the proposed action would not be pursued. The reasons are provided below.

Proposal / Project idea	Reason for rejection
Boat Launching facilities on the Grasse & Racquette Rivers	Will be addressed in ALCOA NRD claim.
Access at State Hospital in Ogdensburg	Being addressed in separate process
Boat launch at Fobares Pond near Coles Creek for motor boat access, and make Fobares Pond accessible by boat from the river.	Launch addressed by New York Power Authority (NYPA). River access incompatible with existing weir/ habitat enhancement project.
Paved launch at the mouth of Brandy Brook, just north of Waddington.	Being addressed by NYPA.

Buy more security fencing for the Salmon River Hatchery to expand the fly-fishing only area on the Salmon River in a downstream direction.	Already considered in the placement of the current security fence location
Improve trails and paths along the Salmon River.	Incorporated into another proposal
Fishing piers and shoreline fishing access	Vague, and is incorporated into other proposals
\$1 Million set-aside for future access projects	Vague, and is incorporated into other proposals
Morristown causeway - increase circulation/habitat.	Does not meet Gen. Requirements 1, 2, 3 & 5
Artificial perch spawning Louisville/Massena	Not feasible
Fish Ladder at Ogdensburg Dam/Fish passage at the Moses Saunders Power Dam for salmon restoration	Does not meet Gen. Requirement. #3 / not feasible
Eliminate winter kill of fish at Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area	.Does not meet Gen. Requirement 1 (will not improve sportfisheries in system)
Salt pollution at T.I. bridge authority	Comment. Referred to DEC Environmental Quality.
Replace/improve nursery areas	Vague. Incorporated into other proposals
Dam removal where ever possible in order to expand anadromous fisheries	Vague. Incorporated into other proposals
Spend some money on outreach and education	Vague. Incorporated into other proposals
Numbers show New York State used to be #1 for out-of-state license sales. We have a great product. Use education and promotion, like Lake Ontario Sportfishing Promotion Council (LOSPC.)	Comment. Is being addressed by the hiring of 6 new Fisheries promotion biologists and project 13.
"Incentive" tagging program/surprise gift, where reward tags are placed on fish.	Does not meet Gen. Requirements 1 (will not improve sportfisheries in system)
Discontinue stocking of salmonids, stock striped bass instead.	Does not meet Gen. Requirement 4
Spend money on a northern pike hatchery (possibly near Clayton).	Projects 17, 24 and 43 address concerns re: northern pike abundance
Invasive Species Control	Already being addressed by the DEC as well as other entities
A new hatchery in Wilson	Hatchery at Wilson not necessary and cost prohibitive
Spend money to improve the Lake Ontario and Trib creel surveys	Current surveys do not need modification.
We need a system of collecting eggs from different places (VHS or other disease concerns).	Not feasible, VHS would be a concern on any Lake Ontario

	Tributary.
Walleye stocking/forage stocking (ecosystem failure)	Comment. Already being considered in other proposals
Build one, big, "REALLY NICE HATCHERY"	Vague/cost prohibitive
Spend the money on research to rebuild/save warm water species.	Vague. Incorporated into other proposals.
Improve the large-mouth bass fishery on the St. Lawrence.	Vague / not feasible.
Diversify the rearing locations of fish destined for Lake Ontario to minimize the effects of a "catastrophic event".	VHS concerns make this unfeasible.
Cormorant bounty	Hunting for cormorants not legal
Build a ballast water/sludge filtration/treatment facility for incoming ocean going vessels.	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #1
Improve fish habitats in the lake.	Vague. Incorporated into other proposals.
Reduce the size of the outer breakwall at Oak Orchard creek.	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #3
Buy new trawl and hydroacoustic equipment etc. if needed.	Addressed in project 34
The proposed hatchery at Niagara County needs a water quality and quantity study, backed by the NYS and the feds.	Does not meet Gen. Req. #1
Study Barotrauma in Tournament caught small-mouth bass.	Not specific to Lake Ontario system.
Aid Cornell in developing programs to help fight fish disease.	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #6
VHS exposure risk study	Not specific to Lake Ontario system
Study the effects of shoreline disruption/fragmentation on fish production	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #6
Fund research and international symposia on integrated pest management of aquatic invasives	Already being addressed by the DEC as well as other entities.
Harvest plants from Black Lake/Chippewa Bay and transport to Lake St. Lawrence	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #1
Mark shoals/navigation hazards	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #1
Pay for more ECO's	Does not meet Gen. Requirement #1
Upper Niagara River habitat and access suggestions	Out of program bounds.
Use fish as a bio-remediation method	Not feasible.
18 mile creek needs more PFR	There is no willing seller.
Improve the summer time Salmon River fishery by improving the Atlantic Salmon, brown trout and Skamania Steelhead fisheries.	Comment on stocking policies.

* * *

SECTION III. IMPLEMENTATION

Project Implementation

Projects will generally be given a priority for implementation similar to the order in which they have been ranked. However, issues related to planning, permitting, available funding, land acquisition, contract bidding and development and other practical concerns will also influence the implementation schedule and so it is unlikely that the projects will be completed in their exact ranking order. It should be noted that the funds are to be received by the Department over a 4-year period, however it will take much longer than 4 years to utilize the entire fund due to the aforementioned. Additionally, some projects require contingencies to be met before implementation begins (an example of this would be project #29, on List A., A boat launch on Sodus Bay which is contingent on the purchase of suitable property). Should some projects fail to have contingencies met, or reach some other impasse in planning prohibiting its implementation, funds set aside for that project will be held for the implementation of other projects.

Public Notice

This *Final Plan*, once fully approved, will be mailed to all who provided contact information during the public comment period. The *Final Plan* will also be available in downloadable format on the website (www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/lkcontactactivities.html), from designated Department contacts, and at information repositories.

The *Final Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for the Lake Ontario System* will appear in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB), and will be published for four weeks. The notice will appear under “Public Notice” in the “Statewide and Multi-regional” section, under “SEQR and Other Notices”.

Any significant modifications to the substance of the *Final Plan* will be subject to public notice and review.

* * *

SECTION IV. APPROVALS

Director, Bureau of Natural Resource Damages

Date

Director, Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

Date

Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel

Date

Commissioner

Date

SECTION V. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Public Participation Plan for the Development of the Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for the Lake Ontario System. (Presented as separate pdf document).

APPENDIX B Public meeting summaries

February 7, 2007 - Public meeting at the Rochester Institute of Technology

Projects:

- Build a New hatchery
- Buy tagging trailer
- update Altmar and Caledonia
- Alternating salmon egg collection points
- promotion
- money to LOSPC
- Niagara River hatchery
- Oak Orchard River - 3 to 4 projects.
- PFR on Oak Orchard Creek
- fish stranding below dam @ Oak Orchard Creek
- Remove Eastern 1/3 off "T" breakwall @ Oak Orchard creek, use rubble from demolition to create habitat
- Implement the Niagara County Legislature resolution that supports a hatchery/education/research facility
- invasive species control

February 12, 2007 Ogdensburg Public Meeting

Projects:

- Walleye stocking/forage stocking
- Launching facilities – Grasse/Racquette
- Exterminate the cormorants
- Cut down invasive species
- Walleye hatchery/visitors center/research center at the mouth of Brandy Brook
- Re-open/restore ponds at Lisbon Hatchery to include perch, panfish, etc.
Include muskies - 10 ponds.
- Dredge (level ditching) Crooked, Chippewa, Cranberry Creek for northern spike spawning enhancement
- Morristown causeway - increase circulation/habitat. Public access; no storm sewers; signage for launches/shore fishing access/ extend village boat ramp; more parking.
- Include dry hydrants when access sites are built

- Harvest plants from Black Lake/Chippewa Bay and transport to Lake St. Lawrence
- Coles Creek Bay east site - ice fishing/ramp/parking
- Artificial perch spawning Louisville/Massena
- Wheathouse Bay boat launch at Ogdensburg Port Authority
- Oswegatchie spawning bed enhancement
- Tibbetts Creek habitat enhancement
- Oswegatchie spawning bed enhancement walleye and other species
 - Access at State Hospital (Sen. Weight is working on this?)
- Revamp hatcheries
- Rebuild/re-open Lisbon Hatchery
- Mark shoals
- Help St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman's Club walleye program
- Fish Ladder at Ogdensburg Dam
- Build one, big, "REALLY NICE HATCHERY"
- Education re: fish cleaning to reduce contamination
- education re: fish identification
- Pay for more ECO's
- Eliminate winter kill of fish at Wilson Hill WMA
- "Marry" funds to: fix contaminant situation in lower Grasse
- Re-establish Atlantic salmon run

February 13, 2007 Watertown Public Meeting

Projects:

- Stop salmon stocking; stock striped bass instead
- Mass-marking machine at Salmon River Hatchery
- Improve water supply and quality at Salmon River Hatchery
- Remove the Monitor Mills Dam
- Another boat launch in Chaumont Bay area (Adam's Cove/Guffins)
- St. Lawrence River Hatchery for NP/muskie in Clayton
- Upgrade Cape Vincent Hatchery
- Rehabilitate Fish Island access site @ Dexter
- Walleye spawning habitat Mud Creek and Dexter and Stony Creek

February 14, 2007 Lewiston Public Meeting

Projects:

- Wilson Boat Launch repair and build fish hatchery near Wilson, NY.
- Niagara Basin/Educ/Research/LT hatchery/Salmon R. Hatchery(SRH) improvements/tagging trailer.

- Improvements to lake and trib creel surveys
 - outreach and education - SAREP type, brochures
 - funds for LOSPC; shore access to LNR
 - Fort Niagara - launch ramps/transient dockage
 - Public Fishing Rights for tribs. - 4 mile, 12mile, and Keg Creeks
 - Olcott Pier access and handicapped access for 18 mile creek
- Educational trailer for tourneys/shows etc.
 Olcott - severe weather horn
 pen rearing - - pot of \$
 NRAA walleye rearing ponds
 W Branch 12 mile - repair launch/dredge
 Enhancement (breakwall?) 4, 12 and 18 mile creeks to stop stranding?
 Hotspots map - enhancement to show trails
 Lower river - help - parks not allowing folks to go down to river (Devil's Hole) due to Homeland Security
 restore 10 streams

March 8, 2007 Mexico Public Meeting

Projects:

- Hatchery improvements at SRH?
- Sportfishing promotion very critical
- Support pen projects.
- Boat ramp/ice fishing access @ Sandy Pond