



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee  
Thirtieth Meeting  
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

**March 19, 2020 – 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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<b>U.S. Members</b>	<b>Canadian Members</b>	<b>Commission Staff</b>
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Victor Serveiss
Mic Isham	Karen Kidd	Rob Phillips
Lucinda Johnson	Jerome Marty	Li Wang
Joe DePinto	Gail Krantzberg	Mark Burrows
	Bob Hecky	David Burden

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Guest: Jen Vanator

**1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda**

The U.S. Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

**2. Updates**

SPC Vacancies

Staff confirmed that three individuals have been contacted about their interest in filling the vacant SPC positions. Commission appointments should be completed within the next month.

IJC Spring Semi-Annual

A decision on whether to proceed with an in-person Spring Semi-Annual meeting in light of COVID-19 is expected soon. Logistics for the SAB and SPC meetings and the board appearance were reviewed. There was general agreement that Semi discussions should include substantial focus on the next round of board work plans, and that the appearances should be structured to reflect the improved cross-board collaboration that is occurring.

SMART Guidance

The SMART guidance distributed with the agenda was reviewed. There was general agreement that the guidance will be helpful, and should improve the efficacy of board outputs. Moving forward all SPC contractors should be provided with the SMART guidance at the outset of board projects.

### **3. Project Updates**

#### Declining Offshore Lake Productivity (Joe DePinto & Bob Hecky)

Although the project work group report is complete, the work group has been asked to review the report recommendations in light of the SMART guidance. It is likely that the seven recommendations included in the report will be reconciled into a smaller number of recommendations, perhaps as few as one multi-part recommendation. Work group revisions will be forwarded to the SPC for final review prior to report submission to the Commission.

#### Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnson)

Input provided by the SPC, SAB and work group have been incorporated into the report, which is nearly finalized. The report recommendation is being revisited in light of the SMART guidance; although some minor adjustments are expected the main focus of the recommendation is not expected to change.

Through discussion, it was clarified that each of the elements of SMART should be reflected in each recommendation. There was also general agreement that the board should not try to force-fit all of the SMART elements into each recommendation if that diminishes the intent or integrity of the recommendation.

#### Stressor Interactions (Staff)

The draft work group report has been circulated to the SAB for input. That input will be incorporated into a final version that gets sent to the Commission for approval. The project will be featured in presentations at IAGLR and the SFS/ASLO joint meetings being held in June, 2020.

#### Great Lakes Science Plan (Bob Hecky)

The core group continues to hold regular calls. The current focus is on assembling a project work group, and preliminary planning for the initial project workshop being planned for August 4-7, 2020.

#### HPAB's Harmonized Fish Consumption Advisory Work Plan (Jeff Ridal)

Introducing this project to the Akwesasne community may be delayed due to COVID-19 concerns. Contracting discussions are underway, and contractors will be retained through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

#### RCC's Connecting Channels (Jeff Ridal)

A contractor report is currently being finalized, and will be sent out for SAB review. A separate work group report is not anticipated. The project will be featured at IAGLR in June.

### **4. Work Plans**

#### Great Lakes Early Warning System Phase 2

The Phase 2 work plan was reviewed, which will develop the analytical techniques and risk management approaches for an early warning system. Work plan development benefitted from SAB input, including insights related to the gradient between Traditional Knowledge and western science approaches.

### Nutrients Synthesis

The draft Nutrients Synthesis work plan was reviewed. The latest draft benefitted from a call with the Annex 4 (Nutrients) Co-Chairs, and will include an emphasis on assessing the Lake Erie Domestic Action Plans. Reference to the SMART guidance is included in the work plan.

### **5. Other Business & Adjournment**

The draft Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report will be distributed for board review in April.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal.  
Please forward any errors or omissions to [childm@windsor.ijc.org](mailto:childm@windsor.ijc.org)*