



21 May 2014

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Dear Mr. Dunlop:

The Executive Committee of the American Fisheries Society Ontario Chapter is pleased to provide you with constructive comment on the Draft "Ontario's Provincial Fish Strategy: Fish for the Future". Below is a summary of our comments organized in point form, by page number and where relevant under the appropriate subheading:

- Page 4 "Great Lakes": With reference to the statement, "*Naturalized species such as Rainbow Trout, and hatchery-supported populations of Chinook and Coho Salmon dominate open water recreational fisheries, especially in Lake Ontario.*", it is encouraged that this statement be reconsidered. Chinook and Coho are also naturalized species, and only supplemented with hatchery production. For example 70% of Chinook in Lake Huron are wild origin, >90% in Georgian Bay, and 50-60% wild origin in Lake Ontario
- Page 5 "Aquatic Species at Risk": Refers to Deepwater Cisco as a species that is population-extinct and species-extirpated. The species *Coregonus zenithicus* is extinct. Furthermore, recovery planning including efforts to restore Deepwater Cisco in Lake Ontario are underway is incorrect. Efforts to restore deepwater ciscoes (other Cisco species e.g., Bloater) are underway, not Deepwater Cisco which are Extinct and never occurred in lake Ontario. Deepwater Cisco should not be capitalized as that refers to the Common Name of a species not a group of fishes.
- Page 10 "Fish Stocking": The negative aspects of stocking on top of wild/naturalized populations should be considered to be included in the document.
- Page 17 "MNR's vision": Should be considered to be edited to be "is healthy ecosystems supporting native and desirable naturalized self-sustaining fish communities..."

- Page 17 “MNR’s vision and MNR’s mission”: These statements are misleading as they are not MNR’s vision and mission, rather they are MNR’s vision and mission as they relate to Ontario’s Provincial Fish Policy.
- Page 18 “Scope”: Goal 1 should be considered to be edited to be “healthy ecosystems supporting native and desirable naturalized self-sustaining fish communities”
- Overall Comment: Based on the current draft strategy, important and unique fisheries resources would not be actively managed such as Walleye in the Kawartha Lakes (introduced naturalized species), Pacific Salmon complex in the Great Lakes (introduced naturalized species), Aurora Trout ‘refugium’ lakes where they have been introduced, Smallmouth Bass in the northern part of the province, Atlantic Salmon in Trout Lake, etc. As such, transparently incorporating naturalized species in the strategy should be considered.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider our comments on the Draft “Ontario’s Provincial Fish Strategy: Fish for the Future”. If you have any questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kindly,

American Fisheries Society – Ontario Chapter

Executive Committee