



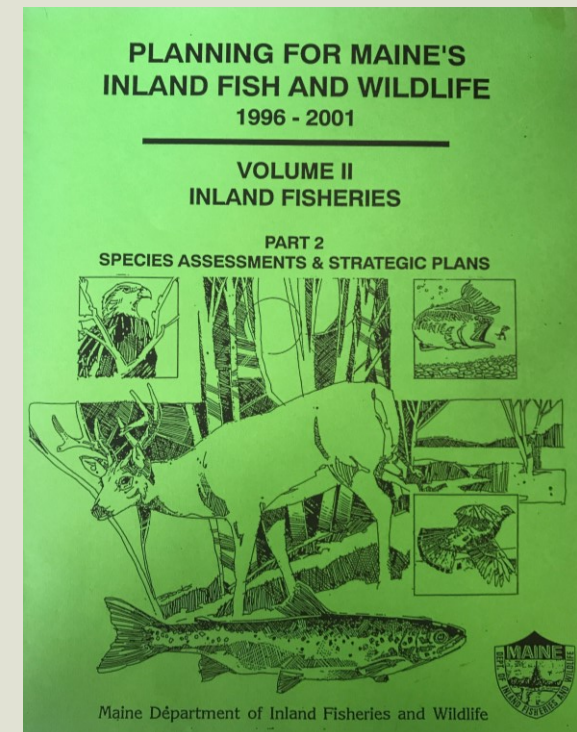
# MDIFW Fisheries and Hatcheries Division Strategic Plan 2021–2035

Matt Lubejko, Fisheries Planner and Research Coordinator



# Purpose of the Strategic Plan

- Outline statewide goals for the Department's Fisheries Management Program
  - program-specific info, e.g., angler access, management of invasive species, hatchery program
- **GUIDE FUTURE MANAGEMENT & INFORM THE PUBLIC**





# Role of the Steering Committee

Sounding board





# Role of the Steering Committee

## Operational Guidance/Housekeeping

- Encourage participation by all members
- Avoid hidden agendas and be open about potential conflicts of interest
- Ensure all members are respected and treated fairly
- Avoid speaking over each other and/or straying off topic



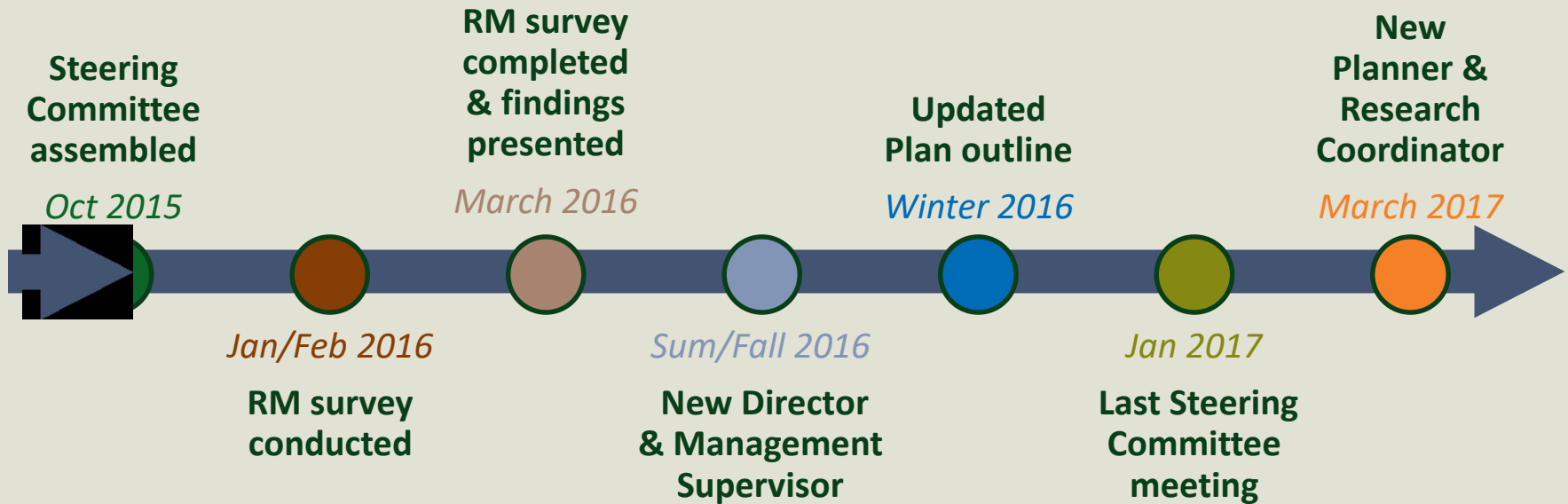
# Role of the Steering Committee

## Operational Guidance/Housekeeping

- Meetings scheduled  $\geq 14$  days in advance and only held when necessary
- No compensation for travel expenses
- Decision-making based on modified consensus
- All committee members will be acknowledged in the Plan



# Planning Process Timeline





# Planning Process Timeline

Progress since the last Steering Committee meeting:

- ✓ Plan outline draft revised
- ✓ Drafted many of the sections of Plan
- ✓ Drafted appendices: Hatcheries Management Plan (47 pp) and Water Access Plan (6 pp)
- ✓ Species assessments revised



# Planning Process — Old vs New

1. Broader management plans—statewide applicability
2. Expanded public consultation
3. Streamlined species assessments





# Planning Process — Old vs New

Broader management plans—statewide applicability

## OLD (1996–2001)

**Goal:** Maintain current abundance and fishing opportunity for existing fisheries

**Objective:** Maintain angling quality at 2.0 legal trout caught per angler day

	Legal trout caught per angler day
Pond A	0.25
Pond B	0.5
Pond C	0.5
Pond D	5
Pond E	0
Pond F	6
Average	2

## NEW (example)

**Goal:** Manage individual waters for healthy populations of brook trout consistent with habitat and public desires

**Objective:** Maintain or increase angler satisfaction



# Planning Process — Old vs New

## Expanded Public Consultation

Old: Broadly-focused public work groups,  
steering committee

New: Species-specific technical committees, angler survey,  
steering committee



# Planning Process — Old vs New

## Streamlined Species Assessments

Old: Extremely detailed, confusing tables, not an easy read, and not useful for mgmt




New: Retain most useful details, limit # of tables, and easier to follow



# Species Subcommittees

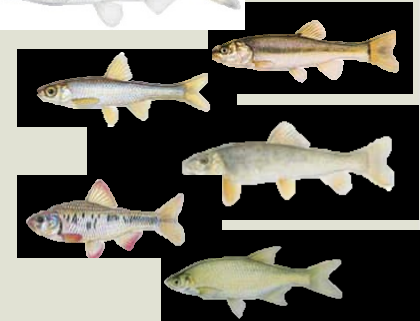
## Rank of Combined Open and Ice Fishing Species Targeted (2015)

1. Brook trout (59%)
2. Smallmouth bass (30%)
3. Largemouth bass (28%)
4. Landlocked salmon (24%)
5. Brown trout (14%)
6. Lake trout (13%)
7. Anything/no particular species (9%)
8. Rainbow trout (8%)
9. White perch (8%)
10. Pickerel (7%)
11. Northern pike (3%)
12. Yellow perch (3%)
13. Crappie (3%)
14. Sunfish (1%)
15. Smelt (1%)
16. Splake (1%)
17. Don't know what species fished (1%)
18. Cusk (1%)
19. Arctic char (1%)
20. Muskellunge (0.2%)

	Sportfishes		Sport/Bait
	NN/Stocked		Sport/SGCN

-No responses for bullhead, lake whitefish, or round whitefish

# Species Subcommittees





## Role of the Steering Committee

- Accept G/O/S: 1) as written; 2) accept with modifications, or 3) send back to the subcommittee for more work
- Department has final authority to accept and/or modify recommendations
- Rulemaking and legislative process is still in effect

# Outline



## I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- A. Role of the Fisheries and Hatcheries Division
- B. Planning Process

## II. MDIFW FISHERIES PROGRAM

- A. Origin of the Fisheries and Hatcheries Division
- B. Maine's Fisheries Resources

## III. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF MDIFW FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

- A. Fisheries and Hatcheries Administration and Statewide Support
- B. Fisheries Management Regions
- C. Fish Culture Facilities and Fish Health Lab
  - i. State Hatcheries
  - ii. Fish Health Laboratory
  - iii. Hatchery Products
- D. Fisheries Program Funding Sources
  - i. Federal Funding
  - ii. State Funding
  - iii. Donations
- E. Public Participation and Engagement
  - i. APA Rulemaking Process
  - ii. Public Petition
  - iii. Stocking Proposal Reviews
  - iv. Committee Involvement
  - v. Volunteers
- F. Internal and External Coordination
  - i. Internal Planning and Coordination
  - ii. State and Federal Sister Agencies

- iii. Environmental Review
- iv. Warden Service
- v. Fishing and Boating Access
- vi. Public Outreach and Education
- vii. Lands Program
- viii. Laws, Rules, and Policy

## IV. STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- A. Fishing Regulations
  - i. Regulation Setting Process
  - ii. Baitfish Regulations
  - iii. Law Enforcement
- B. Permits and Licenses
  - i. Recreational
  - ii. Commercial
  - iii. Fishing Derbies and Tournaments
- C. Fish Propagation
  - i. Biosecurity
  - ii. Fish Culture Operations
  - iii. Stocking Requests
- D. Aquatic Invasive Species
  - i. Illegal Fish Introductions, Assessment, and Monitoring
  - ii. Invasive Species Remediation
- E. Conservation and Management of Native Fish
  - i. Threatened and Endangered Species
  - ii. Heritage Waters
  - iii. Climate Change
- F. Data Collection and Analysis

## V. STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT GOALS

- i. Species-specific
- ii. Water-specific
- iii. Fish Culture

## VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## VII. GLOSSARY

## VIII. REFERENCES

## IX. APPENDICES

### A. Appendix I: Species Assessments

- i. Arctic Charr
- ii. Black Bass
- iii. Brook Trout
- iv. Brown Trout
- v. Burbot
- vi. Lake Trout
- vii. Lake Whitefish
- viii. Landlocked Salmon
- ix. Rainbow Smelt
- x. Rainbow Trout
- xi. Splake
- xii. State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
- xiii. Other Sportfish Species in Maine

### B. Appendix II: State Hatcheries and Fish Health

### C. Appendix III: Water Access Program

### D. Appendix IV: Fisheries Management Plan Operational Charter

# Outline



## **I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

A. Role of the Fisheries and Hatcheries Division

B. Planning Process

Basic duties of the Division

Description of the planning process



# Outline



## **II. MDIFW FISHERIES PROGRAM**

A. Origin of the Fisheries and Hatcheries Division

B. Maine's Fisheries Resources

History and introduction to the state's resources

# Outline



## **III. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF MDIFW FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION**

A. Fisheries and Hatcheries Administration and Statewide Support

B. Fisheries Management Regions

C. Fish Culture Facilities and Fish Health Lab

- i. State Hatcheries
- ii. Fish Health Laboratory
- iii. Hatchery Products

D. Fisheries Program Funding Sources

- i. Federal Funding
- ii. State Funding
- iii. Donations

E. Public Participation and Engagement

- i. APA Rulemaking Process
- ii. Public Petition
- iii. Stocking Proposal Reviews
- iv. Committee Involvement
- v. Volunteers

F. Internal and External Coordination

- i. Internal Planning and Coordination
- ii. State and Federal Sister Agencies
- iii. Environmental Review
- iv. Warden Service
- v. Fishing and Boating Access
- vi. Public Outreach and Education
- vii. Lands Program
- viii. Laws, Rules, and Policy

## Who and where & outside involvement

# Outline



## IV. STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

### A. Fishing Regulations

- i. Regulation Setting Process
- ii. Baitfish Regulations
- iii. Law Enforcement

### B. Permits and Licenses

- i. Recreational
- ii. Commercial
- iii. Fishing Derbies and Tournaments

### C. Fish Propagation

- i. Biosecurity
- ii. Fish Culture Operations
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### D. Aquatic Invasive Species

- i. Illegal Fish Introductions, Assessment, and Monitoring
- ii. Invasive Species Remediation

### E. Conservation and Management of Native Fish

- i. Threatened and Endangered Species
- ii. Heritage Waters
- iii. Climate Change

### F. Data Collection and Analysis

How and why

# Outline



## **V. STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT GOALS**

- i. Species-specific
- ii. Water-specific
- iii. Fish Culture

Future

# Outline



## **VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

## **VII. GLOSSARY**

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### **C. Appendix III: Water Access Program**

### **D. Appendix IV: Fisheries Management Plan Operational Charter**

Additional information

## Implementation Schedule



- Fall/Winter 2019/20- Species authors draft G/O/S and meet with subcommittees; continue drafting/revising sections identified in the outline
- Winter 2020- Steering Committee meets to discuss subcommittee progress and receive updates on the Plan
- Spring 2020- Finalize species-specific G/O/S; Steering Committee meets to review final and discuss other plan components
- Summer 2020- Final Plan submitted to Steering Committee for review
- Jan 1, 2021- Plan published

## Our Mission

*Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife* protects and manages Maine's fish and wildlife and their habitats, promotes Maine's outdoor heritage, and safely connects people with nature through responsible recreation, sport, and science.

