- A harvestable slot of 35-50 cm works well in above average and high productivity lakes, no need to change. This would also provide additional opportunities for fishing. it is hard to paint the whole zone with one paint brush, with a one size fits all. Our lakes within zone 15 differ in quality, size and fishing along with our local economic pressures, via tourism.

  Note: all walleye lakes should identified and a strategic plan should be developed for each lake with the help of the stewards and volunteers surrounding. I have included on another page the FMZ 18 Walleye Management Plan Draft Document . It is a short easy to read document which formed the basis of the FMZ 18 Plan. FMZ 15 should have the same Goal and Objectives. Please make it so.
  Objective 1: Manage walleye harvest within sustainable limits.
  Objective 2: Identify, protect, improve and create critical walleye habitat.
  Objective3: Optimize the potential for natural walleye recruitment.
  Objective 4: Provide sustainable walleye angling opportunities.
  Objective 5: Increase public awareness, understanding, education and participation in walleye management.

  Reference: Guide Book & Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts, Date 1879, H.R. Page publisher, W.E. Hamilton , 1834 author. It is noted that our now Almaguin area had so much Walleye in its lakes and rivers that the author caught walleye with his bare hands in May and in 1- ½ hours accounted for 800 lbs. of walleye. Not only that but the natives used the area for their fishing grounds also as the resources were plentiful. Wouldn't that be a nice new baseline to use.

  If all lakes of FMZ 15 were identified, then those lakes requiring help could and should receive it, for instance I know of lakes that have a walleye population that has been there longer than my 71 years of age and I'm sure that locals could help the ministry with that information. To come out with a plan to suggest no stocking of walleye lakes does not fit into the Ministry's Mandate to maintain or improve fishing quality.

  Proposal Summary
  Page 10 of 14, Goal:
  Improve Walleye populations. I agree lets make it happen, but let's use up to date information not information baselines that are 29 years old.

  Page 11 0f 14, Objectives:
  i. Maintain the number of Walleye Populations. I agree, but how do you achieve that if you don't list or even know what lakes have a population of walleye? Hard facts are required to achieve this goal as you can not guess at this.

  ii. Increase or maintain abundance of Walleye. Involving community hatchery's and volunteer's would help with the great cost that this could amount to. There is a new science available today in Almaguin that could be used as a new model , at very little cost to MNRF. We at ACHP would like to partner up with our educational and state of the art hatchery which could provide a great service for zone 15 walleye populations for years to come.

iii. Minimize further unauthorized introductions of Walleye into new water bodies. Maybe we could do a no fly zone for water fowl during the walleye run, as eggs could be attached to the birds as they fly lake to lake, funny but mother nature has its ways.

The Rational for the proposed PGT stocking of zone 15 is wrong and has no present science to support that statement as it goes against the Goal of Walleye to improve the populations.
The last creel counts on two of our local lakes was in 1983 and 1993, so everything else is a guess at best. Since then millions of dollars have been spent for fish finders and equipment to find the fish and catch them. Global warming, flooding in the springtime and the unavailability to control the floodwater has all contributed to the local walleye stocks. Just last year it was noted at the docks in Magnetawan. I used a white pail to scoop some water from the docks and found that the natural spawn in the sanctuary had hatched to soon and died, no egg sack, after 7 days of 30 deg C of weather. That means that the natural spawn in nature did not survive.

I do not agree with the Rationale at all on page 12 of 14, as the walleye lakes have not even been identified. However I do agree that the rehabilitation of natural populations should be done, but that needs to be explained. Instead of saying "no to stocking" I think it would be better to say how and when stocking would occur.

Examples:

Benefit to the economics of the community.
Benefit to the education of the community and children of our schools.
Benefit to the stewardship and angling community.
Benefits to a plan to study of lake stewardship.

AND MANY MORE REASONS that are in the governments mandate handed done to the ministry to administer

The objective should be to have a high quality fishery with high catch rates over the long term where the tolerance for rick is lower and we can maintain a high population abundance.

Our fishery needs to Restore, Recover, Rehabilitate: We need to learn from the Past, and prepare for the Present and ensure that the Future has the best practices to succeed.

Missing definitions.
What is supplemental stocking?
What is viable and how is a viable fishery known if no current data is known.

Power to Detect Change for Walleye page 148.

Short-term indicators
N/A for Primary and Support Indicators (01,03)
Primary Indicators
0.53 – recruit CUEW (02)
0.15 – estimated total mortality (02)
0.53 – number of cohorts (02)
0.49 – average reference biomass (02)
Supporting Indicators
N/A – ARA not available to estimation (01,03)
N/A – proportion of lakes having walleye – not available for estimation (01,03)
N/A – angling intensity – not available for estimation (02)
Long-term Indicators
Primary indicators
Biomass and mortality; not possible to determine power to detect change (02)

Page 211 Fishery Monitoring
Terrible 1983, and 1993 in our local lakes, with global warming these numbers I'm sure are worse, especially Cecebe as that count was done in 1993, 29 years ago. Since then flooding has occurred along with global warming.

Its time to mirror the FMZ 18 plan. For the Future we need a FMZ15 Walleye biologist to assist with the large task before us. We need the Ontario government to assist our depleted MNRF staffing to be able to achieve the federal and provincial mandates.