

Red Rock Fish and Game Club

To whom this may concern'

Draft Black Bay Fisheries Management Plan

I am writing on behalf of the Red Rock Fish and Game Club to show support for Native Fisheries Rehabilitation in Black Bay Lake Superior and the Black Sturgeon River. The Camp 43 Dam is blocking fish migration and access to critical upstream habitat. The draft plan does not address habitat requirements to reach the goal of Native Fisheries Rehabilitation. The construction of the Camp 43 Dam was the cause of the collapse of the walleye population in Black Bay Lake Superior.

In 2013 the MNRF initiated a Environmental Assessment to remove the Camp 43 Dam with a priority to meet and exceed habitat concerns for migratory native fish species. The Camp 43 Dam has been blocking fish migration since 1959 and preventing native fish from recovery.

Lake Sturgeon are recognized as a threatened species with the Camp 43 Dam causing the population to be fragmented. The Environmental Assessment was cancelled in 2020 and instead of removing the dam it was reconstructed and repaired. It is our understanding that the sole purpose of the Camp 43 Dam is to block the migration of sea lamprey. This does not make any sense, the government spent hundreds of thousands of dollars demonstrating to the public of the ongoing ecological consequences caused by the dam, then they spent 4 million dollars to repair the dam.

The public was not consulted with this decision. I have googled sea lamprey barriers and the Camp 43 Dam is not one of them. In fact, the Camp 43 Dam is not certified and has a defacto designation to it. This defacto barrier should not be given priority over the opportunity to rehabilitate native fish.

Black Bay Walleye have remained at 20% recovery with an 80% shortfall primarily caused by habitat loss related to the 1959 construction of the Camp 43 Dam on the Black Sturgeon River. The rehabilitation potential is expected to be capped at 20% of the pre-collapse population if the habitat limitation is not resolved. (Steven M. Bobrowicz Black Bay & Black Sturgeon River Native Fisheries Rehabilitation- Decommissioning of the Camp 43 Dam and construction of a multi-purpose sea lamprey barrier at Eskwanonwatin Lake Project Description Environmental Assessment.)

The draft plan has an emphasis on a angling opportunities with a restrictive slot size, shorter season and timing of when to fish, and where fishing can or cannot occur. This management action does not not address the primary habitat problem and 20% recovery is unacceptable. Our perception is that the Black Bay Fisheries Management Plan should include habitat as the most important consideration if we are genuinely working towards the goal of Native Fisheries Rehabilitation.

The Red Rock Fish and Game Club is respectfully requesting to MECP and MNRF that the subject of the Camp 43 Dam and access to critical upstream habitat for native fish be revisited.