

3.2 The Terms of Reference – Regional Quality Waters Management Committee

Purpose

Provide a forum through which WLAP staff and stakeholders can provide regional expertise to the PQWMC on:

- The Identification of regionally important quality waters and angler use issues,
- The status and monitoring of existing quality waters,
- The need for angler use information on quality waters.

The RQWMC will also develop funding applications for QWS projects within their respective regions.

Scope

The RQWMC is focused on those waters in the region where concerns with angler use have been identified. The committee works closely with the Regional Coordinator to identify, assess and prioritize waters of concern. Included in the review are existing Classified Waters and newly identified quality waters which have angler use concerns.

Members

The RQWMC will be composed of up to 10 members, 7 of whom could be eligible for a renewable 2-year term. The Committee is made up of representatives from:

- 4 members representing the resident recreational angling community
- 3 members representing the commercial guiding sector
- Regional Fish and Wildlife Manager or designate

Notwithstanding the implementation and transition phase², the Regional Coordinators will receive nominations for, or applications from, potential members for the RQWMC. After a thorough review of their qualifications, and phone or personal interviews, the RQWMC, which will review the Coordinator's evaluation of the various candidates and make a recommendation for membership. A list of all candidates for each will be presented to the Director of Fish and Wildlife from each Regional committee along with their recommendation. The Director will either endorse the selections of the RQWMC or return the selection list to the Committee(s) with concerns or recommendations for further consideration. There is a provision for the Provincial Coordinator to also review and make recommendations on RQWMC selections.³

Committee members bring a range of expertise to the Committee and are selected on the following considerations:

- Ability to focus at the regional level
- Knowledge of the regional fishery
- Willingness to participate, abide by the rules of engagement and agree on the timeline for the Regional Committee.

Tasks of the Committee

The RQWMC will undertake the following tasks on an annual basis:

- Review the status of identified waters of concern (both classified and un--classified Waters)
- Review and monitor ongoing Angling Management Plans for waters within the region
- Consider identification of any new waters of concern within the region
- Prioritize waters of concern and make application to the PQWMC for funding for the upcoming year to:
 - o Undertake an AMP for a specific water(s) of concern
 - o Determine data acquisition strategies to monitor existing, or pending AMPs.

Specific details on the procedures to complete the above tasks are provided in Section 3.3 of the QWS Resource Document.

² See Appendix B for details on the Implementation and Transition Strategy for the PQWMC & RQWMCs

³ See Appendix B for selection of the inaugural RQWMCs

The Regional Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the meetings and ensuring that the Procedures of the RQWMC (Resource Document Section 3.3) are followed.

Meetings and Time Commitments

Each year the RQWMC members are required to attend two meetings within a two month period (Oct/Nov) to complete the above tasks. Members will also be required to review documents prior to the meetings.

The meetings and deliberations of the committee will be conducted according to the Quality Waters Committees Procedural Guidelines noted in Appendix D of the QWS Resource Document.

3.3 Procedures - Regional Quality Waters Management Committee

The detailed procedures of the Regional Quality Waters Management Committee and the Regional Coordinator are provided in this section. Exhibit 3.1 is the annual timeline for the QWS and highlights the tasks which occur at the regional level.

Preparation for First Regional Meeting - *Month 1: October*

The Regional Coordinator (WLAP staff) is the primary facilitator of QWS activities within region and the contact person for the Provincial Coordinator. In preparation for the first meeting of the RQWMC the coordinator would prepare the following materials and distribute to the committee members:

- List of waters which have been identified as having angler use concerns. This list would include waters identified by the Regional Coordinator, RQWMC members and the angling community. Included in this listing would be any background information on the waters of concern and listing of the available data. This could include list of fish species, level of angler use and list of issues related to angler use.
- Update of the previous year's data collection on waters within the region; where applicable.
- Draft AMP prepared over the previous six months and submitted by the Local AMP Working Group. Note – this would only occur if an AMP had been funded in the previous year.

First Meeting of the Regional Quality Waters Management Committee ⁴

The purpose of this first meeting of the committee is to review existing Quality Waters with respect to angler use management and to identify any new waters of concern that should be considered for an AMP. The meeting agenda includes the following topics:

1. Status of existing Quality and previously identified candidate waters

- For those Quality Waters with an AMP - what is the status of the monitoring program (if any) and are there issues associated with the existing plan?
- For those Quality Waters without an AMP (classified prior to this updated QWS) are there angler use issues which warrant consideration for increased scrutiny?
- Review of data/information acquired through previous year's QWS activities on Quality or candidate waters
- Review of draft AMP submitted by local AMP Working Group prepared with previous year's funding. Make recommendation to forward the draft AMP to provincial level or return for revisions.

2. Waters identified in previous year, which have angler use concerns

- Are angler use concerns still an issue?
- Should this water be included in the funding application for the upcoming year either for data collection or AMP development?

3. New waters for consideration

- What is the nature of the angler use issue(s)?
- Is data available to support this concern?
- Is there public support for increased management?

⁴ The PQWMC and the RQWMC need to determine if the first meeting of the RQWMC will be an open public meeting or if there will be a break after item number 3 to provide time for the Regional Coordinator to prepare a summary of the first three agenda items before opening the meeting at a specified time for an open public forum on the Quality and other waters in the region.