



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

March 14, 2016 -

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch

Mr. Kenneth Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Kenneth Westlake:

In collaboration with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (USACE) is studying the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap complex on the Little Manistee River west of Manistee Township, Manistee County, Michigan (Enclosure 1). This letter serves as our early coordination with your office under the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and other applicable legislation.

The Little Manistee River flows through Lake, Mason, and Manistee Counties and empties into Manistee Lake. Water then flows through a channel in the town of Manistee and then out to Lake Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) fish weir and egg collection facility is located on the Little Manistee River in Stronach Township, about three miles upstream from the mouth of the Little Manistee River. The facility is operated seasonally to gather steelhead and Chinook eggs, which are then transported to various hatcheries in the region. This location has been identified as the project site as it provides an ideal location for sea lamprey control because a barrier already exists at the site during the spring at the same time lamprey are migrating upstream. The area near the project site is primarily forested with some shrublands and wetlands.

The USFWS currently uses portable assessment traps on the Little Manistee River, catching an average of 130 adult sea lamprey per year. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capture rates of sea lamprey and the functionality of the MDNR fish weir as a barrier. Improved capture would remove more spawning-phase sea lamprey from the river, enhance spawning-phase assessment, provide a large number of sea lamprey for research, and could lead to reduced lampricide use and program costs. Enhanced sea lamprey control allows for the restoration and maintenance of the Great Lakes ecosystem by protecting native and desirable fish from sea lamprey predation.

Alternatives being considered for the project include 1) no federal action (continued use of portable traps and lampricide); 2) make minor improvements to the existing MDNR weir and install a permanent trap complex; and 3) replace the MDNR fish weir with a new structure and install a permanent trap complex. Under alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacing it with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex, construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that the functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved. As part of our study an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed sea lamprey project on the Little Manistee River.

Please provide us with any concerns or comments that your agency may have at this time regarding the proposed action. A response within 30 days would ensure discussion of your concerns and comments in the EA, which will be provided for your review. Questions may be directed to Ms. Amanda Colton (313-226-2728) or me (313-226-2476).

Sincerely,



Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosure



Project Area



Old Stronach Road

Enclosure 1



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 23 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Amanda Colton
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit District
Environmental Analysis Branch
477 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: Scoping Comments – Little Manistee River Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps; Stronach Township, Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Ms. Colton:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) correspondence dated March 14, 2016, requesting EPA's review of and comments on an early coordination request (hereafter: scoping document) for the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap complex on the Little Manistee River in Stronach Township, Manistee County, Michigan. This letter provides EPA's scoping comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The project location identified is the existing Little Manistee River (River) fish weir, which is an egg-collection facility operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The weir is in place seasonally, usually from early March until end of April (spring steelhead migration) and mid-August to mid-November (fall Chinook migration), to gather eggs, which are then transported to various hatcheries in the region. This location has been identified as the project site as it provides an ideal location for sea lamprey control because a barrier already exists at the site during the spring at the same time lamprey are migrating upstream. The area near the project site is primarily forested with some shrublands and wetlands present.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently uses portable sea lamprey traps on the Little Manistee River, catching an average of 130 adult sea lamprey per year. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capture rates of sea lamprey and the functionality of the MDNR fish weir as a barrier. Improved capture would remove more spawning-phase sea lamprey from the River, enhance spawning-phase assessment, provide a large number of sea lamprey for research, and could lead to reduced lampricide use and program costs.

Currently, the no action alternative and two action alternatives are under consideration at the project location. Alternative 1, No Federal Action, would involve continued use of portable sea lamprey traps and lampricide. The first action alternative (Alternative 2) proposes minor improvements to the existing MDNR fish weir and installation of a permanent trap complex. The second action alternative (Alternative 2) proposes replacement of the existing MDNR fish weir with a new structure and installation of a permanent sea lamprey trap complex. Under Alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacement with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex and construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved.

EPA's comments on the scoping document are grouped by subject as follows.

FISH PASSAGE

- Congress has found that the Great Lakes comprise a nationally and internationally significant fishery and ecosystem, one that should be developed and enhanced in a coordinated manner. This program [Section 506, Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000 (Public Law 106-541, 114 STAT. 2645), as amended by Section 5011, Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration of WRDA 2007] enables USACE to utilize its planning, design, and construction expertise for projects to restore the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem.

Projects under the USACE Section 506 authority must support the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem, and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes. The USACE's objective in ecosystem restoration planning is to contribute to National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) by restoring degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded, more natural condition.

Recommendations: Due to the designation of the River as a state trout stream, the Draft EA should provide supporting rationale of how each alternative analyzed aligns with the requirement to support the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem, and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes under Section 506 authority.

CONSTRUCTION STAGING, ACCESS, & BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- The scoping document did not discuss during what time of year the project would occur.

Recommendation: The Draft EA should discuss the time of year in which project implementation and construction would occur. The document should also discuss how lamprey will be trapped during construction of either action alternatives.

- The scoping document provided noted that areas adjacent to the project location are forested, shrubby, and/or wetland areas.

Recommendations: Work should be undertaken only from the south bank of the River, or from in-River by boat. Wetlands appear to be present along the entire north bank and north of the project site; care should be taken to avoid impacting wetland areas should an action alternative be implemented. Additionally, the Draft EA should discuss construction staging and access locations and timeframes.

SEDIMENTS AND SEDIMENT RELEASE

- Accessing the River for construction of a new fish weir and/or sea lamprey barrier and trap would disturb substrate sediment and would be expected to result in loss of streambed sediment to instream suspension and downstream transport. Redistribution of disturbed sediment downstream would be expected to adversely affect aquatic habitat and water quality by increasing turbidity and to adversely affect benthic habitat by increasing substrate embeddedness downstream. Adverse effects downstream could be minimized by implementing site-specific sediment and erosion control measures

Recommendation: The Draft EA should discuss how implementation of each alternative could or will be expected to impact water quality within the River. If known, specific sediment control measures should be discussed.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

- The scoping document was unclear about whether tree removal and clearing will be required to access the project location.

Recommendations: The Draft EA should include information on current vegetation at the project location, and potential impacts to that vegetation during project implementation. Because of the River's status as a high quality trout stream, and because of its largely unfragmented riparian corridor, EPA recommends that USACE mitigate for any tree loss associated with the project. Mitigation might include, but is not limited to, replanting of native tree species adjacent to the River, or assisting local, county, or state agencies with any appropriate ongoing or planned reforestation plans. The Draft EA should document any voluntary mitigation measures to be undertaken to compensate for the loss of trees.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- There are six Federally-endangered species found in Manistee County. In 2015, USFWS introduced a project planning tool known as IPAC – Information for Planning and Conservation¹ – which is designed to streamline the USFWS environmental review process. When designating a project location in IPAC, USFWS recommends considering not only the physical location of project activities where direct impacts are likely to occur, but also the

¹ <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

surrounding area on the landscape where potential indirect effects to species may occur.² Once a trust resource list is obtained from IPAC, USACE should access the USFWS's website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/index.html> for detailed information pertaining to listed species, including habitat descriptions. These descriptions should be used to help determine if there is suitable habitat for the species on the trust resource list within the proposed project area. If it is determined that there is suitable habitat for or documented listed species occurring in the proposed project area, USFWS staff at the Ecological Services Field Office in Michigan can provide specific recommendations for the proposed project (depending on scope, scale, timing, etc.). These recommendations are meant to assist in project planning. For listed species, conservation measures recommended by the USFWS Field Office are based on anticipated impacts to species' conservation and can reduce potential impacts on listed species and the environment, as well as streamline any future consultations that may be needed.

Recommendations: USACE should use this tool to request a trust resource report covering Federally-listed threatened or endangered species; Federally-proposed or candidate species; critical habitat for listed species; migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and National Wildlife Refuges that could be positively or negatively impacted by the proposed project. In the Draft EA, USACE should include a decision regarding impact of the proposed project to USFWS trust resources and the rationale behind its decision. Coordination with USFWS regarding trust resources should be included with the Draft EA.

If project analyses determines that USFWS trust resources may be affected by the proposed project, we anticipate that the forthcoming Draft EA will include correspondence between USFWS and USACE. Coordination with USFWS regarding trust resources should be included with the Draft EA. Last, official species lists obtained from IPAC are **valid for only 90 days**. After 90 days, USACE should request an 'updated' official species list for the project in IPAC.

Additionally, coordination with the MDNR and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) should take place to determine if any state-listed species are present within the proposed project area and if the proposed project could positively or negatively impact any listed species through direct or indirect impacts. Federal tree clearing restriction dates, or other recommendations from MDNR, MNFI, or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), should be discussed in Draft EA and committed to in the Finding of No Significant Impact. Coordination with the state agencies above regarding state-listed species should be described in the Draft EA.

Also, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act³ (FWCA) requires that agencies consult with USFWS and state wildlife agencies concerning the conservation of wildlife resources where the water of any stream or other water body is proposed to be controlled or modified by a Federal agency or any public or private agency operating under a

² For projects with a Federal nexus that are required to consult with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, definitions of Action and Action Area can be found at 50 CFR 402.02.

³ 16 U.S.C. §§661-666c; PL 85-624

Federal permit. Coordination with USFWS and MDNR and MNFI concerning the FWCA should be included with the Draft EA.

- The scoping document was silent on whether any Federally- or State-listed mussels are found within the river near the project site. A mussel survey would provide more information on mussel species and the location of populations that could potentially be impacted.

Recommendations: In order to help design the proposed project in a manner that accomplishes the project purpose, meet USACE's goals, and protect the natural environment, the Draft EA should discuss whether mussels are present in the project vicinity. If yes, a mussel survey may be necessary in all areas where in-stream work will occur and in areas where sediment can reasonably be expected to fall out downstream from project work areas.

WATER QUALITY

- The River is listed as impaired (i.e., not meeting water quality standards) on the MDEQ Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies.

Recommendations: The forthcoming EA should discuss existing water quality issues, the existing impairments, and how the proposed project may affect water quality in the River.

For all environmental impact categories requiring coordination with other Federal or state agencies, EPA recommends that you provide copies of both your letters to those agencies, as well as the responses from those agencies, in the Draft EA.

Thank you for the early solicitation of EPA's comments regarding the proposal. We are available to discuss our comments with you in further detail if requested. Please send us a copy of the Draft EA once issued. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the project lead reviewer, Ms. Liz Pelloso, PWS, of my staff at 312-886-7425 or via email at pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc (via email):

Scott Hicks, USFWS-East Lansing
Scott Heintzelman, MDNR
Barry Petermna, MDEQ



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

March 14, 2016 -

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch

Mr. Scott Hicks, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48223

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Scott Hicks:

In collaboration with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (USACE) is studying the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap(s) on the Little Manistee River west of Manistee Township, Manistee County, Michigan (Enclosure 1). This letter serves as our early coordination with your office under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and other applicable legislation.

The Little Manistee River flows through Lake, Mason, and Manistee Counties and empties into Manistee Lake. Water then flows through a channel in the town of Manistee and then out to Lake Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) fish weir and egg collection facility is located on the Little Manistee River in Stronach Township, about three miles upstream from the mouth of the Little Manistee River. The facility is operated seasonally to gather steelhead and Chinook eggs, which are then transported to various hatcheries in the region. This location has been identified as the project site as it provides an ideal location for sea lamprey control because a barrier already exists at the site during the spring at the same time lamprey are migrating upstream. The area near the project site is primarily forested with some shrublands and wetlands.

The USFWS currently uses portable assessment traps on the Little Manistee River, catching an average of 130 adult sea lamprey per year. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capture rates of sea lamprey and the functionality of the MDNR fish weir as a barrier. Improved capture would remove more spawning-phase sea lamprey from the river, enhance spawning-phase assessment, provide a large number of sea lamprey for research, and could lead to reduced lampricide use and program costs. Enhanced sea lamprey control allows for the restoration and maintenance of the Great Lakes ecosystem by protecting native and desirable fish from sea lamprey predation.

Alternatives being considered for the project include 1) no federal action (continued use of portable traps and lampricide); 2) make minor improvements to the

existing MDNR weir and install a permanent trap complex; and 3) replace the MDNR fish weir with a new structure and install a permanent trap complex. Under alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacing it with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex, construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that the functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved. As part of our study an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed sea lamprey project on the Little Manistee River.

Under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species” for Manistee County, Michigan was reviewed to address potential impacts of implementing the proposed action. Based on the conditions in the proposed project area our determinations for each of the Federally-listed species are as follows:

Species*	Status*	Habitat*	Determination
Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Threatened	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.	No Effect. Lack of suitable habitat.
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Summer habitat includes small to medium river and stream corridors with well-developed riparian woods; woodlots within 1 to 3 miles of small to medium rivers and streams; and upland forests. Caves and mines as hibernacula.	No Effect. Lack of suitable habitat.
Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Endangered	Beaches along shorelines of the Great Lakes	No Effect. Lack of suitable habitat.
Rufa Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened	Only actions that occur along coastal areas during the Red Knot migratory window of May 1 – September 30	No Effect. Lack of suitable habitat.
Eastern massasauga (<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>)	Proposed Threatened	Shallow wetlands and adjacent uplands	No Effect. No project activities anticipated in wetlands.
Pitcher's thistle (<i>Cirsium pitcheri</i>)	Threatened	Stabilized dunes and blowout areas	No Effect. Lack of suitable habitat.

* “County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species” for Manistee County, Michigan, Revised April 2015

The USACE determination is that the proposed project will have no effect on Federally listed threatened, endangered or candidate species. Please provide us with

any concerns or comments that your agency may have at this time regarding the proposed action and the USACE determination regarding threatened, endangered, or candidate species. A response within 30 days would ensure discussion of your concerns and comments in the EA, which will be provided for your review. Questions may be directed to Ms. Amanda Colton (313-226-2728) or me (313-226-2476).

Sincerely,



Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosure

Cc: Jessica Barber USFWS-Sea Lamprey Control Barriers & Trapping



Project Area



Old Stronach Road

Enclosure 1





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 7, 2016

Mr. Charles A. Uhlarik
Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Uhlarik:

Thank you for your early coordination letter of March 14, 2016 requesting comments on species determinations for the Little Manistee Sea Lamprey barrier and traps project under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable legislation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is partnering with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a study and possible construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent traps on the Little Manistee River at an existing fish weir. The weir is used to seasonally gather steelhead and Chinook eggs for regional hatcheries. The project proposes to replace the Michigan Department of Natural Resources fish weir and portable sea lamprey traps with a new structure and permanent trap complex. The USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment to further examine the environmental impacts of this proposed project on the Little Manistee River.

Your determinations for federally-listed or proposed species indicate that the proposed project will have *no effect* on Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, Piping plover, Rufa Red knot, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, or Pitcher's thistle. There are two records of Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes upstream and downstream on the Little Manistee River within 2.5 km of the proposed project.

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR) (*Sistrurus catenatus*) occurs in a variety of wetland systems with adjacent upland habitat. Populations in southern Michigan typically use shallow, sedge- or grass-dominated wetlands, while those in northern Michigan prefer lowland coniferous forests, such as cedar swamps. This species requires open, sunny areas with scattered shade to assist with thermoregulation, but avoids heavily wooded or closed-canopy areas. EMRs hibernate singly or in small groups in wetlands, frequently in crayfish burrows, close to

Mr. Charles A. Uhlarik

groundwater below the frost line, and individuals tend to return to the same hibernaculum each year. The snakes continue to occupy wetlands in the spring and fall, but some move to drier sites in summer. Females give birth in August and early September and often utilize upland habitats for bearing their young. The home range size for individual snakes varies widely and is dependent on habitat quality.

EMR has been a candidate species for listing under the Act since 1999. On September 30, 2015, the EMR was proposed for listing as a threatened species under the Act. Critical habitat has not been proposed at this time. Species proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the Act; however as soon as a listing becomes effective, the prohibitions against "take" and jeopardizing the species' continued existence apply, regardless of an action's stage of completion. The final listing decision for EMR is expected no later than September 2016. Any observations of EMR, live or dead, shall be made to this office within 24 hours of occurrence.

We encourage project applicants in the range of EMR to consider the following voluntary conservation measures in areas of known or suspected EMR habitat.

- 1.) Minimize ground disturbance in areas of potential EMR habitat.
- 2.) Operation of vehicles/equipment, clearing of trees, etc., in known/presumed occupied EMR habitat occur between October 31 and March 15 and when (1) the ground is frozen and (2) air temperatures are less than 45°F.

During this time, under these conditions, EMR are most likely underground and are less likely to be impacted by these activities.

Please note, these comments do not constitute concurrence pursuant to section 7 of the ESA. Upon selecting a preferred alternative and preparing an Environmental Assessment, the USACE should initiate consultation with our office if the proposed action "may affect" a listed species.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you in conserving threatened and endangered species. If you have questions, please contact Erin Adams of this office at (517)-351-5293 or erin_adams@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Scott Hicks
Field Supervisor

cc: USFWS, Sea Lamprey Control, Marquette, MI (Jessica Barber)
MDEQ, Water Resources Division, Lansing, MI (Keto Gyekis)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch

Ms. Leslie Auriemmo, Forest Supervisor
Huron Manistee National Forest
Supervisor's Office
1755 S. Mitchell St
Cadillac, MI 49601

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Ms. Leslie Auriemmo:

In collaboration with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (USACE) is studying the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap(s) on the Little Manistee River west of Manistee Township, Manistee County, Michigan (Enclosure 1). This letter serves as our early coordination with your office under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and other applicable legislation.

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Alternatives being considered for the project include 1) no federal action (continued use of portable traps and lampricide); 2) make minor improvements to the

existing MDNR weir and install a permanent trap complex; and 3) replace the MDNR fish weir with a new structure and install a permanent trap complex. Under alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacing it with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex, construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that the functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved. As part of our study an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed sea lamprey project on the Little Manistee River.

The Little Manistee has been designated a National Scenic Study River by Congress (P.L. 102-249). A Section 7 analysis, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, must be completed for any project proposed within one of these designated rivers. We are requesting a Section 7 analysis from the U.S. Forest Service who has been designated the river-administering agency for the Little Manistee River.

Please provide us with any concerns or comments that your agency may have at this time regarding the proposed action. A response within 30 days would ensure discussion of your concerns and comments in the EA, which will be provided for your review. Questions may be directed to Ms. Amanda Colton (313-226-2728) or me (313-226-2476).

Sincerely,



Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosure

Cc: Kristen Thrall - Huron Manistee National Forest, Recreation Program Manager
Jim Thompson - Cadillac / Manistee Ranger District, District Ranger

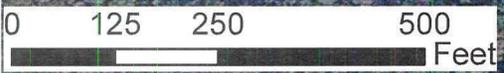


Project Area



Old Stronach Road

Enclosure 1



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests
Supervisor's Office

1755 South Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601-8533
231-775-2421
FAX: 231-775-5551

File Code: 2610
Date: April 25, 2016

Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2550

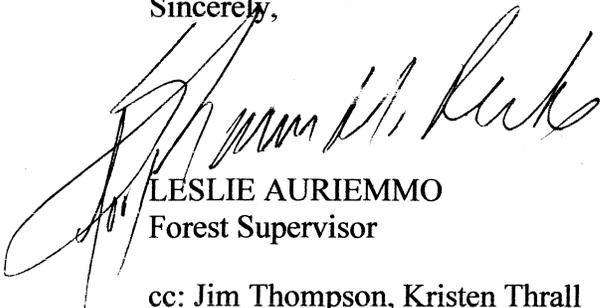
Dear Mr. Uhlarik

The Little Manistee River is a designated National Scenic Study River, which is managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287). The act was established to protect the free-flowing condition and other outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values of selected rivers for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations. As the designated river-administering agency for the Little Manistee River, the U.S. Forest Service will complete a Section 7 analysis on the selected alternative following the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers completion of the Environmental Analysis.

The selected alternative for the Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps Project in Manistee County, Michigan will be evaluated under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This analysis will be used to determine if the proposed project has the potential to invade the designated river or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values present at the date of designation.

Please feel free to contact Andrea Ania, HMNF Forest Fisheries Biologist, at 231-775-5023 x8763 or aaania@fs.fed, if you have any questions, require additional information, or want to discuss the process and timeline associated with the Section 7 analysis.

Sincerely,



LESLIE AURIEMMO
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jim Thompson, Kristen Thrall





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

477 Michigan Avenue

Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

March 14, 2016 -

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch

Mr. Chris Antieau
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Great Lakes Shorelands Unit
Water Resources Division
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Chris Antieau:

In collaboration with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (USACE) is studying the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap complex on the Little Manistee River west of Manistee Township, Manistee County, Michigan (Enclosure 1). This letter serves as our early coordination with your office under the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and other applicable legislation.

The Little Manistee River flows through Lake, Mason, and Manistee Counties and empties into Manistee Lake. Water then flows through a channel in the town of Manistee and then out to Lake Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) fish weir and egg collection facility is located on the Little Manistee River in Stronach Township, about three miles upstream from the mouth of the Little Manistee River. The facility is operated seasonally to gather steelhead and Chinook eggs, which are then transported to various hatcheries in the region. This location has been identified as the project site as it provides an ideal location for sea lamprey control because a barrier already exists at the site during the spring at the same time lamprey are migrating upstream. The area near the project site is primarily forested with some shrublands and wetlands.

The USFWS currently uses portable assessment traps on the Little Manistee River, catching an average of 130 adult sea lamprey per year. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capture rates of sea lamprey and the functionality of the MDNR fish weir as a barrier. Improved capture would remove more spawning-phase sea lamprey from the river, enhance spawning-phase assessment, provide a large number of sea lamprey for research, and could lead to reduced lampricide use and program costs. Enhanced sea lamprey control allows for the restoration and maintenance of the Great Lakes ecosystem by protecting native and desirable fish from sea lamprey predation.

Alternatives being considered for the project include 1) no federal action (continued use of portable traps and lampricide); 2) make minor improvements to the existing MDNR weir and install a permanent trap complex; and 3) replace the MDNR fish weir with a new structure and install a permanent trap complex. Under alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacing it with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex, construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that the functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved. As part of our study an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed sea lamprey project on the Little Manistee River.

Please provide us with any concerns or comments that your agency may have at this time regarding the proposed action. A response within 30 days would ensure discussion of your concerns and comments in the EA, which will be provided for your review. Questions may be directed to Ms. Amanda Colton (313-226-2728) or me (313-226-2476).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles A. Uhlarik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosure

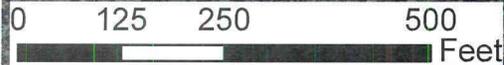


Project Area



Old Stronach Road

Enclosure 1



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2016

Mr. Charles Uhlarik, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch
United States Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

Dear Mr. Uhlarik:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment (EA) Early Coordination Request for the Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier Project in Manistee County

Thank you for notifying us of the proposed construction project for the Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier for which the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is requesting early EA coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

As this project is not primarily for navigational purposes, we will not be able to perform early coordination through the Corps Project Review Committee. Coordination will instead be provided through the state's permitting process. Please note that a permit from the state is likely to be required for the proposed project under various statutes including (but not necessarily limited to) Part 31, Water Resources Protection; and Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams; of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The DEQ recommends that if early coordination is desired before application is made, it be performed through our pre-permit application process. The Section 401 certification review will be a part of the state permit review process, and if the state permit is approved it will carry with it the Section 401 certification.

More information on pre-application consultation and the standard application process (referred to as the Joint Permit Application) may be found at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/jointpermit>

The DEQ staff person responsible for Manistee County is Barry Peterman, PETERMANB@michigan.gov, 231-876-4442. Mr. Peterman can assist you with the pre-application or the standard application process.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Michigan's water resources.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Antieau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Antieau
Great Lakes Shorelands Unit
Water Resources Division
517-290-5732

cc:

Mr. Barry Peterman, DEQ



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550

March 14, 2016 -

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Environmental Analysis Branch

Mr. Jim Dexter, Chief of Fisheries
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 30446
Lansing MI 48909

Re: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Barrier and Traps in Manistee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Jim Dexter:

In collaboration with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (USACE) is studying the potential construction of a sea lamprey barrier and permanent sea lamprey trap complex on the Little Manistee River west of Manistee Township, Manistee County, Michigan (Enclosure 1). This letter serves as our early coordination with your office under the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable legislation.

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The USFWS currently uses portable assessment traps on the Little Manistee River, catching an average of 130 adult sea lamprey per year. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capture rates of sea lamprey and the functionality of the MDNR fish weir as a barrier. Improved capture would remove more spawning-phase sea lamprey from the river, enhance spawning-phase assessment, provide a large number of sea lamprey for research, and could lead to reduced lampricide use and program costs. Enhanced sea lamprey control allows for the restoration and maintenance of the Great Lakes ecosystem by protecting native and desirable fish from sea lamprey predation.

Alternatives being considered for the project include 1) no federal action (continued use of portable traps and lampricide); 2) make minor improvements to the

existing MDNR weir and install a permanent trap complex; and 3) replace the MDNR fish weir with a new structure and install a permanent trap complex. Under alternative 2, a sea lamprey barrier would be constructed using steel sheet pile and stop logs adjacent to the existing fish weir. Alternative 3 would include the removal of the existing fish weir and replacing it with a more effective fish weir and sea lamprey barrier. Both action alternatives would involve the installation of a sea lamprey trap complex, construction of a fish guide screen structure downstream of the weir, and would ensure that the functionality of the egg collection facility is maintained or improved. As part of our study an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed sea lamprey project on the Little Manistee River.

Please provide us with any concerns or comments that your agency may have at this time regarding the proposed action. A response within 30 days would ensure discussion of your concerns and comments in the EA, which will be provided for your review. Questions may be directed to Ms. Amanda Colton (313-226-2728) or me (313-226-2476).

Sincerely,



Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosure

Cc: Scott Heintzelman – MDNR Unit Manager
Mark Tonello – MDNR Fisheries Biologist



Project Area



Old Stronach Road

Enclosure 1



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Application for Section 106 Review

SHPO Use Only					
<input type="checkbox"/>	IN	Received Date	_____ / _____ / _____	Log In Date	_____ / _____ / _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	OUT	Response Date	_____ / _____ / _____	Log Out Date	_____ / _____ / _____
		Sent Date	_____ / _____ / _____		

Submit one copy for each project for which review is requested. This application is required. Please type. Applications must be complete for review to begin. Incomplete applications will be sent back to the applicant without comment. Send only the information and attachments requested on this application. Materials submitted for review cannot be returned. **Due to limited resources we are unable to accept this application electronically.**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

THIS IS A NEW SUBMITTAL THIS IS MORE INFORMATION RELATING TO ER#

- a. Project Name: Little Manistee Sea Lamprey Trap
- b. Project Address (if available): 4664 Old Stornach Road
- c. Municipal Unit: Manistee County: Manistee
- d. Federal Agency, Contact Name and Mailing Address (*If you do not know the federal agency involved in your project please contact the party requiring you to apply for Section 106 review, not the SHPO, for this information.*): United States Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Curtis Sedlacek, District Archeologist, 313-226-3510, or curtis.h.sedlacek@usace.army.mil, 477 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48226
- e. State Agency (if applicable), Contact Name and Mailing Address:
- f. Consultant or Applicant Contact Information (if applicable) *including mailing address:*

II. GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITY (INCLUDING EXCAVATION, GRADING, TREE REMOVALS, UTILITY INSTALLATION, ETC.)

DOES THIS PROJECT INVOLVE GROUND-DISTURBING ACTIVITY? YES NO (If no, proceed to section III.)

Exact project location must be submitted on a USGS Quad map (portions, photocopies of portions, and electronic USGS maps are acceptable as long as the location is clearly marked).

- a. USGS Quad Map Name: Star Corners, MI (Attachment 1)
- b. Township: 21N Range: 16W Section: 25
- c. Description of width, length and depth of proposed ground disturbing activity: North river bank - 300' x 12' x 4' deep. On the north riverbank, some of which was previously disturbed in the 1960's construction, approximately 300 lineal feet of existing riverbank will be shaped to a 1V:2H to 1V:3H for placement of rock rip rap to a foot above the 100 year flood event. The water depths vary but armor stone will go from -4 feet to +8 feet. On the southerly spillway bank which was previously created with the original construction, 150' x 8' x 3' deep. The concrete spillway removal encompasses an area of 20' by 40' = 800 square feet of previously disturbed lands.
- d. Previous land use and disturbances:
- e. Current land use and conditions: Area is currently occupied by an existing sea lamprey trap and fish hatchery.
- f. Does the landowner know of any archaeological resources found on the property? YES NO
Please describe:

III. PROJECT WORK DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)

Note: Every project has an APE.

- a. Provide a detailed written description of the project (plans, specifications, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), etc. **cannot** be substituted for the written description): The proposed project involves the modification of the existing concrete spillway by removing the existing earthen and concrete spillway (1500-1700 CYD of cut using 370-420 CYD of cut material for backfill to shape the banks); construct a low head adjustable (stop logs) spillway that would block lamprey migration up to the 25 year (4%)

flood event; raising the existing walkway to an elevation that would accommodate the 100 year (1%) flood event; extend the walkway across the entire structure to allow for access for operations and maintenance. Scour stone (50-70 CYD total) will be placed on the upstream and downstream toe of the new spillway. Install a directional weir on pilings at the confluence of the spillway discharge and the main river to divert fish toward the MDNR egg collection facility. Place a total of 430-500 CYD of rock riprap or field stone to armor both banks of the spillway to protect the channel from scour; reconstruct the existing canoe/kayak portage path. Excavation of the concrete spillway and armoring the spillway riverbanks will result in the loss of about 5400 ft² of wetlands located along the river banks from excavation for placement of armor rock. Excavation of the spillway and approach will create about 1600 square feet (ft²) of river bottomlands and placement of armor stone will create 1500 ft² of hard substrate for colonization by aquatic invertebrates. Completion of the proposed work will result in the net loss of 2400 ft² of aquatic habitat (0.05 acres). Materials placed in the river as part of the proposed project may include wood forms, concrete, and steel. The trap will be set on a concrete base slab (using approximately 0.7 CYD of concrete to construct a 5'x 5' by 10" thick pad). The steel piles and concrete would remain after construction. Wood forms, if used, would be removed upon completion of construction.

- b. Provide a localized map indicating the location of the project; road names must be included and legible.
- c. On the above-mentioned map, identify the APE.
- d. Provide a written description of the APE (physical, visual, auditory, and sociocultural), the steps taken to identify the APE, and the justification for the boundaries chosen. The APE (Attachment 2) was identified by the physical area that the sea lamprey trap will physically impact and the area immediately around it. Given that a sea lamprey barrier already exists in the APE, it was determined by the USACE that there will be a minimal visual change to the area, and that limiting the APE to this area was appropriate for this project.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- a. List and date **all** properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE. If the property is located within a National Register eligible, listed or local district it is only necessary to identify the district: No NR eligible or listed properties are within the APE.
 - b. Describe the steps taken to identify whether or not any **historic** properties exist in the APE and include the level of effort made to carry out such steps: The NRHP was reviewed on July 24, 2017. Additionally, the local landowner had no information regarding any historic properties within the APE. The existing fish hatchery and sea lamprey barrier were built in 1986 and neither structure is eligible for the NRHP.
 - c. Based on the information contained in "b", please choose one:
 - Historic Properties Present in the APE
 - No Historic Properties Present in the APE
 - d. Describe the condition, previous disturbance to, and history of any historic properties located in the APE:
-

V. PHOTOGRAPHS

Note: All photographs must be keyed to a localized map.

- a. Provide photographs of the site itself. (Attachment 3)
 - b. Provide photographs of all properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE (faxed or photocopied photographs are not acceptable).
-

VI. DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

- No historic properties affected based on [36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)], please provide the basis for this determination.

The existing sea lamprey barrier, which was built in 1986, is not eligible for the NRHP. Additionally, no listed National Register properties or properties eligible for the National Register were identified in or near the APE. Given that the SLT will be built in the river there will not be a large amount of ground disturbance. Given the information above, the USACE has determined under, 36CFR800.4(d)(1), that there are no historic properties within the APE that will be affected by the proposed project.

- No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1), were found not applicable.
- Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d)(2)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1)], were found applicable.

***Please print and mail completed form and required information to:
State Historic Preservation Office, Cultural Resources Management and Planning Section,
735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909***