

Fisheries Management Planning in Fisheries Management Zone 15

An Update from FOCA, May 2018

Several years ago, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) implemented a new approach to managing recreational fisheries in Ontario. Key components of this approach were the establishment of new Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ), streamlining of the regulations, regular reporting to the public regarding the state of the fisheries resources, and increased public involvement in resource decision making.

In order to address the objective of increased public involvement, MNRF has formed advisory councils within most FMZs in the province. Members of advisory councils are expected to represent the local interests of the sector, or the stakeholder group they represent. These advisory councils provide advice to MNRF on topics related to fisheries management, with the ultimate goal of preparing a Fisheries Management Plan.

Fisheries Management Zones are based on large, ecologically significant areas sharing similar characteristics and resource issues. The fisheries advisory council for FMZ 15 was established in 2017, and planning is ongoing.

FMZ 15 comprises a large area of south central Ontario, extending from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River. Its northern boundary follows the Pickerel River, Highway 522 and the northern edge of Algonquin Park. Rural communities within FMZ 15 include Parry Sound, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Minden, Haliburton, Whitney, Bancroft, Deep River, Petawawa, Pembroke and Renfrew.

With so many members situated in this region, the Federation of Ontario

Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) has a representative on the FMZ 15 council, to represent the interests of cottagers and seasonal lake residents in this region. A fisheries management plan normally takes 3-5 years to complete, with meetings occurring every 1-2 months.



Have thoughts, concerns or questions about fisheries management in this region? Your input is welcomed, and should be directed to the FOCA office by email: info@foca.on.ca.