



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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December 17, 2024

To whom it may concern,

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa writes in support of the Lake Sturgeon Rearing Project at the Great Lakes Aquarium (GLA). Sturgeon are a keystone species in the St. Louis River and hold significant ecological and cultural value. The Fond du Lac Band has been leading the sturgeon stocking initiative in the upper St. Louis River for more than two decades and recognizes the importance of interdepartmental collaboration with regards to a project of this scale. This collaborative effort is likely to increase the probability of project success by rearing sturgeon utilizing St. Louis River water. In addition to providing opportunity for public outreach, engagement, and education.

Namewag (Lake Sturgeon) are an important, culturally relevant species to the Fond du Lac Reservation. The Fond du Lac Band recognizes that rearing Namewag at the GLA, using the adjacent St. Louis River water is more economically and environmentally beneficial to the Band. Historic stocking efforts have been an integral part of the Fond du Lac sturgeon rehabilitation efforts. However, often due to factors stemming from using hatcheries outside the Fond du Lac region, stocking consistently has been challenging. The Fond du Lac Band hopes that by utilizing the fish rearing expertise afforded by the GLA that stocking capacity and consistency will increase. Increasing the number of sturgeon fry released on an annual basis, reared utilizing St. Louis River water will ultimately aid in fulfilling the Bands long-term objective to fully restore a naturally reproducing Lake Sturgeon population.

In summary the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa expresses support for the Great Lakes Aquarium in this initiative and looks forward to being a collaborative partner contributing to this projects success.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Savage
Chairman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior