



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Department of Natural Resources welcomes your interest in improving fishing opportunities in public waters of Michigan. As a private party, you can stock fish into public waters of the State and to do so, requires a permit from DNR Fisheries Division. This free permit is required to ensure that fish to be stocked are:

- 1) healthy and will not pose a disease risk to wild fish populations;
- 2) a species that currently exist in the watershed and do not pose a threat to existing fish communities; and
- 3) a species that are compatible with the overall fishery management goals in a watershed.

The permit process ensures protection of the State's fisheries resources by preventing potential long-range and expensive problems before they occur, thus improving fishing opportunities for all.

The permit process follows the following four steps and is detailed in the attached materials:

1. *Determining if the water to be stocked is public or private.* Water bodies that have permanent inlets or outlets will require a permit, as fish will escape from these waters into public waters. If there are no permanent inlets or outlets, the water does not require a permit. Waters with public access sites are also public waters. If you are unsure about the status of the water body you wish to stock, please contact any of our Fisheries Management Unit offices for assistance (see Table 1).
2. *Applying for a permit if the water body to be stocked is public.* If this is the case, you will need to fill out the attached application specifying what species and how many fish you intend to stock. This allows DNR to determine if the species is permitted for stocking, and if it is compatible with management goals established for the watershed. It is also important for you to determine if the source from which you intend to obtain the fish is free of certain fish pathogens that cause serious fish diseases (see Table 2). You must enquire about the fish health certification status of the source you intend to use. DNR strongly recommends that any applicant obtain a copy of the fish pathogen inspection and certification from the source of the fish, as fish must be certified disease-free for stocking in waters of the state. Although providing a copy of the disease certification with your application will greatly speed the processing of the permit, it is not required.

3. *Submitting the Application.* After you fill out the application form, submit it to the Fisheries Management Unit (see Table 1) responsible for the watershed in which you wish to stock fish. If you need help determining the right office, feel free to contact any Fisheries Management Unit Office. Our fisheries staff will review the permit and provide you with either an approved permit or a letter detailing why the permit was denied.
4. *Stocking Fish.* Once you have an approved permit, you can stock your fish. Please be sure to contact our Fisheries Management Unit Office about the stocking at least 3 days before it occurs. Also be sure that either an original or a copy of the Public Waters Fish Stocking Permit is on site during the stocking. After stocking, be sure to submit the Public Waters Fish Stocking Report to DNR. These data will be input into our database and will become a permanent part of the fisheries management record for the watershed.

We are appreciative of your interest in our fisheries resource. If you have questions on this process, please contact a Fisheries Management Unit Office or Mr. Gary E. Whelan (517-373-6948, whelang@michigan.gov) of my staff.

Good Fishing to All,

James Dexter
Acting Chief
Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division

PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING PERMIT PROCESS

January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

- 1) It is the responsibility of the purchaser or their agent to determine if a permit is required to stock fish into a water body. If a Public Waters Stocking Permit is necessary, the purchaser or their agent must obtain the permit prior to any stocking event. A copy of the Public Waters Stocking Permit Application is in Attachment 1.
 - a) If the water body to be stocked is not permanently connected to any other water body, it does not require a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - b) If the water body to be stocked is permanently connected to public water bodies via an inlet or outlet, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - c) If the water body has a public access site, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - d) If unsure of the need for a permit to stock a water body, the purchaser or their agent may request assistance from any Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Management Unit Office. The offices and fisheries biologists are listed in Table 1.
- 2) The purchaser or their agent can obtain an application for a Public Waters Stocking Permit from any DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office, from the DNR website, or from many private aquaculture facilities.
- 3) The purchaser or their agent must return the completed Public Waters Stocking Permit Application to the DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office responsible for the watershed that is to be stocked. It greatly speeds up the application process if the most recent fish health inspection and certification documents are included with the application. See attached Table 1 to determine which office is the appropriate location or contact any DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office.
- 4) DNR Fisheries Management Unit will use the following guidelines in its review of the permit application:
 - a) Disease status of the private aquaculture facility – If the facility has a valid pathogen and disease free certification for key fish diseases, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the facility does not have a current or valid pathogen-free certification for key fish diseases, then the permit shall be denied until such information can be provided. If the fish have clinical signs

of fish diseases, they can not be stocked in our waters. For a list of key fish diseases see attached Table 2.

- b) Species analysis – If the species has been approved for stocking in waters of the state, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the species has not been approved for stocking in waters of the state, then the permit shall be denied. The list of approved species for fish stocked are is in attached Table 3.
 - c) Management implications of the stocking – If the stocking action is consistent with DNR’s management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the stocking action is not consistent with DNR’s management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, then the permit shall be denied.
- 5) After review of the application, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit will determine if the permit is to be approved or denied based on Sections 4 a, b, and c above, taken in their entirety.
 - 6) Within seven (7) working days of receipt of the permit application, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit shall provide either an approved permit to the purchaser or their agent, or a letter of permit denial designating the rationale for denial based on Sections 4 a, b, and c above, taken in their entirety (see Attachment 2).
 - 7) Purchaser or their agent must notify the appropriate DNR Fisheries Management Unit of the actual date of stocking at least three (3) calendar days prior to occurrence of the stocking event. This notification can be done via letter, telephone, or e-mail. Upon receipt of notification, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit shall provide a response to the purchaser or their agent that notification of the actual stocking date has been received.
 - 8) The stocking permit must be available on site when fish are stocked into public waters.
 - a) If a private aquaculture operation stocks the fish, they must have the original or a copy of the valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
 - b) If the purchaser or their agent stocks the fish, they must have the original valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
 - 9) Within 14 days calendar days of the actual public waters stocking event, a signed Public Waters Stocking Report (see Attachment 2) shall be sent either by surface mail or email to the Fisheries Management Unit that issued the permit.
 - 10) Upon receipt of the report, the Fisheries Management Unit shall:
 - a) Record receiving the report.

- b) Enter the data into the DNR's Fish Stocking Information System database.
 - c) Provide a response to the party that the report was received and processed.
- 11) This permitting process is valid from January 1, 2012 until rescinded.

Table 1. DNR Fisheries Management Unit Offices

Basin/Watersheds	Staff	Office location	Telephone	E-mail
Lake Superior All	Steve Scott Cory Kovacs George Madison	Newberry Newberry Baraga	906-293-5131 906-293-5131 906-353-6651	scottsj@michigan.gov kovacsc@michigan.gov madisong@michigan.gov
Northern Lake Michigan All Upper Peninsula watersheds	Jessica Mistak Darren Kramer	Escanaba Escanaba	906-786-2351 906-786-2351	mistakj@michigan.gov kramerd@michigan.gov
Central Lake Michigan Mackinac Bridge to Muskegon River	Mark Tonello Heather Hettinger Rich O'Neal	Cadillac Cadillac Twin Lake	231-775-9727 231-775-9727 231-788-6798	tonellom@michigan.gov hettingerh@michigan.gov onealr@michigan.gov
Southern Lake Michigan South of Muskegon River to Indiana border	Jay Wesley Scott Hanshue Kregg Smith Brian Gunderman	Plainwell Plainwell Plainwell Plainwell	616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-685-6851	wesleyjk@michigan.gov hanshusk@michigan.gov smithk34@michigan.gov gundermanb@michigan.gov
Northern Lake Huron St. Marys River to Au Sable River	David Borgeson Tim Cwalinski Neal Godby Steve Sendek	Gaylord Gaylord Gaylord Grayling	989-732-3541 989-732-3541 989-732-3541 989-348-6371	borgesdl@michigan.gov cwalinst@michigan.gov godby@michigan.gov sendeks@michigan.gov
Southern Lake Huron South of Au Sable River to Port Huron	James Baker Kathrin Schrouder Joe Leonardi	Bay City Bay City Lapeer	989-684-9141 989-684-9141 810-245-1250	bakerjp@michigan.gov schroudk@michigan.gov leonardi@michigan.gov
Lake Erie South of Port Huron to Ohio border	Liz Hay-Chmielewski Jim Francis Jeff Braunscheidel	Southfield Southfield Southfield	248-359-9040 248-359-9040 248-359-9040	hay-chmielewski@michigan.gov francisj@michigan.gov braunscj@michigan.gov

Baraga DNR Office 427 US 41 North Baraga, MI 49908	Gaylord DNR Office 1732 M-32 West Gaylord, MI 49735	Newberry DNR Office 5100 State Highway M-123 Newberry, MI 49868
Bay City DNR Office 503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 1 Bay City, MI 48706	Grayling DNR Office R#3, 1955 N. I-75 BL Grayling, MI 49738	Plainwell DNR Office 621 N. 10 th Street Plainwell, MI 49080
Cadillac DNR Office 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601	Lapeer State Game Area – DNR Fisheries 3116 Vernor Road Lapeer, MI 48446	Twin Lake DNR Office 7550 E. Messenger Road Twin Lake, MI 49457
Escanaba DNR office 6833 Hwy. 2, 41 & M-35 Gladstone, MI 49837	Southfield DNR Office 26000 W. Eight Mile Road Southfield, MI 48034	

Table 2. List of key fish diseases for the State of Michigan.

Key Fish Diseases List – Coldwater Fish (Trout and Salmon)

Disease Agent	Disease Name
<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i>	Whirling Disease
IHN Virus	Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis
VHS Virus	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia
IPN Virus	Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus

Key Fish Diseases List – Coolwater Fish

Disease Agent	Disease Name	Species
Ranavirus	Largemouth Bass Virus	Centrarchids – Largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, hybrid sunfish, redear sunfish and similar species
<i>Heterosporis</i> sp.	Heterosporis	Yellow perch, walleye, and the minnow family
Iridovirus	Sturgeon Virus	Lake sturgeon
Channel Catfish virus	Channel Catfish virus	Catfish species

Table 3. Approved list of species that can be stocked into public waters of the State of Michigan.

SPECIES
ATLANTIC SALMON
BLACK BULLHEAD
BLACK CRAPPIE
BLUEGILL
BLUNTNOSE MINNOW
BROOK TROUT
BROWN BULLHEAD
BROWN TROUT
CHANNEL CATFISH
COMMON SHINER
EMERALD SHINER
FATHEAD MINNOW
FLATHEAD CATFISH
GOLDEN SHINER
GREEN SUNFISH
HYBRID SUNFISH
LAKE HERRING
LAKE TROUT
LAKE WHITEFISH
LARGEMOUTH BASS
MUSKELLUNGE
NORTHERN PIKE
NORTHERN REDBELLY
DACE
PUMPKINSEED
RAINBOW TROUT
REDEAR SUNFISH
ROCK BASS
SMALLMOUTH BASS
WALLEYE
WARMOUTH
WHITE BASS
WHITE CRAPPIE
YELLOW BULLHEAD
YELLOW PERCH

Attachment 1. Public Waters Stocking Permit Application



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

APPLICATION TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

Under authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, **stocking fish into the public waters of the State of Michigan is prohibited without an approved permit.** Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

PERMITTEE INFORMATION						
Applicant's Name			Telephone Number () -			
Street Address			City, State and Zip Code			
WATER TO BE STOCKED						
Waterbody Name	Size (Acres)	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Approximate Stocking Date
Name of Inlets and/or Outlets			Is Water to be Stocked Open to Public Fishing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Purpose of Stocking						
SOURCE OF FISH						
Facility Name		Telephone Number () -	Manager's Name		Telephone Number () -	
Street Address			Street Address			
City, State and Zip Code			City, State and Zip Code			
FISH TO BE STOCKED						
Species	Stock or Strain		Size (Inches) or Age		Number	
FOR TROUT AND SALMON ONLY						
<p>The trout and salmon for stocking must come from a facility with a certificate or report of fish health designating disease free status that includes all facilities through which said fish have passed.</p> <p>Aquaculture Facility has a Current Fish Health Certificate(s) or Report(s) of Fish Health? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>						
I hereby certify that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.						
Signature of Purchaser or Agent _____				Date _____		

Return completed application to: SEND TO THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATERSHED TO BE STOCKED (see Table 1)

Attachment 2. Public Waters Fish Stocking Permit and Report Form



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

This permit is issued under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended. Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN			
APPLICATION IS: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED (see attached denial letter)			
Permit Number: _____ Issue Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____	Approved Action:		
By: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> Department Signature Title Date </div>			
LIABILITY. Permittee hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Permittee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands therefore, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Permittee, its officers, employees or agents, whether caused by the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities of this permit.			
INDEMNIFICATION. Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use or occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit, as well as any other state-owned lands. This indemnification and save harmless agreement shall extend to all loss, injury, death or damage, proximately caused or arising out of the negligence of the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents.			
I have read the terms and conditions contained in this permit. I agree to abide by same and assume all the obligations contained herein. Approved applicants or their agent will be required to submit a report detailing the number and size of each species stocked.			
Purchaser or Agent's Signature			Date

Detach and Submit Private Fish Stocking Report Within 14 days of Stocking

MDNR FISHERIES DIVISION – PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING REPORT

This report is required under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.

PERMIT INFORMATION					
Purchaser or Agent's Name			Telephone Number () -		
Permit Number					
WATER STOCKED					
Waterbody Name	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Stocking Date
FISH STOCKED					
Species	Stock or Strain	Size (Inches) or Age		Number	
I hereby certify that all information reported by me is true to the best of my knowledge.					
Signature of Purchaser or Agent _____				Date _____	

Return completed application to: SEND TO THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATERSHED STOCKED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF STOCKING (see Table 1)