

Bass, Steelhead & Chumming Conversation

Your Unit

Location

Date



Conversation Items:

- Bass Catch-and-Delayed-Release
- Steelhead bag limits on four rivers
- Chumming regulations



Bass Regulation Terminology

Catch-and-Immediate-Release (CIR): is now legal all year, statewide with few exceptions.

Catch-and-Delayed-Release (CDR): holding a fish temporarily and releasing it back to the water.



Catch-and-Delayed Release

- Considering a small group of lakes in the L.P. to allow CDR tournament fishing for bass.
- Tournaments must be registered through the MI Fishing Tournament Information System.
- CDR tournaments would be allowed from the last Saturday in April through the Saturday before Memorial Day for registered tournaments only.



Catch-and-Delayed Release

- There is limited biological uncertainty with liberalizing bass seasons.
- Most U.S. states allow bass fishing during the spawn without negative population impacts.
- Limiting the lakes will allow the DNR and public to gauge biological and social implications.
- Local communities could see economic boosts with more tournament activity.



16 Proposed CDR Lakes

- Lake Charlevoix (Charlevoix County)
- Houghton Lake (Roscommon County)
- Burt Lake (Cheboygan/Emmet County)
- Mullett Lake (Cheboygan County)
- Hardy Dam Pond (Newaygo County)
- White Lake (Muskegon County)
- Muskegon Lake (Muskegon County)
- Gull Lake (Barry/Kalamazoo County)
- Gun Lake (Barry County)
- Kent Lake (Oakland County)
- Portage Chain (Livingston/Washtenaw County)
- Cass Lake (Oakland County)
- Half Moon Chain (Washtenaw County)
- Pontiac Lake (Oakland County)
- Wixom Lake (Gladwin County)
- Holloway Reservoir (Genesee County)



Steelhead Bag Limits

- Daily bag limit of 3 since 1989.
- Steelhead fishing in MI is world class.
- Social concern exists related to steelhead harvest inland.



Steelhead Bag Limit Options

Daily bag limit reduction for Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Little Manistee, and Big Manistee Rivers are:

1. Status quo of 3 fish daily.
2. Reduce the daily bag limit to 2 fish.
3. Reduce the daily bag limit to 1 fish.



Steelhead Bag Limits

- Currently no known biological impact regarding harvest or regulation.
- Steelhead are managed for river fisheries.
- Reducing the bag limit could:
 - Improve catch rates
 - Change angler effort



Chumming

- Chumming is the practice of luring various animals, usually fish, by throwing organic material into the water. Bait commonly used as chum include fish eggs, corn and maggots.
- Restrictions on the use of fish eggs were in place from 2007 – 2012 due the concern of VHS spread.
- Restrictions were rescinded in 2012 after studies indicated that fish eggs were not a vector.



Chumming

- Social concerns regarding excessive use of fish eggs as chum have come to the Division's attention.
- Using chum is not a biological threat to MI's fisheries.



Chumming Options

- Option 1: Continue unlimited chumming with any organic material.
- Option 2: Limit all types of chumming to 1 quart of organic material.



Thank You!
Questions?

