



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 16, 2012
RESUBMITTED: August 10, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission
Subject: Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations (FO-202)

Authority

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds.

Discussion and Background

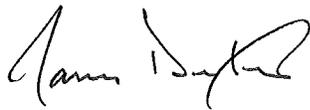
This Order is in place as a tool for law enforcement personnel to reduce unlawful snagging practices in specific locations. The Order is up for renewal and we are proposing one additional river system. The South Branch Black River including all tributaries in Van Buren County is being proposed for a hook restriction due to recent changes to the river system that allows Chinook salmon to migrate further upstream. The South Branch Black River receives a good Chinook salmon run annually. Traditionally, the salmon were limited to the South Branch Black River below the Bangor Dam. About 10 years ago, the Bangor Dam was partially removed allowing some movement of salmon upstream to Breedsville. The Breedsville Dam washed out three years ago allowing salmon to migrate further upriver into small tributaries and ditches where they are easily visible to anglers which attract illegal harvest via snagging. At the request of the local conservation officer, the single hook restriction in this area will help address the current snagging issue by limiting hook sizes and types that can be possessed or used.

Therefore, we are recommending the South Branch Black River including all tributaries be added to this Order resulting in the use of only one single-pointed unweighted hook measuring 3/8 inch or less from point to shank. This regulation proposal was discussed and supported at public meetings in Lansing, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

Recommendation

It is our recommendation that the change proposed to Fisheries Order 202 as indicated above be approved to take effect on April 1, 2013. The recommended change will improve our ability to protect vulnerable migrating Chinook salmon in that system.

This Order was submitted for information at the August 2012 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This Order is being resubmitted for action at the September 2012 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared on the Department's August 2012 calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 13, 2012.



James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



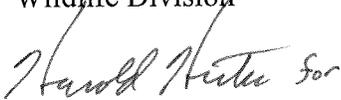
Gary Hägler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Keith Creagh, Director

Date

ORDER

SPECIAL HOOK SIZE REGULATIONS

Under the authority of sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105 the Director of the Department of the Natural Resources on September 13, 2012, ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, on the following streams it shall be unlawful to use other than one single-pointed unweighted hook measuring 3/8-inch or less from point to shank:

County	Stream
Allegan	Swan Creek (from the mouth upstream to the dam at 118th Avenue)
Benzie	Platte River
Berrien	Townsend Creek (T6S, R17W, S19 and the mouth area of Lake Chapin, to a point 100 yards below the Townsend Creek mouth into Lake Chapin)
Charlevoix	Boyne River (from mouth upstream to dam in T32N, R5W, S5)
Emmet	Bear River (from mouth upstream to Lake Street Dam T34N, R5W, S6)
Mason	Sable River (from mouth upstream to Hamlin Lake Dam)
Van Buren	South Branch Black River and all tributaries upstream of Breedsville (Mill Street).

This Order shall be assigned number FO-202.13, and is entitled "Special Hook Size Regulations."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Special Hook Size Regulations," which became effective April 1, 2008, and is assigned number FO-202.08.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2013. This Order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2018, or until this Order is amended/rescinded, whichever comes first. Although this Order may be reviewed and amended on an annual basis, a review of this Order shall occur no later than August 1, 2017.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2012.

Keith Creagh, Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this Order.

Timothy L. Nichols
Chairperson

Deb Whipple
Executive Secretary