JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

August 20, 2007

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes (FO-206) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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:

We are proposing several changes to this order including two removals and one change to the beginning of the season for one lake. We recommend the removal of the special walleye size limit and possession limit restrictions for Stager Lake in Iron County (T41N, R32W, S5) and implementation of statewide walleye regulations for this waterbody. Applying statewide walleye size and possession limits on this lake should allow the bluegill and other forage fish populations to rebound as well as provide opportunities for anglers to harvest walleye.

We also recommend removing the current prohibition on walleye harvest from Long Lake in Kent County. It is apparent that the walleye in Long Lake are not surviving due to natural causes, disregard for the no-possession restriction, or a combination of the two. Current regulations are not having the desired effect on this lake, and the decision has been made to discontinue them. Walleye stocking also will be discontinued in favor of stocking in a more suitable location.

We propose a change to the opening date on Williams Lake in Barry County from April 1 (current regulation) to the last Saturday in April. Williams Lake is managed as a no kill lake to create a quality fishing experience. The language in the current order is somewhat vague and is misinterpreted to mean that all species of fish are open to angling on April 1, thereby superseding opening dates for other species. The current regulation is intended to provide a quality fishing experience, not additional angling opportunities for all species such as early season catch-and-release bass fishing. Changing the opening date to the last Saturday in April should eliminate any confusion regarding opening dates.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
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Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information at the September 2007 Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 4, 2007 calendar and is eligible for approval on October 11, 2007.

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

William E. Moritz, Chief
Wildlife Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

FO-206.08

ORDER

(Under the authority of Act 451
of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended)

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES

Under the authority of sections 41101 through 41105 of Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.41101 through 324.41105 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 11, 2007, ordered that for a period of five years the following special regulations are established for the listed lakes:

ALGER COUNTY:

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island

1. Possession Limits:

(a) Smallmouth bass: 0
(b) Northern pike: 1
(c) All other species: 5 fish in any combination

2. Minimum size for northern pike is 30 inches.
3. Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food, or scented material at any time on the shore or water.
4. No spearing permitted.

BARRY COUNTY:

Thornapple Lake

1. Muskellunge: Minimum size: 50 inches

Williams Lake

1. Possession Limit: 0. All fish must be immediately returned to the water without injury.
2. Open Season: Last Saturday in April – December 15.

CASS COUNTY:

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24)

1. Largemouth bass: minimum size 10 inches.

Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35)

1. Largemouth bass: minimum size 10 inches.

CRAWFORD COUNTY:

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23)

1. Season: Open to fishing only from June 15 - August 31. Closed to fishing the rest of the year.
2. Possession Limit: 0. All fish must be immediately returned to the water without injury.
3. It shall be unlawful to fish with anything other than artificial lures.

4. It shall be unlawful to possess live bait either on the waters of or on the shore of Wakeley Lake.

DICKINSON COUNTY:

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28-29W):

1. Possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 0 from the last Saturday in May - June 20.

IONIA COUNTY

Woodward Lake (T8N, R6W, S8)

1. Possession limit for walleye is 0.

IRON COUNTY

Ottawa Lake

1. Possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 0.

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36):

1. Possession limit for walleye is 0.

LEELANAU COUNTY:

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32)

1. Artificial lures only: It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.
2. For largemouth and smallmouth bass:

(a) Possession limit: 1 fish
(b) Minimum size limit: 18 inches

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9):

1. Artificial lures only: It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.

LUCE COUNTY:

Twin Lakes (T45N, R10W, S10,11)

1. For largemouth and smallmouth bass:

(a) Possession limit: 1 fish
(b) Minimum size limit: 18 inches

MARQUETTE COUNTY:

Deer Lake Basin (T48N, R27W), Carp River downstream from M-28 (T47N, R27W, S4) and all other tributaries to Deer Lake Basin

1. Possession limit: 0. All fish caught must be immediately returned to the water without injury.
2. Artificial lures only may be used. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food, or scented material at any time on the shore or water.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8) for largemouth and smallmouth bass:

1. Possession limit: 1 fish
2. Minimum size limit: 18 inches

MONTMORENCY COUNTY:

North and South Blue and Robarge (Pike) Lakes

1. Open Season: Last Saturday in April - September 30.
2. Possession Limit: 0. All fish caught must be immediately returned to the water without injury.

3. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.

NEWAYGO COUNTY:

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19):

1. Possession limit for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and all bullheads is 0.

Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1):

1. Possession limit for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and all bullheads is 0.

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24):

1. Possession limit for walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and all bullheads is 0.

OGEMAW COUNTY:

Jewett Lake (Rifle River Recreation Area)

1. In addition to a valid Michigan fishing license, anglers must possess a valid Jewett Lake fishing permit.
2. Catch and release only (0 bag limit).
3. Artificial lures only.
4. Season: May 15 – September 30.

ONTONAGON COUNTY:

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21,22)

1. Statewide seasons apply.
2. All caught smallmouth bass must be immediately returned to the water without injury.
3. Possession of any smallmouth bass, regardless of where taken, is prohibited on this lake.
4. For all other species, the daily possession and size limit shall be in accordance with statewide regulations.
5. Method of take will be with hook and line, artificial lures only. Artificial lures are construed to include any form of commonly accepted fishing lure. Live, dead or preserved bait or organic food substance of any type may not be used or possessed.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29)

1. Largemouth bass: Minimum size 10 inches

Sand Lake (T6S, R10W, S27, 34):

1. Flathead catfish: Possession limit, 0.

Big Pleasant Lake

1. Largemouth bass: Minimum size 10 inches

WASHTENAW COUNTY:

Horseshoe Lake

1. Largemouth bass: Possession limit 1; minimum size 14 inches
2. Northern pike: Possession limit 1; minimum size 24 inches
3. Sunfish: Possession limit 10; no minimum size

(Sunfish includes bluegill; pumpkinseed, redear, and green sunfish; black and white crappies; warmouth bass; and rock bass).

This order is assigned number FO-206.08, and is titled "Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes" effective April 1, 2005 and assigned number FO-206.05

This order shall take effect April 1, 2008, and shall remain effective through March 31, 2013.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2007.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary