JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

August 18, 2008

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 recommending one regulation change for Echo and Duck Lakes located on Grand Island, Alger County. These two lakes have been under special harvest regulations for a considerable length of time. The fish communities, with the exception of smallmouth bass, have not responded favorably to those regulations. Since the special regulations have not produced the desired results, we are recommending a change back to standard statewide regulations for all species except smallmouth bass.

The special regulations on smallmouth bass have been effective and are continuing to provide an outstanding fishery. Growth rates for this species are good and the fish are in excellent condition. These are small lakes, though, and the smallmouth would be easily over-fished if harvest was allowed. Therefore, maintaining the catch and release regulation will continue to support this popular fishery for years to come.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 373-2329

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information at the September 2008 Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 2, 2008 calendar and is eligible for approval on October 9, 2008.

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Doug Reeves, Acting 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-206.09

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 9, 2008, 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 limit for smallmouth bass is 0.

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-206.09, and is entitled "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, 2008, and assigned number FO-206.08.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2009, and shall remain effective through March 31, 2014.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2008.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary