STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE 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:

Six lakes are being recommended for addition to this order so special regulations on smallmouth and largemouth bass can be enacted. An 18-inch minimum size limit and possession limit of one bass is being proposed for Fire Lake (Iron County) and Indian Lake (Iron County) where bass numbers have decreased over time. For Cub Lake (Kalkaska County), Big Bass Lake (Lake County), Arbutus Lake and Spider Lake (Grand Traverse County), managers are recommending a reduction from the statewide 14-inch minimum size limit on bass to 10 inches.

Recent lake surveys and angler reports in Fire Lake and Indian Lake indicate a notable reduction of both smallmouth and largemouth bass populations compared with past survey data. Angler harvest of bass occurs mainly during the open water hook-and-line fishery and appears to have had an adverse effect on bass size structure in these lakes. Historical survey results over the past 10 years indicate notable declines in the number of legal size smallmouth bass and largemouth bass in these waters. Both Indian Lake and Fire Lake have large numbers of centrarchids and a healthy predator population is necessary to keep the panfish from becoming overabundant and dominating these lakes. Since bass are one of the predominant centrarchid predator fish in these lakes, it is important to protect them. The goal of the regulation change is to stockpile larger bass, in an attempt to prevent an imbalance in the fishery from occurring. An ancillary benefit for anglers is that these lakes will eventually support larger bass.

Recent surveys conducted on Cub Lake, Big Bass Lake, Arbutus Lake, and Spider Lake indicate that these waters support large bass populations, however, growth rates are well below state

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average and competition for food may be limiting these fish from reaching the 14-inch minimum size limit. Therefore, anglers do not have the ability to harvest bass due to the failure of the bass to attain the appropriate size for harvest. Historical survey information indicates that bass growth rates have not been good in these waters so a different management scheme is planned for implementation. Research indicates that allowing the harvest of smaller bass will not have much of an effect on the bass population, especially the size structure, because not enough will be removed to make a difference. Most bass anglers do not harvest bass and prefer to practice catch and release; however, these waters have historically produced smaller bass so opening up harvest will provide another opportunity for anglers. Allowing anglers to harvest smaller bass in these systems is not believed to pose any threat to the bass populations there.

Each regulation proposal has support of either local angling groups or lake associations. Riparian land owners have contacted the Crystal Falls office recently with concerns about bass overharvest in Fire Lake and support the proposed regulation change. In late October 2008, these regulation proposals were provided to the local newspaper (Iron County Reporter and Shoppers Guide) for feedback from the area angling community. As of May 2009, no negative responses have been received. Additionally, several letters of support have been received from Fire Lake residents supporting this action and the Indian Lake Association has submitted a petition supporting this action. Management personnel from the Cadillac office have discussed the proposed regulation changes for Big Bass Lake, Arbutus Lake, and Spider Lake and each has indicated their support for the change. Cub Lake, however, has no association so discussions were conducted with the local township board and several riparian land owners who have expressed their support for the proposed changes.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration at the September 10, 2009, Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August 2009 calendar and is eligible for approval on October 8, 2009.

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

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

Gary Hagler, Chief For
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES

By authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources by sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994, PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 8, 2009, 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. Smallmouth bass:
(a) Possession Limit: (0).

BARRY COUNTY
Thornapple Lake
1. Muskellunge:
(a) Minimum size: 50 inches.

Williams Lake
1. Possession limit: (0). Catch and release only.
2. Season: Last Saturday in April – December 15.

CASS COUNTY
Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24)
1. Largemouth bass:
(a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35)
1. Largemouth bass:
(a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

CRAWFORD COUNTY
Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23)
1. Gear Restrictions: 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. Season: June 15 - August 31.
3. Possession limit: (0). Catch and release only.

DICKINSON COUNTY
Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28-29W)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
(a) Possession limit: (0) from Last Saturday in May - June 20.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ARBUTUS LAKE

1. **LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:**
(a) **MINIMUM SIZE: 10 INCHES.**

SPIDER LAKE (T26N, R10W, S9,10)
1. **LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:**
(a) **MINIMUM SIZE: 10 INCHES**

IONIA COUNTY
Woodward Lake (T8N, R6W, S8)
1. Walleye:
(a) Possession limit: (0).

IRON COUNTY
FIRE LAKE
1. LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:
(A) POSSESSION LIMIT: (1).
(B) MINIMUM SIZE: 18 INCHES

INDIAN LAKE
1. LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:
(A) POSSESSION LIMIT: (1).
(B) MINIMUM SIZE: 18 INCHES.

Ottawa Lake
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
(a) Possession limit: (0).

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36)
1. Walleye:
(a) Possession limit: (0).

KALKASKA COUNTY
CUB LAKE (T27N, R5W, S19)
1. LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:
(A) MINIMUM SIZE: 10 INCHES.

LAKE COUNTY
BIG BASS LAKE (T20N, R14W, S34)
1. LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS:
(A) MINIMUM SIZE: 10 INCHES.

LEELANAU COUNTY
North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32)
1. Gear Restrictions: 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. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:

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

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9)
1. Gear Restrictions: 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. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:

(a) Possession limit: (1).

(b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

MARQUETTE COUNTY

Deer Lake Basin (T48N, R27W, S27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34), Carp River downstream from M-28 (T47N, R27W, S4) and all other tributaries to Deer Lake Basin

1. Gear Restrictions: 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. Possession limit: (0). Catch and release only.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:

(a) Possession limit: (1).

(b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

MONTMORENCY COUNTY

North and South Blue and Robarge (Pike) Lakes

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
2. Season: Last Saturday in April - September 30.
3. Possession limit: (0). Catch and release only.

NEWAYGO COUNTY

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:

(a) Possession limit: (0).

Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:

(a) Possession limit: (0).

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:

(a) Possession limit: (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. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
3. Season: May 15 – September 30.
4. Possession limit: (0). Catch and release only.

ONTONAGON COUNTY

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

1. Gear Restrictions: 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. Smallmouth bass:
(a) Possession limit: (0).

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29)
1. Largemouth bass:
(a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

Sand Lake (T6S, R10W, S27, 34)
1. Flathead catfish:
(a) Possession limit: (0).

Big Pleasant Lake
1. Largemouth bass:
(a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Horseshoe Lake
1. Largemouth bass:
(a) Possession limit: (1).
2. Northern pike:
(a) Possession limit: (1).
3. Bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, green sunfish, black and white crappies, warmouth bass, and rock bass:
(a) Possession limit: (10).

This order shall be assigned number FO-206.10, 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-201.08.

This order shall take effect April 1, 2010, and shall remain effective through March 31, 2015.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary