

FO-218.11

GEAR RESTRICTIONS FOR FISHING

By authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment by sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994 PA 451, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment on September 9, 2010 ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, the following regulations are established:

1. In all waters of the State it shall be unlawful to:
 - a. Have a weight permanently and/or rigidly attached to a multi-pointed hook; or
 - b. Have a weight suspended from a multi-pointed hook; or
 - c. Retain any fish not hooked in the mouth; or
 - d. Fail to immediately return to the water a fish not hooked in the mouth.

2. On all streams, including tributaries to the Great Lakes except for the St. Marys, St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, it shall be unlawful to use the following gear during the period August 1 – May 31:
 - a. Multi-pointed hooks exceeding 3/8 inch between point and shank and/or single pointed hooks exceeding 1/2 inch between point and shank; or
 - b. Lures exceeding one ounce in weight.

The intent of this regulation is to allow the baited hook or the lure to suspend freely in the water, allowing the fish to take the hook or lure in its mouth.

3. In a river, stream, and drowned river mouth lake* it shall be unlawful to:
 - a. Have a weight suspended below any hook unless the hook is on an un-weighted line which is at least 3 inches long.

*Drowned river mouth lakes listed by county: **Allegan:** Kalamazoo River and Silver Lake; **Benzie:** Betsie Lake; **Manistee:** Arcadia Lake, Manistee Lake, and Portage Lake; **Mason:** Pere Marquette Lake; **Muskegon:** Duck Lake, Mona Lake, Muskegon Lake, and White Lake; **Oceana:** Pentwater Lake, Silver Lake, and Stony Lake; **Ottawa:** Macatawa Lake and Pigeon Lake.

This order shall be assigned number FO-218.11, and is entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing," effective April 1, 2006, and assigned number FO-218.06.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2011. This order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2016 or until this order is amended/rescinded, whichever comes first.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, 2015.