JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Special Muskellunge and Northern Pike Regulations (FO-220)
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:

The three waters proposed for removal from this order are: Cornwall Impoundment (Cheboygan County), West Twin Lake (Montmorency County), and Otsego Lake (Otsego County). The spearing ban that currently exists on these lakes is a product of past tiger muskellunge stocking efforts, which have long since terminated.

Cornwall Impoundment no longer has muskellunge or northern pike in it, thus the spearing ban for this lake is currently not needed. West Twin Lake has a self-sustaining northern pike population and additional spearing effort and angler hours would not hurt this population, since the lake is relatively large (1000+ acres). Otsego Lake has a self-sustaining northern pike population which is enhanced by a local spawning marsh and DNR/Sportsman's Club efforts. This lake is large (2000 acres) and can support additional harvest from spearing. Pure bred muskellunge stocking efforts have also been initiated at Otsego Lake and will be attractive to some darkhouse anglers in the future.

It is anticipated that the proposed regulation changes will not have any negative effect on the local fish communities. Management unit personnel have presented these regulation changes to local sportsman groups who have not opposed the changes. Law Enforcement Division has indicated their support for these regulation changes which will remove three spearing exceptions from the list.

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

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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 FR
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

ORDER

SPECIAL MUSKELLUNGE AND NORTHERN PIKE REGULATIONS

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 fishing regulations are established for the waters listed in the following table as noted:

It shall be unlawful to fish by any means other than hook and line, except that carp may be taken with a spear or bow and arrow from May 1 - August 15 and northern pike may be speared through the ice on waters as footnoted. Other regulations apply as footnoted.

County	Lake
Allegan	Osterhout
Alpena	Fletcher Floodwaters
Barry	Fish*
	Thornapple** (from McKeown Road T3N, R8W, S27 to Barger Road T3N, R7W, S20)
Cheboygan	~~Cornwall Impoundment~~
	Tower Pond+ (Note 1)
Chippewa	Caribou
Clare	Budd
Clinton	Ovid
Delta	Dana+
Iron	Brule+
	Cable*
	Chicagon+
	Chief Edwards+
	Emily
	Paint+
	Paint Pd+ (Brule Is. Imp.)
	Porter*
	Stanley
	Violet+
Kent	Campeau
	Murray
Keweenaw	Gratiot Lake*
Lapeer	Nepessing
Lenawee	Lake Hudson**
Livingston	Whitmore
	Woodland
Mackinac	Brevort
Marquette	Fish*
Montmorency	Fletcher Floodwaters
	~~West Twin~~
Muskegon	Mona

Oakland	Heron
	Tipsico
Otsego	Big Bear
	~~Otsego~~
Ottawa	Lake Macatawa
St. Joseph	Long
Schoolcraft	Big Bass*
	Grassy*
	McKeever*
Van Buren	Bankson**
	Brownwood**
	Round**
Washtenaw	Whitmore

Note 1 – Tower Pond, Cheboygan County is not open to carp spearing.
+ Northern pike may be speared through the ice December 1 – March 15.
* Minimum size limit on northern pike is 30".
** The season for northern pike and muskellunge is the last Saturday in April - November 30.

This order shall be assigned number FO-220.10, and is entitled "Special Muskellunge and Northern Pike Regulations."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Special Muskellunge and Northern Pike Regulations," effective November 6, 2008, and assigned number FO-220.08.

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