



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

October 6, 2008

Resubmitted: October 13, 2008

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

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

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:

Recently, Michigan law was amended to provide authority to the Department to set spearing regulations. We are proposing two changes to this order. First, the spearing season through the ice for northern pike and muskellunge will be extended from the existing season of January - February to a season of December 1 - March 15 only on waters as indicated in the order. This change will result in consistency between this order and other waters of the state covered in FO-219.

Second, this order rescinds FO-230.03, which previously allowed anglers to harvest northern pike through the ice in January and February with spears on Tower Pond in Cheboygan County. The Tower Pond northern pike spearing regulation has been added and will now be part of this order. However, the carp spearing season will not be applicable to Tower Pond. In order to provide additional angling opportunities as soon as possible, we are recommending these changes be made effective immediately. The Michigan Darkhouse Angling Association supports these changes.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheattlake

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Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information and consideration at the October 9, 2008 Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's October 6, 2008 calendar and is eligible for approval on November 6, 2008. We are recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.



Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division



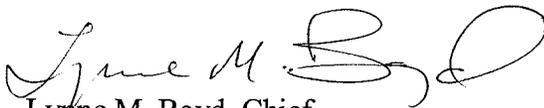
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



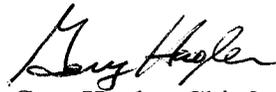
David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



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



Gary Hagler, Chief
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, MCL 324.41105 and section 48703 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48703, it is ordered that effective, November 6, 2008, 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.

<u>County</u>	<u>Lake</u>
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-220.08 and is entitled “Special Muskellunge and Northern Pike Regulations.”

This order supersedes the order entitled “Special Muskellunge and Northern Pike Regulations”, effective April 1, 2006, and assigned number FO-220.06.

This order rescinds the order entitled "Trout Streams Open to the Taking of Northern Pike Through the Ice" effective September 16, 2002, and assigned number FO-230.03.

This order shall take immediate effect and shall remain effective through March 31, 2013.

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