STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:	July 15, 2013
RESUBMITTED:	August 12, 2013
RESUBMITTED:	September 16, 2013
LATE MEMO:	October 21, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.14
Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries Order 206 administers special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes which are generally more protective than the general regulations. These regulatory options are necessary when trying to improve or enhance sport fish populations in specific waters. Special regulations are also necessary to help protect important brood sources or study fish from harvest. There are several waters being recommended for addition to this Order along with one removal.

In order to improve protection of valuable muskellunge populations, we are proposing to add two new waters to the Order to protect muskellunge. Big Bear Lake (Otsego County) was recently designated as a Great Lakes strain muskellunge broodstock lake and has received nearly 5,000 fall fingerling muskellunge over the previous two years. It is necessary to protect broodstock sources because fish living within these lakes are utilized as a source of gametes for Michigan's Great Lake strain muskellunge rearing program. Therefore, the Department recommends a 50-inch minimum size limit and a restricted harvest season from the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive be placed on Big Bear Lake. This recommendation is consistent with regulations currently in effect on Thornapple Lake (Barry County), the other Great Lake strain muskellunge broodstock lake. Similarly, the Department recommends that Gun Lake (Barry County) be added to the Order with a 46-inch muskellunge minimum size limit. This recommendation will further protect a remnant population of Great Lakes strain muskellunge in Gun Lake that has not been supplemented by stocking. Exploitation of the population continues to be high for this popular fishery and a higher minimum size limit will assist in rebuilding this population.

Six waters were recently proposed for the 24 to 34-inch protected slot limit regulation for northern pike: Carney Lake (Dickinson County), Iron Lake (Iron County), Michigamme Reservoir (Iron County), Peavy Pond (Iron County), Schlatter Lake (Keweenaw County), and Sunset Lake (Iron County). Michigamme Reservoir, Peavy Pond, and Schlatter Lake are currently regulated under the no minimum size limit and five fish daily possession limit category and are proposed for the protected slot limit regulation. After considerable public comment, the Department recommends withdrawing these six lakes proposed for the protected slot limit. The Department plans to reengage the concerned stakeholders over the next six months to discuss appropriate lakes for the protected slot limit.

The Department proposes to remove one waterbody from this Order. Jewett Lake (Ogemaw County) has been regulated under special, restrictive regulations (fishing permit required to fish, artificial lures only, shortened fishing season, and no possession) for research purposes and recent survey information suggests the restrictive regulations have not improved the fishery. The research is completed and the Department proposes to remove the Jewett Lake restrictions. Last, one minor change to correct a typographical error is proposed; Ottawa Lake (Iron County) should become "Lake Ottawa (Iron County)".

The proposed modifications to this Order have been vetted through various public forums as part of Fisheries Division's annual regulation process. Twelve public meetings were conducted across the state this spring to discuss this year's regulation proposals. At the conclusion of the public meetings, the majority of stakeholders were either neutral or in support of these proposals. Additionally, Fisheries Division staff coordinated with local Law Enforcement staff for their input on these proposals and reported that law enforcement staff was in support of these changes.

Recommendation:

This Order was submitted for information at the August, September, and October Natural Resources Commission Meetings. This item appeared on the Department's July, August, and October calendars and may be eligible for approval on November 7, 2013.

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh, Director

Date

FISHERIES ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES
Order 206.14

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered that effective April 1, 2014, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

The following rules and regulations govern fishing in the waters as indicated below which differ from general statewide regulations listed in other Orders. These rules and regulations supersede all others governing fishing on the selected waters that in any way conflict.

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: zero (0).

ALLEGAN COUNTY

Pine Creek Flooding

1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

BARRY COUNTY

Gun Lake

1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown Rd. to Barger Rd.)

1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 50 inches.
   b. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.
2. Northern Pike:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake

1. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.
2. Season: last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive.

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.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Mullett Lake and Specific River Sections

1. Area included:
   - Mullett Lake proper
   - Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31).
   - Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River.
2. Daily possession limit for walleyes: three (3) walleyes per angler per day.
3. Season for harvest of walleyes: May 15 through March 15, inclusive.

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 through August 31.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

DICKINSON COUNTY

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28-29W)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Season: last Saturday in May through June 20, inclusive.
   b. Possession limit: zero (0).

GOGEBIC COUNTY

Lake Gogebic

1. Yellow Perch:
   a. Possession limit: twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) fish 12 inches or greater.

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.

IRON COUNTY

Fire Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

Indian Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

Lake Ottawa

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

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

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17,18,19, 30)
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

KALKASKA COUNTY
Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

KENT COUNTY
Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12,13,14)
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

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: one (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.

LENAWEE COUNTY
Lake Hudson
1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

LUCE COUNTY
Blind Sucker Flooding
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Bodi Lake
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Twin Lakes (T45N, R10W, S10,11)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (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: zero (0). Catch and release only.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

MONTCALM COUNTY

Townline Lake
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

MONTMORENCY COUNTY

North and South Blue and Robarge (Pike) Lakes
1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
2. Season: last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

NEWAYGO COUNTY

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19)
1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1)
1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24)
1. Walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

ONTONAGON COUNTY

Lake Gogebic
1. Yellow Perch:
   a. Possession limit: twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) fish 12 inches or greater.

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: zero (0).

OTSEGO COUNTY

Big Bear Lake

1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 50 inches.
   b. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

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: zero (0).

Big Pleasant Lake

1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Bankson Lake

1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Brownwood Lake

1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Round Lake

1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Horseshoe Lake

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

This Order shall be assigned number FO-206.14, 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," which became effective April 1, 2013, and is assigned number FO-206.13.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2014, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 7th day of November 2013.

Approved as to matters over which the Commission has authority.

J.R. Richardson, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh
Director