STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 17, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.15
Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and/or the Commission to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds.

Discussion and Background:

Several regulatory changes are proposed for this Order which governs special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. Five waters are proposed for removal, three are proposed for addition to the Order, and one lake is proposed for modification. An additional water was previously and inadvertently placed into the wrong county listing and the error has been corrected in this version. All waters proposed for removal from the Order will revert to the general statewide fishing regulations.

The following changes to are proposed:

The Department proposes to remove Bankson Lake (Van Buren County), Lake Brownwood (Van Buren County), and Round Lake (Van Buren County) from a more restrictive northern pike and muskellunge possession season. These lakes have had a shortened muskellunge season but this regulation is no longer necessary due to recent changes to the muskellunge possession limit in 2013.

The Department proposes to remove Sand Lake (St. Joseph County) which has a catfish possession limit restriction. Adult catfish were stocked into the lake as part of a study to address a stunted panfish problem. The experiment was not successful.

The Department proposes to remove Twin Lake (Luce County) to remove a possession limit restriction and to remove an 18-inch minimum size limit restriction on bass. The regulations are no longer justifiable since recent findings indicate that bass size structure did not increase which was the goal of the restricted possession limit and higher size limit.

The Department proposes to add East Twin Lake (Ogemaw County) and Long Lake (Benzie County) to the list where up to 5 northern pike with only 1 greater than 24 inches may be possessed in the daily possession limit. Waters added to this list have high abundances of small northern pike. These lakes have abundant northern pike spawning habitat and lack the deep water refuge which allow northern pike to survive longer and reach larger sizes.

The Department proposes to remove special regulations on Robarge (Pike) Lake in Montmorency County. The artificial lure only and possession limit restriction are no longer appropriate for this lake. The Department proposes adding this lake to the list of waters where up to 5 northern pike with only 1 greater than 24 inches may be kept in daily possession limit. Originally, when this property was acquired by the state, special fishing regulations were established to protect what was believed to be an unfished population. However, recent survey information indicates that Robarge Lake has an unremarkable fish community and that special regulations are not appropriate.

Issue Pros and Cons
Removal of waters from this section will result in defaulting back to the general statewide regulations and make regulations simpler. Special regulations like those that restrict usage of bait or restrict harvest of a certain species are regulations implemented to improve or enhance the fishery. Some anglers seek waters with special regulations in search for a higher quality fishing opportunity and when the regulations do not result in better fishing angler satisfaction can be reduced. Therefore, the Department recommends removing special regulations or exceptions which are no longer valid or appropriate.

Biological
Each proposed regulation change is biologically based. Special regulations are a tool that fishery managers may use in an effort to improve a fish community. In the right situation, special regulations can help develop high quality fisheries. Special regulations are also used by managers to allow harvest of fish that may not grow large enough to attain the legal size on some waters where growth is limited or inhibited by some degree.

Social
Muskellunge anglers may be concerned with the potential to increase the harvest season on three lakes.

Economic
The Department does not expect the proposed changes to have any significant budgetary or personnel implications.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appears on the Department's March calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 9, 2015.

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Fisheries Division

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Law Enforcement Division

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FISHERIES ORDER

Special Fishing Regulations For Coolwater Species on Select Lakes
Order 206.15

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 9, 2015, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

The following special regulations are in effect for coolwater species on the selected waters and supersede those regulations that in any way conflict with those listed below:

Alcona County

Badger Lake (T28N, R3E, S35): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Alger County

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island: the possession limit for smallmouth bass is zero (0).

16 Mile Lake, Nawakwa Lake, and Trout Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Allegan County

Pine Creek Flooding: protected slot limit on northern pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Antrim County

Beals Lake, Benway Lake, Ellsworth Lake, Hanley Lake, Scotts Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Wilson Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Baraga County

Vermillac (Worm) Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Barry County

Gun Lake: the minimum size limit for muskellunge is 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown road to Barger road): the minimum size limit for muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive. The possession season for northern pike shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0).

Benzie County

Long Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Calhoun County

Harts Lake (T2S, R8W, S7, 18): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Cass County

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24) and Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35): the minimum size limit on largemouth bass is 10 inches.

Charlevoix County

Deer Lake, Fox Lake, Geneserath Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Cheboygan County

Mullett Lake and specific river sections including: Mullet Lake proper, Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31), and Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River: the possession season for walleye shall be May 15 through March 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit for walleyes is three (3).

Black River upstream of Tower Dam (includes Tower Pond) and tributary streams only, Silver Lake (T33N, R3W, S11, 12), and Wildwood Lake (T33N, R2W, S21): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Chippewa County

Frenchman Lake (T44N, R6W, S23, 25, 26) and Trout (Carp) Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Clare County

Eight Point Lake and Lake Thirteen: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Crawford County

Jones Lake (T28N, R2W, S30, 31): the fishing season shall be June 1 through September 30, inclusive. Tackle: 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. Daily possession limit is zero (0).

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23): the fishing season shall be June 15 through August 31, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Big Creek Impoundment (T28N, R1W, S24, 25), River Lake (T28N, R2W, S30), and Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties, T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Delta County

Chicago Lake, Carr Lake, Hamilton Lakes, Lyman Lake, and Escanaba River upstream from first dam at US-2: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the

daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Dickinson County

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28 - 29W): the fishing season for largemouth and smallmouth bass shall be from the last Saturday in May through June 20, inclusive. The daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is zero (0).

Sawyer Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Emmet County

French Farm Lake Flooding and O'Neal Lake Flooding: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Gladwin County

Lake Lancer: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Gogebic County

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for yellow perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) yellow perch 12 inches or greater.

Cisco Lake, Thousand Island Lake, Lindsley Lake, Poor Lake, Big African Lake, Little African Lake, Clearwater Lake, East Bay Lake, Fishhawk Lake, Indian Lake, Morley Lake, Record Lake, and Chaney Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Grand Traverse County

Arbutus Lake and Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9, 10): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 10 inches.

Boardman Lake, Brown Bridge Pond, and Lake Dubonnet: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Houghton County

Rice Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Iron County

Fire Lake and Indian Lake: the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is one (1).

Lake Ottawa: the daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is zero (0).

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36): the daily possession limit for walleye is zero (0).

Bone Lake, Buck Lake, Deer River, Hemlock Falls Reservoir, Indian Lake, Lake St. Kathryn, Michigamme Falls Reservoir, Michigamme Reservoir, Net River, Net River Wide Waters, Peavy Pond, Runkle Lake, and Winslow Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Kalamazoo County

Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17, 18, 19, 30): protected slot limit on northern pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Kalkaska County

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 10 inches.

Kent County

Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12, 13, 14): protected slot limit on northern pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Keweenaw County

Schlatter Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Lake County

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 10 inches.

Leelanau County

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is one (1). Tackle: 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.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9): Tackle: 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. No size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Lenawee County

Lake Hudson: the possession season for northern pike and muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Luce County

Blind Sucker Flooding and Bodi Lake: protected slot limit on northern pike from 24 – 34 inches.

~~**Twin Lakes** (T45N, R10W, S10, 11): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is one (1).~~

East Lake and Muskallonge Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Mackinac County

East Lake, Millecoquins Lake, and South Manistique Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Manistee County

Bar Lake and Chief Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

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: the daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8): the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is one (1).

Bass (East) Lake, Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11), Dead River Storage Basin, Engman Lake, Middle Branch Escanaba River, Big West Branch Escanaba River, Escanaba River Mainstream downstream to Boney Falls Basin (except Greenwood, Schweitzer and Cataract Reservoirs), Shag (Big) Lake, and Witch Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Mason County

Hackert (Crystal) Lake (T18N, R17W, S2, 3)~~and **Horsehead Lake**~~: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Mecosta County

Haymarsh Lake **and Horsehead Lake**: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Menominee County

Westman Impoundment (including North and Hayward Lakes): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Missaukee County

Missaukee Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Montcalm County

Townline Lake: protected slot limit on northern pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Montmorency County

North and South Blue Lakes~~and Robarge (Pike) Lake~~: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only.

Black River and tributary streams only, East Town Corner Lake, Pug Lakes (T31N, R2E, S4, 5), **Robarge (Pike) Lake**, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Muskegon County

Big Blue Lake (T12N, R16W, S2, 3, 4): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Newaygo County

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19) and Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead.

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead.

Diamond Lake, Nichols Lake, and Ryerson (Long) Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Oakland County

Upper Bushman Lake (T4N, R9E, S3): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Oceana County

Round (Wykoff) Lake and Silver Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Ogemaw County

East Twin Lake and Lake Ogemaw: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Ontonagon County

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for yellow perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) yellow perch 12 inches or greater.

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21, 22): the daily possession limit for smallmouth bass is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Osceola County

Diamond Lake, Lake Miramichi, Rose Lake, and Wells Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Oscoda County

Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Otsego County

Big Bear Lake: the minimum size limit for muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Presque Isle County

Ocqueoc River and tributary streams, all lakes of the Ocqueoc River watershed including Ann, Bullhead, Ella, Emma, Ferdelman, Gorman, Horseshoe, Lost, Louise, Lower and Upper Barnhart, May, McIntosh, Moore, Mud, Nettie, and Ocqueoc, the Black River and tributary streams, and the following lakes of the Black River watershed: Francis Lake, Tomahawk Flooding, East Town Corner Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Roscommon County

Backus Creek from the stream mouth upstream, including all tributaries, Little Mud Lake Flooding, Backus Creek Flooding, and Backus Lake Flooding, Cut River from the river mouth at Houghton Lake upstream to CO 100 just downstream of Higgins Lake, Houghton Lake, and Lake St. Helen: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

Schoolcraft County

Boot Lake, Crooked Lake, Kennedy Lake, Seney Wildlife Refuge Ponds, Stanley Lake, and Thunder Lake: no size limit on northern pike and up to five (5) northern pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches in combination with largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and flathead catfish.

St. Joseph County

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29) and Big Pleasant Lake: the minimum size limit on largemouth bass is 10 inches.

~~Sand Lake (T5S, R10W, S27, 34) the daily possession limit on flathead catfish is zero (0).~~

~~Van Buren County~~

~~Bankson Lake, Brownwood Lake, and Round Lake: the possession season for northern pike and muskellunge shall be from the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.~~

Washtenaw County

Horseshoe Lake: the daily possession limit for largemouth bass and northern pike is one (1). The daily possession limit for bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, green sunfish, black and white crappies, warmouth, and rock bass in combination is ten (10).

Huron River, from the Mast Road Bridge in the Village of Dexter (T1S, R5E, S32) downstream to the Delhi Road Bridge (T2S, R5E, S2): the daily possession limit of largemouth and smallmouth bass is zero (0)

This Order shall be assigned number FO-206.15, 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, 2014, and is assigned number FO-206.14.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 19 day of March, 2015.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

John Matonich, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh
Director