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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 12, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Hook and Line Restrictions during Walleye Spawning Runs on the
Saginaw River and its Tributaries (FO-226)
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:

This order bans the use of artificial lures, but allows bait fishing with single hooks. It was established to protect spawning populations of northern pike, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, and walleye in locations where artificial lures have been used to unlawfully foul hook fish. This gear restriction has been in effect for several years and anglers have been supportive of the gear restrictions. Without the gear restrictions in place, conservation officers believe they will lose an important law enforcement tool to protect susceptible spawning fish. Prior to implementation of these regulations, conservation officers received numerous complaints from citizens and had to spend many hours on surveillance in these areas.

Recommendation:

We recommend renewing this order with minor technical changes only. These regulations limit the types of gear allowed on several streams where migrating walleye need added protection from angling activities. These regulations have been an effective law enforcement tool and they should be continued.

Hook and Line Restrictions during Walleye Spawning Runs on the Saginaw River
and its Tributaries (FO-226)

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July 12, 2010

This order is being submitted for information at the August 12, 2010 Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's July 2010 calendar and may be eligible for approval on September 9, 2010.

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Mindy Koch, Deputy Director
Resource Management

Frank Ruswick, Deputy Director
Stewardship

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

ORDER

HOOK AND LINE RESTRICTIONS DURING WALLEYE SPAWNING RUNS ON THE SAGINAW RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

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 ~~of~~ five years, the following regulations are established on the waters listed:

During the period from March 16 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April:

1. It shall be unlawful to fish with artificial baits or minnows, except that minnows may be used on the Saginaw River and some other designated streams;
2. Other natural baits may be fished only on single pointed hooks not more than 1/2 inch between the point and shank;
3. Weights may not be rigidly attached to hooks;
4. No hook may be attached to the line between any weight and the rod except on an unweighted dropper line at least 3 inches long;
5. No beads, spinners or reflectors may be attached to the line within 6 inches of any hook.

Bay County: Saginaw River and tributaries, except that minnows may be used on the Saginaw River. Kawkawlin River downstream from Euclid Avenue (T14N, R5E, S5) except that minnows may be used on the Kawkawlin River.

Saginaw County: Saginaw, Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, Bad, Cass and Flint Rivers and all respective tributaries, except that minnows may be used on the Saginaw River, Swan Creek and tributaries, and the Bad River and tributaries upstream from the confluence with Pickerel Creek (T10N, R3E, S4).

Midland County: Tittabawassee River downstream from Sanford Dam (T15N, R1W, S24) and Salt, Chippewa, and Pine Rivers and all respective tributaries.

Genesee County: Flint River downstream from Holloway Dam and all respective tributaries (T8N, R8E, S11), except that minnows may be used upstream of Hamilton Street Dam in the City of Flint and all respective tributaries (T7N, R7E, S7).

This order shall be assigned number FO-226.11, and is entitled "Hook and Line Restrictions during Walleye Spawning Runs on the Saginaw River and its Tributaries."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Hook and Line Restrictions during Walleye Spawning Runs on the Saginaw River and its Tributaries," effective April 1, 2006, and assigned number FO-226.06.

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.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2010.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Timothy L. Nichols
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary