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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Spawning Closures (Formerly FO-204)  
Fisheries Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2014  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

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

Discussion and Background:

The Beaver Lake Pike Marsh in Alpena County has been closed to fishing when in operation to protect small spring fingerling northern pike. The small 2 acre marsh operated from 1979 through 2003 to improve the northern pike population in Beaver Lake. A detailed Status of the Fishery Resource Report (SFR 2010-107) was written recently which indicated that operation of the pike marsh did not substantially improve populations of northern pike in Beaver Lake. Given the results of the survey, there is no longer a viable biological reason to maintain the pike marsh operation. There is also no reason to keep the Beaver Lake Pike Marsh on the spawning closures list to close the fishing season during pike marsh operation. Removing this water from the spawning closure list will remove an unnecessary regulation exception.

*Issue Pros and Cons*

Removing the Beaver Lake Pike Marsh from the list will result in simpler fishing regulations. There are no cons to report.

*Biological*

Northern pike are native to Beaver Lake, but are not common. Operation of the rearing marsh for over 3 decades did not substantially improve populations of pike. The current management prescription for Beaver Lake calls for discontinuation of pike fingerling stocking at the marsh. The MDNR has not raised pike fingerlings for a number of years now. Limited numbers of pike will be naturally produced in the system but densities should remain low. See Michigan Department of Natural Resources Status of the Fishery Report 2010-107 for further information.

*Social*

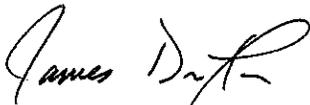
There is no anticipated social issue given the pike marsh has not been in operation for over 11 years.

*Economic*

The Department does not expect the proposed change 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 August 28 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 9, 2014.



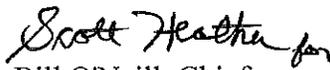
James Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division



Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



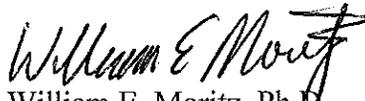
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



Bill O'Neill, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



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

# FISHERIES CONSERVATION ORDER

## Amendment No. 2 of 2014

By authority conferred on the Director and/or the Natural Resources Commission by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered that effective April 1, 2015, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### 4.1 Spawning closures. (Formerly FO-204)

Sec. 4.1 (1) The following stream sections are closed to fishing as indicated below to protect concentrations of spawning fish:

County	Area Closed	Closure Time
Alger	Rock River - between dam and its downstream - most foot bridge located downstream from M-28 (T47N, R21W, S15)	April 1 – June 30
Allegan	Swan Creek – from mouth upstream to Diversion Dam ("The Tubes"; T2N, R14W, S9)	September 1 – November 30
Alpena	<del>Beaver Lake Pike Marsh (T30N, R5E, S35)</del>	<del>Whenever marsh is in operation</del>
Antrim	Intermediate River from Bellaire Dam to Highway M-88 Bridge	April 1 – May 14
Arenac, Bay	Pine River – upstream from State Road (T18N, R5E, S5)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Arenac, Bay	Saganing Creek – upstream from State Road (T18N, R5E, S30)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Baraga	Sturgeon River – from the Prickett Dam downstream to mouth of Clear Creek (T50N, R35W, S12)	April 1 – June 30
Bay	Kawkawlin River and all tributaries upstream from Euclid Avenue (T14N, R5E, S6)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Benzie	Betsie River from the Betsie Valley Trail Bridge (former RR trestle bridge) west into Betsie Bay to a line between the westernmost dock of the Northstar Marina and the westernmost dock of the East Shore Marina.	Year-round until further notice
Benzie	Platte River from US-31 bridge at Veteran's Park downstream to Platte Lake	January 1 – March 31
Benzie	Platte River within 300 feet of the upper (hatchery) weir infrastructure	Whenever weir is in place
Benzie	Platte River within 300 feet of the lower weir infrastructure	Whenever weir is in place
Benzie	Betsie River – No fishing within 100 feet upstream and downstream from the lamprey barrier and fish passage facility (T25N, R15W, S2)	Year-round

Charlevoix	Medusa Creek – Tributary to Lake Michigan (T34N, R8W, S28) and including an area of Lake Michigan in a radius of 100 feet from the mouth of Medusa Creek	Whenever weir is in place
Cheboygan	Black River - from Kleber Dam downstream to Red Bridge (T35N, R1E, S5), it shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any species of fish	April 1 - June 15
Cheboygan	Lower Black River from Alverno Dam downstream to Mograin Bridge (T37N, R1W, S26)	April 1 – May 14
Cheboygan	Douglas Lake Pike Marsh (T37N, R3W, S8)	Whenever marsh is in operation
Chippewa	Potaganissing River from Potagannising Dam downstream to Maxton Road (T42N, R6E, S15)	March 16 – May 14
Delta	Rapid River Borrow Pit (T41N, R21W, S34)	Year-round
Grand Traverse	Boardman River within 300 feet upstream or downstream of weir in Traverse City	Whenever weir is in place
Iosco	East Branch Au Gres River – between DNR lamprey weir and Legget Road (T21N, R6E, S10)	December 1 – day before last Saturday in April
Iosco	Au Sable River – All that portion below the Foote Dam including the apron to 175 feet downstream from the dam	Year-round
Iosco	Au Gres River from a point 50 feet upstream from the Allen (Cox) Road Bridge to 500 feet downstream (T21N, R6E, S31 & 32)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Mackinac	Three Lake Huron bays in the Les Cheneaux Area including (1) Mackinac Bay, north of the Line beginning at Hessel Point and running easterly to the southeast tip of Lone Susan Island, thence easterly to the southeast tip of Echo Island, thence easterly to the mainland, (2) Shepard Bay, west of a line beginning at Connor Point and running northwesterly to Melcher's Point and (3) Flower Bay, bounded by a line beginning at Loon Point and running easterly to the northwestern tip of Hill Island, thence easterly following the north shoreline of Hill Island to the narrows between Flower Bay and Moscoe Channel, thence northerly across the narrows to the mainland, thence westerly following the shoreline back to the point of beginning.	March 15 – May 14
Manistee	The southern end of Manistee Lake in the vicinity of the mouth of the Little Manistee River, being that area of Manistee Lake south of a line drawn from a squared red post, located 100 feet southeast of the launch ramp at the DNR Public Access Site on the east shore, extending southwesterly to a squared red post on the west shore located near the southern end of the Packaging Corporation of America Plant	September 6 – October 15 or whenever the established quota of Chinook eggs are taken
Manistee	Little Manistee River from a point 300 feet downstream from the DNR weir (T21N, R16W, S25) to Manistee Lake	September 1 – November 14 and January 1 – March 31
Manistee	Little Manistee River within 300 feet of the DNR weir (T21N, R16W, S25)	Year-round
Manistee, Mason, Lake	Little Manistee River from a point 300 feet upstream of the DNR weir to Spencers Bridge	January 1 – March 31

Marquette	Salmon-Trout River from lower falls (T51N, R28W, S13) to the mouth (T52N, R27W, S31)	August 15 – Friday before the last Saturday in April
Midland	Tittabawassee River—between Sanford Dam and the mouth of the Salt River (T15N, R1W, S24)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Midland	Tittabawassee River—between the Dow Dam and Gordonville Bridge (T13N, R2E, S1)	March 16 – Friday before last Saturday in April
Ontonagon	W. Br. Ontonagon River—from its confluence with the Victoria Hydro Station tail race (T50N, R39W, SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of S29) upstream to Victoria Dam	April 1 – June 10
Otsego	Otsego Lake Pike Marsh (T30N, R3W, S20)	Whenever marsh is in operation
Presque Isle	Shuberts Creek (Monaghan Cr.) from Long Lake upstream to Clinton Creek Road (T33N, R7E, S14)	April 1 – May 14
Presque Isle	Clinton Creek (T33N, R7E, S26)	April 1 – May 14
Presque Isle	Grand Lake Pike Marsh (T34N, R7E, S21 & 22)	Whenever marsh is in operation
Presque Isle	Swan River – from 300 feet above weir to mouth (T35N, R6E, S20, 29)	Whenever weir is in place
Presque Isle	Rainy River from the confluence with Black Lake upstream to North Allis Road Bridge (T35N, R2E, S15)	April 1 – May 14
Roscommon	Backus Creek from its confluence with the Cut River (T23N, R3W, S22) upstream to Little Mud Lake Dam (T23N, R2W, S30)	March 23 – April 23
Roscommon	Cut River from its confluence with Backus Creek (T23N, R3W, S22) upstream to its outlet at Marl Lake (T24N, R3W, S34)	March 23 – April 23

Issued on this 11th day of September, 2014.

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

J.R. Richardson, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh  
Director