



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAUGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 17, 2015
RESUBMITTED: March 23, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Fisheries Order 204.15
Spawning Closures

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:

The Beaver Lake Pike Marsh in Alpena County has been closed to fishing when in operation to protect small spring fingerling northern pike. The 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 and 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 closure list will simplify 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 three 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

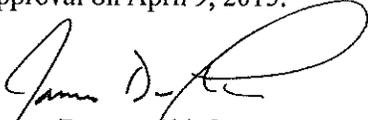
There is no anticipated social issue given the pike marsh has not operated for over 11 years.

Economic

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

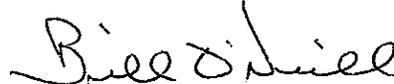
Recommendation:

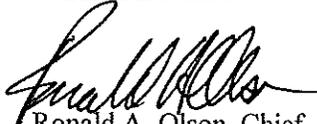
This order was submitted for information on March 19, 2015, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appears on the Department's March 10, 2015 calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 9, 2015.

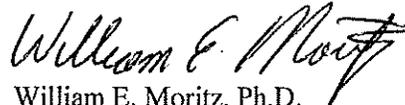

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division


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

Spawning Closures Order 204.15

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 stream sections are closed to fishing 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 |
| 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 around 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 |

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| 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 around |
| 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 (T40N, R21W, S34) | Year around |
| 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 around |
| 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 |

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| 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 around |
| 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 |

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| Presque Isle | Shuberts Creek (T33N, R7E) 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 |

This Order shall be assigned number FO-204.15, and is entitled “Spawning Closures.”

This Order supersedes the Order entitled “Spawning Closures,” which became effective April 1, 2014, and is assigned number FO-204.14.

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