STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: September 19, 2011
RESUBMITTED: October 17, 2011
RESUBMITTED: November 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Spawning Closures (FO-204)

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 regulates spawning closures placed on waters to protect and preserve spawning fish populations. We are proposing several changes to this Order including one addition, one modification, and two removals.

Clinton Creek, Presque Isle County, is being recommended as an addition to this Order to protect spring spawning northern pike and walleye. Habitat assessment by managers show that in-lake spawning may be limited in Long Lake resulting in a need to protect spawning Northern Pike and Walleye that migrate into Clinton Creek in the spring.

We also propose to modify the Platte River spawning closures to expand angling opportunities in Benzie County. The Platte River is currently closed to fishing from January through March from the upper hatchery weir downstream to Platte Lake. We are proposing to change that spawning closure to be in effect from March 1 through April 21, to protect future steelhead broodstock. Currently, the lower Platte River weir is closed to fishing within 300 feet year around which includes when the weir is not in place. We are proposing to modify the spawning closure there to allow angling opportunity when the weir is not in place. Therefore, in order to protect future steelhead broodstock, we propose enacting a spawning closure from February 15 through April 28, within 300 feet of the upper (hatchery) weir and, in order to protect coho broodstock there, we are proposing a closure from August 15 through November 7.

Lastly, we are proposing the removal of two spawning closures listed for the Pere Marquette River in Mason County associated with a lamprey weir at that location. The lamprey weir is no longer in operation and there are plans for its future removal. Therefore, the spawning closures are not justified and should be removed from this Order which will result in additional angling opportunities for the Pere Marquette River.

Recommendation

It is our recommendation to add a spawning closure for Clinton Creek, modify two Platte River spawning closures, and remove both Pere Marquette River lamprey weir spawning closures. Making these changes will result in added protection to spawning northern pike and walleye in Clinton Creek and increase angler opportunities at the other locations.

This Order was submitted for information at the October and November, 2011 meetings of the Natural Resources Commission. This Order is being resubmitted for action at the December 8, 2011 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared on the Department's October and November 2011 calendars, and is eligible for approval on December 8, 2011.

James L. Dexter, Acting Chief
Fisheries Division

John C. Metka FOR
Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Ronald A. Olson for
Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
Acting Natural Resources Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

ORDER

SPAWNING CLOSURES

Under the authority of sections 48718 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.48718 the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on December 8, 2011, ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, 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
Alpena	Beaver Lake Pike Marsh (T30N, R5E, S35)	When marsh is in operation
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	Platte River from upper (hatchery) weir downstream to Platte Lake	March 1 – April 21
Benzie	Platte River within 300 feet of the upper (hatchery) weir	February 15 – April 28 and August 15 – November 7

Benzie	Platte River within 300 feet of the lower weir	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)	When 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 around
Grand Traverse	Boardman River within 300 feet upstream or downstream of weir in Traverse City	Whenever weir is in place
Iosco	East Branch AuGres River – between DNR lamprey weir and Legget Road (T21N, R6E, S10)	December 1 – day before last Saturday in April
Iosco	AuSable River – All that portion below the Foote Dam including the apron to 175 feet downstream from the dam	Year around
Iosco	Van Etten Creek from dam at Van Etten Lake to mouth at AuSable River (T24N, R9E, S27 & 34)	August 15 – November 30
Iosco	AuGres 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 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)	When marsh is in operation

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)	When 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-204.12, and is entitled "Spawning Closures."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Spawning Closures," effective on April 1, 2010 and was assigned number FO-204.10.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2012. This Order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2017 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, 2016.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2011.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this Order.

Timothy L. Nichols
Chairperson

Deb Whipple
Executive Secretary