STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 15, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.14
Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, provides the Natural Resources Commission the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of fish in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries Order 206 administers special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes which are generally more protective than the general regulations. These regulatory options are necessary when trying to improve or enhance sport fish populations in specific waters. Special regulations are also necessary to help protect important brood sources or study fish from harvest. There are several waters being recommended for addition to this Order along with one removal.

In order to improve protection of valuable muskellunge populations, we are proposing to add two new waters to the Order to protect muskellunge. Big Bear Lake (Otsego County) was recently designated as a Great Lakes strain muskellunge broodstock lake and has received nearly 5,000 fall fingerling muskellunge over the previous two years. It is necessary to protect broodstock sources because fish living within these lakes are utilized as a source of gametes for Michigan's Great Lake strain muskellunge rearing program. Therefore, the Department recommends a 50-inch minimum size limit and a restricted harvest season from the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive be placed on Big Bear Lake. This recommendation is consistent with regulations currently in effect on Thornapple Lake (Barry County), the other Great Lake strain muskellunge broodstock lake. Similarly, the Department recommends that Gun Lake (Barry County) be added to the Order with a 46-inch muskellunge minimum size limit. This recommendation will further protect a remnant population of Great Lakes strain muskellunge in Gun Lake that has not been supplemented by stocking. Exploitation of the population continues to be high for this popular fishery and a higher minimum size limit will assist in rebuilding this population.

Six waters are proposed to be added to the 24 to 34-inch protected slot limit regulation for northern pike: Carney Lake (Dickinson County), Iron Lake (Iron County), Michigamme Reservoir (Iron County), Peavy Pond (Iron County), Schlatter Lake (Keweenaw County), and Sunset Lake (Iron County). Michigamme Reservoir, Peavy Pond, and Schlatter Lake are currently regulated under the no minimum size limit and five fish daily possession limit category and are proposed for the protected slot limit regulation. The objective of this regulation is to improve northern pike size structure. Pike populations in each of the six waters are characterized as having large abundances of small, stunted northern pike with a few larger fish. Survey information indicates that northern pike average sizes and growth rates are well below the state average. This regulation will allow anglers to harvest smaller northern pike (those less than 24 inches) and larger northern pike (those larger than 34 inches) while protecting northern pike between the lengths of 24 to 34 inches in order to improve the size structure for northern pike.

The Department proposes to remove one waterbody from this Order. Jewett Lake (Ogemaw County) has been regulated under special, restrictive regulations (fishing permit required to fish, artificial lures only, shortened fishing season, and no possession) for research purposes and recent survey information suggests the restrictive regulations have not improved the fishery. The research is completed and the Department proposes to remove the Jewett Lake restrictions. Last, one minor change to correct a typographical error is proposed; Ottawa Lake (Iron County) should become "Lake Ottawa (Iron County)".

The proposed modifications to this Order have been vetted through various public forums as part of Fisheries Division's annual regulation process. Twelve public meetings were conducted across the state this spring to discuss this year's regulation proposals. At the conclusion of the public meetings, the majority of stakeholders were either neutral or in support of these proposals. Additionally, Fisheries Division staff coordinated with local Law Enforcement staff for their input on these proposals and reported that law enforcement staff was in support of these changes.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appears on the Department's July 2013 calendar and may be eligible for approval on September 12, 2013.

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
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FISHERIES ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES
Order 206.14

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission by section 48703a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48703a, it is ordered that effective April 1, 2014, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

The following special regulations are established for the listed lakes:

ALGER COUNTY

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island

1. Smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession Limit: zero (0).

ALLEGAN COUNTY

Pine Creek Flooding

1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

BARRY COUNTY

Gun Lake

1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown Rd. to Barger Rd.)

1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 50 inches.
   b. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.
2. Northern Pike:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake

1. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.
2. Season: last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive.

CASS COUNTY

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24)

1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35)

1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Mullett Lake and Specific River Sections

1. Area included:
   - Mullett Lake proper
   - Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31).
   - Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River.
2. Daily possession limit for walleyes: three (3) walleyes per angler per day.
3. Season for harvest of walleyes: May 15 through March 15, inclusive.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23)

1. Gear Restrictions: 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.
2. Season: June 15 through August 31.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

DICKINSON COUNTY

Carney Lake

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28-29W)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Season: last Saturday in May through June 20, inclusive.
   b. Possession limit: zero (0).

GOGEBIC COUNTY

Lake Gogebic

1. Yellow Perch:
   a. Possession limit: twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) fish 12 inches or greater.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Arbutus Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9,10)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

IRON COUNTY

Fire Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

Indian Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

Iron Lake

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Lake Ottawa ~~Lake~~

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Michigamme Reservoir

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Peavey Pond

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Sunset Lake

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36)

1. Walleye:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17,18,19, 30)

1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

KALKASKA COUNTY

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

KENT COUNTY

Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12,13,14)

1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

KENT COUNTY

Schlatter Lake

1. Northern Pike:

a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

LAKE COUNTY

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

LEELANAU COUNTY

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32)

1. Gear Restrictions: 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.

2. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9)
1. Gear Restrictions: 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.

LENAWEE COUNTY
Lake Hudson
1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

LUCE COUNTY
Blind Sucker Flooding
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Bodi Lake
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

Twin Lakes (T45N, R10W, S10,11)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

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.
1. Gear Restrictions: 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.
2. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
   b. Minimum size: 18 inches.

MONTCALM COUNTY
Townline Lake
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Protected Slot Limit: Northern Pike 24 – 34 inches shall not be harvested.

MONTMORENCY COUNTY
North and South Blue and Robarge (Pike) Lakes
1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
2. Season: last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

NEWAYGO COUNTY
Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19)
1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:

a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1)
1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24)
1. Walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

~~OGEMAW COUNTY~~
~~Jewett Lake (Rifle River Recreation Area)~~
~~1. In addition to a valid Michigan fishing license, anglers must possess a valid Jewett Lake fishing permit.~~
~~2. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.~~
~~3. Season: May 15 through September 30, inclusive.~~
~~4. Possession limit: zero (0).~~

ONTONAGON COUNTY
Lake Gogebic
1. Yellow Perch:
   a. Possession limit: twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) fish 12 inches or greater.

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21,22)
1. Gear Restrictions: 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.
2. Smallmouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

OTSEGO COUNTY
Big Bear Lake
1. Muskellunge:
   a. Minimum size: 50 inches.
   b. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29)
1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

Sand Lake (T6S, R10W, S27, 34)
1. Flathead catfish:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

Big Pleasant Lake
1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

VAN BUREN COUNTY
Bankson Lake
1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Brownwood Lake

1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Round Lake

1. Northern Pike and Muskellunge:
   a. Season: last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Horseshoe Lake

1. Largemouth bass:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
2. Northern pike:
   a. Possession limit: one (1).
3. Bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, green sunfish, black and white crappies, warmouth bass, and rock bass:
   a. Possession limit: ten (10).

This Order shall be assigned number FO-206.14, 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, 2013, and is assigned number FO-206.13.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2014, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 12th day of September, 2013.

J. R. Richardson, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission