STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 17, 2015
RESUBMITTED: September 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.15A
Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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:

This Order covers special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. Eleven new waters are recommended to be added to the Order. One water reference is proposed for removal from the waters list as a clarification because the pond is no longer present.

The following changes are proposed:

A proposal to change the regulations on Walleye in the Ontonagon River (Ontonagon County) to limit harvest of large Walleye is being considered. Currently, the Ontonagon River falls under the statewide daily possession limit regulation of five (5) Walleye 15 inches or greater in combination with bass, Northern Pike, and Flathead Catfish. Recent discussions between local anglers and the Department have resulted in two options: A) No change; or B) change the Walleye daily possession limit regulation to limit harvest of Walleye to no more than one (1) Walleye 23 inches or greater in the daily limit of five (5). The Ontonagon River walleye fishery is very good and the Walleye population can be described as healthy and thriving. A fair proportion of citizens attending a public meeting expressed their preference for the current regulation to remain in place. However, a majority preferred implementing some kind of change directed at promoting release of large females, though their preferences for what such a change should be ranged widely. The "one over 23 inch" size regulation is being proposed as an option because it would be consistent with the regulation on Little Bay de Noc and would thereby be less confusing to the public in the Fishing Guide.

A modification to the minimum size limit for Walleye on Lake Gogebic in Gogebic County to allow the possession of two (2) Walleye from 13 - 15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye. Lake Gogebic is described as having a strong naturally reproducing population of Walleye with a limited forage base. As a result, survey information indicates that Walleye are slow growing and there is a preponderance of Walleye that are 1 – 2 inches shorter than the 15 inch minimum size limit. Anglers report catching many Walleye in Lake Gogebic, but report that only a few reach the minimum size limit of 15 inches or larger. Therefore, reducing the minimum size limit to allow anglers keep two (2) Walleye from 13 – 15 inches will allow them to harvest fish for a meal plus remove some fish from the slow

growing population. This change is recommended for immediate effect, which will result in all the following regulation proposals being enacted immediately as well.

A modification to the minimum size limit for muskellunge in the Tahquamenon River and Tributaries (upstream from Upper Falls) in Luce County from 42 inches to a 38 inch minimum size limit regulation on Muskellunge. Recent survey information indicates that Muskellunge are very abundant and growing well below the state average. As a result, very few Muskellunge attain 42 inches (the current legal minimum size limit). Therefore, anglers have requested that the minimum size limit regulation be reduced to allow for some level of harvest. This will increase angler harvest opportunities and should benefit the Muskellunge population in the Tahquamenon River and Tributaries.

Add Sand Lake (Montcalm County) to list of waters with a 24 inch – 34 inch protective slot limit and a daily possession limit of two Northern Pike. Anglers have reported that the Northern Pike population size structure was better in Sand Lake when the minimum size limit was 20 inches, prior to enacting the statewide 24 inch minimum size limit. Under the historic 20 inch minimum size limit, the lake produced larger Northern Pike up to 30 inches according to a 1990 fish community survey. Therefore, anglers are supportive of moving to the protective slot limit in Sand Lake. Anglers will be able to harvest Northern Pike below 24 inches and those greater than 34 inches.

Add Lake Lavine (Branch County) to remove the minimum size limit and daily possession limit on Northern Pike. Unlawful stocking of Northern Pike has negatively impacted a popular trout fishing destination. Therefore, it is believed that liberalizing these regulations on Northern Pike will result in an increase of angler harvest thus reducing the Northern Pike population.

Add Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan/Emmet Counties) to list of waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained in daily possession limit with only one allowed greater than 24 inches. Anglers have reported that fishing is very poor in Paradise Lake. Small Northern Pike are very abundant and comprise the greatest portion of the catch there.

Add Pickerel Lake, Kimball Lake, Emerald Lake, and Sylvan Lake (Newaygo County) to list of waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained in daily possession limit with only one allowed greater than 24 inches. Northern Pike have slower growth rates on these waters and very few reach the 24 inch minimum size limit. Changing the size limit will enable anglers to harvest Northern Pike on these waters.

Add Susan Lake (Charlevoix County) to list of waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained in daily possession limit with only one allowed greater than 24 inches. Susan Lake has a very abundant and slow growing Northern Pike population. This change will allow anglers to harvest some of the Northern Pike.

Add Orchard Lake (Presque Isle County) to list of waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained in daily possession limit with only one allowed greater than 24 inches. Orchard Lake is the only lake within the Ocqueoc River watershed which does not have this regulation in effect. Adding Orchard Lake will simplify regulations thus reducing angler confusion.

Remove Brown Bridge Pond (Grand Traverse County) from list of waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained in daily possession limit with only one allowed greater than 24 inches. The dam has been removed and the pond is no longer present. Removal will result in clarifying the regulations there and getting rid of an exception will simplify regulations.

Removing the reference to the combined possession limit language on Northern Pike waters where up to five Northern Pike may be retained as the daily possession limit with only one greater than 24 inches. The combined possession limit provision for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Flathead Catfish, Northern Pike, and Walleye is listed in FO-215, which is being changed to remove the combination requirement. Therefore, each species will be regulated separately in this Order and align with FO-215.

*Issue Pros and Cons*
Most of the waters and regulations proposed for addition to the Order will all result in an expansion to angler opportunities. Nearly all of the proposed changes represent liberalizations from the current statewide regulation. The protected slot limit recommended for Sand Lake is less restrictive than the current 24 inch minimum size limit regulation, but may help improve Northern Pike size structure with added protection of 24 – 34" Northern Pike. As a result of the increased angling opportunities presented above there is no con identified.

*Neighboring States*
Placing special fishing regulations to protect and enhance fisheries is a widely accepted practice. Fishery managers utilize special regulations as a means to restrict or expand different angling opportunities. Anglers are very supportive of added protection as well as more liberalized fishing regulations when the science is presented.

*Biological*
All but the Ontonagon River Walleye proposal are biologically based. Special regulations are a tool that fishery managers may use in an effort to improve a fish community. In the right situation, special regulations can help develop high quality fisheries. Special regulations are also used by managers to allow harvest of fish that may not grow large enough to attain the legal size on some waters where growth is limited or inhibited by some degree.

*Social*
Anglers who fish the Ontonagon River want to protect large Walleye and have requested a special regulation to limit harvest to one greater than 23 inches. Some Muskellunge anglers may be concerned with the potential increase in harvest on the Tahquamenon River and Tributaries. Some anglers may not want the more restrictive regulations on Northern Pike to be removed.

*Economic*
The Department does not expect the proposed changes 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 September 2015 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 8, 2015.

for
James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

for Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Bill O'Neill, Chief
for Forest Resources Division

for Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

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

# FISHERIES ORDER

**(Option A)**

## Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
## Order 206.15A

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 November 5, 2015, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

The following special regulations are in effect for warmwater species on the selected waters and supersede those regulations that in any way conflict with those listed below:

Alcona County

Badger Lake (T28N, R3E, S35): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Alger County

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island: the possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

16 Mile Lake, Nawakwa Lake, and Trout Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Allegan County

Pine Creek Flooding: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Antrim County

Beals Lake, Benway Lake, Ellsworth Lake, Hanley Lake, Scotts Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Wilson Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Baraga County

Vermillac (Worm) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Barry County

Gun Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown road to Barger road): the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive. The possession season for Northern Pike shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0).

Benzie County

Long Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Branch County

Lake Lavine: no size limit on Northern Pike and no limit on possession of Northern Pike.

Calhoun County

Harts Lake (T2S, R8W, S7, 18): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Cass County

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24) and Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35): the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Charlevoix County

Deer Lake, Fox Lake, Geneserath Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Susan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Cheboygan County

Mullett Lake and specific river sections including: Mullet Lake proper, Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31), and Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River: the possession season for Walleye shall be May 15 through March 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit for Walleyes is three (3).

Black River upstream of Tower Dam (includes Tower Pond) and tributary streams only, Silver Lake (T33N, R3W, S11, 12), Wildwood Lake (T33N, R2W, S21), and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Chippewa County

Frenchman Lake (T44N, R6W, S23, 25, 26) and Trout (Carp) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Clare County

Eight Point Lake and Lake Thirteen: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Crawford County

Jones Lake (T28N, R2W, S30, 31): the fishing season shall be June 1 through September 30, inclusive. Tackle: 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. Daily possession limit is zero (0).

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23): the fishing season shall be June 15 through August 31, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Big Creek Impoundment (T28N, R1W, S24, 25), River Lake (T28N, R2W, S30), and Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties, T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Delta County

Chicago Lake, Carr Lake, Hamilton Lakes, Lyman Lake, and Escanaba River upstream from first dam at US-2: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Dickinson County

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28 - 29W): the fishing season for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass shall be from the last Saturday in May through June 20, inclusive. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Sawyer Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Emmet County

French Farm Lake Flooding, O'Neal Lake Flooding, and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gladwin County

Lake Lancer: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gogebic County

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) Yellow Perch 12 inches or greater. The minimum size limit for Walleye is 15 inches; however, anglers may possess two (2) Walleye from 13 - 15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye.

Cisco Lake, Thousand Island Lake, Lindsley Lake, Poor Lake, Big African Lake, Little African Lake, Clearwater Lake, East Bay Lake, Fishhawk Lake, Indian Lake, Morley Lake, Record Lake, and Chaney Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Grand Traverse County

Arbutus Lake and Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9, 10): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Boardman Lake, and Lake Dubonnet: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Houghton County

Rice Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Iron County

Fire Lake and Indian Lake: the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Lake Ottawa: the daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36): the daily possession limit for Walleye is zero (0).

Bone Lake, Buck Lake, Deer River, Hemlock Falls Reservoir, Indian Lake, Lake St. Kathryn, Michigamme Falls Reservoir, Michigamme Reservoir, Net River, Net River Wide Waters, Peavy Pond, Runkle Lake, and Winslow Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Kalamazoo County

Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17, 18, 19, 30): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Kalkaska County

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Kent County

Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12, 13, 14): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Keweenaw County

Schlatter Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lake County

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Leelanau County

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1). Tackle: 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.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9): Tackle: 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. No size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lenawee County

Lake Hudson: the possession season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Luce County

Blind Sucker Flooding and Bodi Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.East Lake and Muskallonge Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Tahquamenon River and Tributaries upstream from Upper Falls: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 38 inches.

Mackinac County

East Lake, Millecoquins Lake, and South Manistique Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Manistee County

Bar Lake and Chief Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 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: the daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Bass (East) Lake, Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11), Dead River Storage Basin, Engman Lake, Middle Branch Escanaba River, Big West Branch Escanaba River, Escanaba River Mainstream downstream to Boney Falls Basin (except Greenwood, Schweitzer and Cataract Reservoirs), Shag (Big) Lake, and

Witch Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mason County

Hackert (Crystal) Lake (T18N, R17W, S2, 3): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mecosta County

Haymarsh Lake and Horsehead Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Menominee County

Westman Impoundment (including North and Hayward Lakes): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Missaukee County

Missaukee Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Montcalm County

Townline Lake and Sand Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Montmorency County

North and South Blue Lakes: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only.

Black River and tributary streams only, East Town Corner Lake, Pug Lakes (T31N, R2E, S4, 5), Robarge (Pike) Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Muskegon County

Big Blue Lake (T12N, R16W, S2, 3, 4): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches

Newaygo County

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19) and Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Walleye, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Diamond Lake, Nichols Lake, Ryerson (Long) Lake, Pickerel Lake, Kimball Lake, Emerald Lake, and Sylvan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oakland County

Upper Bushman Lake (T4N, R9E, S3): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Oceana County

Round (Wykoff) Lake and Silver Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ogemaw County

East Twin Lake and Lake Ogemaw: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ontonagon County

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) Yellow Perch 12 inches or greater. The minimum size limit for Walleye is 15 inches; however, anglers may possess two (2) Walleye from 13 - 15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye.

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21, 22): the daily possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Osceola County

Diamond Lake, Lake Miramichi, Rose Lake, and Wells Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oscoda County

Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Otsego County

Big Bear Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Presque Isle County

Ocqueoc River and tributary streams, all lakes of the Ocqueoc River watershed including Ann, Bullhead, Ella, Emma, Ferdelman, Gorman, Horseshoe, Lost, Louise, Lower and Upper Barnhart, May, McIntosh, Moore, Mud, Nettie, Ocqueoc, and Orchard, the Black River and tributary streams, and the following lakes of the Black River watershed: Francis Lake, Tomahawk Flooding, East Town Corner Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Roscommon County

Backus Creek from the stream mouth upstream, including all tributaries, Little Mud Lake Flooding, Backus Creek Flooding, and Backus Lake Flooding, Cut River from the river mouth at Houghton Lake upstream to CO 100 just downstream of Higgins Lake, Houghton Lake, and Lake St. Helen: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Schoolcraft County

Boot Lake, Crooked Lake, Kennedy Lake, Seney Wildlife Refuge Ponds, Stanley Lake, and Thunder Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

St. Joseph County

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29) and Big Pleasant Lake: the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Washtenaw County

Horseshoe Lake: the daily possession limit for Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike is one (1). The daily possession limit for Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Green Sunfish, Black Crappie and White Crappie, Warmouth, and Rock Bass in combination is ten (10).

Huron River, from the Mast Road Bridge in the Village of Dexter (T1S, R5E, S32) downstream to the Delhi Road Bridge (T2S, R5E, S2): the daily possession limit of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0)

This Order shall be assigned number FO-206.15A, and is entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters," which became effective April 9, 2015, and is assigned number FO-206.15.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 5th day of November, 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

# FISHERIES ORDER

**(Option B)**

## Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
## Order 206.15A

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 November 5, 2015, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

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Badger Lake (T28N, R3E, S35): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Alger County

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island: the possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

16 Mile Lake, Nawakwa Lake, and Trout Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Allegan County

Pine Creek Flooding: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Antrim County

Beals Lake, Benway Lake, Ellsworth Lake, Hanley Lake, Scotts Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Wilson Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Baraga County

Vermillac (Worm) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Barry County

Gun Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown road to Barger road): the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive. The possession season for Northern Pike shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0).

Benzie County

Long Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Branch County

Lake Lavine: no size limit on Northern Pike and no limit on possession of Northern Pike.

Calhoun County

Harts Lake (T2S, R8W, S7, 18): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Cass County

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24) and Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35): the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Charlevoix County

Deer Lake, Fox Lake, Geneserath Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Susan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Cheboygan County

Mullett Lake and specific river sections including: Mullet Lake proper, Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31), and Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River: the possession season for Walleye shall be May 15 through March 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit for Walleyes is three (3).

Black River upstream of Tower Dam (includes Tower Pond) and tributary streams only, Silver Lake (T33N, R3W, S11, 12), Wildwood Lake (T33N, R2W, S21), and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Chippewa County

Frenchman Lake (T44N, R6W, S23, 25, 26) and Trout (Carp) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Clare County

Eight Point Lake and Lake Thirteen: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Crawford County

Jones Lake (T28N, R2W, S30, 31): the fishing season shall be June 1 through September 30, inclusive. Tackle: 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. Daily possession limit is zero (0).

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23): the fishing season shall be June 15 through August 31, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Big Creek Impoundment (T28N, R1W, S24, 25), River Lake (T28N, R2W, S30), and Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties, T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Delta County

Chicago Lake, Carr Lake, Hamilton Lakes, Lyman Lake, and Escanaba River upstream from first dam at US-2: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Dickinson County

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28 - 29W): the fishing season for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass shall be from the last Saturday in May through June 20, inclusive. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Sawyer Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Emmet County

French Farm Lake Flooding, O'Neal Lake Flooding, and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gladwin County

Lake Lancer: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gogebic County

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) Yellow Perch 12 inches or greater. The minimum size limit for Walleye is 15 inches; however, anglers may possess two (2) Walleye from 13 - 15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye.

Cisco Lake, Thousand Island Lake, Lindsley Lake, Poor Lake, Big African Lake, Little African Lake, Clearwater Lake, East Bay Lake, Fishhawk Lake, Indian Lake, Morley Lake, Record Lake, and Chaney Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Grand Traverse County

Arbutus Lake and Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9, 10): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Boardman Lake, and Lake Dubonnet: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Houghton County

Rice Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Iron County

Fire Lake and Indian Lake: the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Lake Ottawa: the daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36): the daily possession limit for Walleye is zero (0).

Bone Lake, Buck Lake, Deer River, Hemlock Falls Reservoir, Indian Lake, Lake St. Kathryn, Michigamme Falls Reservoir, Michigamme Reservoir, Net River, Net River Wide Waters, Peavy Pond, Runkle Lake, and Winslow Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Kalamazoo County

Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17, 18, 19, 30): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Kalkaska County

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Kent County

Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12, 13, 14): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Keweenaw County

Schlatter Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lake County

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Leelanau County

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1). Tackle: 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.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9): Tackle: 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. No size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lenawee County

Lake Hudson: the possession season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Luce County

Blind Sucker Flooding and Bodi Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.East Lake and Muskallonge Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Tahquamenon River and Tributaries upstream from Upper Falls: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 38 inches.

Mackinac County

East Lake, Millecoquins Lake, and South Manistique Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Manistee County

Bar Lake and Chief Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 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: the daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Bass (East) Lake, Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11), Dead River Storage Basin, Engman Lake, Middle Branch Escanaba River, Big West Branch Escanaba River, Escanaba River Mainstream downstream to Boney Falls Basin (except Greenwood, Schweitzer and Cataract Reservoirs), Shag (Big) Lake, and

Witch Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mason County

Hackert (Crystal) Lake (T18N, R17W, S2, 3): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mecosta County

Haymarsh Lake and Horsehead Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Menominee County

Westman Impoundment (including North and Hayward Lakes): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Missaukee County

Missaukee Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Montcalm County

Townline Lake and Sand Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Montmorency County

North and South Blue Lakes: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only.

Black River and tributary streams only, East Town Corner Lake, Pug Lakes (T31N, R2E, S4, 5), Robarge (Pike) Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Muskegon County

Big Blue Lake (T12N, R16W, S2, 3, 4): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches

Newaygo County

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19) and Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Walleye, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Diamond Lake, Nichols Lake, Ryerson (Long) Lake, Pickerel Lake, Kimball Lake, Emerald Lake, and Sylvan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oakland County

Upper Bushman Lake (T4N, R9E, S3): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Oceana County

Round (Wykoff) Lake and Silver Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ogemaw County

East Twin Lake and Lake Ogemaw: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ontonagon County

Ontonagon River (Ontonagon County): no more than one (1) Walleye over 23 inches may be possessed in the daily possession limit.

Lake Gogebic: the daily possession limit for Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) Yellow Perch 12 inches or greater. The minimum size limit for Walleye is 15 inches; however, anglers may possess two (2) Walleye from 13 - 15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye.

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21, 22): the daily possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0). Tackle: 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.

Osceola County

Diamond Lake, Lake Miramichi, Rose Lake, and Wells Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oscoda County

Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Otsego County

Big Bear Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for Muskellunge shall be the last Saturday in April through November 30, inclusive.

Presque Isle County

Ocqueoc River and tributary streams, all lakes of the Ocqueoc River watershed including Ann, Bullhead, Ella, Emma, Ferdelman, Gorman, Horseshoe, Lost, Louise, Lower and Upper Barnhart, May, McIntosh, Moore, Mud, Nettie, Ocqueoc, and Orchard, the Black River and tributary streams, and the following lakes of the Black River watershed: Francis Lake, Tomahawk Flooding, East Town Corner Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Roscommon County

Backus Creek from the stream mouth upstream, including all tributaries, Little Mud Lake Flooding, Backus Creek Flooding, and Backus Lake Flooding, Cut River from the river mouth at Houghton Lake upstream to CO 100 just downstream of Higgins Lake, Houghton Lake, and Lake St. Helen: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Schoolcraft County

Boot Lake, Crooked Lake, Kennedy Lake, Seney Wildlife Refuge Ponds, Stanley Lake, and Thunder Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

St. Joseph County

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29) and Big Pleasant Lake: the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Washtenaw County

Horseshoe Lake: the daily possession limit for Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike is one (1). The daily possession limit for Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Green Sunfish, Black Crappie and White Crappie, Warmouth, and Rock Bass in combination is ten (10).

Huron River, from the Mast Road Bridge in the Village of Dexter (T1S, R5E, S32) downstream to the Delhi Road Bridge (T2S, R5E, S2): the daily possession limit of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0)

This Order shall be assigned number FO-206.15A, and is entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters," which became effective April 9, 2015, and is assigned number FO-206.15.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 5th day of November, 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