STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes (FO-206)
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

Fisheries Order 206 governs special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes. The regulations contained in this Order are more restrictive than the general hook-and-line regulations and are needed to improve upon our ability to protect and enhance populations of sport fish in certain lakes. There are several changes being proposed to this Order. We are proposing the addition of Lake Gogebic to protect large yellow perch plus the relocation of thirteen named water bodies that have more restrictive minimum size limits and/or shortened seasons on northern pike to be moved from Order 220 into this Order. Woodward Lake in Ionia County is being recommended for removal since a prescribed study of walleye predation on bluegill has been completed and walleye have not been stocked recently. We are also recommending the reinstatement of a restriction on walleye harvest for Baptist Lake in Newaygo County which was mistakenly removed from an earlier version of this Order. Anglers have been supportive of special fishing regulations for coolwater species and the changes requested will ensure ongoing quality fishing experiences for our anglers.

Lake Gogebic is well known for its fishery for yellow perch. Large yellow perch are highly pursued by anglers, and prized when harvested. Surveys indicate that nearly half of the yellow perch sport angling harvest in this lake consists of fish over 10 inches in size. Local angling groups and residents have requested that the Department consider changing yellow perch regulations to reduce the daily possession limit to help protect and instill stewardship for this population. Several public meetings were held to discuss this issue and stakeholders have indicated strong support for a 25 fish daily possession limit on yellow perch with no more than five fish 12 inches or greater.

Recommendation

It is our recommendation that the changes to fishing regulations proposed in Fisheries Order 206 that are summarized above be approved to take effect on April 1, 2012. The recommended changes will allow for continued protection and enhancement of populations of sport fish while increasing the diversity of quality fishing opportunities for our anglers.

This Order is being submitted for information at the September 15, 2011 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This Order will be resubmitted for action at the October 13, 2011 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared on the Department's September 2011 calendar, and will be eligible for approval on October 13, 2011.

James L. Dexter, Acting Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Harold Hunter for
Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
Acting Natural Resources Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES

Under the authority of sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 13, 2011, ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, 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).

BARRY COUNTY

Fish Lake

1. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

Thornapple Lake

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

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/ONTONAGON COUNTIES

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.

~~**IONIA COUNTY**~~

~~Woodward Lake (T8N, R6W, S8)~~

~~1. Walleye:~~

~~(a) Possession limit: zero (0).~~

IRON COUNTY

Cable Lake

1. Northern Pike:

a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

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.

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

Porter Lake
1. Northern Pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36)
1. Walleye:
   a. Possession limit: zero (0).

KALKASKA COUNTY
Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19)
1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
   a. Minimum size: 10 inches.

KEWEENAW COUNTY
Lake Gratiot
1. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

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
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.

2. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

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~~ **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 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).

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.

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY

Big Bass Lake

1. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches.

Grassy Lake

1. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 inches..

McKeever Lake

1. Northern pike:
   a. Minimum size: 30 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-206.12, 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, 2010 and is assigned number FO-206.10A.

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