



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAUGH  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: September 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 248.16  
Possession Limits for Fish  
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:

Public Act 30 of 2010, MCL 324.48721, modified statute and required the Department to issue an Order establishing possession limits of fish. Public Act 30 grants an individual the allowance to have in their possession one day's possession limit of fish and allows for two additional daily possession limits of fish under certain conditions. The Act does not allow for multiple possession limits caught within the same 24 hour period. The Order specifies the conditions about how the extra possession limits must be processed. This Order fulfills the obligation set forth in MCL 324.48721 and is set to expire March 31, 2016. The Order has been reviewed and is recommended for renewal with two minor revisions. The Department recommends clarifying that anglers may engage in Catch-and-Immediate-Release (CIR) fishing after reaching the daily possession limit for a given species. The Department also recommends adding a reference to FO-215, which limits Muskellunge harvest to only one fish per angler per angling year (April 1 – March 31), as with Lake Sturgeon.

*Issue Pros and Cons*

Renewal of the Order is necessary to continue fulfillment of the Department's obligation to enact an Order with this information under MCL 324.48721. This Order allows increased possession limits of two additional daily possession limits for anglers. The angling public supports this regulation. There are no cons identified.

*Neighboring States*

Other states allow for the possession of multiple days' harvest of fish for anglers.

*Biological*

This Order has been in effect for several years and there have been no indications that it has had a negative biological effect on Michigan fishery resources.

*Social*

Anglers are highly supportive of this Order and the Department anticipates that renewal will be well received.

*Economic*

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

Recommendation:

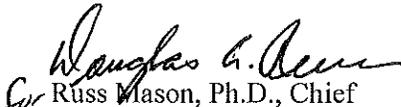
This Order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appears on the Department's September 2015 calendar and may be eligible for approval on November 5, 2015.



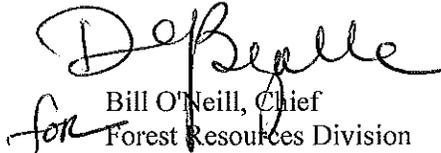
James Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division



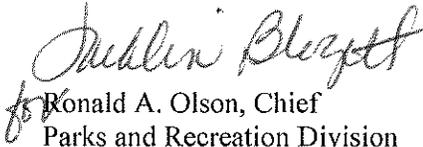
Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



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

# FISHERIES ORDER

## Possession Limits for Fish Order 248.16

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

Department Fisheries Orders regulate various statewide and area-specific daily possession limits for fish. In addition to one (1) day's possession limit of fish, a person may possess an additional two (2) days' possession limit of fish that are processed by any of the following methods:

1. Canning in a sealed container.
2. Curing by smoking or drying.
3. Freezing in a solid state.

A person's processed fish aboard a vessel, on the water or at dockside shall be considered to be in the person's possession for the purposes of this Order.

**Anglers may engage in Catch-and-Immediate-Release (CIR) fishing after reaching the ~~once they have reached their maximum~~ allowed daily possession limit for a given species.**

~~This~~**The additional two days' possession limit provision** Order does not apply to Lake Sturgeon or Muskellunge. The harvest of Lake Sturgeon shall be limited to the provisions as set forth in FO-240. **The harvest of Muskellunge shall be limited to the provisions as set forth in FO-215.**

This Order shall be assigned number FO-248.16, and is entitled "Possession Limits for Fish."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Possession Limits for Fish," effective April 1, 2011, and assigned number FO-248.11.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2016 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