

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife &  
Fisheries

February 11, 2016



# Proposed Orders

- For Information- Director
  - Launch of Motorized Watercrafts Prohibited on Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake and Crooked Lake; Clyde Township, Allegan County (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 1 of 2016)
- For Action- NRC
- Use of Suppressors in the Taking of Game (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2016)
- For Action- Director
  - Definitions, Exemptions, and Enclosure Requirements (Captive Wild Animal Order Amendment No. 1 of 2016)



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Chief Update
- U.P. Habitat Work Group Resolution
- Motorized Watercrafts on Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake and Crooked Lake
- Elk Survey Update and Results



# Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

February 11, 2016



# Black River Sturgeon Season Results

- Season lasted 1 hour
- Saturday, February 6
- 7 fish harvested
  - 5 males / 2 females
  - 6 tagged fish
  - Largest fish = 70.5" and 96 lbs
  - Smallest fish = 40" and 13 lbs



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Salmon Stocking

- Special Event:  
Monday, April 4  
at Platte River  
State Fish  
Hatchery



# R/V Tanner Tour

- March 10 in Saugatuck

*Images from 02/01/16 site visit*



# Upcoming Advisory Committee Meetings

March 21-23: GLFC Upper Lakes - Milwaukee

March 28-30: GLFC Lower Lakes - Niagra

April 6: Lake Superior – Marquette CSC

April 13: Lake Huron – Jay's (Clare)

April 18: Northern Inland Lakes – Indian River

April 26: Lake Michigan – MUCC HQ

May 2: Warmwater Fisheries – Lansing 2nd

May 4: Coldwater Fisheries – Jay's (Clare)



**Thank you!**

Questions?



# Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason,  
Wildlife Chief



# Wildlife Chief Update

- Recent sighting of cougar in the U.P.
- POE Communications Plan
  - In folders
- Update on Wolf Legislative proposal in Congress



# Billy Rollo: 1975-2016



Wildlife Technician- Marquette Field Office



# NRC Resolution of the U.P. Habitat Work Group

- Recognizing the important work of the Upper Peninsula Habitat Work Group
- Contributing salary support for staff to the Upper Peninsula Habitat Work Group through January 2017
- Work product expected in December 2016



# Launch of Motorized Watercraft Prohibited from State Lands onto Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake, & Crooked Lake

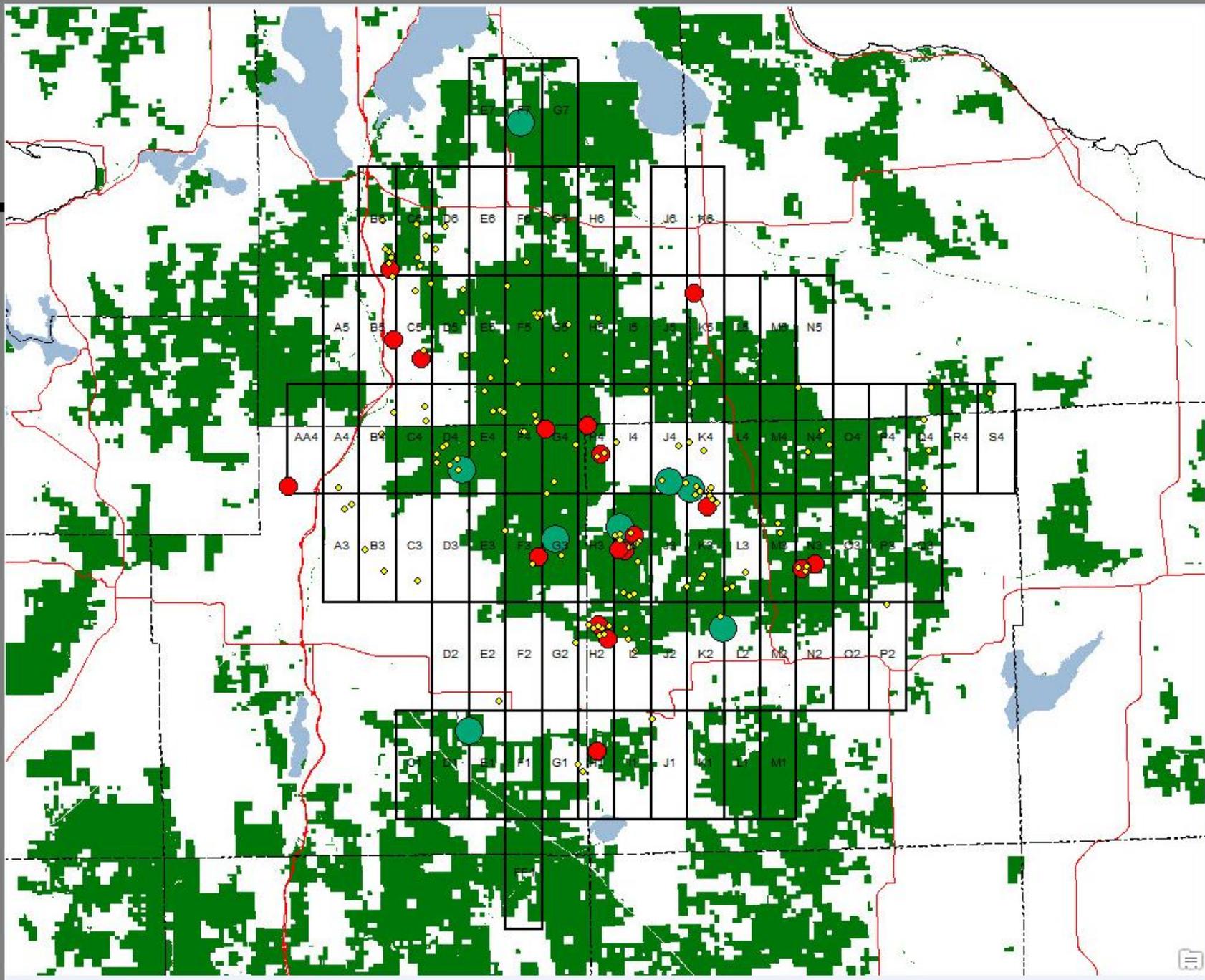
- No watercraft with motors be launched from State lands onto Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake, and Crooked Lake within Clyde Township, Allegan County within Allegan State Game Area
- Ely Lake
  - Consistency in regulations with the Allegan County Special Local Watercraft Control
- Little Tom Lake
  - Consistent regulations throughout the State game area and to protect vegetation and invertebrate species
- Crooked Lake
  - To eliminate extensive damage to habitats of threatened and endangered species



# Elk Survey Update

- January 1, 2016 to January 28, 2016
- Two airplanes flew 8 individual two by six mile grids
- 75.6 hours at a distance of over 5,000 miles were flown
- 10 observers participated
- Animals were centered on food sources, mainly acorn areas and early successional habitat
- Pictures of individual groups were taken to determine bull: cow and calf: cow ratio of the elk herd





# Elk Survey Results

- A total of 1002 individual elk were observed in 159 groups
- The population estimate was  $1,371 \pm 309$  elk.
- Lower number of nuisance complaints- Division assistance available



# Thank You

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