

Commissioner Baird

Amendment to Fisheries Order 219.22 – Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations

I MOVE TO AMEND FISHERIES ORDER 219.22 TO ADD A THREE-YEAR SUNSET TO THE UNDERWATER SPEAR FISHING REGULATIONS.

SEASON	GEAR	WATERS (see Note 1)	SPECIES
Open all year	spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow	ALL WATERS except: Designated Trout Lakes and Designated Trout Streams	bowfin, bullheads, burbot, carp, catfish, drum, gizzard shad, goldfish, grass carp, cisco (lake herring), longnose gar, smelt, suckers (see Note 2), and whitefish
December 1 through March 15 (through the ice)	hand-propelled spear	ALL WATERS except: Designated Trout Lakes and Designated Trout Streams	northern pike and muskellunge
Species and location specific	underwater spear (see Note 3)	<p><u>Lake Michigan:</u> waters south of the southernmost pier at Grand Haven</p> <p><u>Lake Huron:</u> waters south of the southernmost pier of the Thunder Bay River, extending south to the mouth of the St. Clair River (Fort Gratiot Light)</p> <p><u>Lake Superior:</u> waters west of the Chocolay River</p>	lake trout, northern pike, walleye, and all species listed as available when using a spear, bow and arrow, and crossbow

Note 1 - Check the spearing exceptions lists (below) for regulations that differ from those listed in the table above. Designated Trout Lakes are those lakes classified under Type A and Type D trout regulations (see FO-254). Designated Trout Streams are those listed in the following classifications: Type 1, 2, Gear Restricted Streams, Research Areas, and Brook Trout Restoration Areas. Most of the Type 3 and Type 4 streams are Designated Trout Streams (see FO-200 and FO-210).

Note 2 - For the purpose of this order the term suckers refers to: suckers (longnose, white, northern hog, spotted), redbone (silver, golden, black, greater, shorthead), buffalo (bigmouth, black), lake chubsucker, and quillback carpsucker.

Note 3 – For underwater spearfishing the following regulations apply:

- All recreational anglers, who intend to engage in underwater spearfishing shall request and be issued a free annual underwater spearfishing license.
- All underwater spearfishing anglers shall provide monthly effort and harvest reports to the Department using an online reporting tool provided by the Department.
- To use an underwater spear in compliance with the table within this order, the angler/diver shall be fully submerged beneath the waters surface when attempting to harvest fish.
- The species and location specific size limits and daily possession limits shall apply.
- Underwater spearfishing shall be prohibited daily from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
- This activity shall be prohibited within 150 feet of designated swimming areas, boat docks, boat access or egress sites and power intake tubes.
- This activity shall be prohibited where placement of a diver-down flag would restrict boater navigation or access to boating access site.
- All spearguns shall have the bands unloaded from the spear and the safety on when divers are moving between fishing areas and when entering and exiting the water.
- Use of artificial breathing devices such as scuba, re-breather or similar devices shall be prohibited while underwater spearfishing.
- **This section shall be rescinded three years after the effective date, which is, March 31, 2025.**