

FISHERIES ORDER

Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations Order 219.26

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 and Part 491 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, ordered on November 6, 2025, the following section(s) of the fisheries order shall read effective April 1, 2026, as follows:

The seasons, gear, waters, and species where a spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow may be used are as specified in the table below and lists which follow (except as otherwise prohibited). Spearfishing gear shall be limited to: hand-propelled spear, rubber-propelled spear, and spring-propelled spear. In addition, bow and arrow, and crossbow may be used in accordance with this order. Artificial lights may be used. It shall be unlawful to use a rubber-propelled spear or a spring-propelled spear without being submerged and have the spear under control by means of an attached line not exceeding 20 feet in length. It is unlawful to spear any fish in a waterbody closed to fishing, except as noted in the spearfishing exceptions list.

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
In addition to year-round opportunities listed above, the following spearfishing provisions allow for the possession of additional species as indicated below:			
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 (see Note 3 for Northern Pike season exception)	underwater spear (see Note 4)	<u>Lake Michigan:</u> waters north of the Michigan/Indiana border northward to the 45 th Parallel excluding all waters Grand Traverse Bay waters from the Michigan/Wisconsin border northward to the southern edge of the mouth Ford River (45.673512, - 87.143475) extending out 5 miles from shore	Lake Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye

		<p>Lake Michigan from Point Detour (Southern tip of the Garden Peninsula) eastward from the west edge of the mouth of the Brevort River, extending out 5 miles from shore</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 Erie:</u> waters north of the Michigan/Ohio border northward to the line extending due east and west of the most southerly point of Celeron Island in the Detroit River</p> <p><u>Lake Superior:</u> <u>All Michigan waters</u> from the Michigan/Wisconsin border eastward to the St. Mary's River (Birch Point Range front light to the most westerly point of Round Island, thence following the shore of Round Island to the most northerly point thereof, thence from the most northerly point of Round Island to Point Aux Pins light, Ontario)</p>	
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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), redborse (silver, golden, black, greater, shorthead), buffalo (bigmouth, black), lake chubsucker, and quillback carpsucker.

Note 3 – When using an underwater spear, the possession season for Northern Pike shall be July 1 to March 15.

Note 4 – 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.

- To use an underwater spear in compliance with the table within this order, the angler/diver shall be fully submerged beneath the water's surface when attempting to harvest fish.
- The location specific size limits and daily possession limits for Walleye, Northern Pike, and Lake Trout 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 sites.
- 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.
- Use of bait, attractants or decoys is prohibited while underwater spearfishing.

SPEARING EXCEPTIONS

LIST A – INLAND WATERS

WATERS CLOSED TO NORTHERN PIKE AND MUSKELLUNGE SPEARING

It shall be unlawful to fish by any means other than hook-and-line for Northern Pike or Muskellunge in the following waters:

Alger County	Kingston Lake
Alpena and Montmorency Counties	Fletcher Floodwaters
Barry County	Lower Crooked Lake and Thornapple Lake (from McKeown Rd T3N, R8W, S27 to Barger Rd T3N, R7W, S20)
Clare County	Budd Lake
Clinton County	Lake Ovid
Delta County	Dana Lake
Dickinson County	East Lake, Island Lake, South Lake, and West Lake (all within Groveland Mines)
Iron County	Brule Lake, Chicagon Lake, Lake Emily, Paint Lake, Paint Pond (Brule Isle Imp.), Stanley Lake, and Swan Lake
Kent County	Campau Lake and Murray Lake
Keweenaw County	Lake Gratiot
Lenawee County	Lake Hudson
Schoolcraft County	Grassy Lake and McKeever Lake
St. Joseph County	Long Lake (T6S, R12W, S7)
Van Buren County	Bankson Lake and Round Lake (T4S, R16W, S31)

WATERS WITH SPEARING AND GAFF HOOK RESTRICTIONS

Cheboygan County

April 1 through June 15, inclusive, it shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any species of fish with spearing gear or gaff hook from the following waters:

Black River

Cheboygan River

Indian River

WATERS CLOSED TO POSSESSION AND USE OF SPEARING GEAR

It shall be unlawful to possess spears, bow and arrow, or crossbow or fish by any means other than hook-and-line in the following waters from November 1 – November 30:

County	Location	Effective Date
Muskegon	The port of Muskegon from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan (excluding break walls) to the Eastern most pier head extending into Muskegon Lake.	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Muskegon	The port of Whitehall/Montague from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the Eastern most pier head extending into White Lake	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Ottawa	The port of Grand Haven from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the US-31 bridge (North bound Beacon Blvd.)	Nov 1 – Nov 30

DESIGNATED TROUT STREAMS OPEN TO SPRING SPEARING

The following designated trout streams are open to the use of spearing gear from April 1 through May 31, inclusive, for taking Bowfin, Bullheads, Burbot, Carp, Catfish, Drum, Longnose Gar, Gizzard Shad, Goldfish, Grass Carp, Cisco (Lake Herring), Smelt, Suckers (as listed above), and Whitefish:

Alcona County

Bryant Creek from Vaughn Lake downstream to Little Lake

Buff Creek

Sucker Creek from confluence of Vincent Creek (T27N, R8E, S9) downstream to Hubbard Lake (T28N, R8E, S36)

Calhoun County

Nottawa Creek from Calhoun County line (T4S, R8W, S31) upstream to T3S, R5W, S35

Rice Creek South Branch Rice Creek from confluence of Rice Creek and Kalamazoo River (T2S, R6W, S25) upstream to Concord Road (Jackson County)

Chippewa County

Trout Creek downstream of Big Trout Lake (T42N, R3E, S31)

Prentiss Creek (T42N, R2E,)

Delta County

Squaw Creek downstream of County Road 513

Mackinac County

Doe Creek (T43N, R10W)

Foley Creek downstream of I-75

Hoban Creek downstream of State Street

Hudson Creek (T41N, R11W, S8)

Martineau Creek downstream of I-75

McClouds Creek

Milakokia River, from Milakokia Lake downstream to Heinz Lake

Norton Creek from M-135 downstream to South Manistique Lake

Nunn's Creek downstream of Highway M -134

Pearson's Creek T42N, R1W and R1E

Rabbits Back Creek downstream of Mackinac Trail

Scrams Creek (T42N, R11W, S11)

Taylor Creek (T43N, R12W, S2, 11, 12 and 13)

Mason County

Sable River from Freesoil Road downstream to Custer Road (T20N, R16W, S22)

Van Buren County

Dowagiac River and tributaries upstream of 50th Street (T45N, R15W, S35)

Lake of the Wood Outlet to confluence with Dowagiac River (T45N, R15W, S34)

LIST B – GREAT LAKES AND CONNECTING WATERS

WATERS CLOSED TO MUSKELLUNGE SPEARING

It shall be unlawful to fish by any other means other than hook-and-line for Muskellunge in the following waters:

Lake Erie
Lake St. Clair
Detroit River
St. Clair River

WATERS OPEN TO YELLOW PERCH SPEARING

December 1 through March 15, inclusive.

Lake St. Clair: a hand-propelled spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow may be used to harvest Yellow Perch.

WATERS CLOSED TO UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING OF NORTHERN PIKE, LAKE TROUT AND WALLEYE

It shall be unlawful to fish with an underwater spear in the following waters:

Lake Superior:

- Stannard Rock (east of a line of longitude at -87.28 degrees, south of a line of latitude at 47.27 degrees, west of a line of longitude at -87.11 degrees, and north of a line of latitude at 47.13 degrees)
- Big Reef (east of a line of longitude at -86.55 degrees, and south of a line of latitude at 46.93 degrees, and west of a line of longitude at -86.37 degrees, and north of a line of latitude at 46.7 degrees)
- Within a 4.5-mile radius of Isle Royale

This order shall be assigned number FO-219.26 and is entitled “Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations.”

This order supersedes the order entitled “Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations,” which became effective April 1, 2025, and is assigned number FO-219.25.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

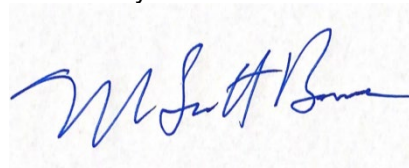
Issued on this 6th day of November 2025.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.



Rebecca Humphries, Vice Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



M. Scott Bowen
Director