



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.23
Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
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:

Fisheries Order 206 governs fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. The Department is recommending 14 additions, one removal, and one clarification for the order.

The addition of several waters where northern pike are managed using the regulation that specifies up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit will increase harvest opportunities. Data from northern pike populations in these waters indicate northern pike are abundant and slow growing, which results in unnecessary limitations for harvest when the populations are regulated with the statewide minimum size limit of 24 inches. Two waters are recommended to be added to the protected slot limit for northern pike where northern pike from 24 inches to 34 inches are protected from harvest. Survey information indicated that northern pike grow to larger sizes in these waters plus, the necessary habitat is available to continue to improve the size structure for this species. Restricting harvest of northern pike will enable more northern pike to reach larger sizes and will help prey on smaller northern pike thus increasing the size structure of the northern pike population. Both regulation types are identified as options in the Management Plan for Northern Pike in Michigan (Fisheries Report 15) and each population fits the biological criteria associated with the regulatory recommendation presented in this order.

A chain of connected waters is recommended to be placed into the muskellunge 50-inch minimum size limit regulation category. Several waters in the chain are Michigan/Wisconsin boundary waters that are currently under a 50-inch size limit and anglers have expressed their confusion associated with differing muskellunge regulations within the connected chain of lakes. This change will result in regulatory consistency among the connected waters and increased clarity for anglers and law enforcement personnel.

One waterbody is recommended to be added to the list of waters with a 10-inch minimum size limit regulation for bass due to an abundant, stunted bass population. This will enable anglers to harvest smaller bass.

The Department recommends consolidating the regulatory provisions associated with walleye seasons, allowable gear, daily possession limit, and the minimum size limit for the lower Saginaw River into Fisheries Order 215.23 and FO-226.23. The recommended changes do not modify the lower Saginaw River walleye regulations approved by the NRC via FO-206.22 but are simply consolidating the regulatory provisions into the appropriate Fisheries Orders. The recommendation would result in provisions being removed from FO-206.22 and placed into FO-215 and FO-226, which already contained regulatory provisions for walleye in Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River. The effective date of January 1, 2023 will be retained.

One clarification is recommended for the order which involves modifying the wording for the Deer Lake Bain, Carp River entry. The Department was informed that various online maps and printed maps refer to the Carp River as Carp Creek thereby causing confusion for anglers; therefore, the recommendation is to insert “/Carp Creek” to the entry to help alleviate this issue.

Each of the recommended amendments provided below were presented to the public during the division’s spring coffee and conversations virtual meetings where support for each proposal was received. Law Enforcement Division has also provided their support for the proposals.

Additions

The following waters are recommended to be added to the order for the reasons indicated below:

1. **McCoy Lake** (Osceola): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
2. **Black Lake** (Cheboygan/Presque Isle): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
3. **Pickereel Lake** (Emmet): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population. If supported it will result in unified regulations with Crooked Lake, which is directly connected.
4. **McCollum Lake** (Oscoda/Alcona): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
5. **Gulliver Lake** (Schoolcraft): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
6. **Worcester (Wolf) Lake** (Schoolcraft): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit.

The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.

7. **Little Long Lake** (Clare): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
8. **Bills Lake** (Newaygo): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
9. **Long Lake** (Ionia): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
10. **Kaks Lake** (Luce): add to list of waters where up to 5 northern pike may be kept with only 1 greater than 24-inches allowed in the daily possession limit. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted population.
11. **Wabasis Lake** (Kent): add to list of waters with a protected slot limit that allows harvest of northern pike measuring less than 24 inches and greater than 34 inches and daily possession limit of 2 per day. The management goal of this regulation is to improve size structure of the northern pike population.
12. **Grand Sable Lake** (Alger): add to list of waters with a protected slot limit that allows harvest of northern pike measuring less than 24 inches and greater than 34 inches and daily possession limit of 2 per day. The management goal of this regulation is to improve size structure of the northern pike population.
13. **Cisco Chain Lakes** (Gogebic): add to list of waters with a 50-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge to unify regulations already in effect for several Michigan/Wisconsin boundary waters. This will improve clarity for anglers and reduce regulatory complexity.
14. **Pratt Lake** (Kent): add to list of waters with a 10-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass. The goal of the amendment is to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers and address concerns of a stunted bass population.

Removal

1. **Saginaw River** (Bay and Saginaw): Removal of the following from the order as this provision will be placed into FO-215 and FO-226 - from the mouth of the river, upstream to the Center Road (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge, also known as West Center Street (Bay and Saginaw Counties): effective January 1, 2023 no special seasonal gear restrictions apply.

Modification

1. **Deer Lake Basin – Carp River** (Marquette): insert “/Carp Creek” after “Carp River” due to various online and printed maps which identify the waterbody with two names. This will help clear up angler confusion in this location.

Issue Pros and Cons

Implementing more liberalized fishing regulations on northern pike and bass in waters where growth is stunted increases angler opportunities for those interested in harvesting smaller fish. Placing a protective slot limit on northern pike in certain waters that have been documented to grow larger sized northern pike can benefit the fish community by increasing predation on smaller northern pike and improve the population's size structure in the lake. Placing uniform fishing regulations on connected waterbodies when possible, can reduce regulatory complexity and improve angler compliance.

Biological

Biologists recommend more liberalized fishing regulations when survey information indicates that the fish population is not attaining harvestable sizes per current regulations. Special regulations are placed on waters to liberalize fishing regulations as well as to provide greater protection to limited resources depending upon the management goals.

Social

Anglers understand that fishing regulations can be changed to increase opportunities and when greater protection to the resource is necessary. Anglers are supportive of special fishing regulations enacted to protect unique and high-quality fishing populations which provide diverse public fishing opportunities.

Economic

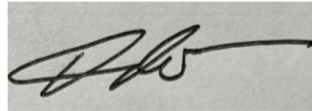
The Department does not expect the proposed changes to have any significant budgetary or personnel implications.

Recommendation:

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order is being submitted for information on August 11, 2022, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August 2, 2022 calendar and may be eligible for approval on September 8, 2022.



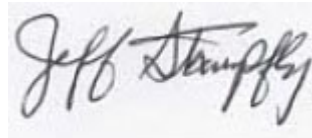
James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



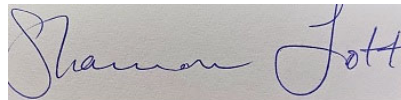
Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

FISHERIES ORDER

Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters Order 206.23

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, it is ordered on September 8, 2022, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2023, as follows:

The following special regulations are in effect for warmwater species on the selected waters and supersede those regulations that in any way conflict with those listed below:

Alcona County

Badger Lake (T28N, R3E, S35) [and McCollum Lake](#): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Alger County

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island: the possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Au Train basin, 16 Mile Lake, Echo Lake, Nawakwa Lake, and Trout Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

[Grand Sable Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.](#)

Allegan County

Pine Creek Flooding: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Antrim County

Clam Lake including all tributaries, Elk Lake (above Elk Rapids Dam) including all tributaries, Lake Bellaire including all tributaries upstream to Bellaire Dam, Lake Skegemog including all tributaries, and Torch Lake including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.

Beals Lake including all tributaries, Benway Lake including all tributaries, Elsworth Lake including all tributaries, Hanley Lake including all tributaries, Intermediate Lake from Bellaire Dam upstream including all tributaries, Saint Clair Lake including all tributaries, Scotts Lake including all tributaries, Six Mile Lake including all tributaries, and Wilson Lake including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Beals Lake, Benway Lake, Ellsworth Lake, Hanley Lake, Scotts Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Wilson Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24.

Baraga County

Vermillac (Worm) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Barry County

Gun Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Thornapple Lake (from McKeown road to Barger road): the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. The possession season for Muskellunge and Northern Pike shall be the 1st Saturday in June through November 30, inclusive.

Williams Lake: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through December 15, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0).

Bay County

~~The following provision shall be effective on January 1, 2023 – Saginaw River from the mouth of the river, upstream to the Center Road (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge, also known as West Center Street (Bay and Saginaw Counties): the Walleye possession season is open year round; up to eight (8) Walleye may be retained in the daily possession limit with a minimum length of 13 inches; no special seasonal gear restrictions apply.~~

Benzie County

Long Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Calhoun County

Harts Lake (T2S, R8W, S7, 18): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Cass County

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24) Little Crooked Lake, and Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35): the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Magician Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Charlevoix County

Saint Clair Lake including all tributaries and Six Mile Lake including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Deer Lake, Fox Lake, Geneserath Lake, Six Mile Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), St. Clair Lake (Antrim and Charlevoix Counties), and Susan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Cheboygan County

Black Lake including all tributaries and Black River including all tributaries (upstream to Kleber Dam), Burt Lake, Cheboygan River, Crooked River (downstream from Crooked Lake confluence), Indian River, Mullet Lake: the minimum size limit on Muskellunge is 46 inches.

[Black Lake](#), Black River upstream of Tower Dam (includes Tower Pond) and tributary streams only, Silver Lake (T33N, R3W, S11, 12), Wildwood Lake (T33N, R2W, S21), and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Cheboygan River from the south end of the outermost breakwall on Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam, and Black River from Alverno Dam downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River: the possession season for walleye shall be May 15 – March 15, inclusive.

Chippewa County

St. Marys River (from compensating gates downstream to DeTour/Drummond Island Ferry docks): the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Frenchman Lake (T44N, R6W, S23, 25, 26) and Trout (Carp) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Clare County

Eight Point Lake, Lake Thirteen, [Little Long Lake](#), and Long Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Crawford County

Jones Lake (T28N, R2W, S30, 31): the fishing season shall be from the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. Tackle: artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water. Daily possession limit is zero (0).

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23): the fishing season shall be from the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water.

Big Creek Impoundment (T28N, R1W, S24, 25), River Lake (T28N, R2W, S30), and Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties, T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Delta County

Chicago Lake, Carr Lake, Hamilton (McDonald) Lake, Lyman Lake, Escanaba River upstream from first dam at US-2, Round Lake (T40N, R20W, S1): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Dickinson County

Hamilton Lake, Lake Louise, Lake Mary and Sawyer Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Emmet County

Crooked River (downstream from Crooked Lake confluence): the minimum size limit on Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Crooked Lake, French Farm Lake Flooding, O'Neal Lake Flooding, and Paradise (Carp) Lake (Cheboygan and Emmet Counties), [and Pickerel Lake](#): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gladwin County

Lake Lancelot, Lake Lancer and Wiggins Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Gogebic County

Chaney Lake, Cisco Lake, Thousand Island Lake, Lindsley Lake, Poor Lake, Big African Lake, Little African Lake, Clearwater Lake, East Bay Lake, Fishhawk Lake, Indian Lake, Lake Gogebic, Morley Lake, Record Lake and Sunday Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

[Cisco chain of lakes: African \(Big and Little\) Lakes, Big Lake, Cisco Lake, Clearwater Lake, East Bay Lake, West Bay Lake, Fishhawk Lake, Indian Lake, Lindsley Lake, Morley Lake, Mamie Lake, Poor Lake, Record Lake, and Thousand Island Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.](#)

Grand Traverse County

Elk Lake (above Elk Rapids Dam) including all tributaries and Lake Skegemog including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.

Arbutus Lake and Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9, 10): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Boardman Lake, and Lake Dubonnet: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Hillsdale County

Lake Diane: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 38 inches.

Houghton County

Portage and Torch Lake systems: no more than one (1) Walleye over 23 inches may be possessed in the daily possession limit.

Prickett Impoundment and Rice Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ionia County

Woodard Lake: the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

[Long Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five \(5\) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one \(1\) greater than 24 inches.](#)

Iron County

Chicagon Lake including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.

Lake Ottawa the daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0).

Fire Lake and Indian Lake: the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Bass Lake, Bone Lake, Brule Lake, Buck Lake, Deer River, Hemlock Falls Reservoir, Indian Lake, Iron Lake, Lake Mary, Lake St. Kathryn, Michigamme Falls Reservoir, Michigamme Reservoir, Net River, Net River Wide Waters, Paint Lake, Paint River Pond (downstream of Horserace Rapids and upstream of Frog Island), Peavy Pond, Perch Lake, Railroad Lake, Runkle Lake, Shank Lake, Sunset Lake, and Winslow Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Kalamazoo County

Long Lake (T3S, R10W, S17, 18, 19, 30): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Kalkaska County

Lake Skegemog including all tributaries: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Kent County

Murray Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Bass Lake (T10N, R9W, S12, 13, 14) [and Wabasis Lake](#): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Scram Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

[Pratt Lake: the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.](#)

Keweenaw County

Schlatter Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lake County

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 10 inches.

Leelanau County

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1). Tackle: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9): Tackle: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water. No size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Lenawee County

Lake Hudson: the possession season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge shall be the first Saturday in June through November 30, inclusive.

Luce County

Blind Sucker Flooding and Bodi Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

East Lake, [Kaks Lake](#), and Muskallonge Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Tahquamenon River and Tributaries upstream from Upper Falls: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 38 inches.

Mackinac County

East Lake, Millecoquins Lake, and South Manistique Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Manistee County

Bar Lake and Chief Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Marquette County

Deer Lake Basin (T48N, R27W, S27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34), Carp River/[Carp Creek](#) downstream from M-28 (T47N, R27W, S4) and all other tributaries to Deer Lake Basin: the daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8): the minimum size limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is one (1).

Bass (East) Lake, Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11), Dead River Storage Basin, Engman Lake, Middle Branch Escanaba River, Big West Branch Escanaba River, Escanaba River Mainstream downstream to Boney Falls Basin (except Greenwood, Schweitzer and Cataract Reservoirs), Shag (Big) Lake, and Witch Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mason County

Hackert (Crystal) Lake (T18N, R17W, S2, 3): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Mecosta County

Canadian Lakes (in T14N, R8W, S20, 29, 30 north of Pierce Rd and south of Buchanan Rd in S19), Haymarsh Lake and Horsehead Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Menominee County

Shakey Lakes Chain including: Bass Lake, Beecher Lake, Long Lake, East Lake, Resort Lake, Baker Lake, and Spring Lake and Westman Impoundment (including North and Hayward Lakes): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Missaukee County

Missaukee Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Montcalm County

Indian Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Sand Lake and Townline Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Monroe County

Crystal Waters State Game Area: the fishing season shall be open all year. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: all types of natural and artificial baits may be used.

Montmorency County

North and South Blue Lakes and Walled Lake: the fishing season shall be the last Saturday in April through September 30, inclusive. The daily possession limit is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only.

Black River and tributary streams only, East Town Corner Lake, North Tomahawk Lake, Pug Lakes (T31N, R2E, S4, 5), Robarge (Pike) Lake, South Tomahawk Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Muskegon County

Mona Lake: the minimum size limit on Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Big Blue Lake (T12N, R16W, S2, 3, 4): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches

Newaygo County

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19) and Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24): the daily possession limit is zero (0) for Walleye, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Bullhead.

Crystal Lake: the daily possession limit is zero (0) for walleye.

[Bills Lake](#), Diamond Lake, Nichols Lake, Ryerson (Long) Lake, Pickerel Lake, Kimball Lake, Emerald Lake, and Sylvan Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oakland County

Upper Bushman Lake (T4N, R9E, S3): the daily possession limit is zero (0).

Oceana County

Round (Wykoff) Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ogemaw County

East Twin Lake, Lake Ogemaw and Sage Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ontonagon County

Ontonagon River (Ontonagon County): no more than one (1) Walleye over 23 inches may be possessed in the daily possession limit.

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21, 22): the daily possession limit for Smallmouth Bass is zero (0). Tackle: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food at any time on the shore or water.

Lake Gogebic: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Osceola County

Diamond Lake, Lake Miramichi, [McCoy Lake](#), Rose Lake, and Wells Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Oscoda County

[McCollum Lake and](#) Pickerel Lake (Crawford and Oscoda Counties T24N, R1W, S24 and T28N, R1E, S19): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Ottawa County

Grand River (downstream from Sixth Street Dam) and Lake Macatawa: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Presque Isle County

Black Lake including all tributaries: the minimum size limit on Muskellunge is 46 inches.

Ocqueoc River and tributary streams, all lakes of the Ocqueoc River watershed including Ann, Bullhead, Ella, Emma, Ferdelman, Gorman, Horseshoe, Lost, Louise, Lower and Upper Barnhart, May, McIntosh, Moore, Mud, Nettie, Ocqueoc, ~~and Orchard~~, [and Black Lake](#), the Black River and tributary streams, and the following lakes of the Black River watershed: Francis Lake, Tomahawk Flooding, East Town Corner Lake, and West Town Corner Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Roscommon County

Backus Creek from the stream mouth upstream, including all tributaries, Little Mud Lake Flooding, Backus Creek Flooding, and Backus Lake Flooding, Cut River from the river mouth at Houghton Lake upstream to CO 100 just downstream of Higgins Lake, Houghton Lake, Lake James and Lake St. Helen: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

Saginaw County

~~The following provision shall be effective on January 1, 2023—Saginaw River from the mouth of the river, upstream to the Center Road (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge, also known as West Center Street (Bay and Saginaw Counties): the Walleye possession season is open year-round; up to eight (8) Walleye may be retained in the daily possession limit with a minimum length of 13 inches; no special seasonal gear restrictions apply.~~

Schoolcraft County

Boot Lake, Colwell Lake, Crooked Lake, [Gulliver Lake](#), Kennedy Lake, MacDonald Lake, Seney Wildlife Refuge Ponds, Stanley Lake, ~~and Thunder Lake~~, [and Worchester \(Wolf\) Lake](#): no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

St. Joseph County

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29) and Big Pleasant Lake: the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Magician Lake (effective April 1, 2020): protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Van Buren County

Crooked Lake and Little Crooked Lake: the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10 inches.

Round Lake: the minimum size limit on Muskellunge is 38 inches.

Magician Lake: protected slot limit on Northern Pike from 24 – 34 inches.

Washtenaw County

Horseshoe Lake: the daily possession limit for Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike is one (1). The daily possession limit for Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Green Sunfish, Black Crappie and White Crappie, Warmouth, and Rock Bass in combination is ten (10).

Huron River, from the Mast Road Bridge in the Village of Dexter (T1S, R5E, S32) downstream to the Delhi Road Bridge (T2S, R5E, S2): the daily possession limit of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is zero (0)

Wexford County

Pleasant Lake and Stone Ledge Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) greater than 24 inches.

This order shall be assigned number FO-206.23, and is titled “Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters.”

This order supersedes the order titled “Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters,” effective April 1, 2022, and is assigned number FO-206.22.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 8th day of September 2022.

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

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Daniel Eichinger
Director