



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 226.23
Hook and Line Restrictions During Walleye Spawning Runs
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 226 covers special fishing regulations to protect walleye during spawning runs in specific waters. The Department recommends moving the provision currently listed in Fisheries Order 206.22 for the 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): no special seasonal gear restrictions apply” into this order. The provision was added to Fisheries Order 206.22 as an amendment by the Natural Resources Commission (Commission) in 2021. The Department recommends placing the provision in Fisheries Order 226.23 where seasonal gear restrictions on walleye are currently listed.

It should be noted that Fisheries Order 206.23 is also being presented For Information Only at this meeting and that the order is recommended to be effective April 1, 2023. Therefore, Fisheries Order 206.22, currently in effect, contains the Commission amendment and will remain effective through March 31, 2023. Fisheries Order 226 is also recommended to be effective on April 1, 2023. The process of moving the provision from Fisheries Order 206 to 226 will not have an effect on the timing or duration of the gear restriction removal for this area.

Issue Pros and Cons

Moving the provision to Fisheries Order 226 will benefit the Department by reducing the number of orders where the gear restriction regulations are maintained for this area. No cons have been identified.

Biological

This change is not based upon biological information.

Social

Anglers will not notice a difference and the expanded fishing opportunity recommended by the Commission will still be implemented.

Economic

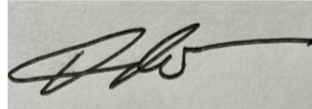
The Department does not expect the proposed changes to have any significant budgetary or personnel implications.

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.



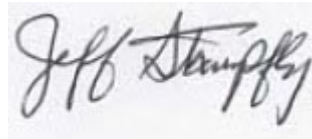
James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



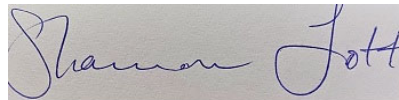
Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

FISHERIES ORDER

HOOK AND LINE RESTRICTIONS DURING WALLEYE SPAWNING RUNS Order 226.23

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

The following regulations are established on the waters listed:

During the period from March 16 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April:

1. Anglers are limited to using only the following:
 - a) unweighted single-pointed hooks, natural bait, and sinkers or weights, or
 - b) artificial lures with unweighted single-pointed hooks.

Bay county: Saginaw River from upstream of the Center Road (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge, also known as West Center Street and tributaries, Kawkawlin River downstream from Euclid avenue (T14N, R5E, S5).

Saginaw county: Saginaw River from upstream of the Center Road (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge, also known as West Center Street, Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, Bad, Cass and Flint rivers and all respective tributaries.

Macomb county Clinton river cut-off channel (T2N, R13E) from spillway weir to the Harper road bridge.

Midland county: Tittabawassee river downstream from Sanford dam site (T15N, R1W, S24) and Salt, Chippewa, and Pine rivers and all respective tributaries.

Genesee county: Flint river downstream from Holloway dam and all respective tributaries.

This Order shall be assigned number FO-226.23, and is entitled "Hook and Line Restrictions during Walleye Spawning Runs."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Hook and Line Restrictions During Walleye Spawning Runs on the Saginaw River and its Tributaries," which became effective April 1, 2022, and is assigned number FO-226.22.

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