



# Department of Natural Resources

## NRC Fisheries Committee

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief  
February 10, 2022

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# Fisheries Order Proposal Process

- Addressing biological and/or social concerns



Local Fisheries Division review



Proposal form developed



Fisheries Division Basin Team Review



Stakeholder/Angler input ; Advisory Committee feedback ; Social surveys



Update Proposal form



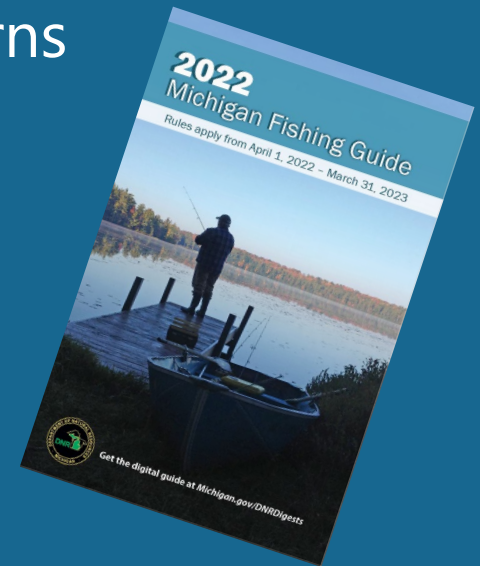
Multi-division Fisheries Regulation Review Committee



Fisheries Chief approval



NRC



# Coffee and Conversations

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- Multiple meetings throughout the state
- Primarily virtual format
- Open discussions with the public
- Primary vehicle to discuss regulations
- 11 scheduled meetings this year
- March 9 – April 7



# Tentative Fish Orders in Play

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- F.O. 200 – Trout and Salmon
  - Stream designations
- F.O. 204 – Spawning Closures
  - Closure adjustments
- F.O. 206 – Special Regulations for Warmwater Species
  - Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass
- F.O. 210 – Designated Trout Streams
  - Removals from list
- F.O. 215 – Statewide Warmwater Species
  - Northern Pike Slot limit
- F.O. 254 – Inland Trout Lakes
  - Designation changes



# Steelhead Update

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- F.O. 200 Amendment– Trout and Salmon
  - Reduced spring bag limit on limited streams this year
- Coldwater Resources Steering Committee February 22
  - Present November 2021 NRC presentation
- Develop angler survey regarding Steelhead Management
  - Targeting September
- Design creel surveys: Muskegon and Manistee Rivers
  - Likely October 2022 through May 2023
- Design research projects
- Continue angler conversations regarding Steelhead

# Steelhead Research

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- What is causing decreased recruitment of adult steelhead?
- Hypothesis: juvenile survival has decreased
- Study Proposal: evaluate the fate of juveniles during out-migration, compare among watersheds
- Spring 2022: feasibility test of survival, tag retention of surgically implanted "predation" tags in yearling steelhead
- If successful, submit funding proposals for 2023
- Project duration, 2 or 3 years.
- MDNR, INDNR, WDNR, CMU, USGS



# Additional Steelhead Questions

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- What is the fate of spawning run adult steelhead?
- Can we confirm our understanding of repeat spawners?
- What is the angling mortality on spawning steelhead?
- How often are spawners recaptured?
- What is their timing, movement and distribution?
- Utilizes acoustic telemetry tags and receivers
- Potential multi-year project
- Involves the angling community



# Saginaw River Walleye Update

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- F.O. 206 Amendment—
  - Expanding angler opportunity – 6 additional weeks
- Walleye will be abundant in the river
- Bay and river will have the same regulations in 2023
  - 8 fish DPL and 13" MSL
- Bay and river will be managed as single "stock"





# Saginaw River Access

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- 12 miles of publicly accessible shore fishing
- 10 public launches
- 541 parking sites
- 40 launch lanes
- 19 publicly accessible shore fishing sites
- 6 weeks of creel
- Enhanced LED needs



# Saginaw River Outreach

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- Conversations and Coffee 2022 and 2023
- Sea Grant Workshops 2022 and 2023
- DNR Fisheries and municipalities information sharing
  - Bay/Saginaw County
  - Bay City
  - Saginaw
- DNR Marketing and Outreach Division
  - Highlight the fishery
  - Outreach materials



# Future Committee Discussions

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- Regulation's discussions
  - Enhance NRC outreach
  - Move notification up 5 months
    - F.O. 210 Designated Trout Streams
  - Opportunity for in-depth conversations
- Research
  - Informs management
  - Costly to properly execute
  - Limited resources
  - Research takes time
  - Research asks can be difficult



# Overall Trend in Wild Salmon Abundance

100 %

CA, OR, WA, and ID

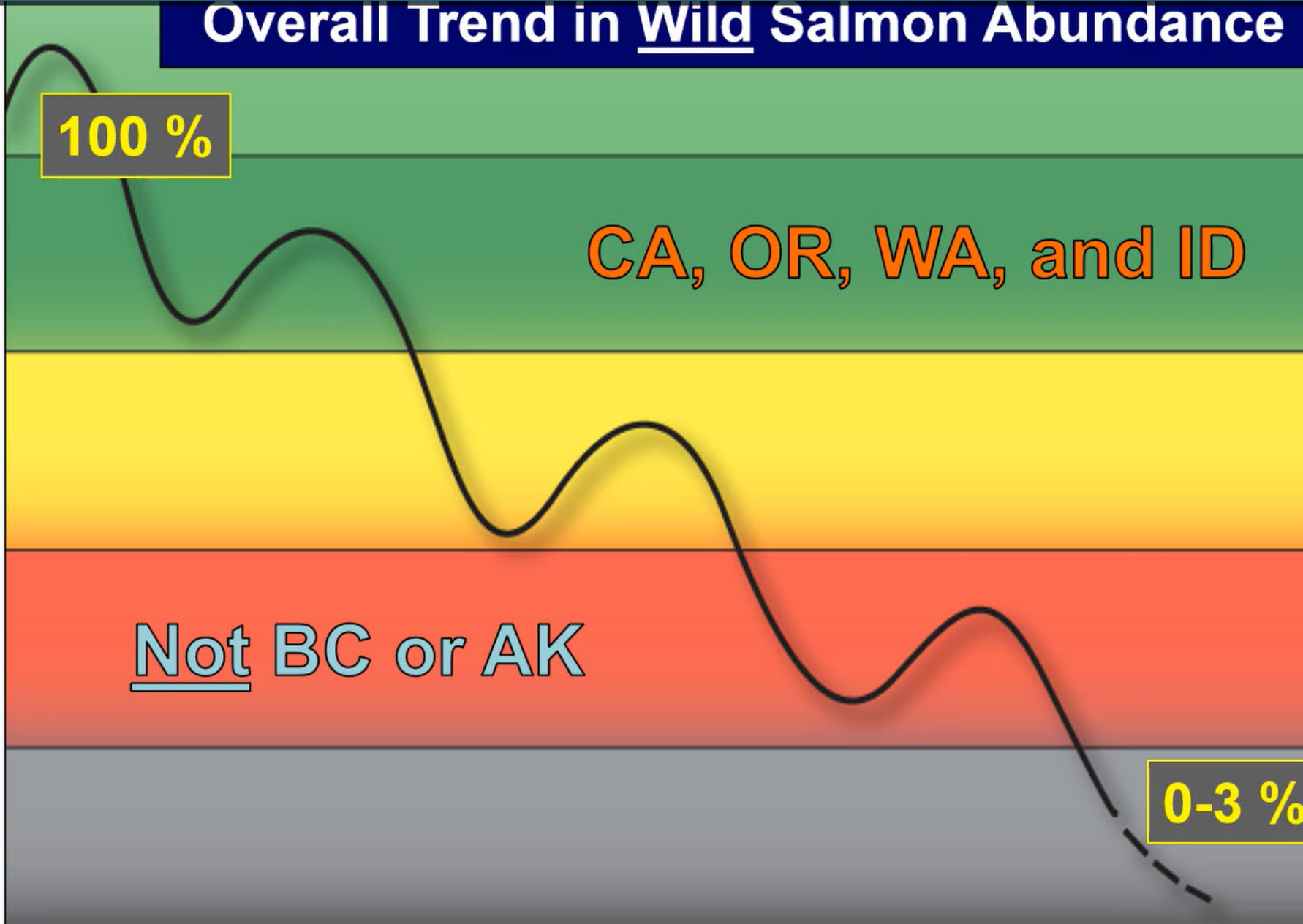
Not BC or AK

0-3 %

1800 →

2022

Total Run Size ↑



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

