



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 15, 2022
RESUBMITTED: September 12, 2022

<p><u>APPROVED</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">,20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)</p>

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 254.23
Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations

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 254 governs regulations for trout and salmon on inland lakes. The Department recommends adding a waterbody, modifying the regulation Type for one waterbody, and removing one lake from the order.

The Department proposes the following regulatory amendments for this order:

1. Big Trout Lake (Marquette): The Department recommends adding Big Trout Lake under Type E regulations to protect stocked brown trout. Big Trout Lake has a long history of being stocked with various trout species dating back to 1937. The lake also has developed into having a nice warmwater species component. A netting survey conducted in 2013 collected 5 brown trout (which were in poor condition) and various warmwater species. In 2014, brown trout stocking was discontinued, and the management emphasis changed towards stocking rainbow trout (Michigan strain steelhead) to try to develop a fishery consisting of cold- and warmwater species. Fall fingerling steelhead were stocked for several years and a follow-up survey in 2017 resulted in catching one 10-inch steelhead and 4 brown trout ranging in length from 17 – 22 inches. The most recent survey conducted in 2021 resulted in the collection of a single 15-inch steelhead. The poor performance of the fall fingerling steelhead stocking efforts resulted in managers cancelling steelhead stocking in this lake. Conversations with anglers and residents after the 2021 fish community survey indicated that there was a preference by the group for reinitiating a brown trout stocking program, and the Department agreed to manage the coldwater fishery primary for brown trout via stocking efforts. Adding Big Trout Lake under Type E regulations will protect stocked brown trout with a 15-inch minimum size limit and allow anglers to fish all year in this waterbody.
2. Redboat Lake (Gogebic): The Department recommends changing from Type D to C sportfishing regulations, which will result in expanded harvest opportunities for trout in a lake with an increasing relative abundance of warmwater fish species. A netting survey

in 2017 and 2021 documented an increasing trend in relative abundance of warmwater species like largemouth bass, bluegill, and yellow perch which are known to compete with trout. A 2021 netting survey documented that most brook trout collected were under 12 inches. The change to Type C will result in reducing the 15-inch minimum size limit to 8 inches, increase the daily possession limit from 1 to 5 with only three 15" or greater, expand the fishing season to all year, and will allow the use of all bait types, which will benefit anglers.

3. Grand Sable Lake (Alger): The Department recommends removing Type E fishing regulations due to a management shift from coldwater species to warmwater species in the lake. Prior to 2005, Grand Sable Lake was stocked with lake trout (not a naturally occurring species). In 2005, the National Park Service requested that the state move towards management of native species within park boundaries. Lake trout stocking was cancelled, and Type E fishing regulations were enacted to protect previously stocked lake trout there to larger sizes before harvest. It has been more than a decade since lake trout were stocked into Grand Sable Lake, and it is recommended that the limited trout population be regulated without a trout lake classification, which results in an 8-inch minimum size limit for trout and a possession season that is open all year.

Fisheries Division conducted several Coffee and Conversation virtual meetings in spring 2022 where regulation changes were presented to the public and the proposals were fully supported. The regulation proposals were also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

Placing higher size limit regulations on unique trout fisheries with good survival and growth provides anglers with quality trout fishing opportunities. Adjusting trout regulations based upon recent survey information provides managers the ability to modify regulations that benefit anglers. Removal of more restrictive fishing regulations, when no longer necessary, creates more fishing opportunities. No cons have been identified.

Biological

Implementing new fishing regulations by placing a water under higher minimum size limit regulations provides anglers with quality trout fishing regulations when fish stocks exhibit good growth. Conversely, waters where stocked trout are not reaching the existing minimum size limit result in reduced angling opportunities. Waters that no longer focus on coldwater species management need to be placed under the most appropriate fishing regulations for anglers.

Social


Anglers support regulations that informed by available data and are biologically sound. Timely survey information enables managers to enact the most appropriate fishing regulations for anglers.

Economic

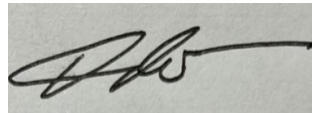
The Department does not expect the proposed changes to have any significant budgetary or personnel implications.

Recommendation:

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on September 8, 2022, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August 30, 2022 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 13, 2022.



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

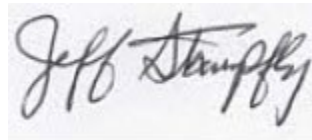


David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division

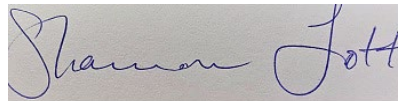
for



Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Daniel Eichinger, Director

Date

FISHERIES ORDER

Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations Order 254.23

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 October 13, 2022, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2023, as follows:

The following regulations are established for trout and salmon on inland lakes:

*Note: For the purpose of this order Rainbow Trout refers to both Rainbow Trout and Steelhead.

Trout and Salmon in Inland Lakes

On those inland lakes designated below as Types A, B, C, D and E, the minimum size limits for Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Pink Salmon, and Atlantic Salmon shall be as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Chinook Salmon	10 inches
Coho Salmon	10 inches
Pink Salmon	10 inches
Atlantic Salmon	15 inches

Notwithstanding any other order of the Department, for any inland lake not classified below the fishing and possession seasons are open for the entire year to the taking of trout, the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches except, the daily possession limit shall be five (5) trout**, and all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.

**Note: The daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

Type A Lakes

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Tackle: natural baits except minnows (dead or alive) and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	10 inches
Brown Trout	12 inches
Rainbow Trout	12 inches
Splake	12 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type A lakes. Type A lakes are managed strictly for trout and, as such, are designated trout lakes.

Type A Designated Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Alger	Addis Lakes (T46N, R20W, S33)
Alger	Bette's Pond

Type A Designated Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Alger	Brian's Pond
Alger	Cox Pond (T46N, R19W, S13)
Alger	Grand Marais Lake
Alger	Hike Lake
Alger	Irwin Lake
Alger	Rock Lake
Alger	Rock River Pond
Alger	Sitka Lake (T48N, R13W, S9)
Alger	Sullivan Lake (T49N, R15W, S21)
Alger	Trueman Lake
Alger	West John's Lake (T48N, R13W, S26)
Chippewa	Highbanks Lake
Chippewa	Naomikong Lake
Chippewa	Naomikong Pond
Crawford	Kneff Lake
Crawford	Shupac Lake
Delta	Bear Lake
Delta	Carr Lake (T43N, R18W, S36)
Delta	Carr Ponds (T43N, R18W, S26)
Delta	Kilpecker Pond (T43N, R18W, S11)
Delta	Norway Lake
Delta	Wintergreen Lake (T43N, R18W, S36)
Delta	Zigmaul Pond
Gogebic	Castle Lake
Gogebic	Cornelia Lake
Houghton	Penegor Lake
Iron	Deadman's Lake (T41N, R32W, S5 & 8)
Iron	Fortune Pond (T43N, R33W, S25)
Iron	Killdeer Lake
Iron	Madelyn Lake
Iron	Skyline Lake
Iron	Spree Lake
Keweenaw	No Name Pond (T57N, R31W, S8)
Luce	Bennett Springs Lake
Luce	Brockies Pond (T46N, R11W, S1)
Luce	Bullhead Lake (T49N, R11W, S34)
Luce	Dairy Lake
Luce	Holland Lake
Luce	Jack Lake
Luce	Little Whorl Lake
Luce	Pratt Lake
Luce	Silver Creek Pond
Luce	Syphon Lake
Luce	Trout Lake
Luce	Ward Lake
Luce	Wolverine Lake
Luce	Youngs Lake
Mackinac	Millecoquins Pond
Marquette	Cranberry Lake (T45N, R30W, S10)
Marquette	Just Lake
Marquette	Island Lake (T45N, R30W, S14)
Marquette	Moccasin Lake
Marquette	Section 13 Lake

Type A Designated Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Marquette	Slough Lake
Marquette	Swanzy Lake
Oscoda	Crater Lake
Schoolcraft	Kings Pond
Schoolcraft	Lost Lake
Schoolcraft	Spring Pond

Type B Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	10 inches
Brown Trout	12 inches
Rainbow Trout	12 inches
Splake	12 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type B lakes.

Type B Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Alcona	Reid Lake
Alcona	South Hoist Lake
Alger	Ackerman Lake
Alger	Cheryl's Pond (T44N, R19W, S25)
Alger	Kay's Pond
Alger	Mirror Lake
Alger	North (Upper) Shoe Lake (T48N, R17W, S36)
Alger	Sawaski Pond (T44N, R19W, S14)
Antrim	Green Lake
Baraga	Roland Lake
Barry	Deep Lake
Cass	Birch Lake
Cass	Hemlock Lake
Charlevoix	Louise Lake
Cheboygan	Silver Lake
Cheboygan	Weber Lake
Chippewa	Dukes Lake
Crawford	Bright Lake
Emmet, Charlevoix	Walloon Lake
Gogebic	Beatons Lake
Gogebic	Imp Lake
Gogebic	Moon Lake
Grand Traverse	Duck Lake
Grand Traverse	Green Lake
Iron	Chicagon Lake
Iron	Ellen Lake

Type B Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Iron	Golden Lake
Iron	Lake Ottawa
Kalkaska	Bear Lake
Kalkaska	Big Blue Lake
Kalkaska	North Blue Lake
Luce	Pretty lake
Luce	Tank Lake
Marquette	Bass Lake (T45N, R26W, S29)
Marquette	Brocky Lake
Marquette	Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11)
Marquette	Forestville Basin (T48N, R25W, S8)
Marquette	Little Brocky Lake
Marquette	Little Shag Lake
Marquette	Perch Lake (T46N, R29W, S8)
Marquette	Silver Lake Basin
Marquette	Twin Lake (T45N, R30W, S23)
Montmorency	Avalon Lake
Montmorency	Clear Lake
Montmorency	McCormick Lake
Ogemaw	Lake George (T21N, R2E, S18)
Ontonagon	Courtney Lake
Oscoda	Loon Lake
Otsego	Big Chub Lake
Otsego	Bridge Lake
Otsego	Heart Lake
Otsego	Pickereel Lake
Presque Isle	Bear Den Lake (T33N, R2E, S32)
Schoolcraft	Banana Lake
Schoolcraft	Bear Lake (Nineteen Lake, T44N, R18W, S27)

Type C Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

Species	Minimum size limit
Brook Trout	8 inches
Brown Trout	8 inches
Rainbow Trout	8 inches
Splake	8 inches
Lake Trout	8 inches

Following is a listing of Type C lakes.

Type C Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Antrim	Bellaire Pond
Berrien	Singer Lake
Branch	Cary Lake
Cass	Harwood Lake
Gogebic	Redboat Lake

Type C Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Grand Traverse	Sand Lake #1
Hillsdale	Bear Lake
Hillsdale	Bird Lake
Jackson	Farwell Lake (T4S, R2W, S25/36)
Jackson	Swains Lake
Kalamazoo	Little Paw Paw Lake (T3S, R12W, S31)
Kalamazoo	Ruppert Lake
Kalkaska	Big Guernsey Lake
Kalkaska	Big Twin Lake
Kalkaska	Starvation Lake
Leelanau	Lime Lake
Lenawee	Allens Lake (T5S, R2E, S10)
Lenawee	Deep Lake
Luce	Camp 8 Lake
Montcalm	Marl Lake
Montcalm	Nevins Lake
Muskegon	Half Moon Lake
Newaygo	Condon Lake
Oakland	Maceday Lake (T3N, R9E, S7)
Ontonagon	Mirror Lake
Ontonagon	Trout Creek Pond (T47N, R38W, S14)
Osceola	Center Lake
Van Buren	Shafer Lake

Type D Lakes

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Tackle: only artificial lures may be used. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead or preserved bait, organic or processed food on any of the waters or on shore.
- Daily Possession Limit: one (1) trout.
- Size limits:

Species	Minimum size limit
Brook Trout	15 inches
Brown Trout	15 inches
Rainbow Trout	15 inches
Splake	15 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type D lakes. Type D lakes are managed for trout and, as such, are designated trout lakes.

Type D Designated Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Cheboygan	Hemlock Lake (T3N, R1W, S34, 35)
Houghton	Clear Lake
Houghton	Perrault Lake
Iron	Forest Lake
Iron	Timber Lake
Keweenaw	Lost Lake
Luce	Deer Lake
Luce	Moon Lake
Luce	Sid Lake

Type D Designated Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Marquette	South Kidney Lake (T45N, R26W, S28)
Marquette	Rockingchair Lake, N., (T49N, R28W, S10)
Marquette	Rockingchair Lake, S., (T49N, R28W, S10)
Marquette	Strawberry Lake
Otsego	Ford Lake (T32N, R1W, S8)
Otsego	Lost Lake
Otsego	North Twin Lake
Otsego	Section Four Lake (T32N, R1W, S4)
Otsego	South Twin Lake
Otsego	West Lost Lake (T32N, R1W, S3)
Schoolcraft	Ned's Lake
Schoolcraft	Twilight Lake

Type E Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: three (3) trout.
- Size limits:

Species	Minimum size limit
Brook Trout	15 inches
Brown Trout	15 inches
Rainbow Trout	15 inches
Splake	15 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type E lakes.

Type E Trout Lakes	
County	Lake Name
Antrim	Torch Lake
Antrim, Grand Traverse	Elk Lake
Barry, Kalamazoo	Gull Lake
Benzie	Crystal Lake
Cheboygan	Tower Pond (from dam upstream to M-68)
Leelanau	North Lake Leelanau
Leelanau	Big Glen Lake
Marquette	Big Trout Lake
Marquette	Lake Arfelin
Marquette	Sporely Lake
Roscommon	Higgins Lake

Type F Lakes (Drowned River-Mouth Lakes)

NOTE:

- 1) The following regulations shall apply in each drowned river-mouth lake identified below from the upstream limit of the lake to its mouth at Lake Michigan.
- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession season:
 - 1) For all species of trout and salmon, open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: all types of natural baits and artificial lures may be used.
 - Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except:
 - 1) Excluding Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon, the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) of any one species of trout or salmon.
 - 2) The daily possession limit may include up to five (5) Chinook Salmon or Coho Salmon in any combination.
 - Size limits: minimum size limit: 10 inches for all species of trout and salmon.

Following is a listing of Type F lakes.

Type F Trout Lakes		
County	Lake Name	Upstream Limit
Allegan	Kalamazoo Lake/Silver Lake	US 31
Benzie	Betsie Lake	M-22
Charlevoix	Lake Charlevoix (including Round Lake)	
Manistee	Arcadia Lake	M-22
Manistee	Manistee Lake	Railroad Bridge below M-55 (T21N, 16W, S6)
Manistee	Portage Lake	
Mason	Pere Marquette Lake	Old 31 Highway
Muskegon	Duck Lake	Nestrom Road
Muskegon	Mona Lake	US 31
Muskegon	Muskegon Lake	M-120
Muskegon	White Lake	Business Route US 31
Oceana	Pentwater Lake	Long Bridge Road (B15)
Oceana	Silver Lake	
Oceana	Stony Lake	Inlet of Stony Creek (Scenic Drive, T13N, R18W, S5)
Ottawa	Lake Macatawa	River Avenue
Ottawa	Pigeon Lake	Lakeshore Drive

This order shall be assigned number FO-254.23, and is titled "Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations".

This order supersedes the order titled "Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations," effective April 1, 2022, and was assigned number FO-254.22.

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

Issued on this 13th day of October 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