Management Plan for Trout in Michigan's Inland Waters



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Trout in Inland Waters

- Plan is specific to resident trout species residing in inland waterbodies for their entire life.
 - Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Lake Trouts
 - Splake
 - Atlantic Salmon
 - Arctic Grayling
- Plan does not account for migratory Salmonid species that spend at least a portion of their life in one of the Great Lakes



Trout in Michigan

- Lake Trout, Brook Trout, and Arctic Grayling are native to portions of Michigan
- Rainbow Trout first introduced in 1876
- Brown Trout first introduced in 1883
- Splake and Atlantic Salmon introduced much later



Trout in Michigan Streams

- Trout distribution related to:
 - Cold and welloxygenated water
 - Streams with large inputs of groundwater



Designated Trout Streams





Trout Stream Regulations

All types of natural a Types 1-4. NOTE: Chu listed below	Mini	mum Size (inches)	Daily Possession Limit					
Stream Type (Colors below are indicated accordingly on the maps online.)	Fishing Season	Possession Season	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	Atlantic, Chinook, Coho & Pink Salmon, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout (Steelhead), Splake	All Trout and Salmon		
1 (Approx. 1,400 streams)	Last Sat. in April - Sep. 30	Last Sat. in April - Sep. 30	7"	8"		5 fish, but no more than 3 trout 15" or greater		
(13 streams)	Last Sat. in April - Sep. 30	- Sep. 30	10"	12"				
3 (58 streams)	Open All Year	Open All Year	15"	15"				
4 (128 streams)	Open All Year	Last Sat. in April - Sep. 30 for Brook Trout, Brown Trout, and Atlantic Salmon Open all year for all other Trout and Salmon	7"	10"	10"			
Brook Trout Restoration Areas (BTRA)	 The following locations have more restrictive brook trout regulations. Fishing regulations on vaters shall supersed those in other sections which in any way conflict with the following: the has season for Brook Trout is from the last Saturday in April - Sep. 30, the minimum size limit on Brook I' and the superior of Sature Saturday in April - Sep. 30, the minimum size limit on Brook Trout, Lake Trout, and State Superior (TSON, R26W, S33) downstream to Lake Superior (TSON, R26W, S18). Iron River (Marquette Co), from Lake Independence Dam (TSIN, R27W, S13) downstream to Lake Superior (TSON, R26W, S33) downstream to Lake Superior (TSON, R26W, S18). Itor River (Marquette Co), from Lake Independence Dam (TSIN, R27W, S13) downstream to Lake Superior (TSON, R26W, S33) downstream to Lake Superior (TSON, R26W, S18). Ster River (Baraga Co), from Site River (Baraga Co),							

- Majority of trout streams managed with Type-1 regulations (closed to fishing during spawning)
- Some streams managed with Type 2, 3, or 4 regulations
- 13 Gear Restricted Streams



Trout Stocking-Streams



Figure 19.–Numbers of streams stocked with Brook, Brown, and Rainbow trouts for inland fisheries management purposes during 1979–2014. Data from MDNR Fisheries Division's, Fish Stocking Information System.



Trout Lakes Managed with Trout Regulations (Type A through Type F)





Trout Lake Regulations

Lake Type	Fishing and Posession Season	Tackle	Daily Possession Limit	Brook Trout	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, & Splake	Lake Trout	Coho, Chinook, & Pink Salmon	Atlantic Salmon		
					Minimum Size Limit (inches)					
A (61 lakes)	Last Sat. in April - Oct. 31	All except minnows	5/3*	10"	12"	15"	10"	15"		
B (55 lakes)	Open All Year	All	5/3*	10"	12"	15"	10"	15"		
C (28 lakes)	Open All Year	All	5/3*	8"	8"	8"	10"	15"		
D (21 lakes)	Last Sat. in April - Oct. 31	2:	1	15"	15"	15"	10"	15"		
E (11 lakes)	Open All Year	All	3	15"	15"	15"	10"	15"		
F (16 lakes)	Open All Year	All	5/3^	10"	10"	10"	10"	10"		

 Type A and D lakes are designated trout lakes



Trout Stocking-Lakes



Figure 20.–Numbers of inland lakes stocked with Brook, Brown, and Rainbow trouts during 1979– 2014. Data from MDNR Fisheries Division's, Fish Stocking Information System.



Fall Spawners

- Trouts: Brook, Brown, Lake, and Atlantic Salmon
- Create redds in the fall for eggs, fry emerge in March and April the following year
- Most Brown and Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon mature by age-3, but annual mortality is high especially in Brook Trout
- Most Lake Trout mature around age-4 or age-5



Spring Spawners

- Rainbow Trout and Arctic Grayling
- Spawn in March or April over cobble, gravel areas
- Fry emerge 2-3 weeks after hatching (RBT)







Co-management with Tribal governments

- "Coordinate activities between the State and Tribal entities with regards to fishery resources"
- Inland
 - Implement the 2007 Inland
 Decree in 1836 Treaty
 ceded waters







MDNR Management Plan



Overall Goal

- Provide:
 - A diverse portfolio of inland trout fishing opportunities for anglers
 - Trout populations that are self-sustaining whenever possible
 - The judicious use of hatchery-produced fish
 - Waters managed with an array of objectives



Supporting the Overall Goal

- Michigan DNR Fisheries seeks to maintain or improve the quality of inland trout fishing opportunities (with partners) by:
 - Protecting and enhancing existing trout populations and the environmental conditions upon which they depend
 - Improving technical information and outreach on these important species



1. Ensure adequate technical information is available for managing MI's coldwater fisheries



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- 2. Protect, rehabilitate, and enhance habitat on Michigan waters



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- 3. Protect, maintain, and enhance MI's coldwater fisheries and aquatic communities



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- 4. Provide a variety of fishing opportunities for inland trout in Michigan
- 5. Communicate w/anglers and nonanglers to promote the recreational, ecological, and cultural value of MI's coldwater fisheries.



Major Accomplishments since 2018



Largescale barrier removals



Pucker Street Dam Removal

- Dowagiac River
 - 159 miles upstream of Pucker Street Dam
 - Cold transitional small river that supports Brown Trout, Steelhead, and Salmon species
- Dam was former hydroelectric power plant
 - Removal journey began in 2013, but work first occurred in 2020





Lake Kathleen Dam Removal

- East and West Branches of the Maple River entered Lake Kathleen
- Removal allowed for connect connectivity of the upstream reaches of the Maple River to Burt Lake





Major Accomplishments

- Ongoing field surveys on trout populations in lakes and streams across the state
- Utilizing data collected from status and trends surveys to
 - Document effects of increased connectivity on Brook Trout and Brown Trout populations



Major Accomplishments

- Partnerships have blossomed across the state with many groups focusing on coldwater fisheries
- Many habitat projects funded in part through the Fisheries Habitat Grant



Major Accomplishments

- Two new modeling tools from research staff
 - Stream Evaluator Tool: predicts potential expectations for unsurveyed streams
 - Brown Trout Stocking
 Screening Tool: predicts the suitability of stream sites for Brown Trout





Arctic Grayling Reintroduction

- Eggs and milt from Alaska
- Fish reared at Oden State Fish Hatchery
- Adults currently at Marquette State Fish Hatchery
- Stocking into lakes as early as 2024





- Top 10 objectives within the Trout Management Plan that DNR will focus on moving forward
- Objectives are not listed 1-10 by scale, but rather collectively as the top 10 most important objectives cumulatively



- 1. Evaluate efficiencies of trout stocking statewide
 - Achieving management goals?
 - Consider :
 - Climate change
 - Angler benefits
 - Habitat
 - Other fish species present



2. Write trout sampling protocols specific for inland trout lakes.

3. Work with partners to evaluate the feasibility of simplifying trout lake regulations statewide.

4. Learn more about coldwater invasive species

- Didymo
- New Zealand Mudsnail



5. Continue to remove dams, increase connectivity, and improve habitat in coldwater systems

6. Determine a mechanism for partnership data to be stored and easily accessible

7. Adapt and/or minimize impacts of climate change and knowledge gaps for coldwater management



8. Develop a stream rating curve and sediment rating curve to better guide habitat work

9. Form a workgroup to address riparian habitat management issues statewide

10. Continue progress on reintroduction of Arctic Grayling



Questions?

Thank you!



Parks and Recreation Division Land Use Orders of the Director





LUOD 5 of 2023

LUOD 5 of 2023 is being proposed to address Boating Access Site Parking for vehicles towing vessels.

- Many access sites have identified issues with an increase in vehicles parking in parking spaces intended to be used by vehicles that are launching and retrieving vessels.
- An increase in non-target uses of these boating access sites has led to a decrease in availability of parking by those towing a vessel for launching and retrieving.
- This proposed LUOD would prohibit parking a motorized vehicle without a trailer attached used for launching/retrieving a vessel or a vehicle not being used to transport a vessel in any area other than a parking space designated as "parking for vehicles without trailers".



LUOD 6 of 2023

LUOD 6 of 2023 is being proposed to address metal detecting on State Park/Recreation lands.

- The Parks and Recreation Division has long recognized metal detecting as a recreational activity at appropriate locales.
- The Parks and Recreation Division has had a policy for many years prohibiting metal detector use in areas known to have artifacts and designated historic or archaeological sites.
- The Department also posts on its website the areas identified as open/closed to metal detecting.
- This LUOD would formalize the areas closed to metal detecting and would make metal detecting in those areas a prohibited activity.



LUOD 7 of 2023

LUOD 7 of 2023 is being proposed to address camping at Ortonville State Recreation Area.

- Campground at Ortonville Recreation Area was historically open to mixed use with low amounts of user conflicts until 2022 when it was changed to equestrian use only by Land Use Order 5.1(1)(a).
- At the request of users and after discussions with the Ortonville Recreation Equestrian Association, there is agreeance to update the language of the LUOD to provide that equestrian only camping be effective from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through October 31 only, allowing for mixed use of the facility during the summer months.





