



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

APPROVED
October 10, 2024
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmalie
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Resident Canada Goose Management Program Changes
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 9 of 2024

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The Wildlife Division has been working with the public to resolve human-goose conflicts for over 40 years. Because Canada geese are a migratory bird with federal protection, the Department is granted the authority to mitigate human-goose conflicts from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under a USFWS Special Canada Goose Permit. The once nearly extinct giant Canada goose has experienced population growth throughout North America, including Michigan, in part due to the success of wildlife management programs and the adaptability of these birds. In Michigan, Canada goose population estimates have peaked over 300,000 and are currently managed with a population goal between 175,000 and 225,000. The statewide population is generally managed through a hunting season structure; however, the adaptability of Canada geese has allowed populations to thrive in urban and suburban areas and has resulted in increasing human-goose conflicts. Managing human-goose conflicts in urban and suburban areas has become increasingly challenging because of municipal development and ordinances that limit hunting, reduced human tolerance of geese, and increased disease concerns (e.g., Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)).

In general, geese have benefited from the way humans have altered the landscape. Canada geese are attracted to areas that provide food, water, and protection. Urban areas with lakes and ponds offer all the resources that geese need to survive. During the summer months, Canada geese can be a problem for some property owners. Birds often find refuge on lakes and golf course ponds, taking advantage of the lush lawns, while experiencing their annual wing molt (loss of flight feathers). Most human-goose conflict is associated with situations where manicured lawns are located in close proximity to water and molting geese that leave droppings and feathers on lawns, beaches, docks, sidewalks, and golf courses. Occasionally geese will nest in inappropriate sites, such as shrubbery near buildings or parking lots, and can become aggressive toward people who enter the territory around the nest. Canada geese may also cause damage to agricultural crops through consumption or trampling.

The resident Canada Goose Management Program gives landowners (including businesses and other commercial entities) options to address human-goose conflicts on their sites. The

program was developed to outline procedures for permit issuance to landowners and nuisance animal control operators. There are two types of permits offered under the Canada Goose Management Program to help mitigate human-goose conflicts when other non-lethal control techniques are not effective (e.g., habitat modification and scare tactics) – 1) Nest and Egg Destruction Permits and 2) Goose Roundup Permits.

Nest and egg destruction permits allow landowners to request a free permit to destroy nests and eggs, which then encourages the geese to migrate north to molt. Applicants for this program must meet eligibility requirements and attend training. Applicants may also hire a contractor to perform this service. Nest and egg destruction permits have previously had geographic requirements for eligibility; however, the Department is eliminating these requirements beginning in 2025 to provide this tool statewide to help address local Canada goose conflicts.

If landowners are still experiencing conflicts with Canada geese after they have tried a variety of control methods including nest and egg destruction, they may request a permit to have geese on their lake or site rounded up and removed from their site. Most sites are charged a non-refundable \$200 DNR permit fee (\$100 for single family residents) and must meet permit requirements. Most participants in this program hire a licensed nuisance animal control company to remove the birds. In the past, most geese that were rounded up were relocated to suitable sites such as State Game Areas. In recent years, the Department has suspended Canada goose round up and relocation due to the presence of HPAI and only allowed round up on sites with an approved situation where there were human health and safety concerns and all birds were euthanized. In addition to continued concerns about disease transmission (HPAI), there are other issues with the effectiveness and sustainability of the round up and relocation of Canada geese. Relocation of geese only provides a short-term resolution of the conflict because geese typically return to the capture site once they can fly, and there is a lack of suitable release sites because relocating geese risks moving the conflict from one location to another. In order to adapt to these challenges, beginning in 2025, the Department will no longer allow relocation of Canada geese. All birds rounded up will be euthanized and either disposed of or processed for donation to charitable organizations.

Sites requesting round up of Canada geese will need to meet eligibility requirements (e.g., approved situations where there are human health and safety concerns; sites that meet a minimum number of geese indicating severity of problem; must have conducted nest and egg destruction program under a permit; and must have tried non-lethal harassment techniques). The United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (USDA-Wildlife Services) will be conducting all of the goose roundup because of logistical barriers related to round up efforts (euthanasia, contaminant testing, and meat processing and distribution). This will create a more effective and efficient program and the Department will include this work into existing inter-agency agreements. Nuisance animal control operators will no longer be permitted to conduct goose round up; however, they will still be permitted to destroy nests and eggs; conduct non-lethal harassment; and capture, hold, and euthanize individual aggressive geese. Other states have similar programs with USDA-Wildlife Services and the Department has modeled these programmatic changes after successful programs in other states.

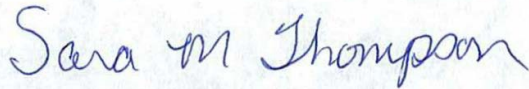
The Department is implementing a pilot program for 2025 with a limited number of sites permitted for round up to assess costs, logistics, landowner interest, and capacity. The goal is for an operational program to be in place for 2026.

Recommendations:

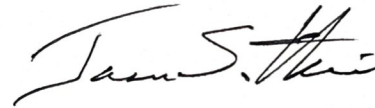
To align with the changes described above for the Canada Goose Management Program, several Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) changes are recommended. The WCO amendments include:

- Remove language allowing for Canada goose relocation (transport) by sites as this will no longer be allowed.
- Revise language to no longer allow nuisance animal control operators to round up Canada geese; include language to allow them to capture, hold, and euthanize aggressive geese; and remove language for transportation of geese.
- Reduce the annual permit fee from \$200 to \$100 for nuisance animal control operators to participate in capture, holding, and euthanizing aggressive Canada geese and the destruction of nests and eggs. The Department recommends this reduction because of the removal for nuisance animal control operators to round up and relocate Canada geese.
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for a site permit to participate in the transport of Canada geese because this activity will no longer be allowed.
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for nuisance animal control operators to transport geese because this activity will no longer be allowed.

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jason S. Haines, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
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Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director

for

Date: October 10, 2024

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 9 of 2024

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

5.51b Damage and nuisance animal control permit; Canada goose, eggs, nests, site permit, requirement, issuance, reporting.

(1) To transport, capture, hold, and euthanize Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit a permittee must:

(a) Successfully complete a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Provide the department with one of the following:

(i) A petition requesting transport, capture, hold, egg/nest destruction, and euthanasia of geese. This must be signed by a minimum of 70 percent of the riparian lake front landowners on the involved water body.

(ii) A signed resolution for transport, capture, hold, egg/nest destruction, and euthanasia of geese from a governmental agency representative of the riparian lake front landowners.

(iii) Proof of sole ownership of the site.

(c) Ensure all program related requirements are met.

(d) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose site permit on a form provided by the department at the fees noted in section 5.110 (3).

(e) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose site permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive a Canada goose control permit for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) Permits shall be issued only to bona fide landowners or lessees, and shall not be transferable.

5.51d Damage and nuisance animal control permit; common merganser, eggs, nests, site permit, requirement, issuance, reporting.

(1) For permission to capture and relocate common merganser, destroy common merganser eggs and nests, or conduct harassment activities with lethal reinforcement under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special purpose permit a permittee must:

(a) Provide a letter of authority documenting the swimmer's itch lifecycle present on the lake, as described in the department's policy and procedures for common merganser control.

(b) Provide the name of a department permitted nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization to conduct merganser control activities.

(c) Provide the department with one of the following:

(i) A petition requesting common merganser control signed by a minimum of 70 percent of the riparian landowners on the involved water body.

(ii) A resolution for common merganser control from a governmental agency representative of the riparian landowners.

(iii) Proof of sole riparian ownership of the body of water.

(c) Make application for and be issued a common merganser site permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fees noted in section 5.110 (9).

(d) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) A common merganser site permit shall be valid for no more than three years or until the control needs are no longer applicable. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive a permit for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) Permits shall be issued only to landowners, lessees, or lake representatives and shall not be transferable.

5.52b Nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agencies and non-profit nuisance animal control organizations; Canada goose permit, requirements, issuance, reporting.

(1) To capture, hold, and euthanize aggressive Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit, a permittee must:

(a) Possess written certification of the successful completion of a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (4).

(c) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

5.52d Nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agencies and non-profit nuisance animal control organizations; common merganser control permit, requirements, issuance, reporting.

(1) To capture and relocate common merganser or destroy common merganser eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special purpose permit, a permittee must:

(a) Make application for and be issued a common merganser control permit by the wildlife permit specialist as instructed by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (10).

(b) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual common merganser control permit shall be valid for one year. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive common merganser control permits for a period of one year.

(3) To capture, transport, and relocate common merganser a permittee must:

(a) Ensure that the landowner, land lessee, or representative of the site from which common mergansers are to be removed holds a valid permit under section 5.51d of this order.

(b) Conduct all control activities in compliance with the department's policy and procedures for common merganser control.

(4) To conduct egg and nest destruction out of natural cavities, the permittee must:

(a) Verify that the landowner, land lessee, or representative of the site from which eggs or nests are to be removed holds a valid permit under section 5.51d of this order.

(b) Adhere to recommended methods for destruction as provided by the department's policy and procedures for common merganser control.

(c) Refrain from any egg and nest disturbance or destruction of eggs and nests in artificial nest boxes.

(5) To conduct harassment activities with lethal reinforcement, the permittee must:

(a) Obtain a letter of authorization from the department to conduct a limited amount of take.

(b) Verify that the landowner, land lessee, or representative of the site from which common merganser will be harassed holds a valid permit under section 5.51d of this order.

(c) Adhere to recommended methods for harassment as provided by the department's policy and procedures for common merganser control.

(6) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

5.110 Special permits; fees; disposition.

Sec. 5.110 The following fees are established for permits issued by the director:

(1) A fee of \$100 shall be collected for each taxidermy permit issued. Taxidermy specimen identification tags shall be \$10 per fifty.

(2) A fee equivalent to the fee charged for a resident antlerless deer hunting license shall be collected for each managed deer hunting permit.

(3) An annual fee of \$200 shall be collected for a site permit to participate in the capture and holding of Canada geese, as specified in section 5.51b of this order, except as follows:

(a) An annual fee for a single family residence shall be \$100.

(4) An annual fee of \$100 shall be collected from a nuisance animal control business, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization to participate in the following, as specified in section 5.52b of this order:

(a) Capture, holding or euthanasia of aggressive Canada geese.

(b) Destruction of Canada goose nests and eggs.

(5) A fee of \$100.00 shall be collected for each falconry permit issued as described in section 10.3(7) of this order.

(6) A fee of \$10 shall be collected for each deer management assistance permit purchased by a permittee.

(7) All moneys received from the sale of permits and licenses as provided in this section shall be turned over to the state treasurer and credited to the game and fish protection fund.

(8) No fee shall be collected for any of the following permits:

(a) Highway killed deer/bear permit.

(b) Deer damage shooting permit.

(c) Damage and nuisance animal control permit, except as noted in section 5.110(3) and section 5.110(4) of this order, including disease control and disease control replacement permits.

(d) Rehabilitation permit.

(e) Permit to take game with a crossbow.

(f) Permit to hunt from a standing vehicle.

(g) Permit to hunt using a laser sighting device.

(9) A fee of \$200 shall be collected for a common merganser site permit as specified in section 5.51c of this order, except as follows:

(a) A fee for a single-family residence shall be \$100.

(10) An annual fee of \$500 shall be collected from a nuisance animal control business, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization to participate in the following, as specified in section 5.52d of this order, except as follows:

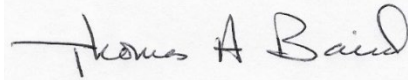
(a) An annual fee for the capture and transport only of common merganser shall be \$300.

(b) An annual fee for the egg and nest destruction of common merganser shall be \$200.

(c) An annual fee for the harassment of common merganser with lethal reinforcement shall be \$200.

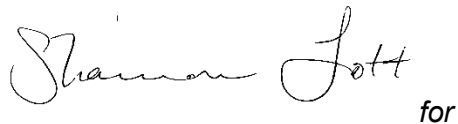
Issued on this 10th day of October, 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the first name.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jott". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, lowercase font.

M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: September 3, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Windsor Township State Game Area Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2024

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The Windsor Township State Game Area (SGA) is located in Eaton County and is approximately 207 acres. It is owned by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) and managed by the Department. It is a rare piece of huntable public land in an urban area, suitable for deer, waterfowl, turkey, and small game habitat and recreational activities including hunting, fishing and hiking. The entire SGA is accessible via walk-in access only. Current regulations allow trapping, and hunting with archery equipment across the entire SGA. Firearm hunting (shotgun only) is permitted on the north portion of the SGA only. It is also illegal to target, trap, or skeet shoot, and it is illegal to discharge a firearm in a designated parking area.

In October 2006, the Department and the DTMB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the development, maintenance, and continued operation of the SGA. In the MOU, the DTMB reserved the right to withdrawal, upon 60 days advanced written notice to the Department, all or any portion of the SGA if that portion of the SGA is requested for new or expanded capital improvements to service the State of Michigan. In February 2013, the DTMB gave notice to withdraw portions of the SGA to develop a Michigan State Police (MSP) firing range. In 2023, the DTMB drafted a revised MOU to include this project as well as a State Public Health and Environmental Science Laboratory. The Department and the DTMB entered into the revised MOU in January 2024. The revised MOU states:

- The Department will prohibit firearm hunting south of the electric power lines running east-west on poles along the Consumers Energy fee strip, which bisects the Property.
- The Department shall also prohibit firearm hunting south or east of the Canadian National Railroad right-of-way, which further bisects the Property from southwest to northeast.
- The Department may permit archery hunting, trapping, fishing, and any other permitted recreational activities to be conducted on the Property, so long as the DNR's signage

marking the boundaries of the property states those activities are permitted and that users of the Windsor Township State Game Area should exercise all due caution.

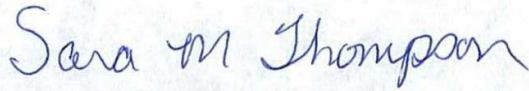
- The Department will restrict public access to the Property to foot traffic access only, unless agreed otherwise in writing by the Departments.

In order to implement the provisions of the MOA and provide consistent and simplified regulations, the Department recommends prohibiting the possession and discharge of any type of firearm across the entire SGA. All other regulations will remain as is. Hunters utilizing firearms may do so at the newly acquired 444-acre Potterville SGA about six miles southwest of the Windsor Township SGA. The Department continues to provide and improve access to outdoor public recreation opportunities by prioritizing land acquisitions in urbanized areas lacking public land ownership.

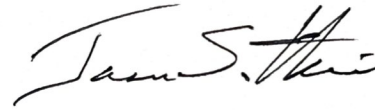
The official name of area is the "Windsor Township State Game Area". It is no longer a mini state game area. The Department recommends updating the name in the Wildlife Conservation Order.

There is a concurrent Land Use Order of the Director amendment that will need approval in order to prohibit the possession and discharge of a firearm across the entire SGA.

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



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Law Enforcement Division



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Forest Resources Division



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Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



for

M. Scott Bowen, Director

Date: October 10, 2024

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 10 of 2024

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

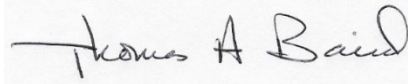
13.8 Windsor township state game area; rules.

Sec. 13.8 The following rules are in effect for the Windsor township state game area, being all or portions of section 4, T3N R3W, in Eaton county:

- (1) Permitted over the entirety: archery hunting, trapping, and fishing.
- (2) Walk-in access is permitted over the entirety.
- (3) Signs containing the foregoing regulations shall be posted in such manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of same to the public.


Issued on this 10th day of October, 2024.

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

Handwritten signature of Thomas A Baird in black ink.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Handwritten signature of M. Scott Bowen in black ink.
for

M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

APPROVED
October 10, 2024
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmelee
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 202.25
Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries order 202 governs special hook size restrictions enacted in locations to protect fish that are susceptible to unlawful fishing activities. Lake whitefish support popular harvest oriented, destination fisheries during the month of November as lake whitefish migrate inland from Lake Michigan to spawn. In recent years, lake whitefish populations have been declining in the lower portions of Lake Michigan due to changes in the environment and nutrient cycling brought on by dreissenid mussels. Managers are looking to add greater protection to these important fisheries. The department recommends enacting gear restrictions (only single-pointed un-weighted hooks may be used with 1/2-inch or less between point and shank) during November at the following three locations to protect lake whitefish: Grand Haven, Muskegon, Whitehall/Montague.

These ports have been identified as places where lake whitefish have been the focus of unlawful fishing activities over the past several years. A targeted creel survey was conducted from 2019 – 2021 at the ports Grand Haven and Muskegon where anglers harvested between 4,649 – 8,300 lake whitefish from both locations combined. The creel survey found that nearly 95% of anglers interviewed were jigging which involves using jig heads (which are molded metal to the hook) with large sized hooks. This type of gear is often fished by casting across the channel while letting the jig hit the bottom and pulling the rod tip up fast with a jerking action while reeling it in fast to hook fish. This method used at times of peak lake whitefish migrations can result in foul-hooking and injuring many fish indiscriminately. This activity most likely can lead to unlawful harvest of the fish being hooked and not taking in the bait voluntarily.

As a result of these unlawful activities, the department proposes to limit the number, type and sizes of hooks that people can use to protect these important fishery resources. Gear restrictions benefit law enforcement activities by limiting the type of fishing gear that people can use on their lines. This allows conservation officers to witness the gear being used to quickly determine if unlawful gear is being used and give offenders tickets.

The proposal has been presented to anglers during the department's spring coffee and conversation meetings and with appropriate citizen advisory groups where it received support. The regulation proposal was also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

Adding a seasonal gear restriction will limit gear used at the three ports listed above during November to add greater protection to lake whitefish populations. Anglers will still be able to fish for lake whitefish lawfully in the areas if they are using terminal gear with one single-pointed un-weighted hooks measuring ½-inch or less from point to shank. The change will provide law enforcement staff with another tool to help protect vulnerable spawning stocks from unlawful activities. One con would be that it limits the type of fishing gear allowed in November.

Biological

The fishery resource may benefit by the change because highly valued spawning stocks of lake whitefish will have added protection during the spawning season.

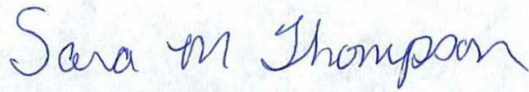
Social

During stakeholder meetings, anglers have indicated support of more restrictive special regulations to protect susceptible fish populations from unlawful activities.

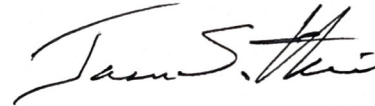
Economic

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

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024, calendar and is eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



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Shannon Lott
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Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director

for

Date: October 10, 2024

FISHERIES ORDER

Special Hook Size Regulations

Order 202.25

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, ordered on October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided:

- 1) Locations where it shall be unlawful to use other than one single-pointed un-weighted hook measuring ½-inch or less from point to shank:

County	Location	Effective Date
Allegan	Swan Creek (from the mouth upstream to the dam at 118th Avenue)	All year
Antrim, Kalkaska	Torch River from the Crystal Beach Road Bridge downstream to Lake Skegemog including Rapid River up to Aarwood Road Bridge	May 1 – July 1
Benzie	Platte River	All year
Berrien	Townsend Creek (T6S, R17W, S19 and the mouth area of Lake Chapin, to a point 100 yards below the Townsend Creek mouth into Lake Chapin)	All year
Charlevoix	Boyne River (from mouth upstream to dam in T32N, R5W, S5)	All year
Emmet	Bear River (from foot bridge north of Lake Street upstream to Lake Street Dam T34N, R5W, S6)	All year
Muskegon	The port of Muskegon from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan (excluding break walls) to the Eastern most pier head extending into Muskegon Lake.	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Muskegon	The port of Whitehall/Montague from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the Eastern most pier head extending into White Lake	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Ottawa	The port of Grand Haven from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the US-31 bridge (North bound Beacon Blvd.)	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Van Buren	South Branch Black River and all tributaries upstream of Breedsville (Mill Street).	All year

- 2) For the purpose of this section, an artificial lure is defined as a body bait, plug, spinner, or spoon. An artificial lure is not a device primarily constructed of lead. From August 1 through November 15, inclusive, terminal fishing gear is restricted to single-pointed hooks or jigs, measuring ½-inch or less from point to shank or treble hooks measuring ¾-inch or less from point to shank only when attached to an artificial lure on the following waters:

- a. Benzie County: all waters of the Betsie River.
- b. Manistee County: all waters of Bear Creek, all waters of the Betsie River, and the Manistee River from Tippy Dam downstream to Railroad Bridge below M-55 (T21N, R16W, S6).
- c. Mason County: the Big Sable River (from mouth upstream to Hamlin Lake Dam).
- d. Mason, Lake, Oceana, Newaygo: all waters of the Pere Marquette River.
- e. Manistee, Mason, and Lake Counties: all waters of the Little Manistee River.

- f. Muskegon and Oceana Counties: the White River (from mouth upstream to Hesperia Dam) and all waters of the North Branch White River.
- g. Muskegon and Newaygo Counties: the Muskegon River upstream to Croton Dam.
- h. Oceana and Mason Counties: all waters of the North Branch Pentwater River, South Branch Pentwater River (upstream to Hart Dam).

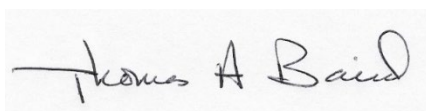
This order shall be assigned number FO-202.25 and is entitled "Special Hook Size Regulations."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Special Hook Size Regulations," which became effective April 1, 2022, and is assigned number FO-202.22.

This order shall take effect April 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 10th day of October 2024.

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.



M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

APPROVED
October 10, 2024
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmelee
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 205.25
Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries Order 205 governs fishing regulations on the Michigan side of the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters, which are managed cooperatively with the State of Wisconsin. The department recommends modifying lake sturgeon regulations in this order to close the Montreal River to lake sturgeon fishing and harvest. This will result in aligning sturgeon regulations listed in this order with those listed in FO-240. Currently, this order lists "all boundary waters" under lake sturgeon fishing regulations with a September fishing and harvest season, whereas FO-240 only lists the Menominee River as being open to fishing and harvest of lake sturgeon. Managers have indicated that the other boundary waters, including the Montreal River, have limited lake sturgeon populations which should be protected from fishing and harvest. Therefore, clarifying that lake sturgeon fishing and harvest regulations will only pertain to the Menominee River as indicated. This change will result in uniform regulations on lake sturgeon in Michigan including shared boundary waters with Wisconsin.

The proposal has been presented to anglers during the department's spring coffee and conversation meetings and with appropriate citizen advisory groups where it received support. The regulation proposal was also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

The change will result in uniform lake sturgeon fishing regulations between FO-205 and FO-240 for the shared boundary waters and make law enforcement easier.

Biological

The change will result in greater clarification between two orders that cover lake sturgeon fishing regulations.

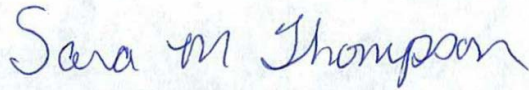
Social

Anglers are supportive of limited lake sturgeon fishing opportunities including closed seasons to protect limited fishery resources.

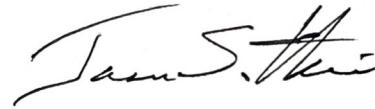
Economic

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

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024, calendar and is eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jason S. Haines, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Randall M. Claramunt, Chief
Fisheries Division



Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director

for

Date: October 10, 2024

FISHERIES ORDER

Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Order 205.25

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 and MCL 324.49101 to 324.49103, it is ordered on October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2025, as follows:

The following rules and regulations govern fishing in the waters which form a common boundary between the States of Michigan and Wisconsin. These rules and regulations supersede all others governing fishing on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters that in any way conflict. Where regulations of Michigan and Wisconsin differ, persons shall comply with the regulations of the state in whose territorial waters they are fishing.

The interstate boundary waters in which fishing is to be governed by the special regulations are:

The Lake Michigan waters between the breakwalls at the mouth of the Menominee River beginning at an imaginary line drawn between the most lakeward point of each breakwall: Menominee County, Michigan; Marinette County, Wisconsin.

Menominee River, its Sloughs and Impoundments: Menominee, Dickinson, Iron Counties, Michigan; Florence, Marinette Counties, Wisconsin; Brule River, Iron County, Michigan; Florence and Forest Counties, Wisconsin; Brule Island Impoundment, upstream to a line running east-west through the first island upstream from the junction of the Brule and Paint Rivers, Iron County, Michigan; Florence County, Wisconsin; Smoky Lake, Iron County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin; Norwood Lake, Lac Vieux Desert, Crystal Lake, Mill Lake, Big Bateau Lake, Mamie Lake, West Bay Lake, Big Lake, Crampton Lake, Plum Lake, Tenderfoot Lake, Roach Lake, Little Presque Isle Lake, Cyrus Lake, Basin Lake, Stateline Lake, Gogebic County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin; East Fork Montreal River up to the mouth of Layman Creek, Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin; Montreal River, Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin.

Regulations: Except as otherwise expressly provided, no person shall take fish by any means other than with hook-and-line; nor at any time other than the open season; nor have in his or her possession any fish in excess of the daily creel or possession limit, or fish of less than the legal minimum size.

Species	Waters	Open Seasons (dates inclusive)	Daily Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Trout & Salmon	Montreal & Menominee Rivers from their mouths to first dam upstream and Smoky Lake	Open all year	5	10 inches
	Menominee & Montreal Rivers above the first dam and Brule River from its mouth to the US Highway 2 Bridge	Last Saturday in April – September 30	5	7 inches
	Brule River upstream from US Highway 2	Last Saturday in April – September 30	5	Brook Trout - 8 inches; Brown Trout - 12 inches
Smallmouth Bass & Largemouth Bass	All boundary waters	Catch-and-immediate-release season: open all year	0	---
		Possession season: 3 rd Saturday in June - December 31	5 in combination	14 inches
Walleye (See Note 1) & Sauger	All boundary waters except as otherwise provided in this paragraph	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5 in combination	15 inches
	Rivers and Impoundments	March 2 - the Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	1	15 inches
	Rivers and Impoundments	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5 in combination	15 inches
Northern Pike	All boundary Waters	1 st Saturday in May - March 1	5	None
Bluegills, Sunfish, Crappies, and Yellow Perch	All boundary waters	Open all year	25 in combination	None
Muskellunge (including Tiger Muskellunge) (See Note 2)	All boundary waters	Catch-and-immediate-release season: open all year	0	---
		Possession season: first Saturday in June – December 31	1 fish per angling season	50 inches
Lake Sturgeon (See Note 3)	Menominee River	1 st Saturday in September - September 30	1 fish per angling season	60 inches
Channel Catfish	All boundary waters	Open all year	10	None
Lake Whitefish, Cisco (Lake Herring), and Round Whitefish (Menominee)	All boundary waters	Open all year	10	None
All others	All boundary waters	Open all year	None	None

Note 1 – On Lac Vieux Desert Flowage, the minimum size limit for walleye is 18 inches. The daily possession limit for Walleye shall be three (3) in combination from 1st Saturday in May - March 1.

Note 2 – For the Menominee River, from Hattie Street Dam downstream to the end of the breakwalls in Green Bay, the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches. Anglers are required to register muskellunge (including tiger muskellunge) harvest within 24 hours. Anglers must report their harvest online (www.michigan.gov/registerfish), toll-free by calling 844-345-FISH(3474), or in person at any DNR Customer Service Center during normal state business hours with advanced notice of arrival. Muskellunge harvest is limited to one (1) Muskellunge per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).

Note 3 - For the Menominee River, from Grand Rapids Dam downstream to the end of the breakwalls in Green Bay, the possession limit for Lake Sturgeon is zero (0), catch-and-immediate-release only. Anglers are required to register Lake Sturgeon harvest within 24 hours. Anglers must report their harvest online (www.michigan.gov/registerfish), toll-free by calling 844-345-FISH(3474), or in person at any DNR Customer Service Center during normal state business hours with advanced notice of arrival. Lake Sturgeon harvest is limited to one (1) Lake Sturgeon per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).

LEGAL FISHING METHODS:

1. Up to three lines with a total of three (3) hooks or baits may be used.
2. Lines must be attended at all times.
3. A person may not fish for any fish by any means during the closed season on trout in the Brule River upstream from US Highway 2 bridge (T41N, R32W, S9) Iron County, Michigan, and the Montreal River above the Superior Falls Flowage.
4. Dip nets not exceeding nine (9) feet square or in diameter without walls may be used in the Menominee River (except from Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette-Menominee to the first dam upstream and within 200 feet of all other dams) from April 1 - May 14 for taking of Suckers, Redhorse, Carp, Smelt, and Burbot.
5. A person may fish from a motorboat with the motor running or a sailboat under sail.
6. All residents of Michigan and Wisconsin holding a resident sport fishing license from their respective state, or residents of states other than Michigan and Wisconsin holding a sport fishing license issued by either Michigan or Wisconsin, may fish in the boundary waters.
7. Crayfish may not be possessed or used for bait on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters.

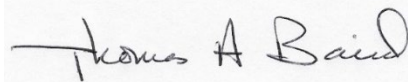
This Order shall be assigned number FO-205.25, and is titled "Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations."

This Order supersedes the Order titled "Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters," which became effective April 1, 2020, and is assigned number FO-205.20.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2025, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

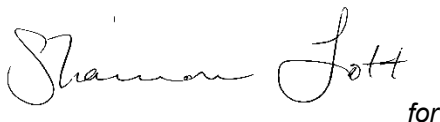
Issued on this 10th day of October 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the first name.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jott". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, lowercase font.

M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR



SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 206.25
Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources 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 in select waters. The department is recommending several changes to the order including the addition of six waters and modifications for two listings.

Additions:

Crystal Lake (Montcalm), Crystal Lake (Oceana), Lake George (Clare), and Rainbow Lake (Montcalm) are recommended to be added to the list of waters where northern pike are regulated with a daily possession limit of five northern pike with only one greater than 24 inches. The available biological data indicates each water can be characterized as having an abundant and slow growing northern pike population that rarely achieves the current statewide minimum size limit of 24 inches. The recommendation will result in liberalizing angler harvest opportunities for northern pike in these three lakes. Crystal Lake (Montcalm) was inadvertently left off of the order some time ago during a previous order change process.

Diamond Lake (Cass) and Gull Lake (Barry/Kalamazoo) are recommended to be managed as protected slot limit waters where northern pike from 24-34 inches are protected from harvest. Managers have indicated that these waters have documented declines in female northern pike that are being harvested once they reach the 24-inch minimum size limit. Adding more protection to these stocks will afford greater protection to these fast growing fish which will benefit the population by increasing size structure of the northern pike population. Anglers will have more opportunities to catch larger sized northern pike in these waters.

Gun Lake (Mason) is recommended to be added under the 10-inch minimum size limit regulation for bass due to an over abundance of slow growing bass in the fish population. Recent survey information indicated that only four percent of the bass collected in the survey reached the statewide minimum of 14 inches. Therefore, making this change will allow anglers to harvest smaller bass on this water where few reach the current statewide minimum size limit.

Modifications:

Thornapple Lake (Barry/Eaton) is an important Great Lakes strain muskellunge broodstock water that requires higher minimum size limits to protect large female adults from harvest. There is currently a 50-inch minimum size limit in effect on Thornapple Lake; however, managers recommend expanding the coverage of the size limit regulation due to stocking occurring upstream. The department recommends changing the area of coverage for the 50-inch minimum size limit to the following: the Thornapple River (including Thornapple Lake) from the M-50 bridge downstream to the McCann Road crossing and including Mud Creek from Barger Road downstream to Thornapple Lake. Managers also recommend removing the shortened muskellunge and northern pike possession season from the first Saturday in June – November 30 to the statewide season from the first Saturday in June – March 15. The reduced possession season is no longer needed with the more protective 50-inch minimum size limit regulation.

Lake Hudson (Lenawee) is the second of two programmatically important Great Lakes strain muskellunge broodstock waters where gametes will be collected for fish production efforts across Michigan. Managers recommend changing the 42-inch minimum size limit and implementing a 50-inch minimum size limit on Lake Hudson to protect mature fish that are valuable as broodstock. Managers also recommend removal of the reduced possession season from the first Saturday in June – November 30 to the statewide season from the first Saturday in June – March 15. This will result in removal of the shortened possession season exception for muskellunge and northern pike listed in the order and Michigan Fishing Regulations.

The proposals have been presented to anglers during the department's spring coffee and conversation meetings and with appropriate citizen advisory groups where it received support. The regulation proposal was also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

Implementing more liberalized fishing regulations on northern pike and bass in waters where growth is slow or stunted increases angler opportunities for those anglers interested in harvesting smaller fish. Placing more protective regulations on important species like northern pike and muskellunge can enhance angling opportunities. Implementing special regulations to protect important broodstock fish benefits anglers as well. No cons have been identified.

Biological

Biologists recommend enacting more liberalized fishing regulations when survey information indicates that the fish population is not attaining harvestable sizes per current regulations. Implementing more restrictive regulations to protect and enhance fish community size structure benefits anglers as well.

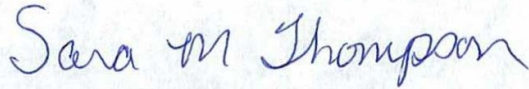
Social

Anglers are supportive of modifying regulations when survey information indicates that minimum size limit restrictions are not being met due to stunted growth.

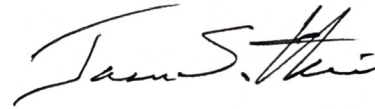
Economic

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

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024, calendar and is eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jason S. Haines, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Randall M. Claramunt, Chief
Fisheries Division



Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director

for

Date: October 10, 2024

FISHERIES ORDER

Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters Order 206.25

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 10, 2024 the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2025, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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, Elsworth 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Barry County

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

Thornapple River (including Thornapple Lake) from the M-50 bridge downstream to the McCann Road crossing and including Mud Creek from Barger Road downstream to Thornapple Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50-inches.

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

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

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) 24-inches or greater.

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.

Diamond Lake and 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) 24-inches or greater.

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 including all tributaries and Black River from Alverno Dam upstream, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Clare County

Eight Point Lake, Lake George, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Dickinson County

Hamilton Lake, Lake Louise, Lake Mary, Norway Lake, Rock Lake, 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) 24-inches or greater. (Norway Lake and Rock Lake waters shall expire on September 15, 2028).

Eaton County

Thornapple River (including Thornapple Lake) from the M-50 bridge downstream to the McCann Road crossing and including Mud Creek from Barger Road downstream to Thornapple Lake: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50-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, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Iosco County

Chain 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) 24-inches or greater.

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, Dawson 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) 24-inches or greater. (Dawson Lake water shall expire on September 15, 2028).

Kalamazoo County

Gull Lake and 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) 24-inches or greater.

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

Grand River (downstream from Sixth Street Dam): the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 46 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Lenawee County

Lake Hudson: the minimum size limit for Muskellunge is 50 inches.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Gun Lake: the minimum size limit on Largemouth Bass is 10-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) 24-inches or greater.

Menominee County

Shakey Lakes Chain including: Bass Lake, Beecher Lake, Lake Ann, 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) 24-inches or greater. (Lake Ann water shall expire on September 15, 2028).

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) 24-inches or greater.

Montcalm County

Crystal Lake, Indian Lake and Rainbow 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Oakland County

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

Oceana County

Round (Wykoff) Lake and Crystal 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

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, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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) 24-inches or greater.

Schoolcraft County

Boot Lake, Colwell Lake, Crooked Lake, Gulliver Lake, Kennedy Lake, MacDonald Lake, Seney Wildlife Refuge Ponds, Stanley Lake, 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) 24-inches or greater.

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.

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

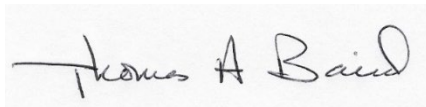
Pleasant Lake and Stone Ledge Lake: no size limit on Northern Pike and up to five (5) Northern Pike may be retained in the daily possession limit with only one (1) 24-inches or greater.

This order supersedes the order titled "Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters," effective September 15, 2023, and is assigned number FO-206.23A.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

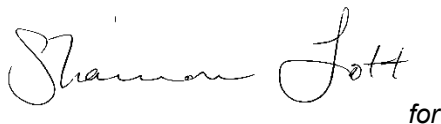
Issued on this 10th day of October 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jott". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, lowercase font.

M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

APPROVED
October 10, 2024
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmelee
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 219.25
Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries order 219 establishes fishing regulations for bow, spear, and crossbows throughout Michigan. The department recommends adding closures in three Lake Michigan ports (Grand Haven, Muskegon, Whitehall/Montague) in November to prohibit the use of bow, spear, and crossbow gear to protect important declining lake whitefish populations. Lake whitefish support popular harvest oriented, destination fisheries during the month of November as lake whitefish migrate inland from Lake Michigan to spawn. Managers are looking to add greater protection to susceptible lake whitefish by limiting fishing activities to the use of only single-pointed un-weighted hooks with 1/2-inch or less between point and shank from November 1 – 30.

Additionally, the department proposes one minor edit to the order to change the expiration date on the underwater spearing section from March 31, 2025, to March 31, 2026. This will provide the department with more time to collect and evaluate a full three seasons of underwater spearing reporting information while maintaining this opportunity. The department will conduct additional stakeholder engagement and provide recommendations to the Commission for consideration upon completion of this process.

The proposals have been presented to anglers during the department’s spring coffee and conversation meetings and with appropriate citizen advisory groups where support was received. The regulation proposals were also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

The gear prohibition will help provide greater protection to important lake whitefish broodstock during their most susceptible time, fall spawning migration. The second change will give the department more time to evaluate a full three years of underwater spearing data including angler reported harvest of important gamefish species. There are no cons identified.

Biological

Lake whitefish populations have been declining over the years and the November closure will allow greater protection for these important populations.

Social

The gear prohibition on lake whitefish will add more protection to an important species in decline. Anglers will support more restrictive fishing regulations when they are warranted. The evaluation time extension will result in expanding the opportunities for anglers an additional year while allowing for more information to be collected for the process.

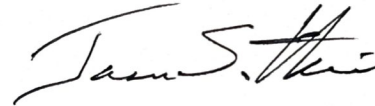
Economic

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

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024, calendar and is eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jason S. Haines, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Randall M. Claramunt, Chief
Fisheries Division



Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director

for

Date: October 10, 2024

FISHERIES ORDER

Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations Order 219.25

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, ordered on October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2025, as follows:

The seasons, gear, waters, and species where a spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow may be used are as specified in the table below and lists which follow (except as otherwise prohibited). Spearfishing gear shall be limited to: hand-propelled spear, rubber-propelled spear, and spring-propelled spear. In addition, bow and arrow, and crossbow may be used in accordance with this order. Artificial lights may be used. It shall be unlawful to use a rubber-propelled spear or a spring-propelled spear without being submerged and have the spear under control by means of an attached line not exceeding 20 feet in length. It is unlawful to spear any fish in a waterbody closed to fishing, except as noted in the spearfishing exceptions list.

SEASON	GEAR	WATERS (see Note 1)	SPECIES
Open all year	spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow	ALL WATERS except: Designated Trout Lakes and Designated Trout Streams	Bowfin, Bullheads, Burbot, Carp, Catfish, Drum, Gizzard Shad, Goldfish, Grass Carp, Cisco (Lake Herring), Longnose Gar, Smelt, Suckers (See Note 2), and Whitefish
In addition to year-round opportunities listed above, the following spearfishing provisions allow for the possession of additional species as indicated below:			
December 1 through March 15 (through the ice)	hand-propelled spear	ALL WATERS except: Designated Trout Lakes and Designated Trout Streams	Northern Pike and Muskellunge
Species and location specific (see Note 3 for Northern Pike season exception)	underwater spear (see Note 4)	<u>Lake Michigan:</u> waters south of the southernmost pier at Grand Haven <u>Lake Huron:</u> waters south of the southernmost pier of the Thunder Bay River, extending south to the mouth of the St. Clair River (Fort Gratiot Light)	Lake Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye

Note 1 - Check the spearing exceptions lists (below) for regulations that differ from those listed in the table above. Designated Trout Lakes are those lakes classified under Type A and Type D trout regulations (see FO-254). Designated Trout Streams are those listed in the following classifications: Type 1, 2, Gear Restricted Streams, Research Areas, and Brook Trout Restoration Areas. Most of the Type 3 and Type 4 streams are Designated Trout Streams (see FO-200 and FO-210).

Note 2 - For the purpose of this order the term suckers refers to: suckers (longnose, white, northern hog, spotted), redbreast (silver, golden, black, greater, shorthead), buffalo (bigmouth, black), lake chubsucker, and quillback carpsucker.

Note 3 – When using an underwater spear the possession season for Northern Pike shall be July 1 to March 15.

Note 4 – For underwater spearfishing the following regulations apply:

- All recreational anglers, who intend to engage in underwater spearfishing shall request and be issued a free annual underwater spearfishing license.
- All underwater spearfishing anglers shall provide monthly effort and harvest reports to the Department using an online reporting tool provided by the Department.
- To use an underwater spear in compliance with the table within this order, the angler/diver shall be fully submerged beneath the waters surface when attempting to harvest fish.
- The location specific size limits and daily possession limits for Walleye, Northern Pike, and Lake Trout shall apply.
- Underwater spearfishing shall be prohibited daily from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
- This activity shall be prohibited within 150 feet of designated swimming areas, boat docks, boat access or egress sites and power intake tubes.
- This activity shall be prohibited where placement of a diver-down flag would restrict boater navigation or access to boating access site.
- All spearguns shall have the bands unloaded from the spear and the safety on when divers are moving between fishing areas and when entering and exiting the water.
- Use of artificial breathing devices such as scuba, re-breather or similar devices shall be prohibited while underwater spearfishing.
- This section shall be rescinded four years after the effective date, which is, March 31, 2026.

SPEARING EXCEPTIONS

LIST A – INLAND WATERS

WATERS CLOSED TO NORTHERN PIKE AND MUSKELLUNGE SPEARING

It shall be unlawful to fish by any means other than hook-and-line for Northern Pike or Muskellunge in the following waters:

Alger County	Kingston Lake
Alpena and Montmorency Counties	Fletcher Floodwaters
Barry County	Lower Crooked Lake and Thornapple Lake (from McKeown Rd T3N, R8W, S27 to Barger Rd T3N, R7W, S20)
Clare County	Budd Lake
Clinton County	Lake Ovid
Delta County	Dana Lake
Dickinson County	East Lake, Island Lake, South Lake, and West Lake (all within Groveland Mines)
Iron County	Brule Lake, Chicagon Lake, Lake Emily, Paint Lake, Paint Pond (Brule Isle Imp.), Stanley Lake, and Swan Lake
Kent County	Campau Lake and Murray Lake
Keweenaw County	Lake Gratiot
Lenawee County	Lake Hudson
Schoolcraft County	Grassy Lake and McKeever Lake
St. Joseph County	Long Lake (T6S, R12W, S7)
Van Buren County	Bankson Lake and Round Lake (T4S, R16W, S31)

WATERS WITH SPEARING AND GAFF HOOK RESTRICTIONS

Cheboygan County

April 1 through June 15, inclusive, it shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any species of fish with spearing gear or gaff hook from the following waters:

Black River

Cheboygan River

Indian River

WATERS CLOSED TO POSSESSION AND USE OF SPEARING GEAR

It shall be unlawful to possess spears, bow and arrow, or crossbow or fish by any means other than hook-and-line in the following waters from November 1 – November 30:

County	Location	Effective Date
Muskegon	The port of Muskegon from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan (excluding break walls) to the Eastern most pier head extending into Muskegon Lake.	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Muskegon	The port of Whitehall/Montague from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the Eastern most pier head extending into White Lake	Nov 1 – Nov 30
Ottawa	The port of Grand Haven from the Western most pier head extending into Lake Michigan to the US-31 bridge (North bound Beacon Blvd.)	Nov 1 – Nov 30

DESIGNATED TROUT STREAMS OPEN TO SPRING SPEARING

The following designated trout streams are open to the use of spearing gear from April 1 through May 31, inclusive, for taking Bowfin, Bullheads, Burbot, Carp, Catfish, Drum, Longnose Gar, Gizzard Shad, Goldfish, Grass Carp, Cisco (Lake Herring), Smelt, Suckers (as listed above), and Whitefish:

Alcona County

Bryant Creek from Vaughn Lake downstream to Little Lake

Buff Creek

Sucker Creek from confluence of Vincent Creek (T27N, R8E, S9) downstream to Hubbard Lake (T28N, R8E, S36)

Calhoun County

Nottawa Creek from Calhoun County line (T4S, R8W, S31) upstream to T3S, R5W, S35

Rice Creek South Branch Rice Creek from confluence of Rice Creek and Kalamazoo River (T2S, R6W, S25) upstream to Concord Road (Jackson County)

Chippewa County

Trout Creek downstream of Big Trout Lake (T42N, R3E, S31)

Prentiss Creek (T42N, R2E,)

Delta County

Squaw Creek downstream of County Road 513

Mackinac County

Doe Creek (T43N, R10W)

Foley Creek downstream of I-75

Hoban Creek downstream of State Street

Hudson Creek (T41N, R11W, S8)

Martineau Creek downstream of I-75

McClouds Creek

Milakokia River, from Milakokia Lake downstream to Heinz Lake

Norton Creek from M-135 downstream to South Manistique Lake

Nunn's Creek downstream of Highway M -134

Pearson's Creek T42N, R1W and R1E

Rabbits Back Creek downstream of Mackinac Trail

Scrams Creek (T42N, R11W, S11)

Taylor Creek (T43N, R12W, S2, 11, 12 and 13)

Mason County

Sable River from Freesoil Road downstream to Custer Road (T20N, R16W, S22)

Van Buren County

Dowagiac River and tributaries upstream of 50th Street (T45N, R15W, S35)

Lake of the Wood Outlet to confluence with Dowagiac River (T45N, R15W, S34)

LIST B – GREAT LAKES AND CONNECTING WATERS

WATERS CLOSED TO MUSKELLUNGE SPEARING

It shall be unlawful to fish by any other means other than hook-and-line for Muskellunge in the following waters:

Lake Erie

Lake St. Clair

Detroit River

St. Clair River

WATERS OPEN TO YELLOW PERCH SPEARING

December 1 through March 15, inclusive.

Lake St. Clair: a hand-propelled spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow may be used to harvest Yellow Perch.

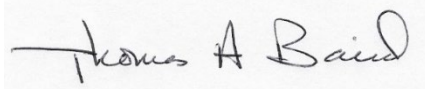
This order shall be assigned number FO-219.25 and is entitled "Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations," which became effective September 15, 2023, and is assigned number FO-219.23.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

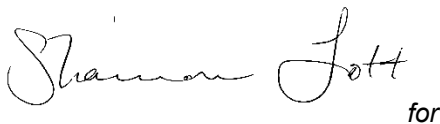
Issued on this 10th day of October 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'. To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, lowercase font.

M. Scott Bowen
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

APPROVED
October 10, 2024
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmelee
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

SUBMITTED: August 12, 2024
RESUBMITTED: September 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 240.24A
Sturgeon Regulations – Statewide

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, authorizes the Director and the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries order 240 governs sturgeon regulations in Michigan. The department is recommending adding more information concerning the Black Lake sturgeon fishing season to the order for clarification purposes. Information concerning the potential of having to cancel the special season because of poor weather has been added. Therefore, the following is recommended to be added under the Black Lake section:

Fishing season

- a) The harvest and fishing season for Lake Sturgeon shall be from the 1st Saturday in February through the following Wednesday or until the harvest quota is reached (whichever comes first). Daily fishing hours will be 8:00am through 2:00pm while the season is open. The State recreational Lake Sturgeon harvest quota will be determined annually based on harvest allocation numbers established between the State and tribal governments as stated in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.
- b) The Director and the Commission will set conditions for the Lake Sturgeon fishing season and post them on the DNR website no later than January 15 each year. The Director and the Commission may amend the Lake Sturgeon fishing season conditions up to 48 hours prior to the start of the season if circumstances pose a significant risk to safe and effective implementation of the harvest allocation. The Department will post amendments to the DNR website and provide electronic notification through established modes of communication with anglers.

The proposal has been presented to anglers during the department’s spring coffee and conversation meetings and with appropriate citizen advisory groups where it received support. The regulation proposal was also discussed with local law enforcement staff who indicated their support.

Issue Pros and Cons

The information being added will provide more clarity for anglers and staff about the Black Lake sturgeon season. No cons have been identified.

Biological

This is not a biological issue.

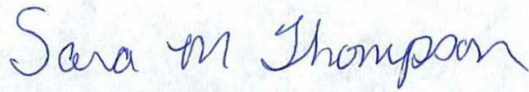
Social

Anglers will benefit from the addition of more specific information about the Black Lake sturgeon season.

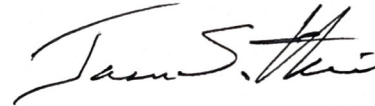
Economic

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

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information and consideration on September 12, 2024, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 3, 2024, calendar and is eligible for approval on October 10, 2024.



Sara Thompson, Chief
Wildlife Division



Jason S. Haines, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Randall M. Claramunt, Chief
Fisheries Division



Jon Spieles, Chief
Marketing and Outreach Division



Dan Lord, Chief
Finance and Operations Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy



Kristin Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer

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



M. Scott Bowen, Director *for*

Date: October 10, 2024

FISHERIES ORDER

STURGEON REGULATIONS - STATEWIDE

Order 240.24A

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, ordered on October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective October 11, 2024, except as otherwise provided:

1) Fishing for Lake Sturgeon

- A) Except on waters where specific regulations are in place, as identified in paragraph 4) Special Provisions, fishing for Lake Sturgeon on all waters of the State shall be prohibited.

2) Mandatory Registration of Harvested Lake Sturgeon

- A) On waters where harvest of Lake Sturgeon is allowed as specifically identified in paragraph 4) Special Provisions:
- i) Except as otherwise specifically provided in paragraph 4) Special Provisions, anglers are required to register Lake Sturgeon harvest within 24 hours. Anglers must report their harvest online (www.michigan.gov/registerfish), toll-free by calling 844-345-FISH(3474), or in person at any DNR Customer Service Center during normal state business hours with advanced notice of arrival.

3) Harvest Limit

- A) On waters where harvest of Lake Sturgeon is allowed as specifically identified in paragraph 4) Special Provisions, an angler shall not harvest more than one (1) Lake Sturgeon per year.

4) Special Provisions:

- A) Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River (St. Clair, Macomb, and Wayne Counties)
- i) Fishing seasons
- a) The hook-and-line harvest season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - September 30, inclusive.
- b) The hook-and-line, catch-and-immediate-release season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.
- ii) Size Limit
- a) Between 42 and 50 inches, inclusive.
- B) Detroit River (Wayne County)
- i) Fishing season
- a) The hook-and-line, catch-and-immediate-release season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.
- C) St. Marys River from Soo Locks/Compensating Works downstream to the De Tour Village and Drummond Island ferry terminals to the south, and from Hay Point to Cherry Island then north to the International boundary for the northeast (Chippewa County)
- i) Fishing season
- a) The hook-and-line, catch-and-immediate-release season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.

- D) Portage and Torch Lakes, all waters including Portage River, Portage Canal, and north and south entry (Houghton County)
 - i) Fishing season
 - a) The hook-and-line, catch-and-immediate-release season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.
- E) Ontonagon River (Ontonagon County), from the mouth of Lake Superior up to the Victoria Dam Road
 - i) Fishing season
 - a) The hook-and-line, catch-and-immediate-release season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.
- F) Otsego Lake (Otsego County)
 - i) Fishing seasons
 - a) The hook-and-line harvest season for Lake Sturgeon shall be July 16 - March 15, inclusive.
 - b) Fishing for Lake Sturgeon shall be prohibited from March 16 - July 15, inclusive.
 - ii) Size Limit
 - a) 50 inches minimum.
- G) Black Lake (Cheboygan/Presque Isle County)
 - i) Fishing season
 - a) The harvest and fishing season for Lake Sturgeon shall be from the 1st Saturday in February through the following Wednesday or until the harvest quota is reached (whichever comes first). Daily fishing hours will be 8:00am through 2:00pm while the season is open. The State recreational Lake Sturgeon harvest quota will be determined annually based on harvest allocation numbers established between the State and tribal governments as stated in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.
 - b) The Director and the Commission will set conditions for the Lake Sturgeon fishing season and post them on the DNR website no later than January 15 each year. The Director and the Commission may amend the Lake Sturgeon fishing season conditions up to 48 hours prior to the start of the season if circumstances pose a significant risk to safe and effective implementation of the harvest allocation. The Department will post amendments to the DNR website and provide electronic notification through established modes of communication with anglers.
- H) Menominee River
 - i) All regulations governing fishing for Lake Sturgeon and the harvest of Lake Sturgeon in the Menominee River system are established in Fisheries Order 205 - Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Water Regulations.
- I) All Other Waters of the State not specifically identified in this Paragraph 4) Special Provisions
 - i) Fishing season
 - a) No fishing season for Lake Sturgeon.

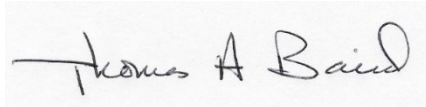
This order shall be assigned number FO-240.24A and is entitled "Sturgeon Regulations - Statewide."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Sturgeon Regulations - Statewide," which became effective February 2, 2024, and is assigned number FO-240.24.

This order shall take immediate effect on October 11, 2024 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

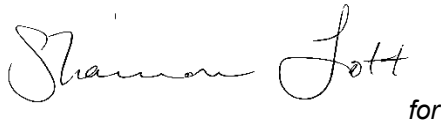
Issued on this 10th day of October 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the first letter of the first name.

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jott". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, lowercase font.

M. Scott Bowen
Director