

Michigan DNR Sportsmen Against Hunger Program

Helping our fellow Michiganders in need!

Joe Presgrove, Sportsmen Against Hunger Program Specialist
September 12, 2024





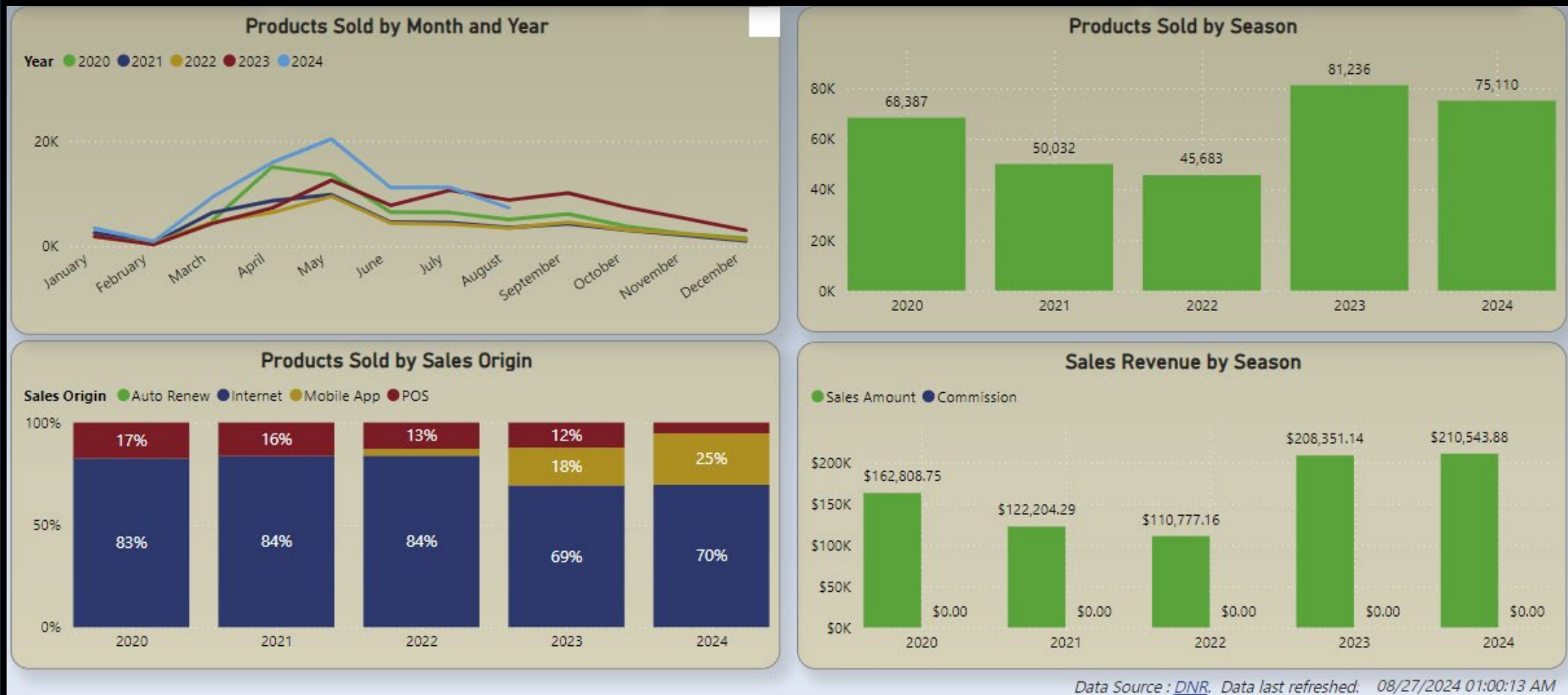
Venison donations - fiscal year 2024 (Oct. 1, 2023 – Aug. 27, 2024)

- Number of pounds donated: 77,968.
- Number of servings: 311,872-plus.
- Number of participating processors: 16.



Monetary donations – license year 2024 (March 1 – Aug. 27, 2024)

- License year 2024 (ends Feb. 28, 2025): \$210,543.88.
 - **73.3% increase** in monetary donations compared to license year 2023 (March 1 – Aug. 27, 2023).



Crop damage permit pilot program – summer 2024

- Number of deer donated (June 1 – Aug. 27, 2024): 733.
- Number of servings: 117,280.
- Number of refrigerated trailers: 4.
- Number of full-time employees: 1.5.



Thank you program partners and supporters!



Joe Presgrove

Marketing and Outreach Division
presgrovej@michigan.gov

Tom Weston

Marketing and Outreach Division
westont@michigan.gov





FY 2025 Budget Update

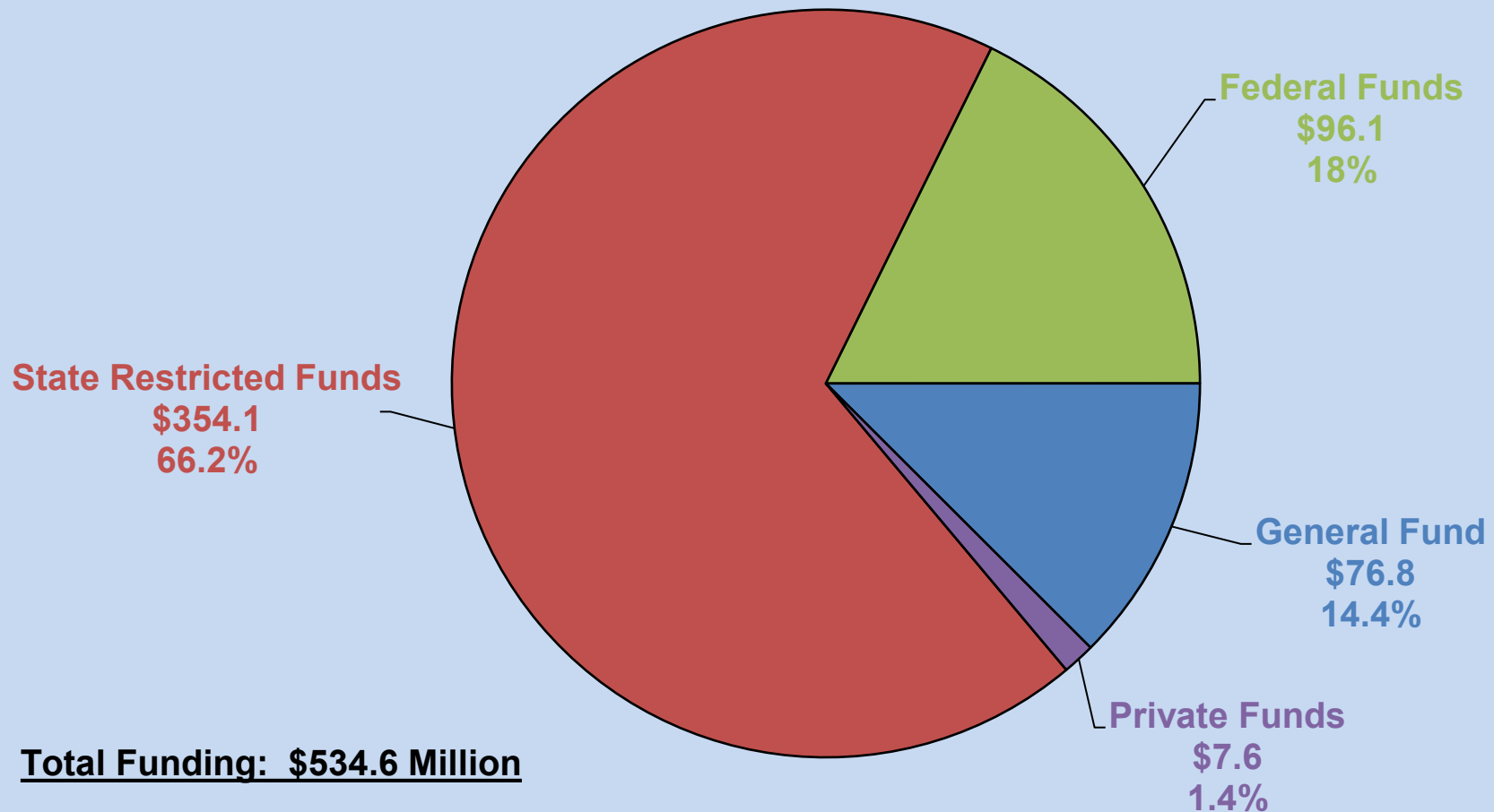
Jason Crandall,
Budget Officer

September 12, 2024



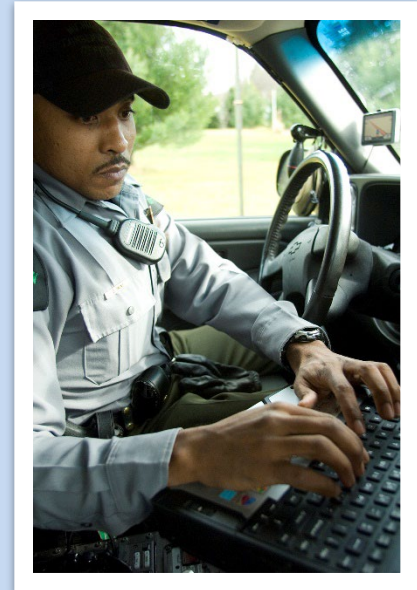
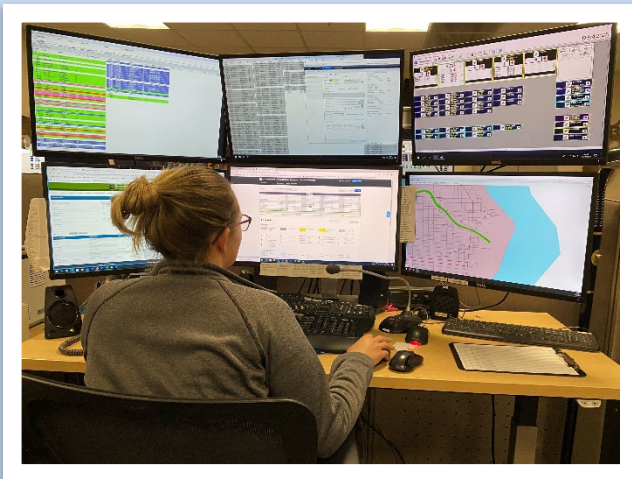
FY 2025 DNR Budget Funding Sources

(\$ in Millions)



Law Enforcement Records Management System

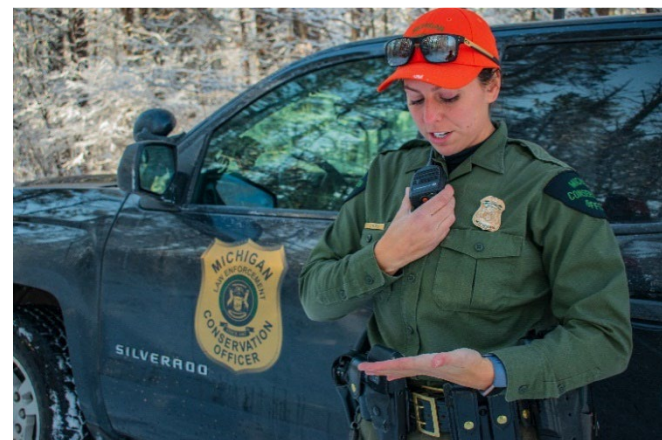
- **Objective:** Consolidate and improve DNR Law Enforcement Division's incident and records management system through the implementation of a new software solution.



- **Investment:** \$700,000 ongoing General Fund

Communications Equipment Modernization

- **Objective:** Support a radio lifecycle replacement plan for DNR conservation officers and firefighting staff.
- **Investment:** \$878,300 ongoing General Fund

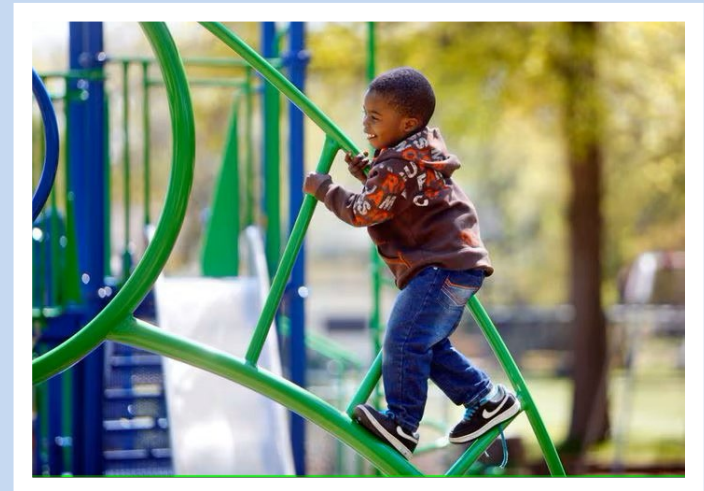


Land and Water Conservation Fund Compliance and Stewardship



- **Objective:** Help prevent and resolve grant compliance issues so communities can access new funding opportunities for public outdoor recreation investments.

- **Investment:** \$151,100 ongoing (\$76,100 General Fund and \$75,000 Federal); 1.0 FTE



Nature Awaits



- **Objective:** Provide fourth grade classes across the state the opportunity to visit a state park and participate in outdoor learning sessions facilitated by the DNR.



- **Investment:** \$4 million ongoing General Fund (represents a \$4 million reduction from FY 2024 to align with the annual budget need)

Fleet Rate Increases

- **Objective:** Accommodate increased vehicle mileage rates due to higher fuel and vehicle repair costs for leased vehicles managed by DTMB-Vehicle Travel Services (VTS).
- **Investment:** \$890,300 ongoing (\$343,100 General Fund and remainder from Federal and State Restricted Funds)



FY 2025 Legislative Priorities

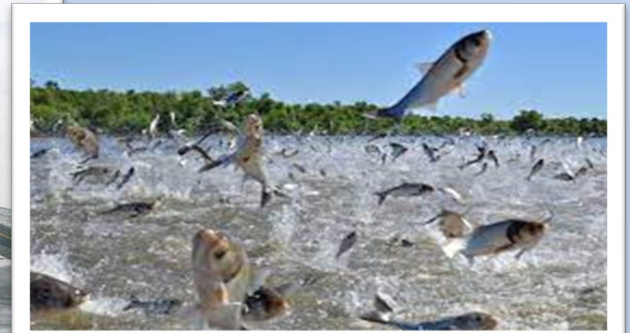
One-time General Fund

- Phragmites Management Equipment: \$250,000
- Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units: \$500,000
- American Chestnut Restoration Initiative: \$500,000
- Mass Timber Market Development: \$1,000,000
- Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (Border-to-Border Trail): \$1,749,900
- America 250 Commission Grants: \$5,000,000
 - \$3 million for local initiatives
 - \$2 million for state initiatives



FY 2024 Supplemental Passed in July

- Straits State Park Native American History Project: \$3.6 million (Private)
- 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree: \$2.3 million (General Fund)
- Great Lakes Research Vessel: \$2.5 million (General Fund)
- Brandon Road Interbasin Project: \$1.5 million (General Fund)
- One-Time Lump Sum Payments: \$561,900 (General Fund)





Questions?

Learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities at
Michigan.gov/DNR.



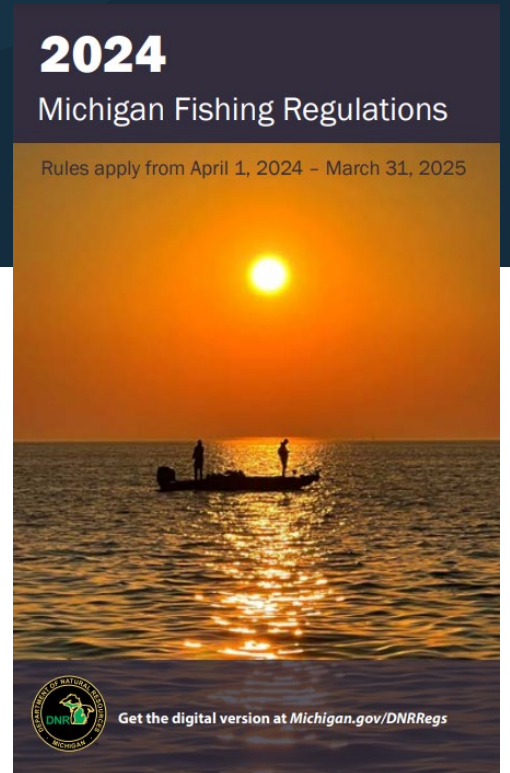
Fisheries Order Recommendations

Lucas Nathan, Ph.D.

Fisheries Division

Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs Unit Manager

September 12, 2024



Overview of Fisheries Orders Recommendations

August

- FO-200: Inland Rivers and Streams - Trout and Salmon Regulations
- FO-210: Designated Trout Streams
- FO-224: Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians
- FO-254: Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations

September (today)

- FO-202: Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations
- FO-219: Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations
- FO-206: Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
- FO-205: Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters
- FO-240: Sturgeon Regulations

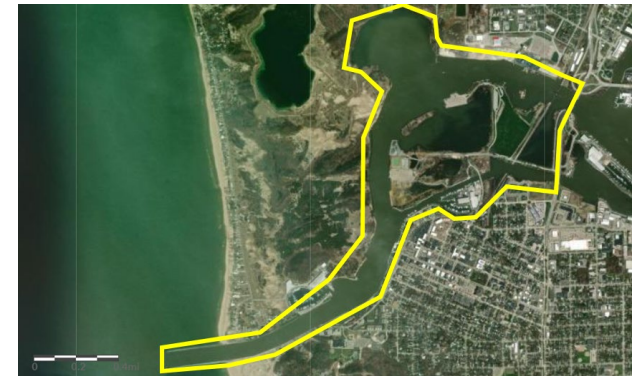
Fisheries Order-202.25

for information

- **White, Muskegon, and Grand River mouths** (Muskegon and Ottawa)
- **Problem:** Enforcement challenges associated with Lake Whitefish snagging
- **Objectives:**
 - Minimize illegal take
 - Maximize enforceability
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Add seasonal gear restriction (Nov 1 -30)
 - Single pointed unweighted hook measuring $\leq 1/2''$



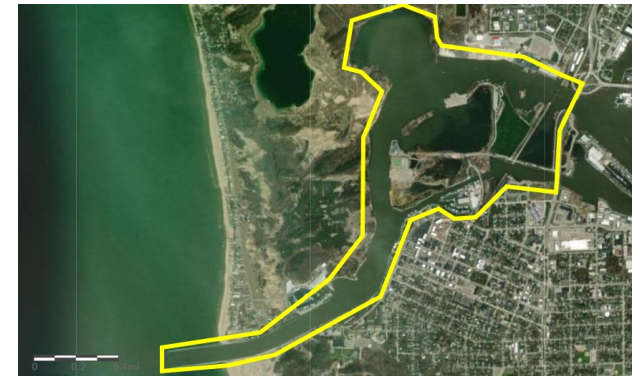
Fisheries Order-219.25

for information

- **White, Muskegon, and Grand River mouths** (Muskegon and Ottawa)
- **Problem:** Enforcement challenges associated with Lake Whitefish snagging
- **Objectives:**
 - Maximize alignment of regulations
 - Maximize enforceability
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Add seasonal gear restriction (Nov 1 -30)
 - Prohibited possession and use of spearing and bowfishing gear



Fisheries Order-219.25

for information

- **Portions of Lakes Michigan and Huron**
- **Problem:** Expanded underwater spearfishing regulations set to be rescinded March 31, 2025
- Summary of current regulations:
 - Lake Trout, Northern Pike, and Walleye
 - Must be underwater without artificial breathing devices
 - No nighttime fishing
 - Location restrictions
 - Free license with monthly reporting



Underwater Spearfishing Summary

- Avg 4,284 licenses/year
 - ~60% with reporting data
 - Declining effort trend?
- Walleye most reported species (467/year)
- Top ten anglers:
 - 30% of effort
 - 68% of WAE harvest
- No user conflicts reported

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024* |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| # Licenses | 5,821 | 3,650 | 3,380 |
| Effort (Hours) | 2,364 | 1,795 | 1060 |
| Walleye Harvested | 489 | 442 | 286 |
| Northern Pike Harvested | 24 | 27 | 5 |
| Lake Trout Harvested | 3 | 12 | 1 |

*as of August 15, 2024

Fisheries Order-219.25

for information

- Michigan Spearfishing Association proposal
 - Expand to all Great Lakes
 - Add remaining harvestable species
 - Allow nighttime fishing
- Fisheries Division presented at stakeholder meetings
 - Mixed feedback
 - Concerns about angler conflict, impact on fish populations, and angler safety



Fisheries Order-219.25

for information

- **Objectives:**

- Maximize diverse fishing opportunities
- Minimize angler conflict
- Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Extend current regulations for one additional year (March 31, 2026)
- Collect additional data and evaluate regulation options with DNR staff and stakeholders

Northern Pike Management Plan

- Statewide regulations: 24” minimum size limit (MSL), 2 fish limit
- Alternative regulations based on fish density and growth metrics

| Age | Statewide growth metric | Population characteristics | Suggested regulation options | Management goal |
|-----|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3-5 | Mean length exceeds 75 th percentile | Above average growth, low density | 24 in MSL, possession limit 2 or PSL 24–34 in, possession limit 2 | Maintain population size structure, encourage above average growth of younger fish, maximize reproductive potential, and allow for harvest of memorable- or trophy-size fish |
| 3-5 | Mean length between 75 th and 25 th percentile | Average growth, moderate density | 24 in MSL, possession limit 2 or PSL 24–34 in, possession limit 2 | Maintain average abundance and size structure or Improve size structure |
| 3-5 | Mean length less than 25 th percentile | Below average growth, high density | No MSL, possession limit 5 ^a | Reduce over abundance, improve growth rate, maximize sustainable harvest |

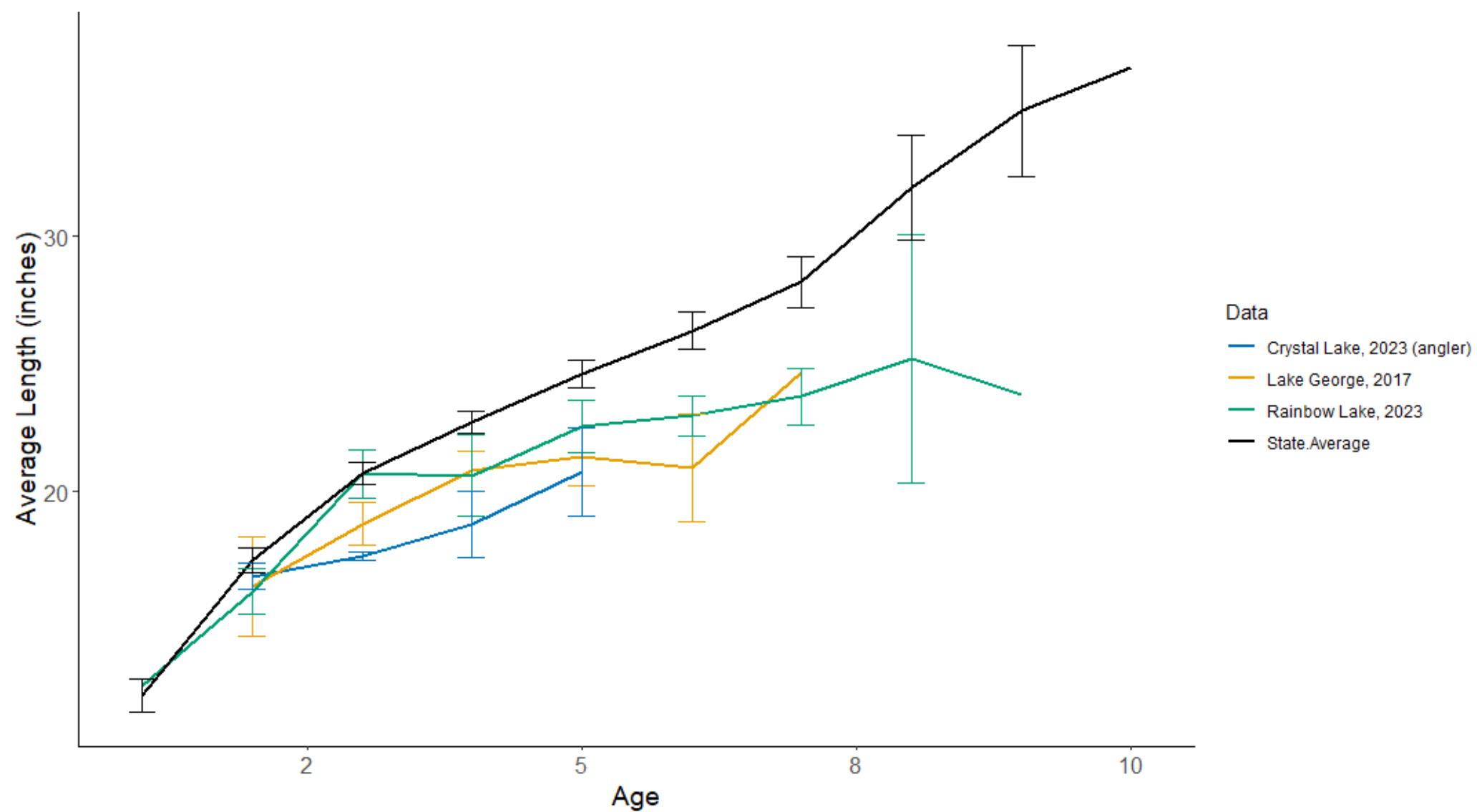
^a Five-fish limit includes no more than one Northern Pike greater than or equal to 24 inches in total length.

Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Lake George** (Clare), **Rainbow Lake** (Montcalm), and **Crystal Lake** (Oceana)
- **Problem:** High abundance of small Northern Pike
 - George (2017)
 - ~2x the median density; ~3" smaller than statewide average
 - Rainbow (2023)
 - ~10x the median density; ~2" smaller than statewide average
 - Crystal (2023 angler data)
 - ~5" smaller than statewide average





Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Objectives:**

- Maximize angler satisfaction
- Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Change the Northern Pike regulation to a **no minimum size limit** with a **five fish limit**, with **no more than one 24 inches or larger**

Fisheries Order-206.25

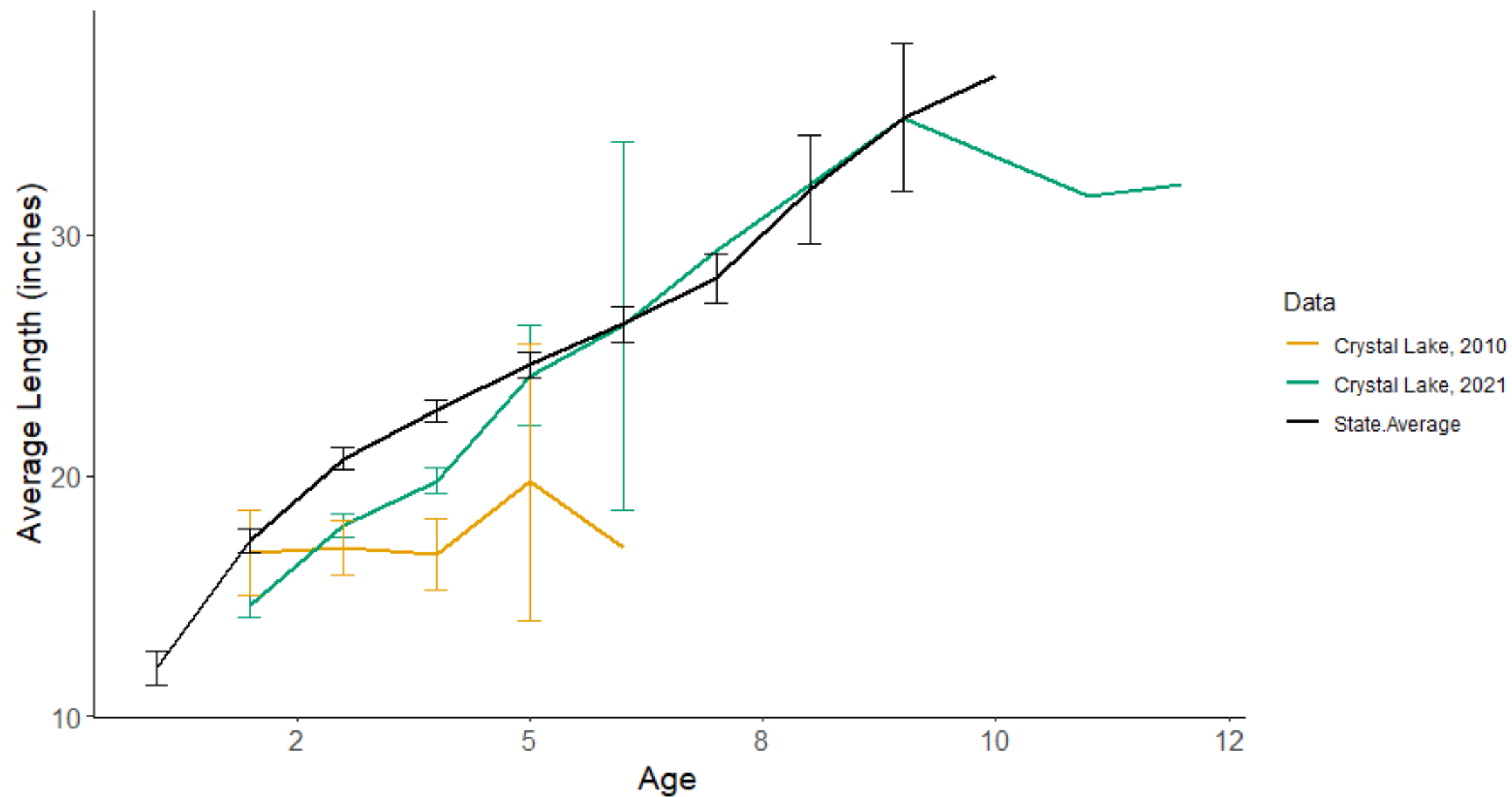
for information

- **Crystal Lake** (Montcalm)
- **Problem:**
 - Mismatch in order and Fishing Regulation book; has been managed as no MSL 5 fish limit since 2014
- **Objectives:**
 - Maximize angler satisfaction
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Update the Northern Pike regulation to a **no minimum size limit** with a **five fish limit**, with **no more than one 24 inches or larger**



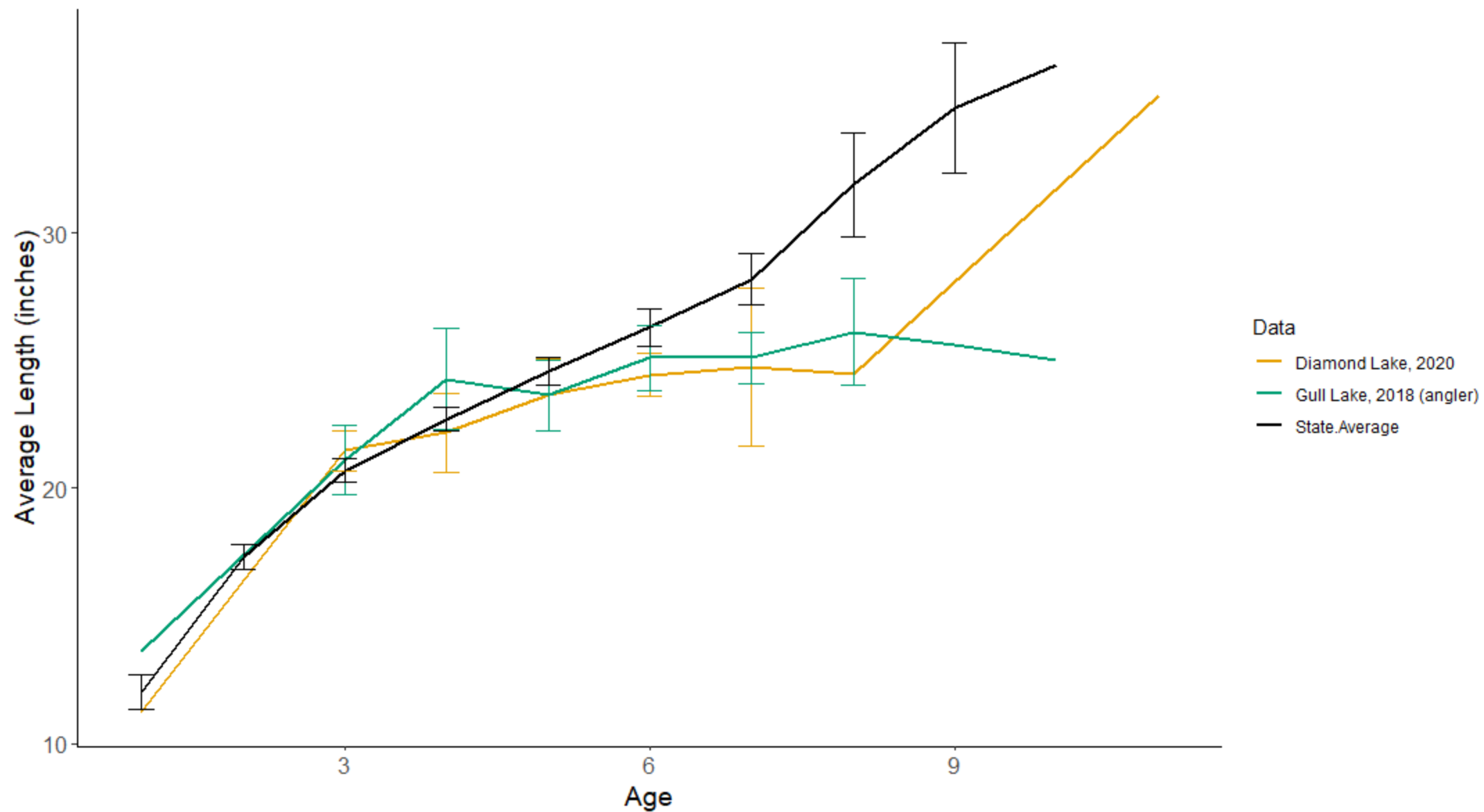


Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Diamond Lake** (Cass) and **Gull Lake** (Kalamazoo)
- **Problem:** Low abundance of large Northern Pike
 - Diamond (2020): average growth for young fish, old fish below average
 - Density slightly below median
 - Almost all large fish are female
 - Evidence of overharvest
 - Gull (2018 angler data); average growth for young fish, old fish below average
 - Few fish over 24"
 - Harvest focused on large females





Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Objectives:**

- Maximize angler satisfaction
- Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Change the Northern Pike regulation to a **protected slot limit (24-34")** with a 2 fish limit

Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Gun Lake** (Mason)
- **Problem:** Abundance of small Largemouth Bass
 - Angler reports prompted survey in 2021
 - Only 4% (5/144) of fish > 14" MSL
 - Growth rates well below average; 9 years for fish to reach harvestable size (state average = 5)
- **Objectives:**
 - Maximize angler satisfaction
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations

Recommendations

- Change the Largemouth Bass regulation to 10" MSL



Fisheries Order-206.25

for information

- **Thornapple Lake/River** (Barry/Eaton) and **Lake Hudson** (Lenawee)
- **Problem:** Inconsistent or inefficient regulations for broodstock lakes
 - Thornapple: 50" MSL doesn't protect all stocked waters
 - Hudson: currently statewide MSL of 42"
 - Both: Northern Pike and Muskellunge possession season June-Nov



Fisheries Order-206.25

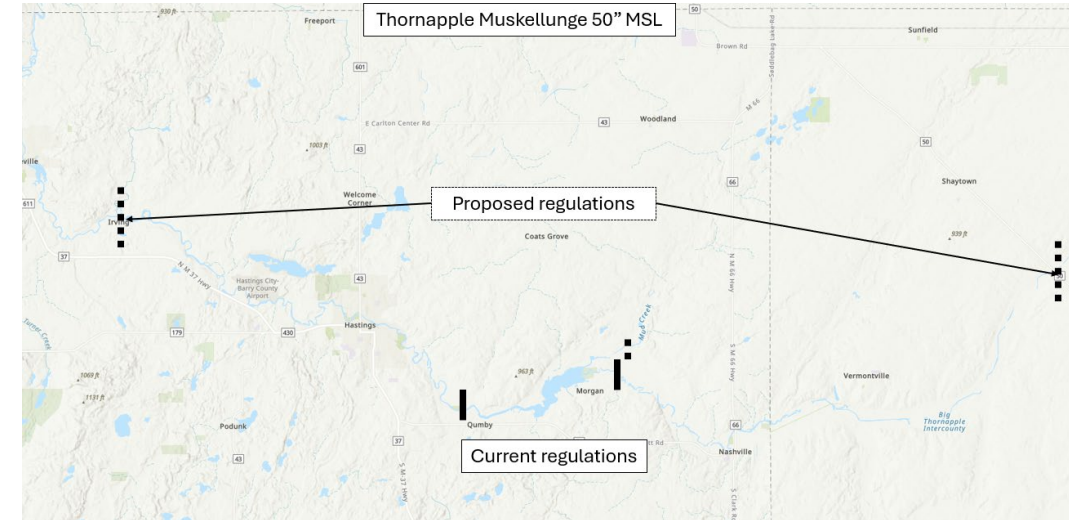
for information

- **Objectives:**

- Maximize protection of broodstock lakes
- Maximize angler opportunities
- Maximize alignment of regulations

Recommendations

- Thornapple:
 - Extend the boundaries of the 50" Muskellunge regulation
 - Remove the special season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge
- Hudson:
 - Change the Muskellunge regulation to 50" MSL
 - Remove the special season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge



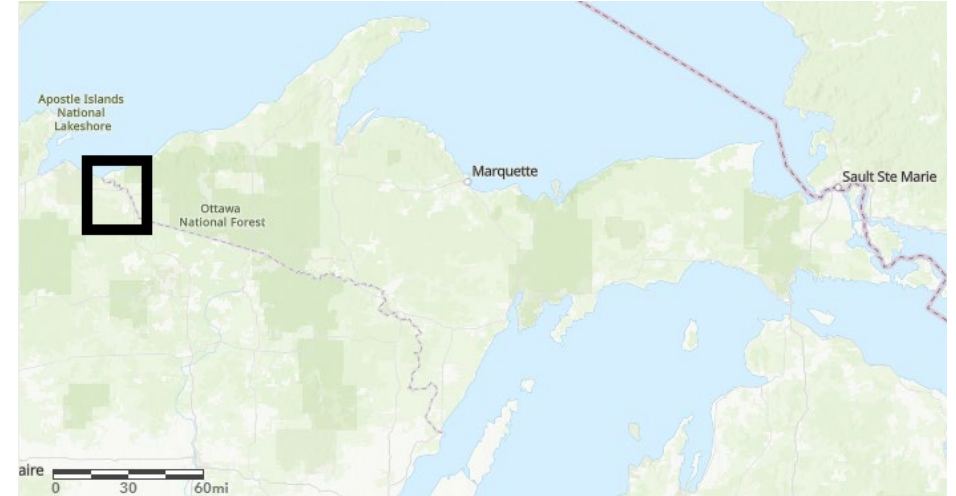
Fisheries Order-205.25

for information

- **Montreal River** (Gogebic)
- **Problem:** Misalignment in MI-WI boundary regulations for Lake Sturgeon
- **Objectives:**
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations
 - Maximize alignment of regulations

Recommendations

- Change open season from “All boundary waters” to “Menominee River”



Fisheries Order-240.24A

for information

- **Black Lake** (Cheboygan/Presque Isle)
- **Problem:** Challenges with establishing conditions and enforcing Lake Sturgeon spearing season
 - 2024: poor ice conditions led to emergency closure
 - Limited details in order
- **Objectives:**
 - Maximize conservation of fish populations
 - Maximize enforceability of regulations

Recommendations, for immediate effect following decision

- Add in details on the Lake Sturgeon spearing season dates and times
- Add in option to amend season up to 48 hours before season





Questions?



Lucas Nathan, Ph.D.

Fisheries Division

nathanl@michigan.gov

Canada Goose Management Program Changes



Barbara Avers, PhD, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist



Background

- Extinct around 1900
- Reintroduced in 1960's
- Population goal is 175,000 to 225,000
 - About 281,000 today
- Thriving in urban and suburban settings
- Increasing conflicts
 - Droppings, feathers, aggression, etc.
- Management strategies
 - Hunting
 - Techniques to manage local conflicts



Canada Goose Management Program

- Addressing conflicts for over 50 years
 - Procedures and permit issuance
 - Nest/egg destruction and round up and relocation or euthanasia
- Federal Special Canada Goose Permit



Issues

- Increased nuisance complaints and health and safety issues
- Challenges to managing conflicts:
 - Federal protections
 - Disease concerns (e.g., HPAI)
 - Municipal development and ordinances limit hunting opportunities
 - Reduced human tolerance of geese





Issues

- Relocation of geese not sustainable:
 - Lack of suitable release sites
 - Moving location of conflicts
 - Disease transmission concerns (HPAI)
 - Short-term effectiveness of round up



Nest & Egg Destruction Changes for 2025

- Permit nest/egg destruction statewide



Round Up & Relocation Changes for 2025

- Round up allowed in limited situations
 - Approved situations where there are human health/safety concerns
 - Meet other criteria
- No relocation
 - All birds euthanized and either disposed of or processed for donation to charitable organizations



Round Up & Relocation Changes for 2025

- USDA-WS will conduct all round up
 - Efficiency due to logistics
 - Build into agency agreements
 - Process to donate meat to charitable organizations
 - Modeled after other states' programs
- 2025 pilot program to assess costs, logistics, capacity, etc.



WCO Changes

- Remove language allowing round up and relocation (transportation) by sites and nuisance animal control operators
- Include language to allow nuisance animal control operators to capture, hold, and euthanize aggressive geese



WCO Changes

- Reduce 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.
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for a site permit to participate in the transport of Canada geese
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for nuisance animal control operators to transport geese



Thank You



Michigan.gov/Waterfowl



Windsor Township State Game Area

Randy Heinze, Wildlife Biologist

September 12, 2024



About Windsor SGA

- Windsor SGA is owned by DTMB but managed by the DNR Wildlife Division through MOU.
- Size is about 320 acres.
- Property is bisected by railroad tracks and power lines.
- Currently, there is an archery-only restriction on the south half of the property and a shotgun-only restriction on the north half.
- Property is surrounded by urban areas.



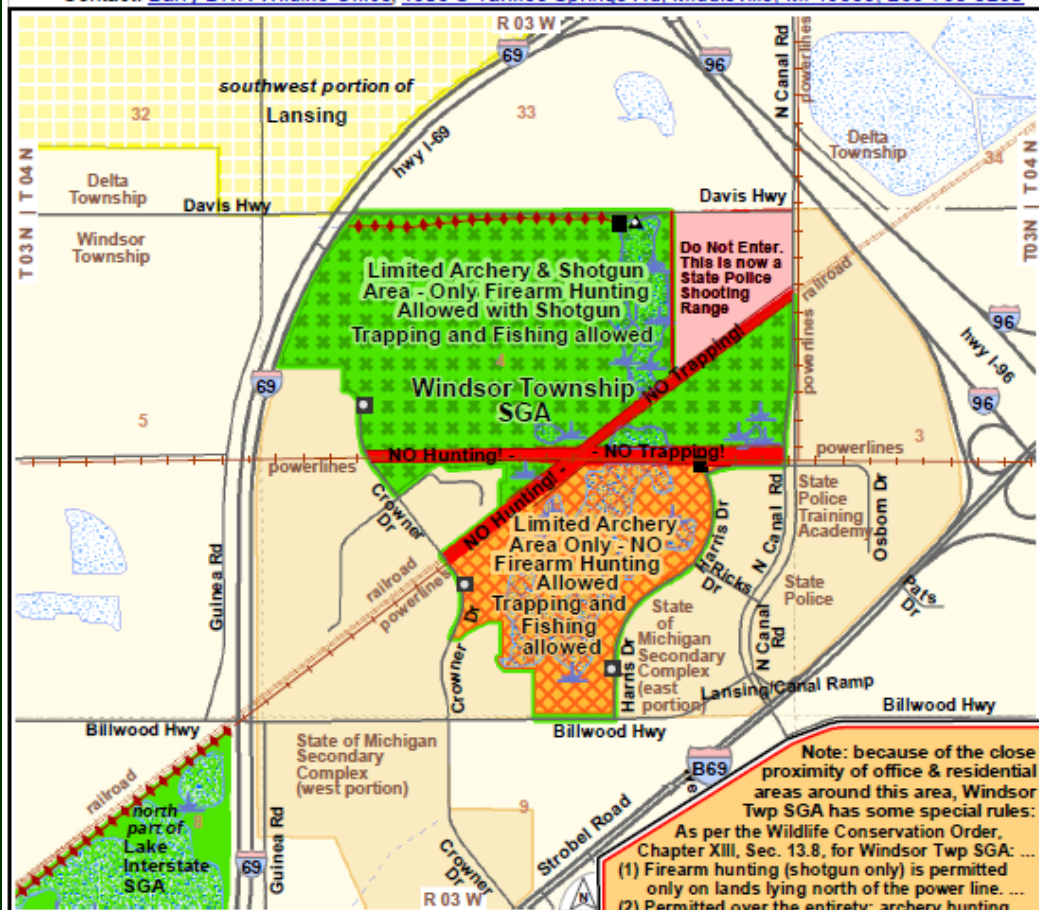


WINDSOR TOWNSHIP STATE GAME AREA

in Eaton County



Contact: Barry DNR Wildlife Office, 1805 S Yankee Springs Rd, Middleville, MI 49333; 269-795-3280



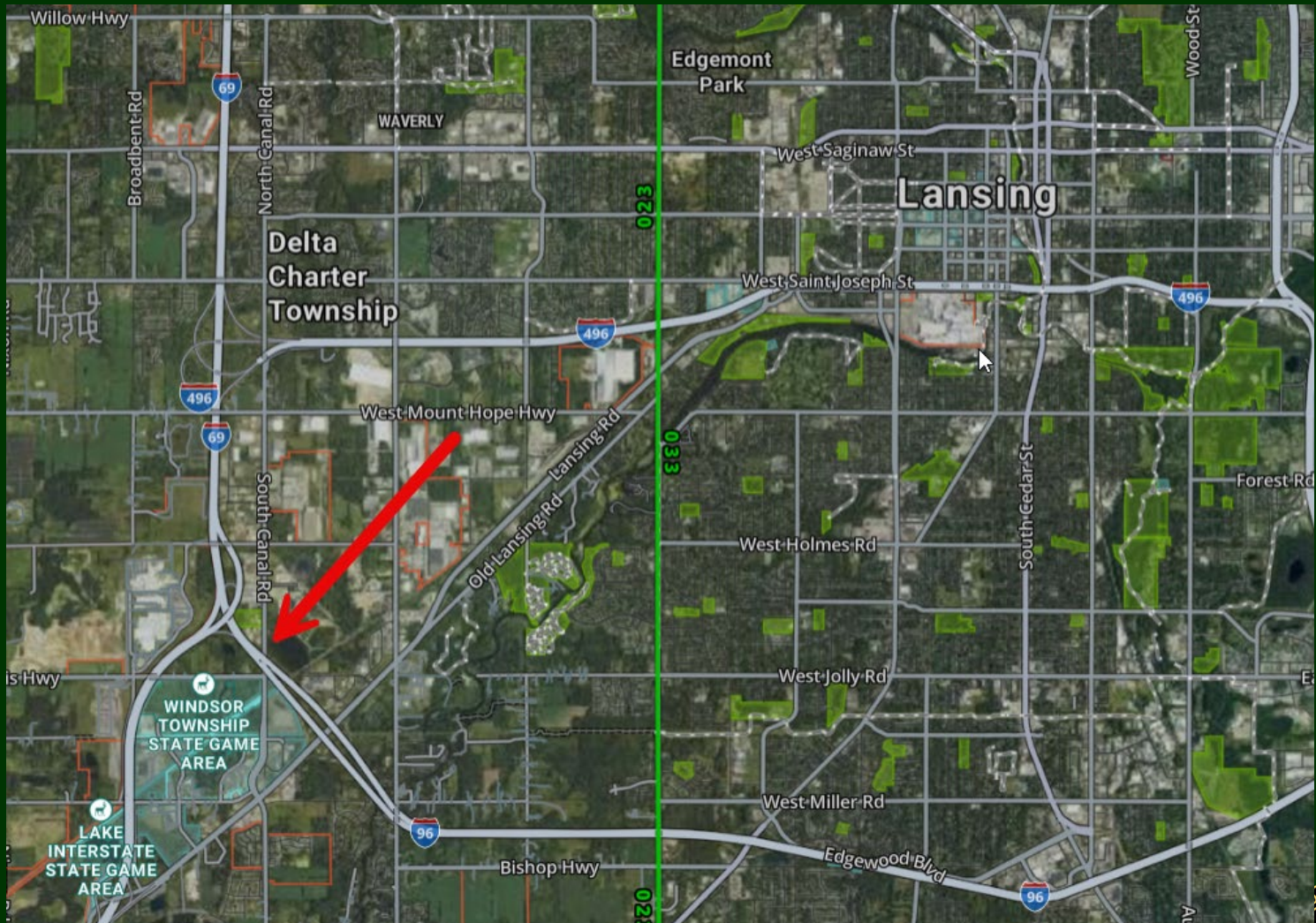
For more information or help on areas: contact DNR offices, visit the DNR online (www.mi.gov/dnr), click-on or scan the QR-block: Complete rules and regulations are online (www.mi.gov/dnr/laws). This geospatial PDF has embedded GPS coordinates and links.



Hunter Monies Help Make This Area Possible



Proximity to Lansing





- 63 acres were removed for a new lab, reducing the size to about 257 acres.
- 30 acres removed about 5 years ago for the State Police Shooting Range.

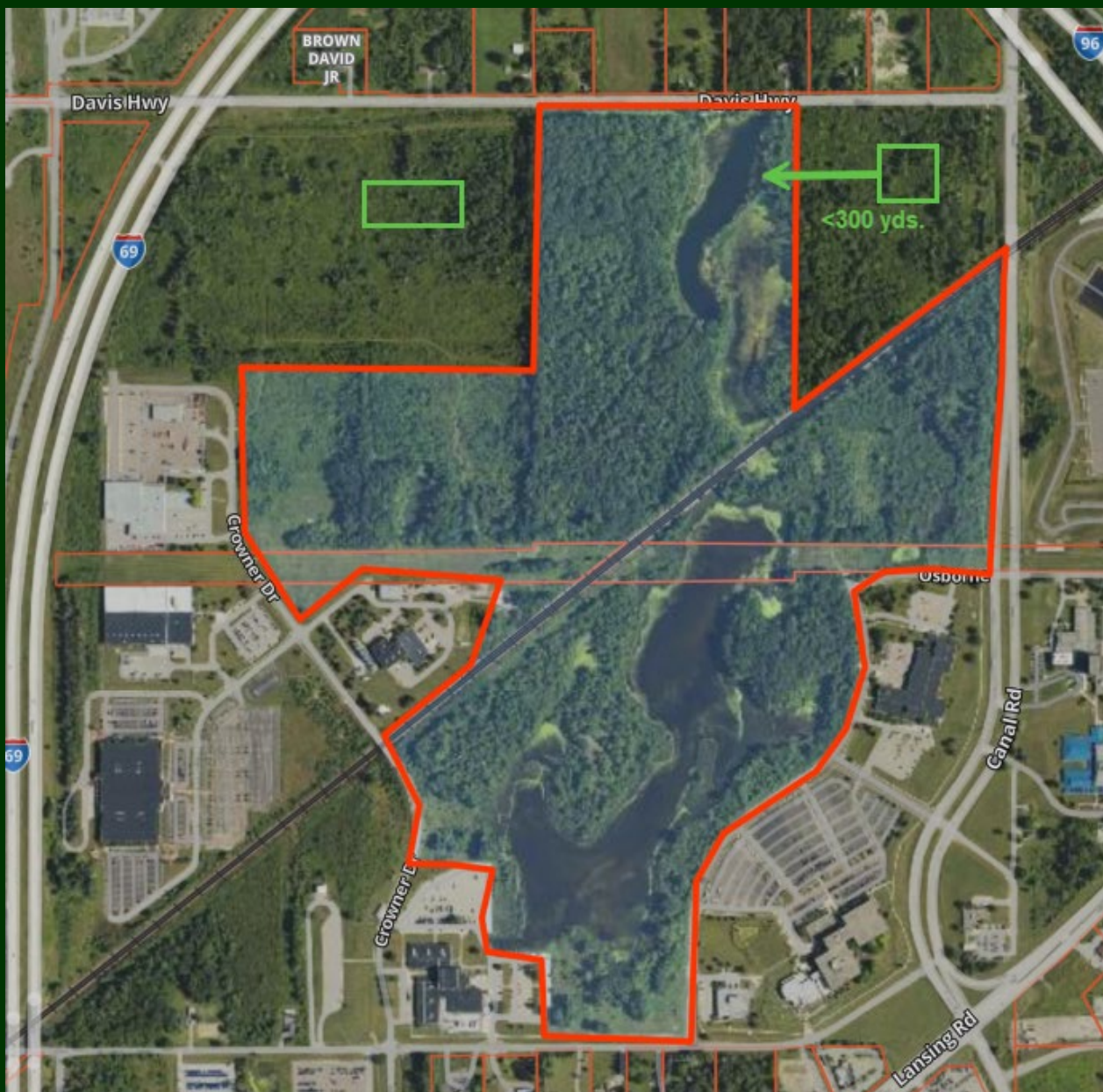


New State Police Shooting Range



New Lab





- The new building is within birdshot range of the existing pond.
- Last year, construction workers had bird shoots dropping on them.
- Closing this area to shotguns will result in losing waterfowl hunting opportunities.
- A long-term solution would be adding more waterfowl opportunities to the Pottersville SGA, which is 5 miles west.
- Some hunters may like the archery-only opportunity for deer.



Reasons to move Windsor SGA to archery only

- Safety concerns for people and property.
- Keeping hunters from putting themselves in bad situations.
- Ease concerns with DTMB about public safety.
- It is likely that the property will continue to be developed.
- Still provides recreational opportunities.





Questions?

Thank You

