FISHERIES ORDER

Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass
Order 215.23A

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 September 14, 2023, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective September 15, 2023, as follows:

A. For the purpose of this order the following definitions are provided:

1) Catch-and-Immediate-Release (CIR): means the act of returning fish immediately to the water without injury and without holding in livewell or like object.
2) MH-4: is a Lake Trout management unit which is bounded on the north by a line beginning on the shore on Au Sable Point in Iosco County at Latitude 44°20'N and extending eastward along said latitude to Longitude 083°10'W, then southward along said longitude to Latitude 44°10'N, then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 082°40'W, then southward along said line to Latitude 44°00'N, then westward along said line to shore about 2.6 miles southeast of Point aux Barques Light in Huron County.

The statewide seasons, size limits, and daily possession limits on all state waters shall be as listed below, except as otherwise ordered:

B. Statewide Seasons

A person shall not take, catch, or kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any of the species of fish named in this order except during the seasons that are specified below for each species of fish named in this order.

1) Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass:
   a) CIR fishing shall be permitted all year.
   b) On Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, and Detroit River:
      i) The possession season shall be the third Saturday in June - December 31.
   c) On Lake Michigan within one-half mile of the following islands of the Beaver Island Archipelago – Beaver, Garden, High, and Hog, Charlevoix County:
      i) The possession season shall be July 1 - December 31.
   d) All other waters not otherwise closed to fishing:
      i) The possession season shall be the Saturday before Memorial Day - December 31.
2) Walleye, Northern Pike, and Muskellunge:
   a) CIR fishing for Muskellunge shall be permitted all year.
   b) An area in the Green Bay portion of Lake Michigan, Menominee County, beginning at the intersection of the north boundary line of Menominee County with the west shoreline of the Bay in Section 3, T36N, R24W or approximate latitude/longitude (45.5505, -87.2637); thence east approximately 8 miles to latitude/longitude (45.5505, -87.101); thence south approximately 10 miles to the intersection with the state boundary at approximate

latitude/longitude (45.444, -87.101); thence southwesterly and westerly approximately 36 miles along the state boundary in Green Bay, between the mainland of Michigan and the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin, to the mouth of the Menominee River, thence northeasterly along the shoreline of Green Bay to the point of beginning:

i) The possession season for Walleye shall be open for the entire year.

ii) The possession season for Northern Pike shall be May 15 - March 15.

iii) The possession season for Muskellunge shall be from the first Saturday in June - March 15.

c) All other inland, Great Lakes, and connecting waters of the Upper Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing:

i) The possession season for Walleye and Northern Pike shall be from May 15 - March 15.

ii) The possession season for Muskellunge shall be from the first Saturday in June - March 15.

d) Inland waters of the Lower Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing:

i) The possession season for Walleye and Northern Pike shall be from the last Saturday in April - March 15.

ii) The possession season for Muskellunge shall be from the first Saturday in June - March 15.

e) Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, and Detroit River:

i) The possession season for Muskellunge shall be the first Saturday in June - December 31.

ii) The possession season for Walleye and Northern Pike shall be open for the entire year.

f) All other Great Lakes and connecting waters of the Lower Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing:

i) The possession season for Walleye and Northern Pike shall be open for the entire year.

ii) The possession season for Muskellunge shall be from the first Saturday in June - March 15.

3) Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass:

a) All waters not otherwise closed to fishing:

i) The possession season shall be open for the entire year.

C. Statewide Warmwater Regulations; Size and Possession Limits

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass	14 inches	Five (5) per day in any combination
Walleye (See **Note 1**)	15 inches	Five (5) per day
Northern Pike (See **Note 2**)	24 inches	Two (2) per day
Flathead Catfish	15 inches	Five (5) per day
Muskellunge (including Tiger Muskellunge) (See **Note 3**)	42 inches	One (1) per angling season
Channel Catfish	12 inches	Ten (10) per day
Yellow Perch (See **Note 4**)	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) per day
Sunfishes: Black Crappie, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Hybrid Sunfish, Longear Sunfish, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Rock Bass, Warmouth, White Crappie	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) per day in any combination
White Bass	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) per day on Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River; Ten (10) per day on inland waters

NOTES

1. **Walleye** - the following waters have regulations that differ from the statewide regulations:
   a) Lake Michigan waters of Little Bay de Noc: that portion north of a line drawn from Peninsula Point Lighthouse to the mouth of the Bark River in Delta County.
      i) The daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) Walleye 23" or greater.
   b) Lake Michigan waters of Green Bay: An area in the Green Bay portion of Menominee County, beginning at the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with the west shoreline of the Bay in Section 24, T36N, R24W, thence east approximately 6 miles to the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west, thence south approximately 10 miles to the intersection of longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west with the state boundary, thence southwesterly and westerly approximately 36 miles along the state boundary in Green Bay, between the mainland of Michigan and the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin, to the mouth of the Menominee River, thence northeasterly along the shoreline of Green Bay to the point of beginning:
      i) March 2 - the Friday before the first Saturday in May the daily possession limit shall be one (1) Walleye; and
      ii) The first Saturday in May - March 1 the daily possession limit shall be five (5) Walleyes.
   c) Lake Huron waters of MH-4 including Saginaw Bay and the lower Saginaw River (including tributaries) from the mouth of the river, upstream to the West Center Street (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge (Bay and Saginaw Counties):
      i) The possession season for Walleye shall be open for the entire year.
      ii) The minimum size limit for Walleye shall be 13 inches.
      iii) The daily possession limit for Walleye shall be eight (8).

d) Lake Erie, Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair River (beginning at the Ft. Gratiot Light):
   i) The daily possession limit for Walleye will be based on Michigan's share of the annual total allowable catch (TAC) for Walleye pursuant to the categories in the table below. The TAC is reported in March of each year by the Lake Erie Committee, which is under the aegis of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
      (1) The daily possession limit for Walleye will take effect on May 1 of each year and will be in place through April 30 of the following year.
      (2) Prior to May 1 each year, a notice of the daily possession limit will be posted on the DNR's website (www.michigan.gov/fishing) and noted in a statewide news release.

Michigan TAC	Walleye Possession Limit
greater than 108,364	six (6)
96,958 to 108,364	five (5)
85,551 to 96,957	four (4)
74,144 to 85,550	three (3)
62,737 to 74,143	two (2)
less than 62,737	one (1)

2. **Northern Pike** - the following waters have daily possession limits that differ from the statewide daily possession limit:
   a) Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, and Detroit River:
      i) The daily possession limit for Northern Pike shall be five (5).
3. **Muskellunge** –anglers are required to register Muskellunge (including Tiger Muskellunge) harvest within 24 hours online at www.michigan.gov/fishing.
   a) Statewide:
      i) Muskellunge harvest is limited to one (1) Muskellunge per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).
4. **Yellow Perch –** the following waters have daily possession limits that differ from the statewide daily possession limit:
   a) Lake Erie:
      i) The daily possession limit for Yellow Perch shall be fifty (50).
   b) Lake Gogebic:
      i) The daily possession limit for Yellow Perch shall be twenty-five (25), with no more than five (5) Yellow Perch 12 inches or greater.

This order shall be assigned number FO-215.23A, and is titled “Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass.”

This order supersedes the order titled “Statewide Coolwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass,” which became effective April 1, 2023 and was assigned number FO-215.23.

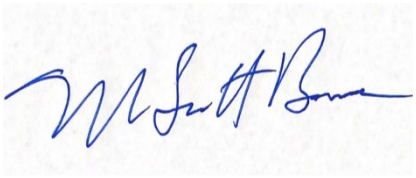
This order shall take effect on September 15, 2023 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 14th day of September 2023.

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