

# FISHERIES ORDER

## Gear Restrictions for Fishing Order 218.26

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, it is ordered on September 11, 2025, the following section(s) of the fisheries order shall read effective April 1, 2026, as follows:

For the purpose of this order the following definition is provided:

“Artificial lures”, known as manmade lures manufactured to imitate natural bait. Artificial lures include spoons, spinners, flies, and plugs made of metal, plastic, wood and other non-edible materials. They also include plastic products made to resemble worms, eggs, fish and other aquatic organisms. Use of a bead fished on the hook or pegged or attached to the line no further than 4 inches above the eye of a single-pointed hook (restricted to measuring ½-inch or less from point to shank) is also considered to be a lure.

1. In all waters of the State it shall be unlawful to:
  - a. Have a weight permanently and/or rigidly attached to a multi-pointed hook; or
  - b. Have a weight suspended from a multi-pointed hook; or
  - c. Retain any fish not hooked in the mouth; or
  - d. Fail to immediately return to the water a fish not hooked in the mouth.
  
2. On all streams, including tributaries to the Great Lakes except for the St. Marys, St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, it shall be unlawful to use the following gear during the period August 1 – May 31:
  - a. Multi-pointed hooks exceeding 3/8 inch between point and shank and/or single pointed hooks exceeding ½ inch between point and shank; or
  - b. Lures exceeding one ounce in weight.

The intent of this regulation is to allow the baited hook or the lure to suspend freely in the water, allowing the fish to take the hook or lure in its mouth.

3. In a river and stream it shall be unlawful to:
  - a. Have a weight suspended below any hook unless the hook is on an un-weighted line which is at least 3 inches long.
  
4. In a drowned river mouth lake\* it shall be unlawful to:
  - a. Have a weight suspended below a single-pointed hook exceeding ½-inch between point and shank.
  - b. Have a weight suspended below any multi-pointed hook unless the hook is on an un-weighted line which is at least 3 inches long.

\*Drowned river mouth lakes listed by county: Allegan: Kalamazoo River and Silver Lake; **Benzie:** Betsie Lake; **Manistee:** Arcadia Lake, Manistee Lake, and Portage Lake; **Mason:** Pere Marquette Lake; **Muskegon:** Duck Lake, Mona Lake, Muskegon Lake, and White Lake; **Oceana:** Pentwater Lake, Silver Lake, and Stony Lake; **Ottawa:** Macatawa Lake and Pigeon Lake.

This order shall be assigned number FO-218.26 and is entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing," effective April 1, 2019, and assigned number FO-218.19.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

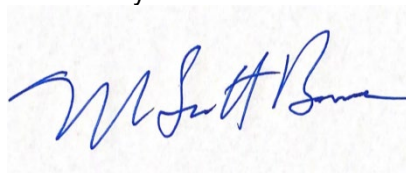
Issued on this 11th day of September 2025.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Humphries", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Rebecca Humphries, Vice Chair  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Scott Bowen", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

M. Scott Bowen  
Director