

Fisheries Order 218.19

Gear Restrictions for Fishing

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 November 8, 2018, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

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 1/2 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 1/2-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-218.19 and is entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing," effective April 1, 2016, and assigned number FO-218.16.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2019 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.