

FISHERIES ORDER

Netting Regulations Order 229.26

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, ordered on September 11, 2025, the following section(s) of the fisheries order shall read effective April 1, 2026, except as otherwise provided:

The following netting regulations are established statewide.

SEASON	GEAR	WATERS*	SPECIES**
March 1 – May 31	Hand Net	All Great Lakes, L. St. Clair, St. Clair R., Detroit R., and St. Marys R. including all tributaries to those waters from the mouth to ½ mile upstream (except that Thompson Cr. (Schoolcraft Co.), is closed). See List A for inland streams open to hand netting.	Bowfin, Carp, Goldfish, Gizzard Shad, Longnose Gar, Smelt, Suckers
March 20 – May 31	Dip Net	All Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula streams, except Designated Trout Streams. See List B for additional streams closed to dip netting.	Bowfin, Carp, Goldfish, Gizzard Shad, Longnose Gar, Smelt, Suckers
Open for the entire year	Seine, Hand Net, Dip Net	All waters, except Designated Trout Streams and those waters closed to minnow harvest (FO-203).	Minnows
Open for the entire year	Cast Net	Great Lakes, L. St. Clair, St. Clair R., Detroit R., and St. Marys R.	Alewife, Minnows, Smelt, Gizzard Shad

*Review the netting exceptions list below for regulations that differ from those listed in the table above.

**For the purpose of this order the term “suckers” refers to: suckers (longnose, white, northern hog, spotted), redbone (silver, golden, black, greater, shorthead), buffalo (bigmouth, black), Lake Chubsucker, and Quillback Carpsucker. The term “minnows” refers to small baitfish used as bait: chubs, shiners, dace, stonerollers, sculpins (muddlers), mudminnows, and suckers.

Special Provisions:

1) Hand Net

- a) For the purposes of this Order, "hand net" means a mesh bag of webbing or wire suspended from a circular, oval, or rectangular frame of any size attached to a handle of any length.
- b) Hand nets not over 8 feet square and without sides or walls may be used to take minnows for personal use.
- c) Hand nets may not be fished within 100 feet of a dam.

2) Dip Net

- a) For the purpose of this Order, "dip net" means a square net that is constructed from a piece of webbing of heavy twine, hung on heavy cord or frame so as to be without sides or walls, and suspended from the corners and attached in such a manner that when the net is lifted no part is more than 4 feet below the plane formed by the imaginary lines connecting the corners from which the net is suspended. As used in fishing, it shall be lowered and raised vertically as nearly as possible.
- b) A free permit is required from a DNR office.
- c) Dip nets may not exceed 9 x 9 square feet and may not have sides or walls.
- d) Dip nets may not be erected or fished within 100 feet of a dam.
- e) The name and address of the person setting, using, or having control over the dip net equipment, including frame, boom, supporting members, and temporary buildings, shall be plainly marked in legible English on the dip net equipment or securely fastened to it by a plate or tag. Dip net equipment and a temporary building erected and used that are located on public land or the land of another person shall be removed prior to June 10 of each year unless maintained with proper permission of the landowner. This subsection does not authorize the erection or fishing of a dip net on the land or premises of another person without proper permission from the landowner.

3) Seine

- a) Minnow seines may not exceed 12 feet in length and 4 feet in width.
- b) Seines may not be fished within 100 feet of a dam.

4) Cast Net

- a) Cast nets may not be fished within 100 feet of a dam.

NETTING EXCEPTIONS

LIST A – INLAND WATERS OPEN TO HAND NETTING

The following inland waters are open to use of hand nets from March 1– May 31 for Bowfin, Carp, Goldfish, Gizzard Shad, Longnose Gar, Smelt, and Suckers:

Alger County

Towes Creek

West Branch Whitefish River from Sea Lamprey Barrier (T44N, R21W, S29) downstream 500 feet to posted signs.

Charlevoix County

Lake Charlevoix and tributaries to one-half mile upstream.

Chippewa County

Trout Creek down from Big Trout Lake (T42N, R3E, S31)

Prentiss Creek (T42N, R2E)

Delta County

Days River from sea lamprey barrier downstream for 500 feet.

Rapid River from Rapid River Falls (T24N, R21W, S19) down to County Road (in S15).

Escanaba River from mouth to 1st dam upstream of US-2.

Ford River down from Jaeger Road.

Houghton County

Portage Lake and all tributaries thereto for one-half mile above mouth.

North and South Portage Canal and all tributaries thereto for one-half mile above mouth.

Torch Lake and all tributaries thereto for one-half mile above mouth.

Luce County

Little Two Hearted River from mouth upstream to bridge on County Road 412 (T50N, R9W, S25)

Mackinac County

Doe Creek (T43N, R10W)

Foley Creek down from I-75

Hoban Creek down from State Street

Hudson Creek (T41N, R11W, S8)

Martineau Creek down from I-75

McClouds Creek

Milakokia River, Milakokia Lake down to Heinz Lake

Norton Creek from M-135 down to South Manistique Lake

Nunn's Creek from Highway M -134 to mouth

Pearson's Creek (T42N, R1W and R1E)

Rabbits Back Creek down from Mackinac Trail

Scrams Creek (T42N, R11W, S11)

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

Manistee County

Little Bear Creek down from Bear Lake to trunkline Highway US-31

Menominee County

Big Cedar River down from mouth of Elwood Creek (T35N, R25W, S11).

LIST B – INLAND STREAMS CLOSED TO DIP NETTING

It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any species of fish with dip nets on the following named streams:

Arenac County

Au Gres River from mouth at Saginaw Bay upstream to M-65 (T22N, R5E, S26)
Rifle River from Steve's Road (T19N, R5E, S9) upstream

Benzie County

Cold Creek from mouth at Crystal Lake (T26N, R15W, S26) to source

Grand Traverse County

Unnamed Creek from source at Green Lake (T26N, R12W, S20) upstream to Bridges Lake

Iosco County

Au Gres River from mouth at Saginaw Bay upstream to M-65 (T22N, R5E, S26)

Leelanau County

Houdek Creek from mouth at North Lake Leelanau (T31N, R12W, S35) to source

Monroe County

Huron River from mouth at Lake Erie upstream to Belleville Dam
Stony Creek from mouth at Lake Erie upstream to Finzel Road (T5S, R8E, S23)

Wayne County

Huron River from mouth at Lake Erie upstream to Belleville Dam

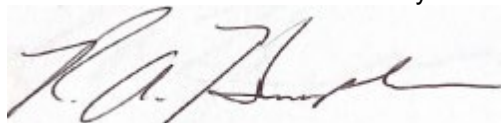
This order shall be assigned number FO-229.26 and is entitled "Netting Regulations."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Netting Regulations," which became effective September 15, 2023, and is assigned number FO-229.23.

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

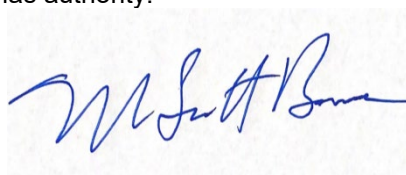
Issued on this 11th day of September 2025.

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



Rebecca Humphries, Vice Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



M. Scott Bowen
Director