

FISHERIES ORDER

POSSESSION LIMITS FOR FISH

Order 248.25

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 September 11, 2025, except as otherwise provided:

A.		Definitions as used in this order:
1.	"Eviscerated:" means to have internal organs removed from the body cavity or have gills severed to ensure the organism is dead.	
2.	"Mutilated:" means a fish that is unidentifiable or cannot be measured.	
3.	"Snag" or "snagging:" means taking or attempting to take a fish in a manner or methods where the fish does not take, or have the chance to take, the hook voluntarily in its mouth. Snagging shall include but not be limited to fishing by manipulating a hook or hooks and other tackle or lures, whether baited or not, in such a manner as to pierce or hook a fish in any part of the body, circumventing the voluntary action of the fish to take the bait or lure in the mouth.	
B.		Provisions
1.	Department Fisheries orders regulate various statewide and area-specific daily possession limits for fish. In addition to one (1) day's possession limit of fish, a person may possess an additional two (2) days possession limit of fish, taken during previous fishing days, provided that are processed by any of the following methods:	
	a.	Canning in a sealed container.
	b.	Curing by smoking or drying.
	c.	Freezing in a solid state.
A person's processed fish aboard a vessel, on the water or at dockside shall be considered to be in the person's possession for the purposes of this order.		
The additional two days possession limit provision does not apply to lake sturgeon or muskellunge. The harvest of lake sturgeon shall be limited to the provisions as set forth in FO-240. The harvest of muskellunge shall be limited to the provisions as set forth in FO-215.		
2.	Anglers may engage in catch-and-immediate-release (CIR) fishing after reaching the maximum allowed daily possession limit for a given species.	
3.	It shall be unlawful for a person to take or possess on any waters over which this state has jurisdiction any fish that is so mutilated that the identification or measurement of that fish is impossible.	
4.	It shall be unlawful to snag a fish, attempt to snag a fish, or possess a fish that was snagged.	
5.	It shall be unlawful to possess a prohibited or restricted species per MCL 324.41301 or Invasive Species Order Amendment No. 1 of 2020 unless it is eviscerated or adheres to criteria described within MCL 324.41301 (2).	


C.	Importation	
	1.	<p>A person may import any fish, reptile, mollusk, crustacea, minnow, wiggler, and or amphibian, as defined by MCL 324.48701, and 324.48702a, or as defined by the state, territory, or country of origin, whether living or dead, or parts thereof, only as provided in this section:</p> <p>(1) It is unlawful for any person to import or have in their possession in this state, any fish, reptile, mollusk, crustacea, minnow, wiggler, or amphibian, or parts thereof, that was acquired, bought, sold, taken, or transported from a state, territory, or country in violation of the laws or regulations of that state, territory, or country. A person importing any of the above shall maintain documentation of the lawful taking, purchase, and/or importation of the above until it is consumed, no longer possessed or prepared as a preserved specimen.</p>

This order shall be assigned number FO-248.25 and is entitled "Possession Limits for Fish."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Possession Limits for Fish," effective April 1, 2022, and assigned number FO-248.22.

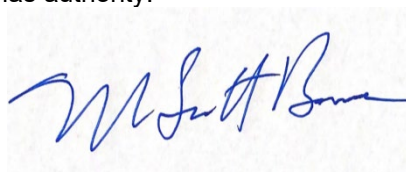
This order shall take immediate effect on September 11, 2025, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 11th day of September 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. 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