

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

August 10, 2017

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – NRC
  - Additional Colors for Hunting Apparel (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2017)
  - Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County (Fisheries Order 201.18)
  - Regulation on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians (Fisheries Order 224.17)
  - Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations (Fisheries Order 251.17)

# Proposed Orders

- For Action – NRC
  - State-Licensed Commercial Fishing (Fisheries Order 243.17)

# **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

- Fisheries Division Update
  - Fishing Regulations
- Wildlife Division Update
  - Additional Colors for Hunting Apparel

# **Fisheries Chief Update**

Jim Dexter

Chief

Fisheries Division

August 10, 2017

# St. Mary's River Assessment

- State, Federal, Tribal, Ontario
- Creel and fisheries surveys
- Regulation standardization
- Fish Community Objectives



# USGS-DNR Round Goby Survey

- Northern Lake Huron
- 1 week joint effort
- Can we improve sampling?
- Alewife of the 21st century



# Brook trout regulations

- Upper Peninsula
- 10 fish daily bag limit

Strategic Planning, Fisheries Division

Staffing Planning, Fisheries Division





# 41.5 pound Chinook salmon certified from Muskegon!



**Thank You**

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Fisheries Division

Nick Popoff

August 10, 2017

# For Information:

- FO 201 – Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County
- FO 224 – Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians
- FO 251 – Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations

# FO 201 – Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County

- Wilderness Area with special regulations
  - 40” MSL and 1 fish bag limit on northern pike
- Propose MSL modified from 40” to 24” and bag limit change from 1 to 2 per day to provide a limited harvest opportunity

## Muskellunge

- Possession season for muskellunge changing to first Saturday in June
- Removal of muskellunge tag requirement
- Adding online registration of all muskellunge harvest will be mandatory

# FO 224 – Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians

- Updating the order to remove two statutory references
- Recommendation from experts to modify common and scientific names for several species
- For immediate effect and the proposed changes do not modify any current regulations

# FO 251 – Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations

- Created to house all ice fishing shanty regulations – dates vary across state
- Add provision regarding temporary shanty marking requirement
- Recommend transferring Michigan-Wisconsin boundary water removal date provision from order 205 into this order
- Changes will not affect anglers
- Recommend immediate effect

**Questions?**



# **Wildlife Chief Update**

Steve Chadwick

# Wildlife Chief Update

- CWD Symposium
- TB - USDA Meeting
- EHD Update
- Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors
- Hunting and Trapping Digest
- Hunting Seasons Starting Up

**Thank You**

# **Additional Colors for Hunting Apparel**

August 10, 2017

Lt. Thomas R. Wanless

# Pubic Act 377 of 2016

- Amended the hunter orange requirement to allow the NRC to add additional safety colors for hunting
- The NRC is required to review and determine whether hunter pink or other colors are as safe and effective as hunter orange
- The NRC is required to establish an Order by October 1, 2017 on their findings

# Hunter Orange

- Required in Michigan since the 1970s
- Hunting injuries and deaths have decreased
- Nationally and Internationally recognized standard for hunting
- Hunter (Fluorescent) Orange is a recognized OSHA safety color

# The International Hunter Education Association – United States of America

- Michigan is a voting member
- Hunter orange most effective color to wear while hunting unless sound science can prove different
- No nationally recognized study conducted for visibility of any color other than hunter orange
- [The International Hunter Education Association- United States of America](#)

# LED Survey

- Sent to 400 volunteer hunter education instructors
- 216 responded
- 209 did not support any other color
- 213 did not know non-hunters who would start hunting because of the color they can wear
- 38 had difficulty seeing pink



# Michigan Hunter Safety Instructor Association

- Approximately 3000 volunteer instructors
- Train thousands of new hunters annually
- Most also partake in hunting
- MHSIA does not support any other colors for safety

# Other Points of Interest

- Only 7 states allow another color in lieu of hunter orange
- Data supporting other safety colors is limited because so few states allow them
- Hunters can wear any color they want while hunting as long as they still meet the hunter orange requirement

# Recommendation

- The Department recommends the NRC retain the current hunter orange garment requirement and not authorize any additional garment colors to be worn while hunting as a substitute for hunter orange.

**Thank You**