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
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
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