



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 13, 2020
RESUBMITTED: February 18, 2020
RESUBMITTED: March 24, 2020

APPROVED

April 16, 2020

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Brooke Parnall

(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Use of Electronic Trap Monitors for Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Businesses
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2020

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Under the authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Wildlife Conservation Order, the Department administers a permit system for wildlife damage and nuisance control when hunting and trapping cannot alleviate problems. The permit system allows nuisance wild animals and wild animals causing damage to property to be taken during times of the year and by methods not normally allowed under the regular hunting and trapping rules.

Under the permit system for wildlife damage and nuisance control, the Department issues a Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Permit to private nuisance animal control businesses, public agencies, and other organizations. The Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control permit pre-authorizes these businesses to undertake control measures on specific species in certain areas and at certain times upon complaint of a person suffering damage without individual inspections and individual permits being issued by Department staff.

The Department received a request from a group of licensed nuisance animal control operators to allow businesses licensed under a Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control permit to use electronic trap monitors while conducting wildlife control measures on private lands. Electronic trap monitors are a tool that can potentially increase the efficiency of wildlife trap checks. The devices may consist of small radio transmitters that emit unique pulse rates, cell phone data notification, or a device that sends text messages when an animal is captured in a trap.

March 24, 2020

The Department recommends allowing businesses licensed under a Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control permit to monitor traps lawfully permitted to take or capture nuisance wild animals with an operational electronic device under certain conditions with a three-year sunset clause. A three-year sunset clause will allow time for the Department to review the use and effectiveness of these devices.

The Department recommends allowing electronic trap monitors to be used under all of the following conditions by a licensed business permittee provided that the trap is physically checked in person at least once every 72 hours:

- The electronic trap monitor remains in continuous operation while in use and shall be able to provide trap status at least once every 24 hours.
- The electronic trap monitor shall be checked electronically at least once every 24 hours.
- The electronic trap monitor has notification alarms that report real-time trap information including trap door closed activity and trap door open activity within one hour after detection via email or text-based messaging systems.
- The electronic trap monitor has notification alarms that report system health issues via email or text-based messaging.
- The electronic trap monitor has on-demand control unit testing capabilities for determining trap status, signal strength, and battery condition via remote system check-in.
- If the electronic trap monitor notification alarm reports a trap closure, the permittee is required to physically visit the trap within 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.
- If the electronic trap monitor reports a system health issue, the permittee is required to physically check the trap within 24 hours of the last time a notification alarm was received.
- Electronic monitoring devices shall be marked with the permittee's identification, specifically the permit number, business name, and business phone number.
- Permittees shall maintain records as provided by section 5.54 of the Wildlife Conservation Order. This also includes alert notifications and trap status check via the centralized application database. All records shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time by a state or law enforcement agency, or its employees, or a tribal conservation officer.
- An individual who displays records using an electronic device is not presumed to have consented to a search of the electronic device. This state, a law enforcement agency, a tribal conservation officer, an employee of this state or a law enforcement agency is not liable for damage to or loss of an electronic device that occurs as a result of viewing records.
- A state or law enforcement agency, or its employees, a tribal conservation officer is not liable for damage to an electronic trap monitor or an electronic device that occurs as a result of inspecting the electronic trap monitor or electronic device.

Issues Pros and Cons

Electronic trap monitors allow for the remote monitoring of traps. Such remote technologies will save time in monitoring traps by reducing travel time, reducing time spent checking empty traps,

and may relieve the stress of having to manage several traps at once. Nuisance control companies alleviate the burden of wildlife calls from the Department, freeing officers' and biologists' time to concentrate on priority species.

Electronic trap monitor technologies may have systematic issues, such as signal strength, battery power, and inaccurate readings. In addition, electronic trap monitors may be damaged by animals caught in traps and traps may be sprung without catching animals that may activate the device.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Wisconsin to determine if electronic trap monitors are legal for nuisance animal control businesses. The results were the following:

- Illinois: Electronic monitoring systems may be used in lieu of physical visits for nuisance animal control businesses under certain conditions.
- Indiana: Electronic monitoring systems are illegal.
- Ohio: Electronic monitoring systems are legal for nuisance animal control businesses.
- Missouri: Electronic monitoring systems are illegal.
- Wisconsin: Electronic monitoring systems are illegal.

Biological

The Department does not expect a biological impact to wildlife populations.

Social

The Department has received support from a select number of licensed wildlife damage and nuisance animal control businesses.

Economic

The Department does not expect any significant economic impacts.

Use of Electronic Trap Monitors for Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Businesses
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2020


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March 24, 2020

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on February 13, 2020, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 16, 2020.



Daniel Kennedy, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



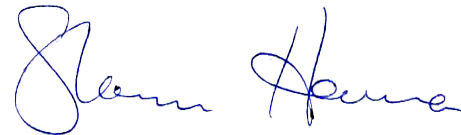
Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

April 16, 2020

Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 2 of 2020

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective April 17, 2020, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

5.52 Nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agencies and non-profit nuisance animal control organizations, permit issuance; requirements.

Sec. 5.52 The department's wildlife permit specialist may issue a permit to a reputable nuisance animal control business, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization for the purpose of taking certain animals causing damage to personal or real property. A person issued a permit under this section is subject to all of the following requirements:

(1) Permits shall expire on the third March 31 after the date of issue, except as noted in section 5.52b and 5.52d of this order.

(2) Permittees may, upon verifying the complaint of any person suffering damage or nuisance, effect control measures at any time of year within cities, villages, or townships closed to hunting or prohibiting the discharge of firearms. In other areas of the state, permittees may, upon verifying the complaint of any person suffering damage or nuisance, effect control measures from April 1 to September 30. Notwithstanding the other provision of this subsection, permittees may, upon verifying a complaint of damage or nuisance, effect control measures at any time of year within the curtilage of the complainant. For the purposes of this subsection, "curtilage" means the dwelling house, associated buildings, and associated yard used for domestic purposes. Control measures in areas and at times not otherwise provided by this subsection shall only be initiated on those complaints referred to the permittee by a wildlife biologist or conservation officer.

(3) Permittees shall be authorized to undertake control measures on the premises of the complainant for the control of bats that are not threatened or endangered and the control of coyote, fox, weasels, mink, raccoon, skunk, opossum, woodchuck, badger, muskrat, squirrels, ground squirrels, rabbits, English sparrows, feral pigeons, starlings, and crows. Permittees shall also be authorized to undertake control measures on the premises of the complainant on beaver on private lands in zone 3 during the closed season; however, beaver shall not be live trapped and relocated or translocated without authorization of the wildlife management unit supervisor. Control of damage by other wildlife shall be undertaken only as authorized by a wildlife biologist or conservation officer. Control of damage caused by protected migratory birds shall require a federal permit, except as noted in section 5.52b and 5.52d of this order.

(4) To effect control measures, permittees may use foothold traps, body gripping or conibear type traps, live traps, firearms if possessed and used in compliance with all applicable state, local, and federal firearm laws and colony or multiple-catch traps for species other than muskrat. Colony traps may be used for muskrat if used in compliance with subsection 3.600(5). To affect control measures, permittees may also use snares the entire year if one or more of the following conditions are met:

(a) Permitted species is within the curtilage of the complainant.

(b) Permitted species is trapped upon the premises of the complainant in completely submerged underwater sets.

(c) For the control of fox and coyote outside the curtilage upon the premises of the complainant in the Lower Peninsula if the snare meets the requirements of subsection 3.609(2), subdivisions (b) through (j).

(5) Permittees may sell live nuisance feral pigeons live trapped during legitimate nuisance control operations.

(6) A dead animal taken by means other than pesticides during the open season for that animal may be disposed in any manner provided by section 4.3 of this order if the person disposing of the animal is licensed to take the animal

under part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451.

(7) Non-profit nuisance animal control organizations shall comply with all rules and regulations for permittees. The permit shall be issued in the name of an official of the organization. The person to whom the non-profit nuisance animal control permit is issued shall not authorize any employee or volunteer of the organization to undertake control measures without providing the employee or volunteer a copy of the permit countersigned by that person. An employee or volunteer undertaking nuisance animal control measures shall produce a copy of the countersigned permit upon demand of a police or peace officer.

(8) All live traps, foot-hold traps, and other catching devices designed and used in a manner to trap or capture animals alive shall be checked daily except as provided in subsection (8)(a). All traps and catching devices used under the authority of a permit issued under this section shall be marked as provided by section 3.600, subsections (2) and (3), except that the trap or catching device shall be marked "permit no." followed by the permittee's permit number, and the business name, and business phone number of the permittee.

(a) Electronic trap monitors may be used under all the following conditions provided that the trap is physically checked in-person by the permittee at least once every 72 hours:

(i) The electronic trap monitor remains in continuous operation while in use and shall be able to provide trap status at least once every 24 hours.

(ii) The electronic trap monitor shall be checked electronically at least once every 24 hours.

(iii) The electronic trap monitor has notification alarms that report real-time trap information including trap door closed activity and trap door open activity within one hour after detection via email or text-based messaging systems.

(iv) The electronic trap monitor has notification alarms that report system health issues via email or text-based messaging.

(v) The electronic trap monitor has on-demand control unit testing capabilities for determining trap status, signal strength, and battery condition via remote system check-in.

(vi) If the electronic trap monitor notification alarm reports a trap closure, the permittee is required to physically visit the trap within 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.

(vii) If the electronic trap monitor reports a system health issue, the permittee is required to physically check the trap within 24 hours of the last time a notification alarm was received.

(viii) Electronic trap monitoring devices shall be marked with the permittee's permit number, and the business name, and business phone number of the permittee.

(ix) Permittees shall maintain records as provided by section 5.54 of this order. This also includes alert notifications and trap status check via the centralized application database. All records shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time by a state or law enforcement agency, or its employees, or a tribal conservation officer.

(x) An individual who displays records using an electronic device is not presumed to have consented to a search of the electronic device. This state, a law enforcement agency, a tribal conservation officer, an employee of this state or a law enforcement agency is not liable for damage to or loss of an electronic device that occurs as a result of viewing records.

(xi) This state, a law enforcement agency, a tribal conservation officer, an employee of this state or a law enforcement agency is not liable for damage to an electronic trap monitor or an electronic device used to inspect records that occurs as a result of inspecting the electronic trap monitor or electronic device.

(xii) Section (8)(a) shall be rescinded on February 28, 2023.

(9) Captured animals shall not be released from or upon a public roadway or right of way. Captured animals shall not be released upon the lands of another person, whether private or public lands, without the consent of the landowner or land manager.

(10) All animals, which the permittee is authorized to take, shall be taken and disposed of in a manner to ensure humane handling or killing. Captured animals shall not be held longer than 24 hours unless requested by a department representative, or by a physician or public health official for public health reasons. Captured animals shall not be euthanized except by methods recommended and approved by the department.

(11) Any control measures undertaken by the permittee shall be considered a contractual agreement between the permittee and the complainant. The cost of control effected under the authority of a permit is the responsibility of the permittee.

(12) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

Issued on this 16th day of April, 2020.

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



David Nyberg, Acting Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:
RESUBMITTED:

February 18, 2020
March 24, 2020



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Elk Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2020

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Current elk regulations have been in place since 2018 as part of the two-year regulatory cycle to provide consistency in regulations. Accordingly, the Department recommends that the proposed changes remain in place for the 2020 and 2021 elk seasons. This amendment establishes Elk Management Units (EMUs), hunt dates, and license quotas.

Elk Management Units:

The Department recommends replacing EMUs F and G with two new EMUs, H and I. The new EMU H boundary will shift the current EMU F boundary east. The new EMU I boundary will shift the current EMU G boundary northward. The shifts in these boundaries closely align with the boundary of the core area closed in Hunt Period 1. In addition, EMU X will be redefined to align with the new boundaries of EMUs H and I and will be applied to both hunt periods. Elk management unit L will no longer be used during Elk Hunt Period 1. The proposed boundary changes will provide consistency between Elk Hunt Periods, are relevant for management objectives, and will provide for better enforcement and communications.

Issues Pros and Cons

Creating two new EMUs that closely align with the core area that is closed during Elk Hunt Period 1, in addition to applying EMU X to both hunt periods, will provide consistency in regulations. The proposed boundaries will have open areas that were previously closed and will provide hunters with new hunting areas.

There may be some confusion regarding the two new EMU boundaries. However, the Department will continue effective communications and customer service related to the boundary changes.

Biological

Moving parts of the southeastern boundary northward during the closed period will allow hunters to access a herd of elk that seems to reside in that location during Hunt Period 1 but move south into EMU X during Hunt Period 2. This movement data was recently gathered from an extensive radio telemetry study showing seasonal elk movement behavior. The changed boundary will provide added opportunity for hunters to access these elk during Hunt Period 1, while minimizing conflict around elk viewing areas, which continue to be excluded from Hunt Period 1. Additionally, EMU H will cover a smaller area, moving the western boundary eastward substantially. This will add large areas into EMU X, and will allow both EMU H and EMU I hunters to access elk in this area, which runs adjacent to I-75 and has risk of elk-vehicle collision.

Social

With the closed boundary during Hunt Period 1 now matching the external boundaries of EMUs H and I in Hunt Period 2, there will now be consistency in the roads that identify the boundaries between the two seasons. This should lead to less confusion between hunters, guides, law enforcement officers, and others associated with elk management. This change received support during a recent landowner and guide meeting with staff.

Economic

The Department does not expect an economic impact.

Elk Season Dates:

Elk Hunt Period 1 is designed to target elk outside the core elk range in EMU X (previously EMU L) before these elk move for the breeding season. This elk hunt period is recommended to be twelve days long, consisting of a four-day hunt in late August/early September, a four-day hunt in mid-September, and a four-day hunt in early October. The recommended dates for Elk Hunt Period 1 in 2020 are September 1 through September 4, September 18 through September 21, and October 2 through October 5. Dates in 2021 would remain similar in structure, with recommended dates for Elk Hunt Period 1 being August 31 through September 3, September 17 through September 20, and October 1 through October 4. This recommendation would retain the same structure for Elk Hunt Period 1 that was established in 2012 and will continue through 2021.

Elk Hunt Period 2 will focus harvest where needed within individual EMUs H and I (previously EMUs F and G) in the core elk range and will allow for additional harvest outside the core area in EMU X. The recommended dates for Elk Hunt Period 2 in 2020 are December 12 through

December 20, while the recommended hunt dates for 2021 are December 11 through December 19. This recommendation would retain the same structure for Elk Hunt Period 2 that was established in 2012 and will continue through 2021.

The Department also recommends maintaining the option to hold a January hunt, if necessary, to address management issues remaining after the earlier hunts conclude. The January hunt period was not used in 2019 or 2020. There are no recommended changes to the January 13 through January 17, 2021, or January 12 through January 16, 2022 dates for Elk Hunt Period 3.

Issues Pros and Cons

This elk season structure designed in 2012 is intended to increase the number of successful hunters and to increase the effectiveness of hunters taking elk outside of the core range by allowing them more time to harvest an elk. Hunter success numbers increased over the last couple of years due to this regulation change. For the 2018-2019 seasons, hunter success ranged from 68-89% among the hunt periods, well within the average success rates observed over the past 5 years of 77-87%. In addition, the average number of days required to harvest an elk in 2018 was 6.5 days.

The Department does not expect any negative impacts as a result of maintaining the current elk season structure.

Biological

The Department does not expect a biological impact as a result of maintaining the current elk season structure.

Social

The Department gathered public input through comments and opinion surveys when determining the elk season structure. The Department did not receive any negative feedback on this recommendation.

Economic

The elk herd range is concentrated in the northeast portion of the Lower Peninsula. The elk season has a positive economic impact on that region, due to the seasonal influx of elk hunters and elk hunt guiding operations. The Department does not expect an economic impact as a result of maintaining the current elk season structure.

Elk License Quotas:

In 2016, elk quotas were raised to reduce the elk herd and to better align with the population management goal of 500 to 900 elk reflected in the Department's Elk Management Plan. In 2018, elk quotas remained the same due to the slightly lowered elk herd as provided by the 2017 and 2018 aerial flights, the reduced number of agricultural complaints, and no significant changes in disease status of the herd.

The aerial flight surveys from 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 showed a survey midpoint of 1,372 elk in 2016, 1,158 elk in 2017, 1,173 elk in 2018, and 1,196 elk in 2019. This reflects a stable population above the defined population goal range of 500-900 animals. Accounting for this increased number of animals and the potential for increased conflicts from future population growth will require an increase of elk license quotas. The Department recommends establishing elk license quotas of 260 per year for the 2020 and 2021 season. The number of licenses is recommended to be split between the early hunt period and the December hunt period.

The recommendations for the Elk Hunt Periods are:

- Elk Hunt Period 1: 100 elk licenses; 30 any-elk licenses and 70 antlerless-only elk licenses. This is the same license quota as 2018-2019.
- Elk Hunt Period 2: 160 elk licenses; 50 any-elk licenses and 110 antlerless-only elk licenses, with 60 elk licenses in EMU H (previously EMU F) (20 any-elk licenses and 40 antlerless-only elk licenses) and 100 elk licenses in EMU I (previously EMU G) (30 any-elk licenses and 70 antlerless-only elk licenses). This was a total increase of 60 elk licenses; with an increase of 10 any-elk licenses and 10 antlerless-only elk licenses in EMU H (previously EMU F), and an increase of 10 any-elk licenses and 30 antlerless-only elk licenses in EMU I (previously EMU G).
- Elk Hunt Period 3: The Director, in consultation with and concurrence of the Natural Resources Commission, may determine the number and type of licenses available and the Elk Management Units open for Elk Hunt Period 3.

In addition to elk taken by state hunters drawn in the regular lottery, there will be three Pure Michigan Hunters with elk licenses, and Tribal hunting will be allocated in accordance with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

Issues Pros and Cons

Hunt Period 2 is designed to manage the overall elk numbers including those in the core elk management area. Increasing the number of licenses available in Elk Hunt Period 2 will help the Department better align with the population management goal of 500 to 900 elk, allow for additional harvest in the core elk area, and will help in managing a sustainable elk population while limiting potential conflicts associated with high elk abundance numbers.

Increasing the number of licenses in Elk Hunt Period 2 will provide more hunters the opportunity to be successfully drawn in the lottery. Historically, Hunt Period 2 has higher success rates than Hunt Period 1, which should maximize efficiency of elk harvest by increasing overall quota numbers for Hunt Period 2.

Biological

The increased quota of 60 elk licenses is designed to achieve a harvest of approximately 50 additional elk by state and tribal hunters based on past hunter success rates. In 2019, there was a state hunter harvest of 71 legally harvested elk (29 bulls and 42 cows/calves; 74 percent success rate) in Hunt Period 1 and a state hunter harvest of 89 legally harvested elk (30 bulls and 59 cows/calves; 92 percent success rate) in Hunt Period 2. The Department expects this increase in

elk quotas to slowly reduce the number of elk on the landscape, further aligning the current elk population size with the previously stated population goal established in the Elk Management Plan in 2012.

The expected harvest level of approximately 230-250 elk per year (which includes elk taken under the state quota, by Pure Michigan Hunt participants, and Tribal harvest) is designed to result in a reduced population approaching the elk management goal.

Social

The demand for elk licenses remains extremely high, with nearly 37,000 hunters applying for a license in 2019. The Department expects hunters interested in pursuing elk to support the increased quotas. Additionally, landowners experiencing conflicts around the elk range are expected to support the overall direction of fewer elk on the landscape, though opinions may exist that the increase in quotas has not gone high enough. This point was recently brought up at a landowner and guide meeting with staff.

Economic

Increasing the number of licenses available in Elk Hunt Period 2 in EMUs H and I (previously EMUs F and G) will help further reduce the number of agricultural complaints and help resolve nuisance elk issues.

Official Sealing Requirements:

Current regulations require an elk hunter to have the elk checked within 24 hours of harvest and have it sealed by the Department. During the first hunt period, the Department conducts field checks to get the elk sealed and recorded as quickly as possible due to the warm temperatures that may be experienced during this time frame. During the second hunt period, elk are required to be brought into a check station. The Department hasn't been able to record accurate data in recent years due to hunters not remaining at the kill site or being present at the check station at the time of sealing. In order to collect the correct harvest information, the Department recommends that the elk licensee who killed the elk during Elk Hunt Period 1 must remain at the kill site. In addition, the elk licensee who killed the elk during Hunt Period 2 must be present at the check station for examination and sealing.

Issues Pros and Cons

The Department collects biological data and harvest location information that contribute to both the biological and social factors influencing management. Requiring hunters to remain at the kill site allows the Department to collaborate with the hunters on specific details of the kill while also eliminating issues to locate the elk in a timely manner. In addition, this allows Conservation Officers to complete a thorough check of the site to ensure there are no violations.

This recommendation brings elk in line with other priority species that require the hunter to be at the kill site and present at the time of inspection.

The Department collects biological data and harvest location information that contribute to both the biological and social factors influencing management. Requiring the elk licensee who killed the elk to be present at the check station will allow the Department to collect the correct information needed.

Biological

Having the elk licensee who killed the elk remain at the kill site and be present at the check station for examination and sealing will allow the Department to collect the correct harvest information for data purposes.

Social

The Department did not receive any negative feedback on this recommendation.

Economic

The Department does not expect an economic impact.

Administrative Changes:

While reviewing the Wildlife Conservation Order, Department staff discovered that the season limit of one elk per license was accidentally omitted in 2016. In order to provide transparency and clarification, the Department recommends adding the season limit regulation back into the Wildlife Conservation Order.


In addition, Public Act 399 of 2018 removed the age restrictions for those hunting elk with a firearm on public land. This amendment aligns the Wildlife Conservation Order with Public Act 399 of 2018.

There have been administrative changes made throughout the order that provide consistency and clarification.

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on March 19, 2020, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's February calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 16, 2020.



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Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

April 16, 2020
Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 3 of 2020

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective April 17, 2020, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

2.14 Mentored youth hunting program; definition, eligibility; requirements.

Sec. 2.14 (1) The mentored youth hunting program is established in accordance with MCL 324.43517.

(2) As used in this section, “hunting device” means a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow that may be lawfully used and possessed during the open season for the game species being hunted.

(3) A person may be eligible to participate as a mentor in the mentored youth hunting program only if all of the following apply:

(a) A mentor shall be at least 21 years of age.

(b) A mentor shall possess a valid license to hunt, other than an apprentice license.

(c) A mentor shall demonstrate proof of previous hunting experience in the form of a previous hunting license, other than an apprentice license, or a certificate of completion for hunter safety training issued to that individual by this state, another state, a province of Canada, or another country.

(d) A mentor shall ensure that any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth is sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the mentored youth.

(e) The mentor shall maintain no more than arm’s length distance from a mentored youth at all times that the mentored youth is in possession of a hunting device.

(4) A person less than 10 years old may lawfully possess a mentored youth hunting license and may hunt with a mentor only if all of the following apply:

(a) The mentored youth shall demonstrate, at the request of any law enforcement officer, the operation of their hunting device’s safety features, as applicable.

(5) No more than a total of two hunting devices may be possessed by a mentor and those mentored youth that they are responsible for while hunting.

(6) A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license shall be valid for any deer in any deer management unit.

(7) The one spring season and one fall season turkey kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license shall be valid on public or private land in any open turkey hunting unit. Mentored youths may also apply for or purchase additional fall turkey licenses under the provisions of 3.300b of this order.

(8) Nonresident youth shall only take furbearers without a bag limit. Resident youth may take all species except resident youth must be at least eight years old to obtain the free kill tags for fisher, otter, marten, and bobcat.

(9) Mentored youths may apply for or purchase antlerless deer licenses under the provisions of 3.102 and 3.104 of this order.

(10) Mentored youths may apply for or purchase a bear license under the provisions of 3.200a of this order.

(11) Mentored youths may apply for or purchase an elk license under the provisions of 3.4 of this order.

(12) A mentor who causes or allows a mentored youth to engage in an unlawful act as defined in Part 435 or Part 401 of 1994 PA 451, or an order or interim order issued under these parts shall be punishable as the principal offender. Nothing in this order shall negate or diminish the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian as provided in MCL 324.43517.

3.1 Elk open season, hunt periods; season limit.

Sec. 3.1 (1) The open season and hunt periods for taking elk shall be as shown in table 1:

Hunt Period	Open Season 2020	Open Season 2021
1	September 1 to September 4 and September 18 to September 21 and October 2 to October 5, in elk management unit "X."	August 31 to September 3 and September 17 to September 20 and October 1 to October 4, in elk management unit "X."
2	December 12 to December 20, in elk management units "H," "I," and "X."	December 11 to December 19, in elk management units "H," "I," and "X."
3	A total of five days beginning on the Wednesday closest to January 15 for four days thereafter, only in elk management unit(s) where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet elk management objectives.	A total of five days beginning on the Wednesday closest to January 15 for four days thereafter, only in elk management unit(s) where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet elk management objectives.

(2) The season limit shall be one elk per license.

3.2 Elk hunting method of take, exceptions.

Sec. 3.2 (1) Those firearms, crossbows, and bows legal for the taking of deer in Michigan shall be legal to take elk, except that it shall be unlawful to use a shotgun with buckshot to take elk.

(2) A licensee may hunt elk from a scaffold, raised platform, or tree under the provisions of 2.8 of this order.

3.4 Elk hunt, application and selection procedures; requirements; unlawful acts; ineligible persons.

Sec. 3.4 (1) Only Michigan residents may apply for an elk license. Residents under 10 years of age must purchase a mentored youth license before applying for an elk license. A person who is not a resident of Michigan shall not hunt elk in Michigan. A person shall be ineligible to receive an elk license for more than 1 hunt period.

(2) A person issued an antlerless-only elk license valid for taking an antlerless elk subsequent to the 2003 license year shall be ineligible to apply for, obtain, or purchase an elk license for 10 license years subsequent to receiving the license. A person issued an elk license valid for taking a bull elk on or after February 1, 2004, shall subsequently be ineligible to apply for, obtain, or purchase an elk hunting license.

(3) Eligible residents wishing to participate in the hunting of elk must apply for a license through the retail sales system in accordance with instructions provided by the department. If more applications are received than the number of licenses to be issued, a random weighted lottery will be held for the selection of successful applicants. The director shall establish provisions for the transfer of application success to an unsuccessful youth applicant or any individual with an advanced illness.

(4) All elk drawing applicants shall be eligible for a license which is valid for the harvest of a bull elk. Those who are not selected may be considered for an antlerless-only elk license at their option, indicated at the time they make application.

(5) All successful applicants must participate in a half-day training session the day before the hunt at a facility located near the hunt units. Upon completion of this training, each successful applicant will be issued their elk license along with other pertinent information and materials.

3.6 Elk hunting, tagging, sealing, requirements; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.6 (1) The department shall issue a kill tag as part of the elk hunting license. An individual shall not kill or attempt to kill an elk unless the individual has a valid elk kill tag issued in the individual's name for the elk

management units in which the individual is hunting. The licensee must provide the kill tag and elk license to a conservation officer upon request.

(2) The licensee shall complete the elk hunt information sheet, as directed by the department, prior to participating in any elk hunting activity.

(3) (a) A person who kills an elk shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate areas of the kill tag and shall immediately attach the kill tag to the antler, lower jaw, or gambrel of the elk in a secure and permanent manner. The kill tag shall remain attached to the elk until the animal is registered and sealed by the department.

(b) A person who attempts to kill or kills an elk shall clearly mark the kill site and other locations as instructed at the half-day training session. Any elk that are wounded or killed with an improper tag and not recovered must be reported to a department employee as instructed at the half-day training session.

(4) Within 24 hours of killing an elk and before removing any elk from the area open to elk hunting, the carcass shall be presented, by the licensee that killed the elk, to the department for examination, sealing, and registration. An examination will be made for such biological or other information as may be desired. The carcass need not be entire, but all parts must be readily identifiable and presented for sealing.

(5) Within 2 weeks of killing an elk, a licensee shall take the head of the animal to a department management unit or field office for submission to the department.

(6) It shall be unlawful to possess or transport an elk or parts of an elk without a kill tag or confirming seal attached. A confirming seal shall remain attached to the elk until the conditions in section 3.103(2) are met. A person, corporation, or common carrier shall not receive for transportation or have in possession at the initial billing station the carcass or dead body of an elk more than 48 hours after the closing time when the taking of elk is authorized by law.

(7) It shall be unlawful to take an elk over bait. For the purposes of this section, "bait" means a substance composed of grain, fruit, vegetables, or other food placed to lure or entice elk. This does not apply to standing farm crops under normal agricultural practices or other natural growing grains, fruits, or vegetables.

(8) It shall be unlawful for a hunter with an antlerless-only license to take or possess an elk with antlers. It shall be unlawful for an individual to take more than 1 elk per valid kill tag.

(9) It shall be unlawful for an individual to pursue, capture, shoot, kill, chase, follow, harass, or harm an elk while the elk is swimming in a pond, lake, stream, or other body of water.

(10) It shall be unlawful for an individual to hunt an elk with a dog.

(11) It shall be unlawful to take an elk by any method other than by firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

3.8 Elk license quota, hunters restricted to assigned management unit, exception.

Sec. 3.8. (1) The license quotas for elk hunt period 1, as specified in Section 3.1(1), shall be elk management unit X, 30 any elk licenses and 70 antlerless elk licenses.

(2) The license quotas for elk hunt period 2, as specified in section, 3.1(1) shall be:

(a) Elk management unit H, 20 any elk licenses and 40 antlerless elk licenses.

(b) Elk management unit I, 30 any elk licenses and 70 antlerless elk licenses.

(3) The license quota for elk hunt period 3, as specified in section 3.1(1), shall be no more than 40. The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the natural resources commission, may determine the number and type of license available and the elk management units, as described in chapter XII, open during this season.

(4) An elk hunter shall hunt in their assigned season and elk management unit except elk hunters assigned to hunt in elk management units H or I may hunt in elk management unit X.

12.506 “Elk management unit X” defined.

Sec. 12.506 “Elk management unit X” means all areas in Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Crawford, Emmet, and Oscoda counties, excluding those portions of Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties which are defined as elk management units H and I in sections 12.511 and 12.512.

12.511 “Elk management unit H” defined.

Sec. 12.511 “Elk management unit H” means that area of Cheboygan, Otsego and Presque Isle counties bounded by a line beginning in Presque Isle county, approximately 5.3 miles south of the town of Onaway, at the intersection of state highway M-33 and Milligan highway (on the west edge of section 6, T33N R02E), then southerly on M-33 to Canada creek highway (in the east part of section 29, T33N R02E), southerly then westerly on Canada creek highway to the county line (where road name changes) then into Cheboygan county and northwesterly along Canada creek road to Black river road (section 22, T33N R01E), south on Black river road to Clark bridge road (section 27, T33N R01E), easterly on Clark bridge road and crossing over the Black river to Osmun road (section 26, T33N R01W), southerly/southwesterly on Osmun road to the county line (where road name changes) then southerly into Otsego county on Twin lakes road to Hardwood lake road (section 10, T32N R01W, near Twin lake), east on Hardwood lake road to Tin Shanty bridge road (section 11, T32N R01W), southerly on Tin Shanty bridge road to the Black river (northwest corner of section 35, T32N R01W), west to the center of the Black river then westerly along the centerline of the Black river to the southeastern-most curve of Black river trail which is known locally as McKinnon’s bend (east side of section 32, T32N R01W), due west from the center of the Black river to Black river trail then westerly on Black river trail to Old Vanderbilt road (section 31, T32N R01W), westerly/northwesterly on Old Vanderbilt road to Dudd road (section 26, T32N R01W), northerly/northwesterly on Dudd road to Sturgeon Valley road (center of section 23, T32N R02W) which is approximately 6 miles east of the town of Vanderbilt, then easterly/northeasterly on Sturgeon Valley road to Pickerel lake road, northerly on Pickerel lake road to Grass lake road (section 1, T32N R02W), northeasterly then easterly on Grass lake road which is briefly on the county line, then into Cheboygan county, continuing northeasterly on Grass lake road to Fisherman’s trail (southeast corner of section 31, T33N R01W), northerly/ northwesterly and southwesterly then northerly on Fisherman’s trail to the intersection with Canopy road (in the northwest corner of section 19, T33N R01W), continue past Canopy road going north/northeasterly on Fisherman’s trail (named I 37 road or forest road I 37) to Webb road (north edge of section 7, T33N R01W), east on Webb road to Webber road, northerly/northwesterly on Webber road to Pigeon river road (west edge of section 20, T34N R01W), east on Pigeon river road (on the north edge of section 20, T34N R01W) and then continue east on the north-edge of the section about 1-mile to the west edge of section 16, T34N R01W, north 1-mile on the west edge the section to the northwestern corner of section 16, T34N R01W, then turn east and continue east to Walker road, east on Walker road to Osmun road, north on Osmun road to state highway M-68 (west edge of section 1, T34N R01W; about 7.7 miles west of the town of Onaway), easterly on M-68 for about 2 miles to Brady road (west edge of section 5, T34N R01E; about 5.7 miles west of town of Onaway), south and southeasterly on Brady road to Tucker road (south edge of S17, T34N R01E), east on Tucker road to Centerline road (west side of section 22, T34N R01E), south on Centerline road to Buzzels road (south side of section 34, T34N R01E), east on Buzzels road to Black River road (northeast corner of section 2, T33N R01E), southeasterly on Black River road to Milligan highway, east on Milligan highway into Presque Isle county to state highway M-33 and the point of beginning.

12.512 “Elk management unit I” defined.

Sec. 12.512 “Elk management unit I” means that area of Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties bounded by a line beginning in Montmorency county, approximately 2 miles north of the town of Atlanta, at the intersection of M-33 and Kellyville road (in section 2, T30N R02E), then west on Kellyville road to DeCheau lake road, north on Decheau lake road to Meaford road, westerly on Meaford road to Mills road, northerly on Mills road to Rouse road, westerly on Rouse road to county road 622, westerly on county road 622 to Black river road (section 19, T31N R01E), north on Black river road (about a half mile) to the north-side section boundary-line of section 19, T31N R01E, then continue west along that section line into Otsego county, then continue west along the north-side section lines of sections 24, 23, and 22, T31N R01W (about 2.5 miles), to Sawdust pile road, southwesterly on Sawdust pile road to Tin shanty road (on the west-side of section 22, T31N R01W), north on Tin shanty road to Lost Cabin trail (section 16, T31N R01W; where Lost cabin trail heads to the northwest and Tin shanty road heads to the northeast), northwesterly/northerly on Lost Cabin trail to the northeastern corner of section 4, T31N R01W, where Lost Cabin trail appears to split to the northeast and to the east (on some maps, the branch heading east is also called

Lost Cabin trail, but also named DNR forest road 95), continue northeasterly on Lost Cabin trail to Tin shanty road (northwestern corner of section 35, T32N R01W), northerly on Tin shanty road past the intersection with Sawdust Pile trail and crossing over the Black river to Hardwood lake road (section 11, T32N R01W, near Twin lake), west on Hardwood lake road to Twin lakes road (section 10, T32N R01W), northerly on Twin lakes road to the county line (where the road names changes) to Osmun road then northerly/northeasterly into Cheboygan county on Osmun road to Clark bridge road (section 26, T33N R01W), easterly on Clark bridge road crossing over the Black river to Black river road (section 27, T33N R01E), northerly on Black river road to Canada creek road (section 22, T33N R01E), easterly/southeasterly on Canada creek road into Presque Isle county on Canada creek highway (road name change), continue easterly on Canada creek highway to state highway M-33 (section 29, T33N R02E), southerly on M-33 into Montmorency county to the point of beginning.

Issued on this 16th day of April, 2020.

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



David Nyberg, Acting Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 18, 2020
RESUBMITTED: March 24, 2020



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Fisheries Order 200.20A
Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Cisco, Grayling, and Smelt Regulations

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue Orders to regulate the taking of fish in the waters of this state.

Discussion and Background:

Fisheries Order 200 establishes regulations for trout, salmon, whitefish, cisco, grayling, and smelt. The Department proposes to increase daily possession limits for lake trout and splake in MH-1 in Lake Huron and MM-4 in Lake Michigan.

MH-1 Lake Huron

In 2016, the State of Michigan exceeded its lake trout harvest limit in MH-1, which had been set per agreements described within the 2000 Consent Decree. No corrective action was immediately taken as the Parties to the Consent Decree engaged in extensive negotiations about combination of MH-1 and MH-2 into a single management unit with one harvest limit. After negotiations stalled, the State moved to reduce the daily possession limit for recreational anglers from three to two lake trout in MH-1 in 2019. This was to address an exceedance of the harvest limit that had occurred since the 2016 fishing season. The reduction was an action to be in compliance with the Consent Decree and to ensure recreational lake trout harvest didn't exceed the limit set for 2019, which was reduced due to the overages in previous years. The specific regulation change was implemented based on angler harvest projections that indicated such a reduction would prevent the State from exceeding the 2019 harvest limit. The anticipated harvest reduction was realized, and total recreational harvest in 2019 was well below the harvest limit of 54,720 lb. The Department is now recommending the daily possession limit be increased back to three fish, as the harvest limit for 2020 has now increased to 66,800 lb. This will result in a unification of the daily possession limit of three fish for all six of Lake Huron's lake trout management units. Lake trout and splake are managed under the same regulatory framework in Lake Huron and this change is not expected to result in an overage of lake trout harvest for MH-1 in 2020.

MM-4 Lake Michigan

In 2018, the State of Michigan exceeded its lake trout harvest limit in MM-4, which had been set per agreements described within the 2000 Consent Decree. This resulted in the State being penalized and required to stay within a lower harvest limit during the 2019 fishing season. In order to comply with the terms of the Decree and to ensure the 2019 recreational harvest did not exceed the lower harvest limit, the daily possession limit was reduced from two to one lake trout in MM-4 in 2019. The specific regulation change was implemented based on angler harvest projections that indicated such a reduction would prevent the State from exceeding the 2019 harvest limit. The anticipated harvest reduction was realized, and total recreational harvest in 2019 was below the harvest limit of 61,539 lb. The Department is now recommending the daily possession limit be increased back to two fish, as the harvest limit for 2020 has

increased to 77,200 lb. Lake trout and splake are managed under the same regulatory framework in Lake Michigan and this change is not expected to result in an overage of lake trout harvest for MM-4 in 2020.

The Department recommends that this Order take immediate effect so anglers can benefit from the changes during the current fishing season. The new possession limit regulations will be announced in a press release, posted online, inserted into the online Fishing Guide, and added to the Department's prerecorded angling message at 888-367-7060. The current printed 2020 Fishing Guide indicates that anglers should call the prerecorded angling message or check online for the current lake trout daily possession limit for MH-1 and MM-4.

Issue Pros and Cons

Angler opportunities will increase as a result of the daily possession limit increases for lake trout in MH-1 Lake Huron and MM-4 in Lake Michigan. The reductions were necessary to ensure that the State did not exceed the harvest limits. Given that the reduction was effective, the State can reinstate the higher daily possession limits for anglers. The only con would be if the State harvest once again exceeds the harvest limit in 2020, then managers would need to readjust the limit in the future.

Biological

Lake trout harvest limits are set by the terms of the 2000 Consent Decree which is used to determine harvest limits for the parties. Biological data from agency surveys, as well as monitoring of recreational and tribal commercial fisheries are used in the harvest limit estimation process.

Social

Anglers were informed that the daily possession limit would be reinstated if harvest limits were not exceeded for the 2019 season. The increase in the daily possession limit in both lake trout management units will result in more angling opportunities.

Economic

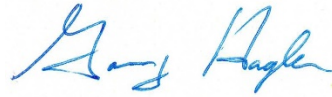
The Department does not expect the proposed changes to have any significant budgetary or personnel implications.

Recommendation:

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this Order. This Order was submitted for information on March 19, 2020, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's March 10, 2020, calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 16, 2020.

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

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Hagler".

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Daniel Kennedy".

Daniel Kennedy, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

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

Debbie Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald A. Olson".

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shannon Hanna".

Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy

FISHERIES ORDER

Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Cisco, Grayling, and Smelt Regulations Order 200.20A

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 and Part 491 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered on April 16, 2020, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 17, 2020, as follows:

The following regulations are established for trout, salmon, whitefish, Cisco, Grayling, and Smelt:

LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT UNITS – Great Lakes

Lake Michigan

MM-1 is bounded on the southeast and south by the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary in Green Bay and on the east by a north-south line beginning near Fairport in Delta County at Longitude 086°40'W and extending south to the Wisconsin-Michigan border.

MM-2 is bounded on the west by MM-1, on the east by a north-south line beginning about 4 miles west of Seul Choix Point in Schoolcraft County at Longitude 086°00'W and extending southward to Latitude 45°20'N, and on the south by an east-west line at Latitude 45°20'N that extends west from Longitude 086°00'W to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary.

MM-3 is bounded on the west by a north-south line from the shore about 4 miles west of Seul Choix Point in Schoolcraft County at Longitude 86°00'W and extending southward to its intersection with Latitude 45°10' N, on the east by the Mackinac Bridge, and on the south by an east-west line from Longitude 086°00'W at Latitude 45°10' N and extending eastward to the shore about 4 miles north of Eastport in Antrim County.

MM-4 includes all waters of Grand Traverse Bay south of Latitude 45°10'N.

MM-5 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary, on the north by an east-west line beginning on the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary at Latitude 45°20'N and extending eastward along said latitude to Longitude 086°00'W, then southward along said longitude to Latitude 45°10'N, then eastward along said latitude to its intersection with the west shore of Leelanau County, and on the south by an east-west line beginning near Arcadia in Manistee County at Latitude 44°30'N and extending west to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary.

MM-6 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary, on the north by MM-5, and on the south by an east-west line from Little Sable Point in Oceana County at Latitude 43°40'N and extending westward to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary.

MM-7 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary, on the north by MM-6, and on the south by an east-west line from the Michigan shore about 4 miles north of Holland in Ottawa County at Latitude 42°50'N and extending westward to the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary.

MM-8 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary and the Michigan-Illinois boundary, on the north by MM-7, and on the south by the Michigan-Indiana boundary.

Lake Huron

MH-1 is bounded on the west by the Mackinac Bridge, on the north by an east west line from the village of Detour in Chippewa County at Latitude 46°00'N to the west shore of Drummond Island and an east-west line from the east shore of Drummond Island at Latitude 46°00'N to the international

DE__ NRC Chair__

boundary, and on the east and south by a line beginning where Longitude 083°30'W intersects the international boundary near Drummond Island in Chippewa County and extending southward along said longitude to Latitude 45°30'N, then extending westward along said latitude to Longitude 083°40'W, then extending southward along said longitude to shore about 3.5 miles southeast of Adams Point in Presque Isle County.

MH-2 is bounded on the north by MH-1, on the east by the international boundary, and on the south by an east-west line extending from the shore about one mile north of Black River in Alcona County at Latitude 44°50'N and extending eastward along said latitude to the International boundary.

MH-3 is bounded on the north by MH-2, on the east by the international boundary, and on the south by a line beginning on the shore on Au Sable Point in Iosco County at Latitude 44°20'N and extending eastward along said latitude to Longitude 083°10'W, then southward along said longitude to Latitude 44°10'N, then eastward along said latitude to the international boundary.

MH-4 is bounded on the north by MH-3 and on the east by a north-south line beginning on the shore about 2.6 miles southeast of Point aux Barques Lighthouse in Huron County at Latitude 44°00'N and extending eastward along said latitude to Longitude 082°40'W, then northward along said longitude to the southern boundary with MH-3 at Latitude 44°10'N.

MH-5 is bounded on the west by MH-4, on the north MH-3, on the east by the international boundary, and on the south by an east-west line beginning on the shore in the village of Forester in Sanilac County at Latitude 43°30'N and extending eastward along said latitude to the international boundary.

MH-6 is bounded on the north by MH-5, on the east by the international boundary, and on the south by the Blue Water Bridge in St. Clair County at Latitude 43°00'N.

Lake Superior

MI-1 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Minnesota boundary, on the north by the international boundary, and on the south by a line beginning on the Minnesota boundary at Latitude 47°40'N extending eastward along said latitude to Longitude 088°30'W then northward along said longitude to Latitude 47°50'N then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 088°00'W then northward along said longitude to Latitude 48°00'N then eastward along said latitude to the international boundary.

MI-2 is bounded on the west by the Michigan-Minnesota and the Michigan-Wisconsin boundaries, on the north by MI-1, and on the east by a north-south line extending from the shore about 2.6 miles southwest of Fourteen Mile Point in Ontonagon County northward at Longitude 089°10'W to the southern border of MI-1 at Latitude 47°40'N.

MI-3 is bounded on the west by MI-2, on the north by MI-1, and on the east by a line extending northward from the shore about 1.4 miles east of Copper Harbor in Keweenaw County at Longitude 087°50'W to Latitude 47°30'N then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 087°40'W then northward along said longitude to the international border.

MI-4 is bounded on the west by MI-3, on the north by the international boundary, and on the southeast and east by a line beginning on the shore at Pine River Point in Marquette County at Longitude 087°50'W and extending northward along said longitude to Latitude 47°00'N then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 087°30'W then northward along said longitude to Latitude 47°10'N then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 087°20'W then northward along said longitude to Latitude 47°20'N then eastward along said latitude to Longitude 087°00'W then northward to the international boundary.

MI-5 is bounded on the west and north by MI-4 and on the east by a north-south line beginning on Laughing Fish Point in Alger County at Longitude 087°00'W and extending northward to Latitude 47°20'N.

MI-6 is bounded on the west by MI-4 and MI-5, on the north by the international boundary, and on the east by a north-south line beginning on Au Sable Point in Alger County at Longitude 086°10'W and extending northward to the international boundary.

MI-7 is bounded on the west by MI-6, on the north by the international boundary, and on the east by a north-south line beginning about four miles east of Crisp Point in Luce County at Longitude 085°20'W and extending northward to the international boundary

MI-8 is bounded on the west by MI-7, on the north and east by the international boundary with the easternmost border formed by a line from Brush Point in Chippewa County to Point aux Pins Ontario in the upper St. Marys River.

Lake Trout Refuges – Great Lakes

The following areas are established as refuge areas for Lake Trout rehabilitation and shall be closed to the taking, keeping, and sport fishing for Lake Trout.

1) Lake Michigan (North part)

All waters enclosed within an area bounded by a line commencing at a point (45°30' north latitude, 85°15' west longitude) 7¼ miles due west of the northwest corner of Section 30, T36N, R6W, (Emmet County, Michigan) on the Lake Michigan shoreline; then proceeding due west for 12 miles (to 45°30' north latitude, 85°30' west longitude); then proceeding due north for 6 miles (to 45°35' north latitude, 85°30' west longitude); then proceeding due west for 8 miles (to 45°35' north latitude, 85°40' west longitude); then proceeding due north for 11¼ miles (to 45°45' north latitude, 85°40' west longitude); then proceeding due west 16 miles (to 45°45' north latitude, 86°00' west longitude); then proceeding due south for 40 miles (to 45°10' north latitude, 86°00' west longitude); then proceeding due east for 8½ miles to (45°10' north latitude, 85°50' west longitude); then proceeding due north for 6 miles (to 45°15' north latitude, 85°50' west longitude); then proceeding due east for 7½ miles (to 45°15' north latitude, 85°40' west longitude); then proceeding due north for 6 miles (to 45°20' north latitude, 85°40' west longitude); then proceeding due east 16½ miles (to 45°20' north latitude, 85°20' west longitude) then proceeding due north 6 miles (to 45°25' north latitude, 85°20' west longitude); then, proceeding due east 4 miles (to 45°25' north latitude, 85°15' west longitude); then proceeding northerly to the point of beginning (45°30' north latitude, 85°15' west longitude).

2) Lake Michigan (Mid Lake)

All waters enclosed within an area bounded by a line commencing at a point 15 miles (43°40' north latitude, 86°50' west longitude) due west of the half (1/2) section line of Section 25, T15N, R19W, on the Lake Michigan shoreline (Oceana County); then proceeding 14.5 miles due west to the Michigan/Wisconsin boundary; then proceeding southerly along the boundary line to a point (43°03.5' north latitude, 87°05' west longitude) due west of the mouth of the Grand River (T8N, R16W, S30, Ottawa County) on the Lake Michigan shore; then proceeding due east 14 miles (to 43°03.5' north latitude, 86°50' west longitude); and then northerly to the point of beginning (43°40' north latitude, 86°50' west longitude).

3) Lake Huron (North end)

All waters enclosed within an area bounded by a line commencing at the southwest corner of Section 17, T41N, R5E (Chippewa County) on the Lake Huron shoreline for the point of beginning and proceeding due south 15 miles (to 45°45' North latitude, 83°50' west longitude), then proceeding due east 8 miles (to 45°45' North latitude, 83°40' west longitude); then proceeding 6 miles due south (to 45°40' North latitude, 83°40' west longitude); then proceeding due east to the Michigan-Ontario border; then proceeding northwesterly and then northeasterly along said border to a point due south of the southeast corner of Section 1, T41N, R7E (Chippewa County), on the said shoreline, and westerly along said shoreline to the point of beginning.

4) Lake Huron (6 Fathom Bank)

All waters enclosed within an area bounded by a line commencing at a point in Lake Huron at 45°00' north latitude, 82°45' E west longitude; then proceeding due east to the international

boundary line between the U.S. and Canada; thence in a southeasterly direction to 44°40' north latitude; thence due west to 44°40' north latitude, 82°45' E west longitude; then proceeding due north to the point of beginning.

SECTION I. Seasons--General

Except as otherwise noted in the following sections of this Order, the fishing and possession seasons on non-designated trout streams and all other inland waters, the Saginaw River, and the Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters are open for the entire year for all trout, salmon, whitefish, Cisco (also referred to as Lake Herring), and smelt.

Exceptions to the general possession season:

- 1) The possession season for Lake Trout and Splake shall be January 1 - September 30 in MM-1 through MM-5 in Lake Michigan.
- 2) The possession season for Lake Trout and Splake shall be open for the entire year in MM-6 through MM-8 in Lake Michigan.
- 3) The possession season for Lake Trout and Splake shall be January 1 - September 30 in MH-1 and MH-2 in Lake Huron.
- 4) The possession season for Lake Trout and Splake shall be open for the entire year in MH-3 through MH-6 in Lake Huron.

SECTION II. Lake Whitefish, Round Whitefish, and Cisco

Size and daily possession limits for Lake Whitefish, Round Whitefish (also referred to as Menominee), and Cisco

On all waters, there is no minimum size limit for Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), Round Whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*) or Cisco (*Coregonus artedii*). On all Great Lakes, Connecting Waters, and Type F lakes the daily possession limit shall be ten (10) fish in any combination, except the daily possession limit shall be five (5) fish in any combination on inland waters. See FO-205 for inland waters that differ from the five (5) fish daily possession limit.

SECTION III. Rainbow Smelt

Size, daily possession limits, season, and gear for Rainbow Smelt

On all waters, there is no minimum size limit for Rainbow Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*). The daily harvest/possession limit for smelt on all waters of the state shall be 2 gallons. The harvest season is open all year for hook-and-line. See FO-219 for spear, bow and arrow, or crossbow seasons and FO-229 for netting seasons.

SECTION IV. Arctic Grayling

Size, daily possession limits, season, and gear for Arctic Grayling

A person shall not at any time take, attempt to take, or possess any Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus tricolor*) from any waters over which this state has jurisdiction.

SECTION V. Trout and Salmon—Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters

Size limits

Minimum size limit shall be 10 inches for all species of trout and salmon, except as follows:

1) Brook Trout

Lake Superior

- a) MI-1 through MI-8: the minimum size limit for Brook Trout shall be 20 inches.

2) Lake Trout

Lake Michigan

- a) MM-1 through MM-8: the minimum size limit shall be 15 inches.

Lake Huron

- a) MH-1 through MH-6: The minimum size limit shall be 15 inches.

Lake Superior

- a) MI-1 through MI-8: The minimum size limit shall be 15 inches, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) Lake Trout 34 inches or greater.

3) Splake

Lake Michigan

- a) MM-1 through MM-8: the minimum size limit shall be 15 inches.

Lake Huron

- a) MH-1 through MH-6: The minimum size limit shall be 15 inches.

Lake Superior

- a) MI-1 through MI-8: The minimum size limit shall be 15 inches.

Daily possession limit

Five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout*, Lake Trout, Splake, or Atlantic Salmon. Additional exceptions are:

1) Lake Superior

- a) The daily possession limit may include up to one (1) Brook Trout, except that the daily possession limit shall be zero (0) for Brook Trout within 4.5 miles of Isle Royale (waters of the Isle Royale National Park).
- b) The daily possession limit may include up to five (5) Lake Trout in MI-4, MI-5, MI-6, MI-7, and MI-8.

2) St. Marys River

- a) The daily possession limit may include up to ten (10) Pink Salmon from the last Saturday in April - September 30.

3) Lake Michigan

- a) The daily possession limit may include up to two (2) Lake Trout in management units MM-1, MM-2, MM-3, MM-4, and MM-5.

*Note: For the purpose of this Order Rainbow Trout refers to both Rainbow Trout and Steelhead.

SECTION VI: Trout and Salmon in Inland Lakes

On those inland lakes designated below as Types A, B, C, D and E, the minimum size limits for Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Pink Salmon, and Atlantic Salmon shall be as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Chinook Salmon	10 inches
Coho Salmon	10 inches
Pink Salmon	10 inches
Atlantic Salmon	15 inches

Notwithstanding any other Order of the Department, for any inland lake not classified below the fishing and possession seasons are open for the entire year to the taking of trout, the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches except, the daily possession limit shall be five (5) trout**, and all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.

**Note: The daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

Type A Lakes

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Tackle: natural baits except minnows (dead or alive) and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	10 inches
Brown Trout	12 inches
Rainbow Trout	12 inches
Splake	12 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type A lakes. Type A lakes are managed strictly for trout and, as such, are designated trout lakes.

Type A Designated Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name
Alger	Addis Lakes (T46N, R20W, S33)
Alger	Bette's Pond
Alger	Brian's Pond
Alger	Cox Pond (T46N, R19W, S13)
Alger	Grand Marais Lake
Alger	Hike Lake
Alger	Irwin Lake
Alger	Rock Lake
Alger	Rock River Pond
Alger	Sitka Lake (T48N, R13W, S9)
Alger	Sullivan Lake (T49N, R15W, S21)
Alger	Trueman Lake
Alger	West John's Lake (T48N, R13W, S26)
Chippewa	Highbanks Lake

County	Lake Name
Chippewa	Naomikong Lake
Chippewa	Naomikong Pond
Crawford	Bright Lake
Crawford	Kneff Lake
Crawford	Shupac Lake
Delta	Bear Lake
Delta	Carr Lake (T43N, R18W, S36)
Delta	Carr Ponds (T43N, R18W, S26)
Delta	Kilpecker Pond (T43N, R18W, S11)
Delta	Norway Lake
Delta	Wintergreen Lake (T43N, R18W, S36)
Delta	Zigmaul Pond
Gogebic	Castle Lake
Gogebic	Cornelia Lake
Gogebic	Mishike Lake
Houghton	Penegor Lake
Iron	Deadman's Lake (T41N, R32W, S5 & 8)
Iron	Fortune Pond (T43N, R33W, S25)
Iron	Killdeer Lake
Iron	Madelyn Lake
Iron	Skyline Lake
Iron	Spree Lake
Keweenaw	No Name Pond (T57N, R31W, S8)
Luce	Bennett Springs Lake
Luce	Brockies Pond (T46N, R11W, S1)
Luce	Bullhead Lake (T49N, R11W, S34)
Luce	Dairy Lake
Luce	Holland Lake
Luce	Jack Lake
Luce	Little Whorl Lake
Luce	Pratt Lake
Luce	Silver Creek Pond
Luce	Syphon Lake
Luce	Trout Lake
Luce	Ward Lake
Luce	Wolverine Lake
Luce	Youngs Lake
Mackinac	Castle Rock Pond
Mackinac	Millecoquins Pond
Marquette	Cranberry Lake (T45N, R30W, S10)
Marquette	Just Lake
Marquette	Island Lake (T45N, R30W, S14)
Marquette	Moccasin Lake
Marquette	Section 13 Lake
Marquette	Silver Lake (T46N, R24W, S32)
Marquette	Slough Lake
Marquette	Swanzy Lake
Oscoda	Crater Lake
Schoolcraft	Kings Pond
Schoolcraft	Lost Lake

County	Lake Name
Schoolcraft	Spring Pond

Type B Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	10 inches
Brown Trout	12 inches
Rainbow Trout	12 inches
Splake	12 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type B lakes.

Type B Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name
Alcona	Reid Lake
Alcona	South Hoist Lake
Alger	Ackerman Lake
Alger	Cheryl's Pond (T44N, R19W, S25)
Alger	Kay's Pond
Alger	Mirror Lake
Alger	North (Upper) Shoe Lake (T48N, R17W, S36)
Alger	Sawaski Pond (T44N, R19W, S14)
Antrim	Green Lake
Baraga	Roland Lake
Barry	Deep Lake
Cass	Birch Lake
Cass	Hemlock Lake
Charlevoix	Louise Lake
Cheboygan	Silver Lake
Cheboygan	Twin Lake #1
Cheboygan	Weber Lake
Chippewa	Dukes Lake
Emmet, Charlevoix	Walloon Lake
Gogebic	Beatons Lake
Gogebic	Finger Lake
Gogebic	Imp Lake
Gogebic	Little Duck Lake
Gogebic	Moon Lake
Grand Traverse	Duck Lake
Grand Traverse	Green Lake
Houghton	Emily Lake
Houghton	Lake on Three

County	Lake Name
Iron	Chicagon Lake
Iron	Ellen Lake
Iron	Golden Lake
Iron	Lake Ottawa
Kalkaska	Bear Lake
Kalkaska	Big Blue Lake
Kalkaska	North Blue Lake
Luce	Camp 8 Lake
Luce	Pretty lake
Luce	Tank Lake
Marquette	Bass Lake (T45N, R26W, S29)
Marquette	Brocky Lake
Marquette	Cedar Lake (T47N, R27W, S11)
Marquette	Forestville Basin (T48N, R25W, S8)
Marquette	Little Brocky Lake
Marquette	Little Shag Lake
Marquette	Perch Lake (T46N, R29W, S8)
Marquette	Silver Lake Basin
Marquette	Twin Lake (T45N, R30W, S23)
Montmorency	Avalon Lake
Montmorency	Clear Lake
Montmorency	Lake Fifteen
Montmorency	McCormick Lake
Ogemaw	Lake George (T21N, R2E, S18)
Ontonagon	Courtney Lake
Ontonagon	Mirror Lake
Oscoda	Loon Lake
Otsego	Big Chub Lake
Otsego	Bridge Lake
Otsego	Heart Lake
Otsego	Pickarel Lake
Presque Isle	Bear Den Lake (T33N, R2E, S32)
Schoolcraft	Banana Lake
Schoolcraft	Bear Lake (Nineteen Lake, T44N, R18W, S27)

Type C Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	8 inches
Brown Trout	8 inches
Rainbow Trout	8 inches
Splake	8 inches
Lake Trout	8 inches

Following is a listing of Type C lakes.

Type C Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name
Antrim	Bellaire Pond
Berrien	Singer Lake
Branch	Cary Lake
Cass	Harwood Lake
Grand Traverse	Sand Lake #1
Hillsdale	Bear Lake
Hillsdale	Bird Lake
Jackson	Farwell Lake (T4S, R2W, S25/36)
Jackson	Swains Lake
Kalamazoo	Little Paw Paw Lake (T3S, R12W, S31)
Kalamazoo	Ruppert Lake
Kalkaska	Big Guernsey Lake
Kalkaska	Big Twin Lake
Kalkaska	Starvation Lake
Kent	Lime Lake
Leelanau	Lime Lake
Lenawee	Allens Lake (T5S, R2E, S10)
Lenawee	Deep Lake
Montcalm	Marl Lake
Montcalm	Nevins Lake
Muskegon	Half Moon Lake
Newaygo	Condon Lake
Oakland	Maceday Lake (T3N, R9E, S7)
Ontonagon	Trout Creek Pond (T47N, R38W, S14)
Osceola	Center Lake
Van Buren	Shafer Lake

Type D Lakes

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - October 31.
- Tackle: only artificial lures may be used. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead or preserved bait, organic or processed food on any of the waters or on shore.
- Daily Possession Limit: one (1) trout.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	15 inches
Brown Trout	15 inches
Rainbow Trout	15 inches
Splake	15 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type D lakes. Type D lakes are managed for trout and, as such, are designated trout lakes.

Type D Designated Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name
Baraga	Lake Alice
Cheboygan	Hemlock Lake (T3N, R1W, S34, 35)
Gogebic	Redboat Lake
Houghton	Clear Lake
Houghton	Perrault Lake
Iron	Forest Lake
Iron	Timber Lake
Keweenaw	Lost Lake
Luce	Deer Lake
Luce	Moon Lake
Luce	Sid Lake
Marquette	South Kidney Lake (T45N, R26W, S28)
Marquette	Pauls Lake, North
Marquette	Pauls Lake, South
Marquette	Rockingchair Lake, N., (T49N, R28W, S10)
Marquette	Rockingchair Lake, S., (T49N, R28W, S10)
Marquette	Strawberry Lake
Otsego	Ford Lake (T32N, R1W, S8)
Otsego	Lost Lake
Otsego	North Twin Lake
Otsego	Section Four Lake (T32N, R1W, S4)
Otsego	South Twin Lake
Otsego	West Lost Lake (T32N, R1W, S3)
Schoolcraft	Ned's Lake
Schoolcraft	Twilight Lake

Type E Lakes

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season: open for the entire year.
- Tackle: all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- Daily Possession Limit: three (3) trout.
- Size limits:

Species	Minimum size limit
Brook Trout	15 inches
Brown Trout	15 inches
Rainbow Trout	15 inches
Splake	15 inches
Lake Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type E lakes.

Type E Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name
Alger	Grand Sable Lake

County	Lake Name
Antrim	Torch Lake
Antrim, Grand Traverse	Elk Lake
Barry, Kalamazoo	Gull Lake
Benzie	Crystal Lake
Charlevoix	Lake Charlevoix
Cheboygan	Tower Pond (from dam upstream to M-68)
Leelanau	North Lake Leelanau
Leelanau	Big Glen Lake
Luce	Belle Lake 1
Luce	Peanut Lake
Marquette	Lake Arfelin
Marquette	Sporely Lake
Roscommon	Higgins Lake

Type F Lakes (Drowned River-Mouth Lakes)

NOTE:

- 1) The following regulations shall apply in each drowned river-mouth lake identified below from the upstream limit of the lake to its mouth at Lake Michigan.
- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession season:
 - 1) For all species of trout and salmon, open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: all types of natural baits and artificial lures may be used.
 - Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except:
 - 1) Excluding Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon, the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) of any one species of trout or salmon.
 - 2) The daily possession limit may include up to five (5) Chinook Salmon or Coho Salmon in any combination.
 - Size limits: minimum size limit: 10 inches for all species of trout and salmon.

Following is a listing of Type F lakes.

Type F Trout Lakes

County	Lake Name	Upstream Limit
Allegan	Kalamazoo Lake/Silver Lake	US 31
Benzie	Betsie Lake	M-22
Manistee	Arcadia Lake	M-22
Manistee	Manistee Lake	Railroad Bridge below M-55 (T21N, 16W, S6)
Manistee	Portage Lake	
Mason	Pere Marquette Lake	Old 31 Highway
Muskegon	Duck Lake	Nestrom Road
Muskegon	Mona Lake	US 31
Muskegon	Muskegon Lake	M-120
Muskegon	White Lake	Business Route US 31
Oceana	Pentwater Lake	Long Bridge Road (B15)
Oceana	Silver Lake	
Oceana	Stony Lake	Inlet of Stony Creek (Scenic Drive, T13N, R18W, S5)
Ottawa	Lake Macatawa	River Avenue
Ottawa	Pigeon Lake	Lakeshore Drive

SECTION VII. Trout and Salmon on Inland Streams

NOTES:

- 1) Fisheries Order 210 provides a listing of all designated trout streams in Michigan. Some of the streams listed in FO-210 appear in FO-200 (see section VII) as Types 2, 3, 4 or gear restricted streams. Type 1 streams are not listed in FO-200. If a stream name appears in FO-210, but not in FO-200 (section VII), then Type 1 stream regulations apply to that stream.
- 2) Notwithstanding any other Order of the Department, for any inland stream not classified below the fishing and possession seasons are open for the entire year to the taking of trout and salmon, the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches (except 7 inches for Brook Trout), the daily possession limit shall be five (5) trout and salmon in any combination***, and all types of natural bait and artificial lures may be used.
- 3) On all waters open to possession, the daily possession limit may include up to five (5) Chinook Salmon or Coho Salmon, in any combination.
- 4) "Artificial flies" means any commonly accepted single hooked wet and dry flies, streamers, and nymphs without spinner, spoon, scoop, lip or any other fishing lure or bait attached. The fly or leader may be weighted but no weight shall be attached to the fly or to the terminal tackle in a manner that allows the weight to be suspended from or below the hook.
- 5) "Chumming" means luring or attracting or attempting to lure or attract fish by scattering organic material into the water.
- 6) Chumming with organic materials shall be prohibited on all Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 streams.
- 7) On stream Types 1 through 4, size limits for Brook Trout and Brown Trout vary by stream type and may be found in the regulation section for each stream type. For all other species of trout and salmon, size limits shall be as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Chinook Salmon	10 inches
Coho Salmon	10 inches
Pink Salmon	10 inches
Atlantic Salmon	10 inches
Lake Trout	10 inches
Rainbow Trout	10 Inches
Splake	10 Inches

***NOTE: The daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

Type 1 Streams

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - September 30.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - September 30.
- Tackle: artificial lures and all types of natural bait may be used.
- Chumming with organic materials is prohibited on all Type 1 streams.

Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

Additional exception:

1) Platte River

- a) The daily possession limit shall be one (1) Rainbow Trout from the Upper (Hatchery) Platte River Weir downstream to Lake Michigan.

- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	7 inches

Brown Trout

8 inches

Type 2 Streams

- Fishing season: last Saturday in April - September 30.
- Possession season: last Saturday in April - September 30.
- Tackle: artificial lures and all types of natural bait may be used.
- Chumming with organic materials is prohibited on all Type 2 streams.

Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	10 inches
Brown Trout	12 inches

Following is a listing of Type 2 streams.

Type 2 Streams

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Alcona, Oscoda	Au Sable River, Mainstream	Evans Road (McKinley Bridge)	4001 Bridge
Allegan	Silver Creek	M-89 Bridge (T1N, R11W, S26)	Confluence with Kalamazoo River
Antrim, Crawford, Otsego	Manistee River		CR 612
Baraga, Houghton	Sturgeon River	US-41	Prickett Dam
Barry	Coldwater River	M-43 Bridge (T4N, R8W, S16)	Freeport Road Bridge (T5N, R9W, S36)
Barry	Unnamed tributary on North Bank Coldwater River (T4N, R7W, S18)		
Cass	Dowagiac Creek	McKenzie Rd. (T5S, R14W, S31)	M-62
Cheboygan, Otsego	Pigeon River	Old Vanderbilt Rd.	Elk Hill Campground Horse Trail
Crawford	Au Sable River, Mainstream	Business Loop 75 (James St.)	Burton's Landing
Gogebic	Black River	US-2	Rainbow Falls
Lake	Pine River	Elm Flats PAS (T20N, R12W, S2)	Confluence with Tippy Dam Backwaters
Marquette	Carp River	Deer Lake Dam (T48N, R27W, S27)	Morgan Creek
Ontonagon	Middle Branch Ontonagon River		Agate Falls
St. Joseph	Curtis Creek and all tributaries		

Type 3 Streams

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession season: open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: artificial lures and all types of natural bait may be used.
 - Chumming with organic materials is prohibited on all Type 3 streams.
- Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.
- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	15 inches
Brown Trout	15 inches

Following is a listing of Type 3 streams.

Type 3 Streams

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Alcona	Pine River	F-41	Lake Huron
Allegan	Black River	Confluence of North & South Branch Black River	Lake Michigan
Allegan	North Branch Black River	111 th Avenue (T1N, R16W, S3)	Confluence with mainstream
Allegan	Kalamazoo River	Calkins Dam (T2N, R14W, S15)	US-31
Alpena	Thunder Bay River	Ninth Street Dam	Lake Huron
Antrim	Elk River	Power Dam below Elk Lake	Lake Michigan
Arenac	Rifle River	Sage Lake Road (T23N, R3E, S22)	Lake Huron
Baraga	Falls River	US-41	Lake Superior
Baraga	Sturgeon River	Prickett Dam	Lake Superior
Berrien	St. Joseph River	Indiana State Line	Lake Michigan
Cheboygan	Cheboygan River	Cheboygan Dam	Lake Huron
Emmet	Carp Lake River	Bridge (T39N, R4W, S32)	Lake Michigan
Gogebic	Big Carp River	A point 100 yards downstream from Bathtub Falls (T50N, R45W, S1, NE¼, NW¼)	Lake Superior
Gogebic	Black River	Rainbow Falls (T49N, R46W, S10)	Lake Superior
Gogebic	Little Carp River	Traders Falls (T50N, R45W, S2)	Lake Superior
Gogebic	Maple Creek	Bridge (T49N, R46W, S18)	Lake Superior
Gogebic	Ohman Creek	CR 505	Lake Superior
Gogebic	Presque Isle River	Manabezho Falls	Lake Superior
Houghton	Big Traverse River	Gay-Lake Linden Road	
Houghton	Otter River	Confluence of North Branch & West Branch Otter River	Sturgeon River
Houghton	Pilgrim River	US-41	Lake Superior
Houghton	Salmon-Trout River	Redridge Dam	Lake Superior
Huron	Bird Creek		
Huron	Pigeon River		
Huron	Pinnebog River		

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Iosco	Au Sable River	Foote Dam	Lake Huron
Iosco	East Branch Au Gres River (Whitney Drain)	M-55 (T22N, R6E, S21)	Saginaw Bay
Iosco	Van Etten Creek	Van Etten Lake	Lake Huron
Iosco	Tawas River		
Isabella, Midland	Chippewa River	Outlet of Lake Isabella, (T15N, R6W, S35)	Confluence with the Tittabawassee River (T14N, R2E, S21)
Leelanau	Crystal River	Fisher Dam	Lake Michigan
Leelanau	Leland River	None	Lake Michigan
Manistee	Bear Creek	CR 600	Confluence of Manistee River
Manistee	Manistee River	Tippy Dam	Railroad Bridge below M-55 (T21N, R16W, S6)
Marquette	Carp River	Confluence of Morgan Creek (T47N, R25W, S4)	Lake Superior
Marquette	Chocolay River	Confluence of Big Creek (T47N, R24W, S9)	Lake Superior
Mason	Lincoln River	Confluence of North & South Branches of Lincoln River (T19N, R17W, S32)	Lake Michigan
Mason	Pere Marquette River	Reek Road (Indian Bridge)	Old US-31
Mason	Sable River	Hamlin Lake Dam	Lake Michigan
Midland, Saginaw	Tittabawassee River	Sanford Dam	Confluence with Saginaw River
Muskegon	Cedar Creek	River Road	Confluence of Muskegon River
Muskegon	Muskegon River	Croton Dam	M-120
Ontonagon	Big Iron River	Koshak Road Bridge (T49N, R43W, S2)	Lake Superior
Ontonagon	West Branch Big Iron River	Burnt Dam Bridge (T50N, R44W, S36)	Confluence with Big Iron River
Ontonagon	Little Iron River	Nonesuch Falls (T50N, R43N, S1)	
Ontonagon	East Branch Ontonagon River	M-28	
Ontonagon	Firesteel (including East & West Branches)	M-26	
Ontonagon	Middle Branch Ontonagon River	Agate Falls	
Ontonagon	Misery River	Bridge (T53N, R37W, S15)	
Ontonagon	Ontonagon River		
Ontonagon	West Branch Ontonagon River	Confluence with Victoria Hydro Station Tail Race (T50N, R39W, S29, SE1/4 of SW1/4)	
Ontonagon	East Sleeping River	Railroad trestle (T53N, R38W, S25)	Lake Superior
Presque Isle	Swan River	US-23 Bridge	Lake Huron
Presque Isle	Trout River	Dam (T35N, R5E, S17)	Lake Huron
Saginaw	Saginaw River		Saginaw Bay

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
St. Clair	Black River	Private Dam in Port Huron State Game Area	Confluence with St. Clair River
Van Buren	South Branch Black River	Hamilton Street Bridge (T2S, R16W, S1)	Confluence with Mainstream (T1S, R17W, S2)

Type 4 Streams

- Fishing season: open for the entire year.
- Possession season:
 - 1) For Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon: the last Saturday in April - September 30.
 - 2) For all other species of trout and salmon, open for the entire year.
- Tackle: artificial lures and all types of natural bait may be used.
- Chumming with organic materials is prohibited on all Type 4 streams.

Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater.

Additional exceptions are:

- 1) Little Manistee River
 - a) The daily possession limit shall be one (1) Rainbow Trout from 300 feet downstream of the Little Manistee Weir down to Manistee Lake.
- 2) Platte River
 - a) The daily possession limit shall be one (1) Rainbow Trout from the Upper (Hatchery) Platte River Weir downstream to Lake Michigan.

- Size limits:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum size limit</u>
Brook Trout	7 inches
Brown Trout	10 inches

Following is a listing of Type 4 streams.

Type 4 Streams

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Alcona, Iosco	Au Sable River, Mainstream	Alcona Dam	South Branch River
Alcona	Black River	Confluence with North Branch Black River	Lake Huron
Alger	Anna River	Railroad Bridge (T46N, R19W, S14)	Lake Superior
Alger	Au Train River	Powerhouse below M-94	Lake Superior
Alger	Hurricane River		Lake Superior
Alger	Laughing Whitefish River	Forks (T47N, R22W, S22)	Lake Superior
Alger	Miner's River	Miner's Falls	
Alger	Rock River	Railroad Bridge (T47N, R21W, S22)	Lake Superior
Alger	Sable Creek		
Alger	Sucker River	Old Grand Marais/Seney Road Bridge	

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Allegan	Middle Branch Black River	Confluence of Spring Brook Creek (T1N, R15W, S22)	Confluence with Black River, Mainstream
Allegan	Gun River, Mainstream	122nd Avenue (T2N, R11W, S12)	US-131 bridge (T1N, R11W, S18)
Allegan	Pine Creek Tributary	101 st Avenue	Confluence with Pine Creek
Allegan	Swan Creek	109 th Avenue (T1N, R14W, S7)	Confluence with Kalamazoo River (T2N, R14W, S9)
Allegan	Rabbit River, Mainstream	US-131 Bridge (T4N, R11W, S31)	Confluence with Kalamazoo River (T3N, R15W, S16)
Alpena	Devils River	US-23 Bridge	Lake Huron
Alpena	Long Lake Creek	None	Lake Huron
Antrim	Elk River Bypass	Up to the Bypass Dam	Lake Michigan
Antrim	Grass River (including Clam Lake and Clam River)	Lake Bellaire	Torch Lake
Antrim	Intermediate River	Intermediate Dam	Lake Bellaire
Antrim, Charlevoix	Jordan River	Graves Crossing	Lake Charlevoix
Baraga	Huron River	Big Erics Bridge (T52N, R30W, S35)	
Baraga	Ravine River	Sicotte Road	
Baraga	Silver River	Silver Falls	
Baraga	Slate River	Slate Falls	
Barry	Bassett Creek	Baker Lake	Confluence with Thornapple River
Barry	Cedar Creek	Sources	M-37 (T2N, R8W, S9)
Barry, Kent	Coldwater River	Freeport Road	Confluence with Thornapple River
Barry	Turner Creek	(T3N, R10W, S23)	Confluence with Baker Creek (T3N, R10W, S9)
Benzie	Betsie River	Kurick Road	M-22
Benzie	Otter Creek	Otter Lake outlet (T27N, R14W, S13)	Lake Michigan
Benzie	Platte River	US-31 bridge at Veteran's Park	Lake Michigan
Berrien	Blue Creek		
Berrien	Dowagiac River	Niles Dam at Pucker Street (T7S, R17W, S13)	Confluence with St. Joseph River
Berrien	Galien River, Mainstream		Lake Michigan
Berrien	Galien River, South Branch		Confluence with the Galien River
Branch, St. Joseph	Prairie River, mainstream	Bowers Road (T8S, R7W, S4)	MacKale Road (T7S, R9W, S8)
Calhoun	Nottawa Creek	(T3S, R5W, S35)	Calhoun Co. line (T4S, R8W, S31)

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Calhoun, Jackson	South Branch Rice Creek	Concord Road (Jackson Co.)	Confluence of Rice Creek and Kalamazoo River (T2S, R6W, S25)
Cass	Dowagiac Drain		
Cass	Dowagiac River, Mainstream	To source	Pucker Street (T7S, R17W, S13)
Charlevoix	Boyne River	P.H. Dam	Lake Charlevoix
Charlevoix, Emmet	Bear River	Walloon Lake	Lake Michigan
Cheboygan, Emmet	Maple River	Woodland Road	Mouth
Cheboygan	Mill Creek		Lake Huron
Cheboygan	Pigeon River	Pine Grove Campground Stairs	East Mullet Road
Cheboygan	Sturgeon River	Afton Road (Webb Road)	Mouth at Burt Lake
Chippewa	Albany Creek	Bridge below lamprey weir	Lake Huron
Chippewa, Mackinac	Carp River, mainstream		Lake Huron
Chippewa	Halfaday Creek	Lakeshore Drive	Lake Superior
Chippewa	Pendill's Creek	Second Dam (T47N, R4W, S28)	Lake Superior
Chippewa, Mackinac	Pine River	H-40 Bridge	Lake Huron
Crawford, Oscoda	Au Sable River, mainstream	McMasters Bridge Road (McMasters Bridge)	Rainbow Bend power line (T26N, R2E, S3)
Delta	Bark River	9 Road (Section line between T38N, R24W, S20, 29)	Lake Michigan
Delta	Big Fishdam River	CR 2222 Bridge (T41N, R18W, S9)	Lake Michigan
Delta	Days River	M-35 Bridge	Lake Michigan
Delta, Dickinson	Ford River	Northland Truck Trail (T43N, R27W, S35) Dickinson Co.	Lake Michigan
Delta	Rapid River	CR S-15 (T42N, R21W, S19)	Lake Michigan
Delta	Sturgeon River	CR 442 Bridge (T42N, R20W, S13)	Lake Michigan
Delta	Tacoosh River	29th Lane (CR G-24)	Lake Michigan
Delta	Whitefish River	38th Road (USFS 2236)	US-2 Bridge (T41N, R21W, S28)
Grand Traverse	Boardman River	Beitner Road	Lake Michigan
Houghton	Elm River	Road Bridge between (T53N, R36W, S3, S10)	
Houghton	Little Elm River	Agate Beach Road (T53N, R36W, S6)	
Houghton	South Branch Elm River	Bridge (T54N, R36W, S29, S32)	
Houghton	Graveraet River	Mouth of Deer Creek (T45N, R36W, S2)	

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Houghton	Trap Rock River	Cemetery Road (T56N, R32W, S29)	
Ionia, Montcalm	Fish Creek	Sidney Road	Confluence with Maple River
Ionia, Montcalm	Prairie Creek	East Muskrat Road	Confluence with Grand River
Ionia	Sebewa Creek and all tributaries		
Kalamazoo	Augusta Creek	Little Gilkey Lake and Fair Lakes Outlets	Knappen Mills Dam
Kalamazoo	Portage Creek		Kilgore Road (T3S, R11W, S3)
Kalkaska, Wexford	Manistee River	Sunset Trail Road (CCC Bridge T26N, R6W, S26)	M-115
Kalkaska	Rapid River	Antrim (Rugg) Pond	Torch River
Kalkaska, Antrim	Torch River	Torch Lake	Lake Skegemog
Kent	Nash Creek		Confluence with Rogue River
Kent	Ball Creek		Confluence with Rogue River
Kent	Buck Creek		Confluence with Grand River
Kent	Rogue River		Confluence with Grand River
Keweenaw	Eagle River	Dam, Eagle River Village	
Keweenaw	Fanny Hooe River	Lake Fanny Hooe	
Keweenaw	Gratiot River	Bridge (T57N, R32W, S19, S20)	Lake Superior
Keweenaw	Silver Creek	Falls (T58N, R32W, S26)	Lake Superior
Keweenaw	Silver River	M-26	Lake Superior
Keweenaw	Tobacco River	Mouth of Black Brook Creek	
Lake, Manistee	Little Manistee River	Johnson Road (Johnson's Bridge)	Manistee Lake
Lake, Mason	Pere Marquette River	Upstream edge of the boat ramp at Rainbow Rapids	Reek Road (Indian Bridge)
Leelanau	Shalda Creek	Little Traverse Lake (T29N, R13W, S10)	Lake Michigan (T29N, R13W, S4)
Luce	Blind Sucker River	Blind Sucker Flooding Dam	
Luce	Two-Hearted River	CR 407 (High Bridge)	Lake Superior
Mackinac	Black River	Peters Truck Trail Footbridge	
Mackinac	Brevoort River	Brevoort Lake	
Mackinac	Crow River	Outfall of Amadon Pond	
Mackinac, Schoolcraft	Milakokia River	Inland-Limestone Co. Railroad Bridge (T41N, R13W, S1)	Lake Michigan
Mackinac	Millecoquins River	H-40 Bridge	Lake Michigan
Macomb	Clinton River	Yates Dam above Dequindre Road	Lake St. Clair
Macomb	North Branch Clinton River	32 Mile Road	Confluence with Clinton River

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
Manistee	Manistee River	Hodenpyl Reservoir	Red Bridge
Marquette	Big Garlic River	Forks (T49N, R27W, S12)	Lake Superior
Marquette	Harlow Creek	Railroad Bridge (T49N, T26W, S24)	Lake Superior
Marquette	Iron River	Lake Independence Dam	Lake Superior
Mason	Big South Branch Pere Marquette River	Confluence Beaver and Winnepesaug Creeks	Confluence with Pere Marquette River
Mason	Sable River	Pole Bridge (T19N, R15W, S3)	Hamlin Lake
Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo	Little Muskegon River		
Mecosta, Osceola	Muskegon River	US-10 (T18N, R8W, S34)	DNR River Bend Bluffs PAS (T15N, R9W, S31)
Menominee	Big Cedar River	Veterans Memorial Park Dam (T38N, R26W, S9)	Lake Michigan
Menominee	Walton Creek	Westmann Dam (T35N, R25W, S18)	Lake Michigan
Montmorency	Thunder Bay River	Atlanta Dam	Sucker Creek confluence upstream of Hillman Pond
Muskegon	White River	Hesperia Dam	Lake Michigan
Newaygo	Tamarack Creek		
Oceana	Pentwater River	Hart Dam	Confluence with Pentwater Lake (Long Bridge Road or B15)
Oceana	North Branch Pentwater River	Oceana Drive	Confluence with Pentwater River, Mainstream
Oceana	North Branch White River	Arthur Road	Confluence with White River
Ontonagon	Union River	South Boundary Road (T51N, R42W, S22)	Lake Superior
Oscoda	Au Sable River, mainstream	Mio Dam	Mio power line (T26N, R3E, S7)
Ottawa	Crockery Creek	Moore Road	Confluence with Grand River
Ottawa, Muskegon	North Branch Crockery Creek, Mainstream	Kenowa Avenue (T10N, R13W, S36)	Confluence with Crockery Creek, Mainstream at Ravenna
Ottawa	Sand Creek		
Presque Isle	Ocqueoc River	Barnhart Lake	Lake Huron
Schoolcraft	Manistique River	Papermill Dam	
St. Clair	Belle River		
St. Clair	Mill Creek		Confluence with Black River
St. Joseph	Mill Creek and tributaries	Preston Road (T7S, R12W, S7)	Impoundment (T7S, R12W, S32)

County	Stream Name	Upstream Boundary	Downstream Boundary
St. Joseph	Unnamed tributary (T6S, R10W, S26)		
Van Buren	Brush Creek except Reynolds Lake Drain	63 rd Avenue	Confluence with Paw Paw River
Van Buren	South Branch Paw Paw River, West Branch Paw Paw River, and (Gates Drain and tributaries		Railroad bridge downstream of I-94 (T3S, R14W, S14)
Van Buren	Pine Creek		101st Avenue (T1N, R12W, S32)
Wayne	Huron River	Belleville Lake Dam	Lake Erie

Gear Restricted Streams

NOTE:

- 1) On any stream reach that is being managed under gear restrictions, it shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead or preserved bait, organic or processed food on any of the waters or on shore.

Au Sable River

- **Mainstream (Crawford County) from Burton's Landing to South Wakeley Bridge Road (Wakeley Bridge) – 9.0 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: closed for the entire year; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.
- **Mainstream (Crawford County) from South Wakeley Bridge Road (Wakeley Bridge) to McMasters Bridge Road (McMasters Bridge) – 8.0 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Au Sable River

- **Mainstream (Oscoda County) from Mio power line (T26N, R3E, S7) to Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) – 15.0 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 7 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.
- **North Branch (Crawford County) from Sheep Ranch to confluence with Mainstream – 20.7 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches
- **South Branch (Crawford County) from Chase Bridge Road (Chase Bridge) to Lower High Banks – 4.3 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: closed for the entire year; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

Au Sable River

- **South Branch (Crawford County) from Lower High Banks to confluence with Mainstream – 11.5 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Black River

- **(Otsego and Montmorency counties) from Tin Shanty Bridge Road to the Town Corner Lake Stairs (T32N, R1E, S31 SE/SE) – 4.4 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout; open for the entire year for Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: five (5) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than two (2) Brook Trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 8 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Cooks Run

- **(Iron County) from US Forest Hwy 16 to Confluence with South Branch Paint River – 4.5 miles**
 - From the last Saturday in April - September 30, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 2 regulations, except the minimum size limit for Brook Trout shall be 7 inches.
 - From October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:
 - Fishing Season: October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Possession Season: closed; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

Duck Creek

- **(Gogebic County) from Railroad Bridge (T44N, R39W, S16 SE1/4 SE1/4) to Confluence with Middle Branch Ontonagon River – 6.5 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: all species of trout – 10 inches.

Escanaba River

- **(Delta County) from Boney Falls Dam to Mouth of Silver Creek (T40N, R23W, S11) – 14.2 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 12 inches; Rainbow Trout – 12 inches.

Fox River

- **(Schoolcraft County) from Fox River State Forest Campground (T46N, R14W, S11) to M-28 – 7.6 miles**
 - From the last Saturday in April - September 30, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 1 regulations.
 - From October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:
 - Fishing Season: October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Possession Season: closed; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

Huron River

- **(Oakland County) from the Sign below Moss Lake Outlet to the Signs 100 Yards below Wixom Road (T2N, R7E, S13) – 2.0 miles**
 - From the last Saturday in April - September 30, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 1 regulations.
 - From April 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:
 - Fishing Season: April 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Possession Season: closed; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

Little Manistee River

- **(Lake County) from North Peacock Trail (Spencer's Bridge T19N, R13W, S5) to Johnson Road (Johnson's Bridge T20N, R14W, S24) – 7.5 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open April 1 - December 31.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open April 1 - December 31 for all other species of trout and salmon.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) fish, any combination of trout and salmon.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 15 inches; all other species of trout and salmon – 10 inches.

Manistee River

- **(Crawford County) from CR 612 to M-72 – 9.2 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Manistee River

- **(Crawford and Kalkaska counties) from M-72 to Sunset Trail Road (CCC Bridge T26N, R6W, S26) – 16.7 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) trout 18 inches or greater.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 18 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Paint Creek

- **(Oakland County) from Gunn Road to Tienken Road – 5.0 miles**
 - Fishing Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for all species of trout.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for all species of trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: all species of trout – 14 inches.

Paint River

- **South Branch (Iron County) from the Mouth of Cooks Run (T44N, R36W, S28) to the Mouth of the North Branch of the Paint River (T44N, R35W, S8) – 10.0 miles**
 - From the last Saturday in April - September 30, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 2 regulations, except the minimum size limit for Brook Trout shall be 7 inches.
 - From October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:
 - Fishing Season: October 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Possession Season: closed; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

Pere Marquette River

- **(Lake County) from M-37 to the Downstream Edge of the Boat Ramp/Slide at Gleason's Landing (T17N, R14W, S13) – 8.5 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: closed for the entire year; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open for the entire year.
 - Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) trout and salmon; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout or salmon.
 - Size Limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout and salmon. Trout and salmon less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.

- **(Lake County) from the Downstream Edge of the Boat Ramp/Slide at Gleason's Landing (T17N, R14W, S13) to the Upstream Edge of the Boat Ramp at Rainbow Rapids – 10.5 miles**
 - From September 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 4 regulations, with the following exceptions:
 - Fishing Season: September 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Possession Season: September 1 - the Friday before the last Saturday in April.
 - Daily Possession Limit: zero (0) Brook Trout; zero (0) Brown Trout; one (1) Rainbow Trout.
 - Size Limits: not applicable for Brook Trout and Brown Trout.
 - From the last Saturday in April - August 31, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:
 - Fishing Season: last Saturday in April - August 31.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - August 31.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout or salmon; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) Brown Trout 18 inches or greater, and except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) Rainbow Trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: all species of salmon – 10 inches; Brook Trout – 8 inches; Brown Trout – 8 inches; Rainbow Trout – 8 inches; except that the harvest of fish greater than 14 inches and less than 18 inches shall be prohibited for Brook Trout, Brown Trout, and Rainbow Trout.

Pigeon River

- **(Cheboygan and Otsego counties) from Elk Hill Campground Horse Trail to Pine Grove Campground Stairs – 5.3 miles**
 - Fishing Season: open for the entire year.
 - Possession Season: last Saturday in April - September 30 for Brook Trout and Brown Trout; open for the entire year for Rainbow Trout.
 - Tackle: artificial lures only.
 - Daily Possession Limit: two (2) trout; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) Brown Trout.
 - Size Limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 10 inches; Brown Trout – 12 inches; Rainbow Trout – 10 inches.

Adfluvial Brook Trout Restoration Areas

The following locations have more restrictive Brook Trout regulations. Fishing regulations on these waters shall supersede those in other sections which in any way conflict with the following: the possession season for Brook Trout is from the last Saturday in April – September 30, the minimum size limit on Brook Trout, Lake Trout, and Splake shall be 20 inches with a daily possession limit of one (1) Brook Trout, Lake Trout or Splake total combined.

- 1) Big Garlic River and tributaries (Marquette County), from County Road 550 (T50N, R26W, S33) downstream to Lake Superior (T50N, R26W, S21).
- 2) Big Huron River (Baraga and Marquette Counties), from Big Eric's Bridge (T52N, R30W, S35) downstream to Lake Superior (T52N, R29W, S18).
- 3) Iron River (Marquette County), from Lake Independence Dam (T51N, R27W, S13) downstream to Lake Superior (T51N, R26W, S18).
- 4) Little Huron River (Marquette County), from unnamed bridge crossing located at the southern border of section 20 (T52N, R29W, S20) downstream to Lake Superior (T52N, R29W, S17).
- 5) Pilgrim River and tributaries (Houghton County), from the headwaters downstream to Portage Lake (T54N, R33W, S5).
- 6) Portage/Torch Lake system (including the Portage River, Portage Canal, North Entry and South Entry, Houghton County).
- 7) Ravine River (Baraga County), from Sicotte Road (T51N, R31W, S2) downstream to Huron Bay (T51N, R31W, S4).
- 8) Silver River (Baraga County), from Silver River Falls (T51N, R32W, S26) downstream to Huron Bay (T51N, R31W, S18).
- 9) Slate River (Baraga County), from Slate River Falls (1/2 mile upstream from Skanee Road T51N, R31W, S9) downstream to Huron Bay (T51N, R31W, S8).

Research Areas

The following streams have ongoing research projects associated with them. Fishing regulations on these streams shall be as follows:

- 1) Salmon-Trout River (Marquette County) from Lower Falls (T51N, R28W, S13) down to Lake Superior: Fishing season: last Saturday in April - August 14; Possession season: last Saturday in April - August 14; Tackle: artificial lures and all types of natural bait may be used; Daily possession limit: five (5) trout and salmon in any combination, except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than three (3) trout 15 inches or greater and no more than one (1) Brook Trout; Size limits: minimum size limit: Brook Trout – 18 inches; Brown Trout – 8 inches; all other species of trout or salmon – 10 inches.

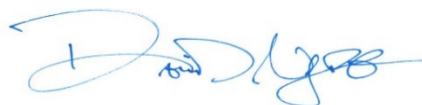
This Order shall be assigned number FO-200.20A, and is titled “Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Cisco, Grayling and Smelt Regulations”

This Order supersedes the Order titled “Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations,” effective April 1, 2020, and was assigned number FO-200.20.

This Order shall take immediate effect on April 17, 2020 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

Issued on this 16th day of April, 2020.

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



David Nyberg, Acting Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

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RESUBMITTED: February 18, 2020
RESUBMITTED: March 24, 2020



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Furbearer Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2020

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The Department and stakeholders review the furbearer regulations on a two-year cycle to provide consistency in regulations. More consistent regulations provide for better understanding by hunters and trappers, as well as facilitate monitoring of the impacts of regulation changes. A two-year cycle also allows for more time to consider potential regulation changes.

For 2020, there are several changes proposed resulting from discussions with stakeholder groups and Department staff beginning in 2019 or earlier. The proposed issues reviewed were selected from a running list of issues developed with input from the Furbearer User Group, Department staff, and other stakeholders. The main objectives of the proposed changes are to effectively manage furbearer populations and to increase recreational opportunities where feasible. This memo summarizes the review of these items, even if no regulation changes are recommended.

Beaver and Otter Regulations

Otter Bag Limit

Under current regulations, the season bag limit for otter is a total of three per resident fur harvester; three otters may be taken from Otter Management Unit (OMU) A, two otters may be taken from OMU B, and only one otter may be taken from OMU C. After the biological and social review, as described below, the Department recommends increasing the bag limit by one otter in each OMU; four otters may be taken from OMU A, three otters may be taken from OMU B, and two otters may be taken from OMU C with a combined total season bag limit of four

otters per resident fur harvester. If approved, the Department will issue up to four free otter kill tags to a resident who intends to trap otter.

Issues Pros and Cons

Trappers, especially in the Upper Peninsula (UP), have sought higher bag limits for several years. A modest increase as recommended is unlikely to have significant impacts on populations and will provide additional recreational opportunities. Some trappers may desire a higher bag limit than recommended. If pelt prices increase, harvest will likely go up. Population trends can be monitored to ensure there are no undesired changes in populations.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine otter bag limits. The results were the following:

- Illinois: The otter bag limit is five otters per person, statewide.
- Indiana: The otter bag limit is two otters per person per season until the statewide quota is met for counties open to otter harvest.
- Minnesota: The otter bag limit is four otters per person, statewide.
- Ohio: The otter bag limit is three otters per person of which no more than one can be taken in Unit B and no more than three can be taken in Unit C. Unit A is closed to otter harvest.
- Wisconsin: The otter bag limit is one otter per zone-specific permit. Individuals may apply and receive only one permit per year.

Biological

Otter populations are stable to increasing throughout the state. Harvest levels have remained relatively stable over the years with some fluctuations mostly due to pelt price changes. A conservative increase in the bag limit as recommended is unlikely to impact populations.

Social

Trappers have sought an increase in bag limits, especially in the UP, for several years. While the interest is mainly in having more recreational opportunity for trapping otter, part of this desire is to be able to trap for beaver and still register and utilize incidentally caught otter. Trapping organizations and trappers in general appear to be supportive of the change. Since the Department anticipates little impact on populations, non-trappers that enjoy seeing otter or signs of otter are not likely to be negatively impacted.

Economic

Increasing the otter bag limit may result in increased trapping activity and potentially an increase in otter pelts sold.

Beaver and Otter Trapping Season Dates

Under current regulations, the beaver trapping seasons for Units A and B close the first Sunday following April 11, however the beaver trapping season in Unit A for residents extends through April 30 only on designated trout streams. The beaver trapping season for Unit C closes March 31. After the biological and social review, as described below, the Department recommends expanding the resident and nonresident beaver trapping season on all waters in Unit A to April 30. The Department also recommends that the resident and nonresident beaver trapping season in Units B and C close on the Friday before the last Saturday in April, the day prior to the inland trout season opener.

In addition, the Department recommends that the otter trapping season end on March 31 statewide with the ability to keep otters incidentally taken while trapping for beaver through April 30 as part of the otter season limit. Otters incidentally taken may only be kept with a valid otter kill tag and applied to an individual's bag limit. Otters incidentally taken above the individual's bag limit shall not be kept but shall be submitted to the Department following existing incidental catch regulations. All rules and regulations for the taking of otter apply.

Issues Pros and Cons

Spring beaver season with open water conditions is a preferred trapping experience for many beaver trappers. Fluctuating and unpredictable conditions in the UP have resulted in requests for a longer season in the spring in more areas to increase chances for the open water opportunity. In addition, many beaver complaints occur in the spring shortly after the beaver season closes. Trappers will sometimes target areas with a history of beaver issues at the end of the regular season to try to eliminate beaver problems before they occur. The recommended season expansion would provide opportunity for both activities statewide.

However, the spring portion of beaver and otter trapping season overlaps with the time period otters begin to have young. An increase in otter harvest during this time period is undesirable, however it is difficult to trap solely for beaver. The proposed otter season closure with an ability to keep incidentally caught otter in April (with a valid otter kill tag and until an individual's bag limit is reached) allows the Department to promote otter avoidance techniques with beaver trappers in an effort to reduce otter take in April, while still allowing those otters that are taken to be utilized by trappers. The intent is to provide opportunity to resolve beaver issues and provide additional recreational opportunity without increasing otter harvest in April.

Another potential negative consequence to extending the beaver season until the end of April is the increased potential for negative interactions with trappers/traps and trout fisherman on the opening few days of the inland trout season. Conditions for trout fishing and activity levels are significantly higher in the Lower Peninsula (LP) than UP. For this reason, the recommendation is to have the LP beaver season end the day prior to the inland trout season opener.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine beaver and otter trapping season dates. The results were the following:

- Illinois: The trapping season for beaver and otter is November 10 through the next following March 31.
- Indiana: The trapping season for beaver is November 15 through March 15 of the following year. The trapping season for otter is November 15 through March 15 of the following year or until the quota of 600 is met.
- Minnesota: The trapping season for beaver in the north zone is the Saturday nearest October 26 to May 15. The trapping season for beaver in the south zone is the Saturday nearest October 30 to May 15. The trapping for otter in the north zone is the Saturday nearest October 26 to the Sunday nearest January 6. The trapping for otter in the south zone is the Saturday nearest October 30 to the Sunday nearest January 6.
- Ohio: The trapping season for beaver and otter is December 26 through the last day of February.
- Wisconsin: The trapping season for beaver in zones A and B begins on the Saturday nearest November 4 and continues through April 30. The trapping season for beaver in zone C begins on the Saturday nearest November 4 and continues through April 30. The trapping season for beaver in zone D begins on the day following the close of the open season for ducks and continues through March 15. The trapping season for otter in the north zone begins on the Saturday nearest November 4 and continues through April 30. The trapping season for otter in the south zone begins on the Saturday nearest November 4 and continues through March 31.

Biological

The extension of beaver season will likely increase harvest of beaver. However, this increase is most likely to result in no significant change in beaver populations or potentially a positive reduction of populations in areas where beavers may cause problems. In addition, beaver populations are healthy and Department staff in much of the state have expressed a desire to increase harvest to reduce populations. Otter populations are also healthy and unlikely to be negatively impacted, however, to reduce the potential for increased harvest at a more biologically sensitive time, the Department recommended shortening otter season and promoting trapping methods in April that would reduce incidental harvest. Both populations will be monitored to evaluate impacts to populations.

Social

The proposed changes would provide requested increases to recreational opportunities for trappers and allow for an increased ability for trappers to address nuisance beaver issues more effectively. Both trapping organizations and Department staff support the changes for these reasons.

Economic

The recommended changes may increase trapping activity and may increase the sale of pelts.

No Recommendation for Change

Nuisance Beaver Control

The Department discussed various options to reduce nuisance beaver complaints. During discussions, the Department expressed that the Wildlife Division has a Human-Wildlife Conflict Workgroup that is tasked to develop species specific recommendations that would make the process in resolving human-wildlife conflicts more consistent across the state as well as to look for potential modification in regulations to improve wildlife-conflict resolution. The Furbearer Program will be providing recommendations to the Human-Wildlife Conflict Workgroup on more modifications to deal with nuisance beaver.

Trapping Recommendations

Keeping Incidental Mink Caught in Muskrat Multiple Catch Traps or Colony Traps

Under current regulations, multiple catch traps or colony traps are allowed for muskrat trapping. Mink will occasionally enter multiple catch traps or colony traps and be trapped, but it is currently illegal to keep mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps set for muskrats. After the biological and social review, as described below, the Department recommends allowing for the possession of incidental mink caught in muskrat multiple catch traps or colony traps.

Issues Pros and Cons

The recommendation would allow the use of mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps set for muskrat, reducing waste. Multiple catch traps and colony traps are not effective specifically for mink, so the change is unlikely to impact harvest levels for mink.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine if it is legal to keep incidental mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps. The results were the following:

- Illinois: It is illegal to use multiple-catch traps or colony traps.
- Indiana: It is legal to keep incidental mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps.
- Minnesota: It is legal to keep incidental mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps.
- Ohio: It is legal to keep incidental mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps.
- Wisconsin: It is legal to keep incidental mink caught in multiple catch traps or colony traps during the mink open season.

Biological

The recommendation is unlikely to have any biological consequence.

Social

This change was requested by trappers.

Economic

This recommendation is unlikely to have an economic impact.

Setting of Body-Gripping Traps in Water

Under current regulations, it is illegal to set a body-gripping trap with a jaw spread greater than 5.5 inches on dry land or on frozen submerged bottomlands unless the set meets specific conditions. The Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) allows setting of these larger body-gripping traps in water, but the current language is unclear. For example, a large body-gripping trap set in an inch-deep puddle in a two track may be a legal set, however this set location defeats the purpose of the restrictions on larger body-gripping trap use (avoiding the take of non-targets). Law Enforcement Division (LED) requested clarification of this language in the WCO. After the biological and social review, as described below, the Department recommends requiring body-gripping traps with a jaw spread greater than 5.5 inches set in water to be at least half submerged.

Issues Pros and Cons

Current regulations are confusing and difficult to enforce. This creates a potential stress point between trappers and law enforcement personnel. The current regulation also increases the chances someone could inadvertently violate the law or set traps in a manner that would increase the chance of the take of non-target species. The recommendation would resolve these issues. The proposed change is consistent with the way the vast majority of conibears are currently set, minimizing the impact to trapping activity. The recommendation does allow for some potential misunderstandings as water levels could fluctuate after the trap has been set, impacting the legality of the set. After reviewing alternative solutions, the Department believes this is unlikely and can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with officer discretion. Many other states have similar regulations and have not reported issues.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine if body-gripping traps can be submerged in water. The results were the following:

- Illinois: Larger body-gripping traps must be half submerged in water.
- Indiana: Larger body-gripping traps must be submerged in water.
- Minnesota: Larger body-gripping traps must be fully submerged in water.
- Ohio: Larger body-gripping traps must be half submerged in water.
- Wisconsin: Larger body-gripping traps must be fully submerged in water.

Biological

This recommendation is unlikely to have biological impacts.

Social

The recommendation reduces chances of non-target catches and reduces enforcement challenges. Trappers have supported the need and desire to provide clarification and, for the most part, are

supportive of the change. They do raise concerns about the potential for water level fluctuations to create issues for trappers trying to comply with the regulation. Hound hunting organizations have supported the change. Given that the vast majority of conibears are set in a way that complies with the proposed change, there is unlikely to be a significant impact on trapping activity or recreation.

Economic

This recommendation is unlikely to have an economic impact.

No Recommendation for Change

Use of Snares for Trapping Mink

The Department discussed expanding mink trapping opportunities by allowing the use of snares for trapping mink. There is no recommended change to the current regulations on the use of snares for trapping mink being brought forward for consideration.

Trapping Inside Muskrat Push-Ups

The Department discussed expanding muskrat trapping opportunities by allowing muskrat trapping inside muskrat push-ups. There is no recommended change to the current regulations on trapping inside muskrat push-ups being brought forward for consideration.

Hunting Regulations

Use of Elevated Platforms for Nighttime Predator Hunting (Same as Daytime Regulations)

Under current regulations, fox and coyote may be taken with a firearm from an elevated platform during daylight hours. After the biological and social review, as described below, the Department recommends allowing the take of fox and coyote with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.

Issues Pros and Cons

The recommendation provides a requested recreational opportunity. Some have expressed potential safety concerns from allowing nighttime hunting from an elevated platform. Existing nighttime hunting equipment restrictions are in place to reduce the potential for safety issues.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine if nighttime predator hunting from an elevated platform is legal. The results were the following:

- Illinois: It is only legal to take coyotes with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.
- Indiana: It is legal to take predators with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.
- Minnesota: It is illegal to take predators with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.
- Ohio: It is legal to take predators with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.

- Wisconsin: It is legal to take predators with a firearm from an elevated platform at night.

Biological

This recommendation is unlikely to have a biological impact. Harvest of fox and coyote are not likely to change significantly.

Social

The recommendation provides a requested recreational opportunity. There may be a perception of increased safety issues. Most stakeholders that provided input were supportive or ambivalent about the recommendation.

Economic

This recommendation is unlikely to have an economic impact.

Use of Pneumatic Guns for Nighttime Hunting

Currently, Michigan allows for the nighttime take of raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote with a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller, a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller, or a shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than number 3, slug or cut shell. The Department received requests from nighttime hunters to allow the use of pneumatic guns for nighttime hunting. In order to provide additional recreational opportunities for nighttime hunters, the Department recommends allowing the use of pneumatic guns for nighttime hunting.

For the purpose of hunting, a pneumatic gun is considered a firearm as defined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, MCL 324.40102. The WCO does not allow the use of a pneumatic gun for nighttime hunting.

The Department will review pneumatic gun regulations for other game hunting during the 2020 regulatory cycle.

Issues Pros and Cons

The use of pneumatic guns at night will increase nighttime recreational opportunities. Pneumatic guns are currently legal for daytime hunting for raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote.

Other States

The Department reviewed regulations in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin to determine if pneumatic guns are allowed for nighttime hunting. The results were the following:

- Illinois: Pneumatic guns can be used to take those species legal to hunt at night in accordance with laws governing the taking of those species.
- Indiana: There are no restrictions on firearm equipment for hunting fox and coyote at night.
- Ohio: Pneumatic guns can be used to take those species legal to hunt at night in accordance with laws governing the taking of those species.

- Wisconsin: It is illegal to use a pellet gun or air rifle less than .17 caliber for the nighttime of coyote, fox, raccoon, and unprotected species.

Biological

The use of pneumatic firearms for nighttime raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote hunting is not expected to have any significant biological impact on the populations.

Social

The Department has received requests from stakeholder groups asking for the ability to use pneumatic firearms for nighttime furbearer hunting. Allowing pneumatic firearms for nighttime hunting will allow for additional recreational opportunity for nighttime hunters.

Economic

Allowing the use of pneumatic firearms for nighttime raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote hunting may minimally increase hunting license sales. It may also result in increased sales in hunting equipment and potentially increase the number of trips made by hunters pursuing raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote.

No Recommendation for Change

Remove Hunter Orange Requirement for Predator Hunting with Dogs

Under current regulations, hunter orange requirements do not apply to a person who is stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote or fox. In addition, hunter orange is not required year-round when nighttime hunting. Some houndsmen requested to remove the hunter orange requirement for predator hunting with dogs but were unaware that hunter orange is not required while stationary. These houndsmen are satisfied with the current regulations. There is no recommended change to the current regulations on hunter orange requirements being brought forward for consideration.

Allow Use of 10-round Magazines

The Department discussed expanding firearm equipment opportunities to allow 10-round magazines plus one in the chamber of rifles and shotguns to be used for predator hunting. There is no recommended change to the current regulations on firearm equipment for predator hunting.

Nighttime Bobcat Hunting Regulations

The Department discussed expanding bobcat hunting opportunities by allowing the hunting of bobcats at night. While the Department has no objections to the concept of nighttime bobcat hunting, some stakeholder groups have expressed concerns regarding possible declines in the bobcat population. The Department also cannot reliably predict the impact on harvest if nighttime hunting of bobcats were allowed. Since an expansion of harvest opportunity may increase harvest, there is no recommended change to the current regulations on nighttime bobcat hunting being brought forward for consideration.

Technical Change

Quiet Period Dates for Training Dogs or Hunting Bear with Dogs

Department staff discovered while reviewing the bear hunting digest that the quiet period dates for training dogs or hunting bear with dogs is incorrect. The dates for the dog quiet periods in the UP and the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) do not float based on the season dates. The Department recommends making a technical change to the quiet period dates in order to ensure a 10-day quiet period in the UP and a 6-day quiet period in the NLP for the 2020 bear season. This is consistent with historical practices.

Red Oak BMU Archery

In addition, Department staff discovered an administrative error for the Red Oak Bear Management Unit (BMU) archery only season. Historically, the season dates have been from the first Friday following October 1 through six days thereafter. The Red Oak BMU season dates for archery only hunting have been added back into the Open Season for Taking Bear table.

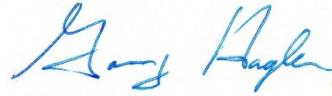
Small Game and Upland Game Bird Recommendations

As part of the multi-year hunting regulatory cycle, the schedule for reviewing and updating small game and upland game bird regulations was set for every five years. The last update to small game and upland game bird regulations was completed in 2015. Accordingly, the Department has reviewed small game and upland game bird regulations and is not recommending any changes to the current regulations.

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on February 13, 2020, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 16, 2020.



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Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
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Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

April 16, 2020
Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 1 of 2020

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective April 17, 2020, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

2.4 Permissible use of artificial lights.

Sec. 2.4 (1) Artificial lights, similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person, may be used by a person traveling afoot with a bow and arrow, crossbow, a pneumatic gun, a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller, a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than number 3, slug or cut shell. However, subject to MCL 324.43510, (2) and (3), the person shall not possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with a nocked arrow, except as provided in section 2.1a of this order unless one or more of the following conditions apply:

(a) The individual is hunting with the aid of dogs and is at the point of kill.

(b) The individual is hunting with the aid of game call or predator call.

(2) Persons not possessing a bow, crossbow, or firearm while traveling afoot may use lights as defined in subsection (1) during dog training or field dog trials to follow dogs chasing raccoon, opossum, or fox.

2.5 Hunting hours, exceptions; prohibited activities.

Sec. 2.5 (1) Except for the trapping of animals and as otherwise specified in this section, the hunting hours shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide or in the respective state hunting guide for that animal.

(2) In addition to the daylight hunting hours specified in subsection (1) and 3.605, a person traveling afoot at night and in possession of only a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a pneumatic gun, a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller, a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than number 3, slug or cut shell, unless otherwise provided by law, may take within their specified open seasons raccoon, opossum, coyote, and fox. However, subject to MCL 324.43510, (2) and (3), a person hunting these species during the nighttime hunting hours shall not possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with a nocked arrow unless one or more of the following conditions apply:

(a) The individual is hunting with the aid of dogs and is at the point of kill.

(b) The individual is hunting with the aid of game call or predator call.

(3) A person shall not use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol to take an animal during nighttime hunting hours as specified in subsection (2) in any state park or recreation area. Within the limited firearms deer zone as defined in section 1.2, a person may use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol during nighttime hunting hours, as specified in subsection (2), only on private land.

(4) Except for woodcock and crow, the hunting and hawking hours for all waterfowl and migratory birds shall be as listed in the state waterfowl hunting guide. The hunting hours for woodcock shall substantially conform to sunrise to sunset and shall be as published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide. The hunting hours for crow shall be as specified in subsection (1).

(5) The hunting hours for wild turkey during the spring season shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset, and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the state hunting guide for wild turkey.

(6) The hunting hours for teal during the early season shall substantially conform to sunrise to sunset, and shall be those starting times and ending times as published in the waterfowl hunting digest.

(7) Subject to MCL 324.43510, (2) and (3), except during the hunting hours specified in this section and as otherwise provided by subsection (2), a person shall not possess afield a firearm unless it is unloaded in the barrel, or crossbow or a bow and arrow unless all arrows and bolts are placed in a quiver. A person may, to comply with section 4.1(2), kill a down and mortally wounded deer, bear, or elk using an otherwise legal means and may possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with nocked arrow only at the time and at the point of kill. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a person hunting under the authority of a wild turkey license during the spring wild turkey season may load and carry a loaded firearm afield while going to their hunting stand up to one hour prior to the spring wild turkey hunting hours.

2.8 Hunt with bow and arrow from scaffold, raised platform, or tree allowed; taking certain species with a firearm from scaffold, raised platform or tree allowed; use of scaffold, platform, ladder, steps or certain other devices in taking an animal on publicly owned lands, exception.

Sec. 2.8 An individual may hunt with a crossbow or a bow and arrow from a scaffold, raised platform, or tree. An individual taking deer, elk, turkey, bobcat, fox, coyote, or bear with a firearm may use a scaffold, raised platform, or tree pursuant to all other hunting regulations. An individual taking opossum and raccoon with a firearm may use a scaffold, raised platform, or tree from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise pursuant to all other hunting regulations. An individual taking small game that are not migratory game birds with a shotgun may use a scaffold, raised platform, or tree pursuant to all other hunting regulations. In taking an animal, an individual shall not do any of the following on publicly owned lands:

(1) Permanently construct or affix to a tree or other natural feature a scaffold, platform, ladder, steps or any other device to assist in climbing a tree, or use any item that penetrates the cambium of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree.

(2) Use or occupy a scaffold, raised platform, ladder, or step that has been permanently affixed or attached to any tree or other natural feature.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a scaffold or platform temporarily affixed to a tree by use of a T-bolt or similar device supplied by the manufacturer at the time the scaffold or platform was purchased.

(4) Use or occupy a scaffold or raised platform without having first etched, engraved, implanted, burned, printed, or painted on the scaffold or raised platform, the name and address, complete Michigan driver's license number, or DNR sportcard number of the user in legible English easily read from the ground.

(5) Use, occupy, or place a scaffold, raised platform, ladder, steps, or any other device to assist in climbing a tree if the scaffold, raised platform, ladder, steps, or other device is on public lands earlier than September 1 of each year or is not removed by March 1, exception:

(a) The scaffold, raised platform, ladder, steps, or any other device to assist in climbing a tree for elk hunting purposes may be placed on public lands from August 15 through five days after the close of the elk season for which the individual is licensed, or if successful, five days after harvesting an elk.

3.203 Bear hunting, open seasons, defined.

Sec. 3.203. (1) The open season for taking bear with a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, on all land within the listed units, shall be as shown in the table below except as otherwise provided in subsection (2):

Open Season for Taking Bear			
BMU Name	Hunt Period	Season Dates for 2019	Season Dates for 2020
Amasa	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Baraga	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26

BMU Name	Hunt Period	Season Dates for 2019	Season Dates for 2020
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Bergland	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Carney	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Drummond Island	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
Gwinn	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Newberry	First	September 11 to October 21	September 9 to October 21
	Second	September 16 to October 26	September 14 to October 26
	Third	September 25 to October 26	September 25 to October 26
Baldwin	First	September 15 to September 23	September 13 to September 21
Gladwin	First	September 15 to September 23	September 13 to September 21
Red Oak Archery Hunting Only	First	September 15 to September 23 October 4 to October 10	September 13 to September 21 October 2 to October 8
Dansville	First	No Open Season	No Open Season

(2) A person shall not take a bear on Bois Blanc island.

3.600 Fur-bearing animals; use of firearms; traps and catching devices; use of bait; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.600 It shall be unlawful for any person: (1) To use a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow to take marten, muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, fisher, or badger, except as permitted by authority of a nuisance control permit issued by the department. Rimfire firearms .22 caliber or smaller may be used to kill coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat, and badger in traps except if the trapper is an individual that cannot lawfully hunt with a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow.

(2) Except as provided by subsection (3), to use or have in possession in areas frequented by animals, a catching device of any kind for the taking of animals unless the name and address in legible English or the complete Michigan driver's license number or DNR sportcard number of the user or individual possessing the device is permanently etched in the catching device, or there shall be securely fastened to each catching device a metallic plate or tag bearing the name and address in legible English or the complete Michigan driver license number of the user or individual possessing the catching device.

(3) To use, carry afield, or have in possession 1 or more snares or 1 or more cable restraints unless they have attached a metallic tag or plate securely fastened which bears the name and address in legible English or the complete Michigan driver's license number or DNR sportcard number of the user or individual possessing the catching device.

(4) To use or have in possession 1 or more snares or 1 or more cable restraints securely attached to a pole unless the uppermost end of the pole has a metallic plate or tag securely fastened which bears the name and address in legible English or the complete Michigan driver license number or DNR sportcard number of the user or individual possessing the catching device.

(5) To use a multiple catch or colony trap except for the taking of muskrat and provided that the trap is completely submerged below the water. Colony traps must be constructed of steel and shall be no larger than 8 inches in height, 8 inches in width, and 36 inches in depth. Mink incidentally taken in a multiple catch trap or a colony trap legally set for muskrat may be lawfully possessed. This order shall not be construed to prohibit use of colony or multiple catch traps used by nuisance control operators for species other than muskrat.

(6) To stake, put out, or set a catching device of any kind for the taking of a fur-bearing animal at any time preceding the day on which the open season for the taking of such fur-bearing animal begins.

(7) To use a foothold trap with a jaw spread exceeding a number 2 foothold trap for the taking of mink or muskrat except as may be provided by this order for the incidental take of muskrat during the beaver and otter season. It shall also be unlawful to use any kind of a trap other than a foothold or body gripping or conibear type trap to take furbearing animals except as permitted under the provisions of subsection (4).

(8) To use any portion of any protected animal or protected bird as bait for the purpose of trapping any animal in this state. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit an individual from using the carcasses and parts thereof of game animals or game birds, lawfully taken and possessed during their open season, as bait, except as stated in Section 5.31 of this order.

(9) To set a trap or snare on a beaver dam or lodge unless it meets at least one of the following provisions:

(a) The trap is totally submerged below the water.

(b) The trap is a duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap which by construction will selectively capture raccoon. This trap may be set above the water.

(c) The trap is a body gripping or conibear type trap 5 inches or less in width as measured inside the jaw hinges. This trap may be set above the water.

(d) The trap is a body gripping or conibear type trap less than 8 inches above the ground at the highest point, and set in a way that does not use bait, lure, or attractant to entice an animal, and the trap is between 5 inches and 6 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges. This trap may be set above the water.

(10) To set a body gripping or conibear type trap larger than 5 and one half inches in width as measured inside the jaw hinges unless the trap is at least half submerged in water or on dry land or over frozen submerged bottomlands, and the trap is placed as follows:

(a) On private land, except lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, commercial forests, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.51101 to 324.51120, and less than 7 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges.

(b) On public or private lands 4 feet or more above dry ground or the frozen surface of ice, as applicable.

(c) On public lands and lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, commercial forests, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.51101 to 324.51120, and is:

(i) Less than 8 inches above the ground at the highest point, and in a way that does not use bait, lure, or attractant to entice an animal and the trap is between 5 and one half and 6 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges.

(ii) In a box or similar container that is placed vertically on a tree or other structure so that the trap trigger is at least 4 inches from the container opening and the opening of the container is no more than 6 inches from the ground.

(iii) In a box or similar container with a maximum fixed opening of 6 inches measured from the inside bottom of the container opening to the lower edge of the top of the container opening with 8 inch slots to allow trap placement so that no part of the trap trigger is closer than 6 inches to the opening edge of the container and the trap is between 5 and one half inches and 7 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges.

(11) To set a trap within 50 feet of any water in zone 1 before October 25, or within 50 feet of any water in zone 2 before November 1, or within 50 feet of any water in zone 3 before November 10, except for the following catching devices:

(a) A duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap which by construction will selectively capture

raccoon.

(b) A body gripping or conibear trap placed 4 feet or more above the ground.

(12) To set a catching device designed to hold an animal alive unless:

(a) Any catch is released or removed upon checking the catching device. Restraining type traps set in a manner to hold an animal alive shall be checked at least once daily in zones 2 and 3 and within a 48 hour period in zone 1, except as noted in Section 5.52 (8) or in (ii) below.

(b) Using a live-restraining cage trap, other than a trap designed to catch more than 1 animal at 1 time, for the taking of furbearing animals, in season, by a licensed trapper, or person permitted by the Department.

(i) A person using a live-restraining cage trap, other than a trap designed to catch more than 1 animal at 1 time, shall release or kill an animal captured in a live-restraining cage trap immediately upon finding that animal in a trap.

(ii) A person using a live-restraining cage trap, other than a trap designed to catch more than 1 animal at 1 time, shall tend the trap daily statewide.

(13) To use, carry afield, or set a trap with teeth or serrations.

(14) A person shall not set or maintain any foothold trap within 20 feet of bait located in such a manner that it is visible from 4 feet or more above the bait. This shall not be construed to prohibit the use of completely submerged foothold traps located within 20 feet of any bait.

(a) As used in this subsection, "bait" is any animal or animal parts, including dead fish, except that pieces of less than 36 square inches and comprised of dried hide, fur, feathers or bones and entirely free of meat may be used as a visible attractant.

(15) Possess or use natural cervid urine-based lures or attractants not marked with the official archery trade association seal of participation stamp in an area frequented by furbearers.

3.607 Beaver and otter trapping, resident and nonresident open seasons; season limits; requirements.

Sec. 3.607 (1) The open seasons and season limits for taking beaver and otter by trap for each of the respective management units are as shown in table 12:

TABLE 12
Beaver and Otter Trapping Seasons and Limits

Resident Beaver Seasons	Season Limits
Unit A – October 25 to April 30	No limit on beaver
Unit B – November 1 to the Friday before the last Saturday in April	
Unit C – November 10 to the Friday before the last Saturday in April	
Resident Otter Seasons	Season Limits
Unit A – October 25 to March 31	4 otter per resident fur harvester of which
Unit B – November 1 to March 31	no more than 3 shall be taken in Unit B and
Unit C – November 10 to March 31	no more than 2 shall be taken in Unit C
Nonresident Beaver Seasons	Season Limits
Unit A – November 15 to April 30	No limit on beaver

Resident Beaver Seasons	Season Limits
Unit B – November 24 to the Friday before the last Saturday in April	
Unit C – December 15 to the Friday before the last Saturday in April	

(2) In addition to the requirements of section 3.600, an individual taking beaver and otter shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) Through the last day of the open otter season, a resident issued a fur harvester's license may obtain a free otter kill tag. A resident who intends to trap otter shall request and be issued up to 4 free otter kill tags. A resident shall not sell, loan, or permit in any manner, another individual to use the otter kill tag or use or attempt to use another individual's otter kill tag. Free otter kill tags may be obtained only by a resident who is at least 8 years old, subject to section 2.14. An individual who kills an otter shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate information on the tag and attach the kill tag to the hide of the otter from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw in a secure and permanent manner. An individual shall not tag an otter with a kill tag that is not valid for the unit in which the otter is taken. This kill tag shall remain attached to the otter until the animal is registered and sealed by the department. An individual shall not possess an otter or otter hide that is not tagged with a validated kill tag unless a department seal is attached as provided by subsection (b).

(b) An individual that kills an otter shall present the pelt and skull of the otter to the department to be registered and sealed no later than 10 days following the close of the season in which it was taken but no later than 3 business days following April 30. The pelt and skull shall be presented for sealing or registration by the resident fur harvester that killed the animal and shall not be presented for sealing or registration by another individual. The individual presenting the otter pelt and skull shall display their fur harvester license; including identification used to acquire the license, and shall provide harvest information as requested by the department employee. The department employee shall retain the skull and attach an official seal to the pelt of each otter presented for examination and shall lock the seal upon the hide in such a manner that it cannot be removed without cutting or ripping the otter pelt or damaging the seal. An official seal attached by the department, shall not be removed from the otter pelt until the otter pelt is processed or tanned. Subsequent to 3 business days following April 30, it shall be unlawful to possess an otter pelt without an official department seal attached unless the pelt has been processed or tanned or the otter season is open.

(c) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, up to 10 muskrat, taken in beaver or otter sets, may be considered part of the season limit.

(d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, a snare may be used for taking beaver in water or under ice. Snares shall be made of 1/16 inch or larger cable. Snares not under ice must have a loop which is at least half submerged and be set in a fashion to hold the beaver completely submerged. Snares shall be removed from the water and made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the period in which snares may be used to take beaver.

(e) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this order, otter incidentally taken while trapping for beaver through April 30 may be lawfully possessed if included within the season bag limit and a valid otter kill tag is used.

6.4 Hunting with dogs, unlawful acts.

Sec. 6.4 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zone 1 from September 5 through September 15, 2019 and from September 9 through September 13, 2020.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bear with dogs in zones 2 and 3 on September 15, 2019 and on September 13, 2020.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt coyote with the aid of dogs from April 16 through July 7.

6.5 Dog training, unlawful acts.

Sec. 6.5 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to dog train on bear in zone 1 from September 5 through September 15, 2019 and from September 4 through September 13, 2020.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to dog train on bear in zones 2 and 3 from September 9 through September 14, 2019 and from September 8 through September 13, 2020.

12.810 Beaver and Otter Management Units Defined.

Sec. 12.810a Beaver and Otter Management Unit A means the area defined in 1.2 as zone 1.

Sec. 12.810b Beaver and Otter Management Unit B means the area defined in 1.2 as zone 2.

Sec. 12.810c Beaver and Otter Management Unit C means the area defined in 1.2 as zone 3.

Issued on this 16th day of April, 2020.

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



David Nyberg, Acting Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:
RESUBMITTED:

February 18, 2020
March 24, 2020



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2020

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually prescribes migratory bird hunting season frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed. Federal frameworks are negotiated with states via the Flyway Councils. The approach to set annual migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits relies on biological data from the previous year to set hunting season dates and project appropriate harvest limits for each game species. This is possible because the USFWS and the Department have decades of data from population surveys, banding, and harvest surveys for many migratory game bird species that is used to develop models and harvest strategies to predict population change and inform harvest management decisions. These frameworks are adjusted to influence harvest regulations based on the previous year's monitoring information and regulatory decisions. This process gives biologists time to analyze survey data from the USFWS's regulatory decisions and allows time for public comment.

The Department's recommendations for the 2020-21 migratory bird seasons are based on the 2019 State and Federal assessments of waterfowl population status and habitat conditions, and public input including discussion with the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC) at their February 1, 2020 meeting.

Biological

Since 1991, Michigan has collaborated with other states, the USFWS, and Canadian agencies in conducting aerial surveys of breeding ducks and geese. Spring mallard population estimates from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are included in estimates of mid-continent mallard abundance. These population estimates are needed for establishing annual waterfowl hunting

season frameworks for the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways. The spring 2019 breeding waterfowl survey was conducted late April to mid-May. The 2019 estimate of total ducks was 333,910, which was not statistically different from the 2018 estimate. The 2019 estimate for mallards was 179,170 mallards, which was also not statistically different from the 2018 estimate. The 2019 statewide wetland count was 20 percent above the 2018 count. The 2019 estimate for Canada geese was 244,208, which was statistically similar to the 2018 estimate.

Flyway Councils are advised by flyway technical committees consisting of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees evaluate species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the Flyway Council recommendations. The USFWS then evaluates the Flyway Councils' recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy. Likewise, the Department's Waterfowl Workgroup and the CWAC review information on species status and habitat conditions when developing recommendations for waterfowl hunting seasons.

Social

The Department develops recommendations based on Waterfowl Workgroup discussions with the CWAC. The CWAC met on February 1 to make recommendations for the 2020-21 waterfowl seasons. The Department's recommendations are the same as those made by the CWAC with one exception (see Duck Bag Limits below).

The Department's Waterfowl Workgroup established goals for duck hunting seasons that include maintaining Michigan's waterfowl hunting heritage by increasing hunter recruitment and retention, simplifying regulations with maximum hunting opportunity, and ensuring that seasons encompass maximum duck numbers and abundant species.

Biannually, the Department mails Waterfowl Harvest Surveys to a sample of waterfowl hunters to estimate hunting activity and determine opinions and satisfaction with hunting regulations. The Department last conducted the Waterfowl Harvest Survey after the 2018 waterfowl hunting season.

Economic

Businesses located in communities near well-known waterfowl hunting areas receive economic benefits from waterfowl hunting trips.

Youth Waterfowl Season

The Department recommends that the Federal youth waterfowl hunting season remain the third weekend in September (September 19 and 20, 2020). These dates are consistent with 2019, avoid overlap with the Liberty Hunt, and ensures duck abundance during the youth hunting days.

Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days

A new opportunity is available this year for veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel. States may designate two days as "Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting

Days” in addition to regular duck seasons. The Department and the CWAC recommend holding this hunt concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season (September 19-20). Waterfowl regulations and bag limits set for the Youth Waterfowl Season will apply to the Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days. Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel are required to possess documentation of verification afield and must present upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

Holding this hunt concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season will provide simplified regulations and better enforcement.

Issues Pros and Cons

Providing this opportunity during the Youth Waterfowl Season will allow for our veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel to hunt with their kids. It will provide these hunters the opportunity to hunt waterfowl without competition from other hunters and allow Michigan’s waterfowl resources to be more accessible.

Biological

The Department does not expect a biological impact.

Social

According to the 2016 Michigan Waterfowl Harvest Report, approximately 2,291 youth hunters participated in the two-day Youth Waterfowl Season.

Over the last five years, an average of approximately 3,000 active-duty U.S. military personnel or veterans with a disability purchased a waterfowl license.

Allowing a relatively small number of hunters to participate during this hunt is unlikely to create any issues with current youth hunters. In addition, it provides another weekend of public and private land hunting for these individuals.

Economic

The Department does not expect an economic impact.

Early Teal Season

The Department completed three years of evaluation of an experimental early teal season in 2014-2016 and as a result, the USFWS determined that Michigan can sustain an early teal season. An early teal season is now operationalized for teal production states including Michigan and the Department is recommending:

- September 1-16 statewide
- Daily bag limit of six teal and a possession limit of 18, which is three times the daily limit

- Hunting hours begin at sunrise

The Department and the CWAC recommend opening the early teal season as early as possible due to the greatest abundance of teal in Michigan during that time. Blue-winged teal are some of the earliest duck species to migrate each fall. Available information on teal migration in Michigan indicates that the peak of fall blue-winged teal migration is late August – early September. The Department and CWAC recommend utilizing the entire 16 days allowed under Federal Frameworks.

To improve waterfowl identification, the Department recommends no change to hunting hours (i.e., early teal season begin at sunrise rather than the usual half hour before sunrise for migratory bird hunting hours). Identifying duck species is difficult under low light conditions. The Canada goose season dates overlap the proposed teal season and goose hunting hours begin one half hour before sunrise. Very few (if any) enforcement issues have occurred related to these different opening hours, yet the Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement Division will continue to work together to mitigate hunter confusion through public education and communication with hunters while in the field, while providing maximum recreational opportunity.

The Department will continue to educate hunters on the identification of teal and provide information to help guide them to hunting locations where they are likely to encounter teal to ensure a successful teal season.

Duck Seasons

The USFWS offered a 60-day season and six-duck daily limit based on an adaptive harvest management strategy using 2019 prairie pond numbers and mid-continent mallard abundance as a guide to season length and daily duck limit. The Department developed the following duck season dates for 2020 based on feedback from CWAC, analysis of data on hunter opinions, migration timing, and hunter success.

The recommended dates for the 2020 duck season are:

- North Zone: September 26 to November 22 and November 28 to November 29
- Middle Zone: October 3 to November 29 and December 12 to December 13
- South Zone: October 10 to December 6 and December 26 to December 27

Duck Bag Limits

The daily bag limit for ducks will be six ducks with the following species-specific restrictions: four mallards (no more than two hens), three wood ducks, two black ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two scaup for 45-days and one scaup for 15-days, and one northern pintail. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take five mergansers, only two of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for ducks, coots, and mergansers. The only change in duck bag limits from 2019 is that scaup have decreased from three to a hybrid bag limit of two for 45 days and one for 15 days.

Scaup harvest restrictions are implemented under a Scaup Harvest Strategy which is based on the current scaup population model and an objective to achieve 95 percent of the maximum, long-term cumulative harvest. Based on a moderate regulatory alternative selected for the 2019 hunting season and the 2019 survey results of 3.59 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2020 hunting season for all four Flyways is the restrictive regulatory alternative. This restrictive framework allows for a 60-day season with a limit of two birds for 45 days and one bird for 15 days. The 45 and 15-day segments must be consecutive hunting days. Based on fall diving duck abundance measures from Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie as well as an analysis of scaup harvest in Michigan, the Department recommends the following dates for the hybrid scaup bag limits which reflect a two-bird limit for the first 45 days of the season in the North and Middle Zones and a one-bird limit for the first 16 days of the season in the South Zone (an additional day of a one-bird limit is included in the South Zone so that a bag limit change doesn't occur during a weekend). We believe that this will maximize scaup harvest opportunity in each zone:

- North Zone: September 26 to November 9 (two bird limit), November 10 to November 22 (one-bird limit), and November 28 to November 29 (one bird limit)
- Middle Zone: October 3 to November 16 (two bird limit), November 17 to November 29 (one bird limit) and December 12 to December 13 (one bird limit)
- South Zone: October 10 to October 25 (one bird limit), October 26 to December 6 (two bird limit), and December 26 to December 27 (two bird limit)

At their February 1 meeting, the CWAC recommended the following dates for the hybrid scaup bag limits which reflects a two-bird limit for the first 45 days of the season and a one-bird limit for the remaining 15 days for all zones:

- North Zone: September 26 to November 9 (two bird limit), November 10 to November 22 (one bird limit), and November 28 to November 29 (one bird limit)
- Middle Zone: October 3 to November 16 (two bird limit), November 17 to November 29 (one bird limit) and December 12 to December 13 (one bird limit)
- South Zone: October 10 to November 23 (two bird limit), November 24 to December 6 (one bird limit), and December 26 to December 27 (one bird limit)

Goose Seasons

The Department recommends goose season dates based on Canada goose population goals, feedback from the CWAC, and surveys of waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunters expressed their desire for additional opportunities to hunt ducks and geese on the same days. The recommended season dates provide for overlap of goose and duck seasons.

Federal frameworks for the Mississippi Flyway allow for a 107-day Canada goose season with a daily bag limit of five from September 1-30 and three from October 1-February 15, 2021. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for geese.

While few other goose species are harvested in Michigan, the Department makes recommendations that allow goose hunters to take these species if they have the opportunity. The recommended dates for the season for white, blue, and Ross' geese, white-fronted geese, and

brant are the same as the Canada goose seasons in each respective zone and Goose Management Unit (GMU). The daily bag limits for white, blue, and Ross' geese is 20. To maximize opportunity, the Department is again recommending a dark goose aggregate daily bag limit for Canada geese, white-fronted geese, and brant of five, only one of which can be a brant from September 1-30, only three of which can be Canada geese, and one can be a brant beginning October 1.

The 2019 Michigan Canada goose population estimate was 244,208, which was not statistically different from 2018. The last several years' estimates have been near the upper goal range of 175,000-225,000. Federal frameworks for Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway are liberal and allow for 107 days of hunting, the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The recommended season dates and bag limits take advantage of the most days and highest bag limits possible. September dates of the Canada goose season are timed so that resident geese are most susceptible to harvest. This is a good tool to maintain Michigan's Canada goose population at or near the goal range, which will help address human-goose conflicts.

The Department and the CWAC recommend the following dates and daily bag limits for Canada goose seasons:

- North Zone regular season: September 1 to September 30 (five bird daily bag limit) and October 1 to December 16 (three bird daily bag limit)
- Middle Zone: September 1 to September 30 (five bird daily bag limit) and October 1 to December 16 (three bird daily bag limit)
- South Zone: September 1 to September 30 (five bird daily bag limit), October 10 to December 6 (three bird daily bag limit), December 26 to December 27 (three bird daily bag limit), and January 23 to February 8, 2021 (three bird daily bag limit)
- Allegan Goose Management Unit: September 1 to September 30 (five bird daily bag limit), November 7 to November 14 (three bird daily bag limit), November 26 to December 6 (three bird daily bag limit), and December 19 to February 14, 2021 (three bird daily bag limit)
- Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit: October 17 to December 22 (three bird daily bag limit)

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

States are allowed to make changes to duck season zones and season splits every five years and these changes conform to one of several options offered by USFWS. There is currently an open season for changes for the 2021-2025 hunting seasons. Throughout 2019, the Department worked with the CWAC to identify proposals for zone changes. In addition to discussions with the CWAC, the Department solicited waterfowl hunter input including an internet survey to assess waterfowl hunters' preferences for zones and zone boundaries. Based on this information, the Department and the CWAC are recommending a zone boundary change between the Middle and South Zones that would move Saginaw Bay into the Middle Zone. The Saginaw Bay region can ice up earlier than other areas in the current South Zone, and managed waterfowl hunting areas on Saginaw Bay have lost up to 14 days of hunting opportunity due to freeze up in recent years. Moving Saginaw Bay to the Middle Zone would potentially provide some earlier hunting

opportunity for earlier migrating ducks and potentially more ice-free days for hunting. Following is the recommended Middle Zone description:

- Middle Zone: “Waterfowl hunting middle zone” or “middle zone” means that area of the Lower Peninsula located north of a line beginning at the Michigan- Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, directly due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then proceed easterly and southerly along the centerline of Stoney creek to its intersection with Scenic drive, southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake road then both west and east Garfield roads (name change only; not an intersection) then crossing highway US-31 to state highway M-20 (north of the town of New Era; also locally named Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on US-10-BR to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on US-10 then crossing US-75 to state highway M-25 (west of the town of Bay City), easterly along M-25 into Tuscola county then northeasterly and easterly on M-25 through Tuscola county into Huron county, turning southeasterly on M-25 (near the town of Huron city; also locally named north Shore road) to the centerline of Willow creek in section 4, T18N R14E, Huron county, then northerly along the centerline of Willow creek to the mouth of Willow creek into Lake Huron, then directly due east along a line from the mouth of Willow Creek heading east into Lake Huron to a point due east and on the Michigan/USA-Canadian border.

Falconry

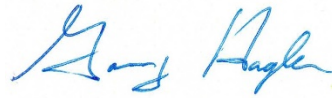
For the falconry season, the recommended dates for the additional days outside the gun hunting seasons for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens are December 28, 2020 to January 10, 2021 and February 24 to March 10, 2021. The daily and possession limits remain unchanged. The Department continues to discuss falconry dates with the Michigan Hawking Club.

Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on March 19, 2020, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item

appeared on the Department's February calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 16, 2020.



Daniel Kennedy, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



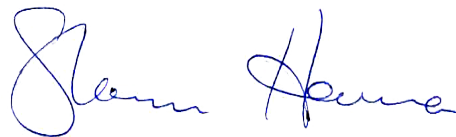
Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

April 16, 2020
Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 4 of 2020

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective April 17, 2020, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

1.2 Definitions.

Sec. 1.2 (1) Definitions in part 3 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.301; part 401, wildlife conservation, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40101 to 324.40119; and part 435, hunting and fishing licenses, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43501 to 324.43561, and in this order shall have the same meanings in this order. Additional definitions for terms used in this order are as defined in this section.

(2) “Advanced illness” means a medical or surgical condition with significant functional impairment that is not reversible by curative therapies and that is anticipated to progress toward death despite attempts at curative therapies or modulation, the time course of which may or may not be determinable through medical prognostication.

(3) “Antlered deer” means a deer having at least 1 antler that extends 3 inches or more above the skull. For the purposes of determining if an antler extends 3 or more inches above the skull, the measurement shall be taken on the longest antler beginning at the line where the antler and pedicel join, along the back of the antler, following the curve, if any, to the tip of the longest antler point. For the purposes of this section, “pedicel” means the bone of the skull to which the antler is attached.

(4) “Antlerless deer” means a deer without antlers or a deer with antlers where the longest antler extends less than 3 inches above the skull.

(5) “CWD management zone” means an area defined in chapter XII of this order subject to Michigan’s surveillance and response plan for chronic wasting disease.

(6) “Core CWD area” means an area defined in chapter XII for the control and surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

(7) “Deer and elk feeding” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(8) “Feed” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(9) “Game” means any animal designated as game under the authority of section 40110 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40110, and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, geese, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, moose, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharptailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, wolf, woodchuck, and woodcock. “Game” does not include privately owned cervidae species located on a cervidae livestock facility registered under 2000 PA 190, MCL 287.951 to 287.969.

(10) “Migratory game bird” means a bird as defined by 50 C.F.R. §20.11 (1988).

(11) “Modified bow” means a bow, other than a crossbow, that has been physically altered so that the bow may be held, aimed, and shot with one arm.

(12) “New world camelids” means animals belonging to the genus llama and vicuna of the family camelidae of the order artiodactyla including, but not limited to, the llama, alpaca, vicuna, and guanaco.

(13) “Physical therapist” means the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17801.

(14) “Physician” the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001.

(15) “Raptor” means any bird species of the orders strigiformes, accipitriformes, and falconiformes.

(16) “Residence” shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40103 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40103.

(17) “Limited firearms deer zone” means that area south of a line beginning at a point on the Wisconsin-Michigan boundaryline directly west of the west end of highway M-46; then east to M-46 and east along M-46 to its junction with freeway US-131; then south along freeway US-131 to M-57; then east along M-57 to its intersection with Montcalm road on the Kent-Montcalm county line; then south along that county line and the Ionia-Kent county line to its intersection with M-44; then east along M-44 to its intersection with M-66; then north along M-66 to its intersection with M-57; then east along M-57 to its intersection with M-52; then north along M-52 to its intersection with M-46; then east along M-46 to its intersection with M-47; then north along M-47 to its junction with US-10; then east along US-10 to its junction with I-75; then north along I-75 and US-23 to its junction with beaver road, Kawkawlin township, Bay county; then east along beaver road to Saginaw bay; then north 50 degrees east to the international boundary with Canada.

(18) “Waterfowl hunting north zone” or “north zone” means all of the Upper Peninsula.

(19) “Waterfowl hunting middle zone” or “middle zone” means that area of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stoney creek to Scenic drive, easterly and southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake and Garfield roads to highway M-20 (Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on highway M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on highway US-10 business route to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on highway US-10 to highway I-75/US-23, northerly on highway I-75/US-23 to the highway US-23 exit at Standish, easterly on highway US-23 to the center line of the Au Gres river, southerly along the center line of the Au Gres river to Saginaw bay of Lake Huron, and from that point on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the international boundary with Canada in Lake Huron.

(a) Effective for the start of the 2021 waterfowl hunting season, “Waterfowl hunting middle zone” or “middle zone” means that area of the Lower Peninsula located north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, directly due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then proceed easterly and southerly along the centerline of Stoney creek to its intersection with Scenic drive, southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake road then both west and east Garfield roads (name change only; not an intersection) then crossing highway US-31 to state highway M-20 (north of the town of New Era; also locally named Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on US-10-BR to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on US-10 then crossing US-75 to state highway M-25 (west of the town of Bay City), easterly along M-25 into Tuscola county then northeasterly and easterly on M-25 through Tuscola county into Huron county, turning southeasterly on M-25 (near the town of Huron city; also locally named north Shore road) to the centerline of Willow creek in section 4, T18N R14E, Huron county, then northerly along the centerline of Willow creek to the mouth of Willow creek into Lake Huron, then directly due east along a line from the mouth of Willow Creek heading east into Lake Huron to a point due east and on the Michigan/USA-Canadian border.

(20) “Waterfowl hunting south zone” or “south zone” means all of that area of the Lower Peninsula south of the line described in middle zone.

(21) “Zone 1” means all of the Upper Peninsula.

(22) “Zone 2” means all of that part of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line due west of the Lake Michigan shoreline which is north of Muskegon lake and due west of the western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive in Muskegon county, then easterly to said western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive, easterly on memorial drive to Ruddiman drive, northeasterly on Ruddiman drive to lake avenue, northeasterly on lake avenue to highway M-120 (also known as Holton road) in North Muskegon,

northeasterly and then northerly on highway M-120 to highway M-20, easterly on highway M-20 to highway business route US-10 in the city of Midland, easterly on combined highway M-20 and highway business route US-10 to highway US-10 at the Midland-Bay county line, easterly on highway US-10 to Garfield road in Bay county, northerly on Garfield road to Pinconning road, easterly on Pinconning road to seven mile road, northerly on seven mile road to the Bay-Arenac county line (where seven mile road changes name to Lincoln school road), northerly on Lincoln school road (also known as county road 25) in Arenac county to highway M-61, easterly on highway M-61 to highway US-23, northeasterly then easterly on highway US-23 to the center line of the Au Gres river, southerly along the center line of the Au Gres river to Saginaw bay of Lake Huron, easterly 90° east for 7 miles into Saginaw bay, then northerly 78° east (dividing Arenac county islands from Huron county islands) to the international boundary line between the United States and the dominion of Canada.

(23) “Zone 3” means all that part of the Lower Peninsula south of the line described in zone 2.

(24) “Skull cap” means any part of the skull that includes the pedicel and the antlers originating from the frontal bones, that has been removed from the rest of the skull of the animal.

(25) “Core CWD surveillance area” means an area defined in chapter XII for the surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

3.415 Migratory birds open seasons, possession limit defined, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415. The migratory bird possession limit shall be three times the daily limit. The migratory bird hunting open seasons and exceptions are as shown in table 10:

**TABLE 10
MIGRATORY BIRD OPEN SEASONS**

Season and Species	Zone or Management Unit	Open Season
Ducks (regular season)	North Zone	September 26 to November 22 and November 28 to November 29
	Middle Zone	October 3 to November 29 and December 12 to December 13
	South Zone	October 10 to December 6 and December 26 to December 27
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Coots		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Common Moorhens (Gallinules)	Statewide	September 1 to November 9
Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Brant, Snow Goose, and Ross' Goose	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to December 16
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 30, October 10 to December 6, December 26 to December 27, and January 23 to February 8, 2021
	Allegan County GMU	September 1 to September 30, November 7 to November 14, November 26 to December 6, and December 19, 2020 to February 14, 2021
	Muskegon County W.W. GMU	October 17 to December 22

3.415c Veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days, season established, limits defined, requirements, hunting hours, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415c The veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days shall be 2 consecutive days starting the third Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and

wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) on the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days:

(1) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel shall possess afield documentation verifying that they are an active-duty member of the military or documentation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs verifying that they are a veteran. The documentation must be presented upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

(2) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) provided the veteran or active military personnel is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply during the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunt.

3.416 Migratory game birds; daily limit.

Sec. 3.416. The daily limit of migratory game birds for the seasons specified in section 3.415 shall be as follows:

(1) Ducks, daily limit. The daily limit shall be 6 ducks of which no more than 4 may be mallards, no more than 2 may be a hen mallard, no more than 2 may be black ducks, no more than 3 may be wood ducks, no more than 1 may be a pintail, no more than 2 may be redheads, and no more than 2 may be canvasbacks.

(a) As part of the total daily limit for ducks as described in section (1), the daily limit for scaup for the zones and dates specified shall be as follows:

Zone or Management Unit	Dates	Daily Limit
North Zone	September 26 to November 9	No more than 2 scaup
	November 10 to November 22 and November 28 to November 29	No more than 1 scaup
Middle Zone	October 3 to November 16	No more than 2 scaup
	November 17 to November 29 and December 12 to December 13	No more than 1 scaup
South Zone	October 10 to October 25	No more than 1 scaup
	October 26 to December 6 and December 26 to December 27	No more than 2 scaup

(2) Merganser, daily limit. The merganser daily limit shall be 5 mergansers of which no more than 2 may be a hooded merganser.

(3) Dark geese (Canada, white-fronted and Brant), north, middle, and south zones, including GMUs, daily limit. During September, in the north, middle, and south zones as described in sections 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9 of this order, respectively, and all GMUs as described in sections 12.702 and 12.703 the daily limit of dark geese shall be 5, only 1 of which can be a Brant. After September 30, the daily limit for dark geese shall be 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a Brant.

(4) Light geese (snow, blue and Ross), daily limit. The daily limit on light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) shall be 20.

(5) Coot, daily limit. The daily limit of coot shall be 15.

(6) Common moorhen (gallinule), daily limit. The daily limit of moorhen shall be 1.

3.422 Migratory birds, falconry, open seasons; daily limit, possession limit.

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking common snipe (jacksnipe), woodcock, and Virginia and Sora rails by falconry shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species as described in sections 3.415 and 3.420.

(2) The open season for taking geese shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units.

(3) The open season for taking duck, merganser, coot and common moorhen (gallinule) shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall be open statewide December 28, 2020 to January 10, 2021 and February 24 to March 10, 2021.

(4) The daily limit for migratory game birds taken by falconry shall be 3 birds combined, and the possession limit shall be 9 birds combined.

Issued on this 16th day of April, 2020.

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



David Nyberg, Acting Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger
Director