

FO-215.11

STATEWIDE COOLWATER REGULATIONS FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS, SMALLMOUTH BASS, NORTHERN PIKE, WALLEYE, MUSKELLUNGE, CHANNEL CATFISH, FLATHEAD CATFISH, YELLOW PERCH, SUNFISHES, AND WHITE BASS

By authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment by sections 41101 through 41105 and 48721 of 1994 PA 451, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105 and 324.48721, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment on December 9, 2010 ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, the statewide seasons, size limits, and daily possession limits on all state waters shall be as listed below, except as otherwise ordered:

A. STATEWIDE SEASONS

A person shall not take, catch, or kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any of the species of fish named in this Order except during the possession seasons that are specified below for each species of fish named in this Order.

1. Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass
 - a. Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, Detroit River
 - i) The possession season shall be the third Saturday in June through December 31.
 - ii) Catch-and-immediate-release fishing shall be permitted from the last Saturday in April to the Friday before the third Saturday in June. All bass caught during this period shall be immediately returned to the water.
 - b. Lake Michigan within one-half mile of the following islands of the Beaver Island Archipelago – Beaver, Garden, High, and Hog, all in Charlevoix County
 - i) The possession season shall be July 1 through December 31.
 - ii) Catch-and-immediate-release fishing shall be prohibited on these waters prior to the possession season.
 - c. All other waters not otherwise closed to fishing
 - i) The possession season shall be the Saturday before Memorial Day through December 31.
 - ii) Catch-and-immediate-release fishing shall be permitted from the last Saturday in April to the Friday before Memorial Day on all waters in the Lower Peninsula, including waters of the Great Lakes in the Lower Peninsula. Bass caught during this period shall be immediately returned to the water.
 - iii) Catch-and-immediate-release fishing shall be permitted from May 15 to the Friday before Memorial Day on all waters in the Upper Peninsula, including waters of the Great Lakes in the Upper Peninsula. Bass caught during this period shall be immediately returned to the water.
2. Walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge
 - a. Michigan's waters of Green Bay from the mouth of the Menominee River northward to the latitudinal line (45 degrees 15 minutes) located approximately 3 miles south of Rochereau Point
 - i) The possession season for walleye shall be open for the entire year.
 - ii) The possession season for northern pike and muskellunge shall be May 15 through March 15.
 - b. All other inland, Great Lakes, and connecting waters of the Upper Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing
 - i) The possession season shall be from May 15 through March 15.

- c. Inland waters of the Lower Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing
 - i) The possession season shall be from the last Saturday in April through March 15.
 - d. Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, and Detroit River
 - i) The possession season for muskellunge shall be the first Saturday in June through December 15.
 - ii) The possession season for walleye and northern pike shall be open for the entire year.
 - e. All other Great Lakes and connecting waters of the Lower Peninsula not otherwise closed to fishing
 - i) The possession season shall be open for the entire year.
3. Flathead catfish, channel catfish, yellow perch, sunfishes, and white bass
- a. All waters not otherwise closed to fishing
 - i) The possession season shall be open for the entire year.

B. STATEWIDE SIZE LIMITS AND DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT
Largemouth bass Smallmouth bass	14 inches	Five (5) in any combination, except no more than two (2) northern pike
Walleye (See Note 1)	15 inches, except 13 inches on Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River	
Northern pike	24 inches	
Flathead catfish	15 inches	
Muskellunge	42 inches	One (1)
Channel catfish	12 inches	Ten (10)
Yellow perch	No size limit	Fifty (50)
Sunfishes: Black Crappie Bluegill Green Hybrid Longear Pumpkinseed Redear Rock Bass Warmouth White Crappie	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) in any combination

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT
White bass	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) on Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River; Ten (10) on inland waters

Note 1: The following waters have daily possession limits for walleye that differ from the statewide daily possession limit:

1. St. Clair River beginning at the Ft. Gratiot Light and Lake St. Clair:
 - a. The daily possession limit may include one (1) additional walleye.
2. Michigan's waters of Green Bay (from the mouth of the Menominee River northward to the latitudinal line (45 degrees 15 minutes) located approximately 3 miles south of Rochereau Point:
 - a. March 2 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May the daily possession limit shall be one (1) walleye; and
 - b. The first Saturday in May through March 1 the daily possession limit shall be five (5) walleyes.
3. Lake Erie:
 - a. April 1 through April 30, 2011 the daily possession limit shall be five (5) walleyes.
 - b. Beginning May 1, 2011, the daily possession limit for walleye will be based on Michigan's share of the annual total allowable catch (TAC) for walleye pursuant to the categories in the table below. The TAC is reported in March of each year by the Lake Erie Committee, which is under the aegis of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
 - i) The daily possession limit for walleye will take effect on May 1 of each year and will be in place through April 30 of the following year.
 - ii) Prior to May 1 each year, a notice of the daily possession limit will be posted on the DNRE's website (www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing), noted in a statewide news release, and noted in printed material that will be made available to the public via various outlets.

If Michigan's share of the annual TAC is	Then the daily possession limit for walleye shall be
greater than 108,364	six (6)
96,958 to 108,364	five (5)
85,551 to 96,957	four (4)
74,144 to 85,550	three (3)
62,737 to- 74,143	two (2)
less than 62,737	one (1)

This Order shall be assigned number FO-215.11, and is entitled “Statewide Coolwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass.”

This Order supersedes the Order entitled “Statewide Coolwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Yellow Perch”, which became effective April 1, 2010 and is assigned number FO-215.10.

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2011. This Order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2016 or until this Order is amended/rescinded, whichever comes first. Although this Order may be reviewed and amended on an annual basis, a review of this Order shall occur no later than August 1, 2015.