

FO-249.15

Crayfish Regulations

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered that effective April 9, 2015, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

The following crayfish regulations shall be established:

General Crayfish Harvest Regulations

- 1) No minimum size limit.
- 2) No limit on possession.
- 3) Native crayfish may be harvested in all waters as long as the water body is open to fishing. In designated trout waters, crayfish may only be taken during the fishing season for trout.
- 4) Anglers may use traps, nets, hook-and-line or hands to harvest crayfish. All crayfish traps must bear the owner's name and address.

Special Crayfish Restrictions include the following:

- 1) Crayfish may not be possessed or used for bait, whether alive or dead, on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters.
- 2) Crayfish species not native to Michigan waters, may not be possessed live or used alive for bait, on any waters of this state whether those waters are public or private.
- i) A person is not considered to possess a live crayfish if the crayfish was obtained from the environment and the person only possesses the live crayfish at the specific location at which it was obtained from the environment.
- ii) A person is not considered to possess a live crayfish if the possession is for the purpose of promptly destroying the crayfish.
- 3) For purposes of this section, Michigan's native crayfish are defined as any of the following:
 - a) Calico crayfish (*Orconectes immunis*)
 - b) Northern clearwater crayfish (*Orconectes propinquus*)
 - c) Virile crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*)
 - d) Chimney crayfish (*Cambarus diogenes*)
 - e) Big river crayfish (*Cambarus robustus*)
 - f) Digger crayfish (*Fallicambarus fodiens*)
 - g) White river crayfish (*Procambarus acutus*)

This Order shall be assigned number FO-249.15, and is entitled "Crayfish Regulations."

This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Crayfish Regulations," which became effective April 1, 2014, and is assigned number FO-249.14.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.