

F.O.215.15

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 Director and/or the Natural Resources Commission 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:

A. For the purpose of this Order the following definitions are provided:

1. Catch-and-Immediate-Release (CIR): means the act of returning fish immediately to the water without injury and without holding in livewell or like object.

The statewide seasons, size limits, and daily possession limits on all state waters shall be as listed below, except as otherwise ordered:

B. 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 seasons that are specified below for each species of fish named in this Order.

- 1) Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass:
 - a) CIR fishing shall be permitted all year.
 - b) On Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, and Detroit River:
 - i) The possession season shall be the third Saturday in June through December 31.
 - c) On Lake Michigan within one-half mile of the following islands of the Beaver Island Archipelago – Beaver, Garden, High, and Hog, Charlevoix County:
 - i) The possession season shall be July 1 through December 31.
 - d) All other waters not otherwise closed to fishing:
 - i) The possession season shall be the Saturday before Memorial Day through December 31.
- 2) Walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge:
 - a) An area in the Green Bay portion of Lake Michigan, Menominee County, beginning at the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with the west shoreline of the Bay in Section 24, T36N, R24W, thence east approximately 6 miles to the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west, thence south approximately 10 miles to the intersection of longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west with the state boundary, thence southwesterly and westerly approximately 36 miles along the state boundary in Green Bay, between the mainland of Michigan and the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin, to the mouth of the Menominee River, thence northeasterly along the shoreline of Green Bay to the point of beginning:
 - 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.

C. Statewide coolwater regulations; size limits and possession limits.

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass (See Note 1)	14 inches	Five (5) per day in any combination, except no more than two (2) northern pike per day
Walleye (See Note 2)	15 inches, except 13 inches on Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River	
Northern Pike	24 inches	
Flathead Catfish	15 inches	
Muskellunge (including Tiger Muskellunge) (See Note 3)	42 inches	One (1) fish per angling season
Channel Catfish	12 inches	Ten (10) per day
Yellow Perch (See Note 4)	No size limit	Fifty (50) per day
Sunfishes: Black Crappie, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Hybrid Sunfish, Longear Sunfish, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Rock Bass, Warmouth, White Crappie	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) per day in any combination

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
White Bass	No size limit	Twenty-five (25) per day on Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River; Ten (10) per day on inland waters

Note 1: It shall be unlawful to possess any largemouth or smallmouth bass and any that are caught must be released immediately, in the area of the Huron River, Washtenaw County, starting at the Mast Road Bridge in the Village of Dexter (T1S, R5E, S32) downstream to the Delhi Road Bridge (T2S, R5E, S2).

Note 2: 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. Little Bay de Noc:
 - a. The daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) walleye 23" or greater from Little Bay de Noc north of a line drawn from Peninsula Point Lighthouse to the mouth of the Ford River in Delta County.
3. An area in the Green Bay portion of Lake Michigan, Menominee County, beginning at the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with the west shoreline of the Bay in Section 24, T36N, R24W, thence east approximately 6 miles to the intersection of latitude 45 degrees 30 minutes north with longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west, thence south approximately 10 miles to the intersection of longitude 87 degrees 10 minutes west with the state boundary, thence southwesterly and westerly approximately 36 miles along the state boundary in Green Bay, between the mainland of Michigan and the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin, to the mouth of the Menominee River, thence northeasterly along the shoreline of Green Bay to the point of beginning:
 - 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.
4. 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 DNR's website (www.michigan.gov/fishing), noted in a statewide news release, and noted in printed material that will be made available to the public via various outlets.

Michigan TAC	Walleye Possession Limit
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)

Note 3: A non-transferable Muskellunge Harvest Tag must be obtained prior to harvesting any muskellunge. The tag has no cost and is available at all license vendors. A harvested muskellunge shall be immediately tagged with a validated Muskellunge Harvest Tag. Muskellunge harvest is limited to one (1) muskellunge per angler per year (April 1 – March 31).

Note 4: Yellow perch caught from Lake Huron waters of Mackinac County and the St. Mary’s River and Lake Huron waters of Chippewa County shall be not less than 7 inches.

This Order shall be assigned number FO-215.15, 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, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass,” which became effective April 1, 2014, and is assigned number FO-215.14.

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