Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

January 11, 2018
Proposed Orders

• For Information – NRC
  – Falconry Regulations (WCO # 2 of 2018)

• For Action – NRC
  – Common Merganser Control Permits and Regulations (WCO # 1 of 2018)
NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

• Fisheries Chief Update
  – Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Plan

• Wildlife Chief Update
  – Falconry Regulations
  – Elk Season Results
  – Approval of Wildlife and Fisheries 2018 Issues Calendar
Fish Production
Facility Improvements
Fiscal Year 2017
Capital Outlay Project
Thompson Hatchery: $10.5M

- Coolwater building & rearing pond complex
- 250,000 additional walleye fingerlings
- 15,000 additional muskellunge fingerlings
- Replace raceway feeders
- Additional geothermal well
- Re-line indoor tanks
- 210,000 additional steelhead smolts

Schedule
- Design complete – Fall 2018
- Bid for construction – February 2019
- Construction complete – Summer 2020
- First fish reared – Spring 2021
Little Manistee River Weir: $1.75M

- Replace crumbling concrete ponds
- Replace ancient backup generator
- Replace fish crowders
- Upgrade electrical service
- Improve pump efficiency
- Modernize exterior lighting

Schedule
- Design complete – early Fall 2018
- Bid for construction – February 2019
- Construction complete – Summer 2020
Questions?
Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Plan

January 2018 NRC Meeting
Jay Wesley
Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator
Lake Michigan

• 5th largest lake in world
• Largest dunes in world
• Largest estuary in world
• Diverse fishing opportunities
• 50 years of salmon
Lake Michigan

- Clean water & food
- Regulate climate
- Nutrient cycling
- Recreation & tourism
- Spiritual & aesthetic benefits
Lake Michigan Fisheries Management

- States (WI, MI, IL, IN)
- Tribes
  - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
  - Bay Mills Indian Community
  - Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
  - Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
  - Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Federal Services (USFWS, NOAA, USGS, GLFC)
Lake Michigan Fisheries Management

• 1978 Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries
• Established Lake Committees
• Lake Michigan Committee
  – Fish Community Objectives
  – Environmental/Habitat Objectives
  – Management and Recovery Plans
  – Establish Lake Michigan Policy
  – Management by Consensus
Purpose of Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Plan

• Michigan’s strategy for managing aquatic resources in Lake Michigan

• Integrates:
  – Great Lakes Guiding & Ecosystem Principles
  – Fish Community Objectives
  – Fisheries Division Strategic Plan

• Acknowledges:
  – Michigan’s Water Strategy
  – DEQ, DNR
  – Office of the Great Lakes
  – Environmental Protection Agency
Angler survey (2014)
Survey MDNR Fisheries Staff (2015)
Discuss guiding principles and issues with Citizen Advisors (2016)
Create Focus Groups and discuss impediments and opportunities (2016)
Engage Stakeholder Groups
Draft Strategies, Tactics, and Outcomes (2017)
Review Complete Draft with Staff, Focus Groups, and Citizen Advisors
Public Meetings and Comment Period Nov. – Dec. 2017
Lake Michigan Fisheries Management

Mission
To protect and enhance Lake Michigan’s aquatic life and habitats for the benefit of current and future generations.

Vision
To provide world-class freshwater fishing opportunities, supported by healthy aquatic environments, which enhance the quality of life in Lake Michigan communities.

Values
The following seven values guide the work of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division staff in the Lake Michigan Basin:

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Professionalism
- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Communication
Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Plan

• Goals & Objectives
  – Broad & long-term

• Strategies
  – Somewhat broad & could change

• Tactics
  – Detailed actions to achieve outcomes
  – Reviewed annually

• Outcomes
  – Evaluate & report on progress
Key Outcomes

• No introductions of bighead, silver & black carps
• Add 500 miles of tributary connectivity through barrier removals and fish passage systems by 2025
• Balanced predator & prey community using the Chinook salmon & alewife model
• Diverse fishery comprised primarily of Chinook salmon, coho salmon & steelhead & secondarily of lake trout & brown trout
Key Outcomes (Cont.)

• Increase salmon & trout effort to 1.1 million hours (median effort from 2001-2016) annually for Michigan waters of Lake Michigan (2016’s effort was 687,000)
• Maintain & enhance data collection & analysis to monitor fish populations, quantify angler use & harvest, & evaluate management actions
• Accomplish Lake Michigan fishery management, outreach, research & financial needs through collaborative efforts
Zonal Fisheries Management
Brown Trout – Zonal Management
Future Stocking Proposal

- Brown trout: reduce by 150,000 (30%) and concentrate in zone.
- Coho salmon: move 75,000 south.
- Lake trout: reduce by 240,000 (11%).
- Chinook salmon: increase by 223,000 (67%).
A Living Plan

Implement Plan

Annually Seek Feedback

Make Adjustments

Update Strategies & Tactics
The Plan will be housed at:

- https://mdnrlmfmp.wordpress.com/
- *Provided by Michigan Sea Grant*
Thank you!

- Alliance for Economic Success
- Anglers at large
- Big Bird Charters
- Blood Run Tackle
- Captain Hook Charters
- City of South Haven
- General Public
- Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Grand Traverse Area Sport Fish Association
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Great Lakes Salmon Initiative
- Lake Michigan Basin Team
- Lake Michigan Citizen’s Fishery Advisory Committee
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Ludington and Scottville Area Chambers of Commerce
- Ludington Charter Boat Association
- Ludington Charter Service
- Ludington State Park
- Manistee County Sport Fishing Association
- Michigan Charter Boat Association
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Muskegon River Fishery Alliance
- Northern Adventures Fishing
- Northern Steel Outfitters
- Orchard Beach State Park
- Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pentwater Sportfishing Association
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Portage Lake Watershed Council
- Rays Marina
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- Trout Unlimited
- West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
Questions?
Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Wildlife Chief Update

• Disease Management Firearm Deer Hunts
Thank You
Falconry Regulations

Russ Mason, Chief
Background

• Falconry regulations are set on a three year cycle
• Discussions with Michigan Hawking Club and Michigan Audubon Society
Recommendations

- Apprentice falconers may utilize raptors held under a falconry permit for educational purposes under direct supervision of a general or master falconer.

- Nonresident falconers must obtain a Michigan falconry permit within 45 days of permanently relocating to Michigan.
Recommendations

• Another person may capture a raptor from the wild for a licensed falconer
  – Licensed falconer must be at the capture site
  – Raptor must be given to the licensed falconer at the capture site
  – Licensed falconer is responsible for reporting requirements
Recommendations

• Allow the Wildlife Division Permit Specialist to inspect and approve an applicant’s raptor housing facilities and equipment

• A licensed falconer who moves to a new residence or changes location of their facilities within Michigan prior to the permit expiration must notify the Wildlife Permit Specialist within 5 days and request an inspection
Recommendations

• Changing the due date for limited raptor capture permit application from January 15 to December 1
  – This aligns with the current start date of trapping season.
Annual Falconry Meet

• The Michigan Hawking Club Winter Field Meet is February 3, 2018 at the DeWitt Charter Township Community Center
Thank You
Elk Season Results

Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
January 11, 2018
2017 Late Elk Season Summary

• Hunt Period 2:
  – December 9-17

• Weather was favorable
  – Light to moderate snowfall during the first few days and during the season improved tracking conditions
  – License Quota: 100  Target: 87 elk
  – 30 any elk
  – 70 antlerless only elk
Elk Harvest – Late Season

• Hunt Period 2 Harvest
  – State hunter harvest: 84 legally harvested elk
    • 30 antlered bulls
    • 40 cows
    • 14 calves
    • 84% success
  – Tribal harvest: 13 elk
    • 4 bulls, 9 cows/calves
  – One reported law event
    • Spike bull shot on antlerless tag
Early Hunt Harvest Map
Late Hunt Harvest Map

2017 December Elk Harvest

Class
- Bull
- Calf
- Cow

DNR Parcels
Highway
Elk Boundary December
2017 Total Elk Season Summary

• Hunt Period 1 Harvest:
  – State hunter harvest: 74 legally harvested elk
    • 30 bulls, 44 cows/calves; 75% success

• Hunt Period 2 Harvest:
  – State hunter harvest: 84 legally harvested elk
    • 30 bulls, 54 cows/calves; 84% success

• Tribal Harvest: 19 elk

• All 3 Pure Michigan hunters successful

January Hunt is not recommended
Upcoming and Continued Activities
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/elk