

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife and Fisheries

July 11, 2019

Proposed Orders

- For Action – NRC
 - Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations
(Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment
No. 7 of 2019)

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Chief Update
 - Hunter Participation and Disease Management

Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter, Chief

July 11, 2019

***BASSMASTER's* Annual Top 100 Bass Lakes**

- Lake St. Clair – Top 10 in Nation
- Burt/Mullett Lakes
- Bays de Noc
- Saginaw Bay
- Lake Charlevoix
- Grand Traverse Bays



Habitat Management Unit – Stream Habitat Workshop

- Assistance from Trout Unlimited, EGLE
- Sponsored by Michigan Chapter AFS
- Participants: U.S. Forest Service, DNR, EGLE, TU, Anglers of the Au Sable, Grand Valley, Central Michigan, Michigan State & Michigan Tech
- Science, process, permits, contacts

Invasive Carp eDNA Early Detection Work

- 7th year of coordination/collaboration with USFWS
- Spring sampling completed – NO NEW detections
- Major tributaries targeted
- Kalamazoo River, Spring Lake, Lake Macatawa

Thank you!

Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason

Wildlife Chief Update

- Bang for Your Buck Information Sheet
- Advancing the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)

Thank You

Hunter Participation and Disease Management

Dan O'Brien, DVM PhD
State Wildlife Epidemiologist

Guiding principles for CWD management

- As part of the current CWD Surveillance and Response Plan as presented on May 9, 2018:
 - **“Effective CWD management relies on preventing establishment of the disease in the first place. Once CWD is established in an area, all methods tried to date have failed to eradicate the disease. Current evidence suggests that in those situations, cervid density reduction is no longer likely to be helpful. Nonetheless, density reductions in surrounding areas may help limit geographic spread.”**

Proactive vs. reactive management

- Counterintuitively, with CWD, our management focus needs to be on **prevention** in areas we currently believe are free of the disease, because **that's where we are most likely to be successful**. Thus far, reactive management of CWD has been overwhelmingly unsuccessful.
- Consequently, the idea of accepting a known disease risk (such as baiting and feeding) in hopes of gaining an offsetting control effect are fundamentally flawed.

Allowing bait or higher deer densities: Which is worse?

- Likely to be disease-specific
- Best answered by simulation modelling
- **Where CWD is already established**, there is no good evidence, either published or experiential, that deer density reductions work.
- Baiting and feeding creates circumstances that make it more likely that the disease can become established.

Thank You