

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

September 12, 2019

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – NRC
  - Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters (Fisheries Order 205.20)
  - Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters (Fisheries Order 206.20)
  - Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes and White Bass (Fisheries Order 215.20)
- For Information – Director
  - State Licensed Commercial Fishing (Fisheries Order 243.19)

# Proposed Orders

- For Action – NRC
  - Established Hunting and Trapping at Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2019)
  - Spawning Closures (Fisheries Order 204.20)
  - Designated Trout Streams in Michigan (Fisheries Order 210.20)
  - Sturgeon Regulations (Fisheries Order 240.19)

# **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

- Fisheries Division Chief Update
  - Review of Fisheries Regulations
- Wildlife Division Chief Update
  - White-nose Syndrome in Bats

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter, Chief

September 12, 2019

# Arctic Grayling Initiative Update

- Annual meeting – Oct. 8 in Manistee
- Remote Site Incubators – recommendations
- Stream Habitat Assessments
  - Jordan
  - Boardman
  - Maple
- Broodstock Development
  - Pathogen Control
- Timeline



# Steelhead Regulations for Inland Rivers

- All steelhead are now marked
- Wild steelhead vs. stocked
- Long-term performance of wild fish
- Opportunity to further enhance numbers
- Explore options for fishery enhancement



**Thank you!**



# **2019 Fisheries Orders**

Natural Resources Commission  
Meeting

September 12, 2019

# **Fisheries Orders For Information Only**

- 205: Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters
- 206: Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Lakes
- 215: Statewide Warmwater Species Regulations
- 243: State-Licensed Commercial Fishing (Director's authority)

# Fisheries Order 205

## For Information Only

- Add consistency for Muskellunge regulations on the MI-WI boundary waters.
  - Increase minimum size limit from 42 to 50"
  - Extend possession season to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>



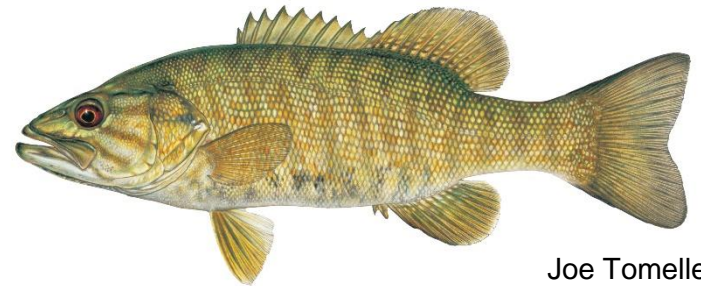
# Fisheries Order 205

## For Information Only

- Bass Regulations on the MI-WI boundary waters.
  - Align possession season dates by extending season to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>



Joe Tomelleri



Joe Tomelleri

# Fisheries Order 206

## For Information Only

- Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam, and Black River downstream of Alverno Dam.
  - Add delayed possession season date (May 15<sup>th</sup>) to protect spawning walleye.
  - Previous spawning closure (FO-204) unintentionally limited bass CIR opportunities.

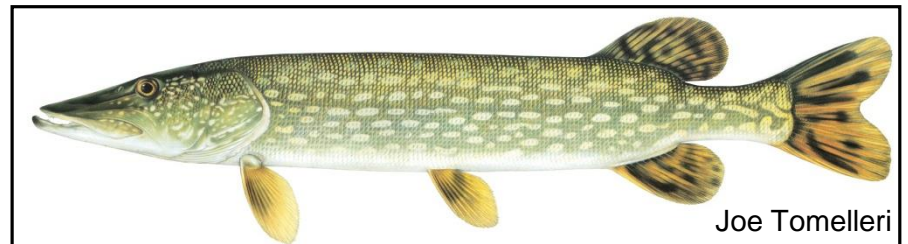


Credit: Wawwang Lake Resort

# Fisheries Order 206

## For Information Only

- Northern Pike Regulations
  - Twin Tomahawk lakes (Montmorency Co.): Add 5 fish daily possession limit with no more than 1 over 24"
  - Magician Lake (St. Joseph Co.): Add 24-34" protected slot limit with a two fish daily possession limit
  - Add McDonald Lake to Hamilton Lake (Delta Co.) for comprehensive naming
  - Lake Lavine (Branch Co.): Remove no size limit and possession limit



# Fisheries Order 215

## For Information Only

- Add simplicity to Walleye Regulations in the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair River.
- Align daily possession limits for these connected waters
- Daily possession limits will be determined using Lake Erie harvest quota process



# **Fisheries Order 243**

**For Information Only – Director's Authority**

- Modify commercial fishing reporting requirements to better align with the new electronic reporting process.



# **Thank you!**

Seth Herbst, Ph.D.

ASRA Unit Manager

Herbsts1 @Michigan.gov

# **Wildlife Chief Update**

**Russ Mason**

# Wildlife Chief Update

- Summary of the first 2019 elk season
- Overview of this week's CWD researcher conference at MSU
- Transition to the “Executive in Residence” at MSU

**Thank You**

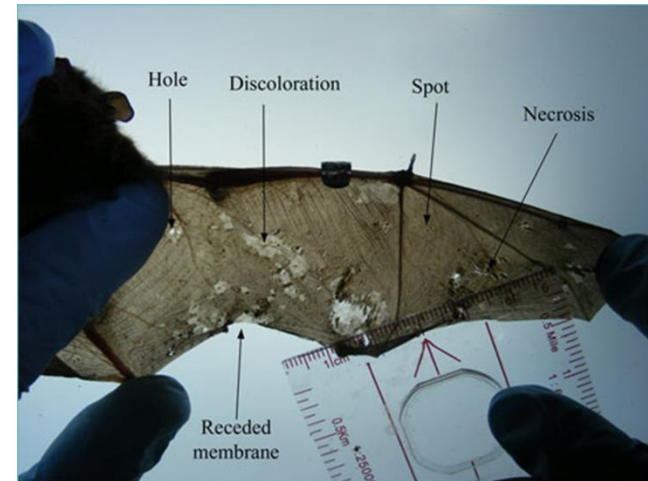
# White-Nose Syndrome Update



John DePue  
Wildlife Biologist

# What is WNS?

- Disease caused by fungus
- *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd)
- Causes energy depletion
- Impacts whole suite of cave bat species; little brown, northern long-eared, tri-colored, and big brown bats



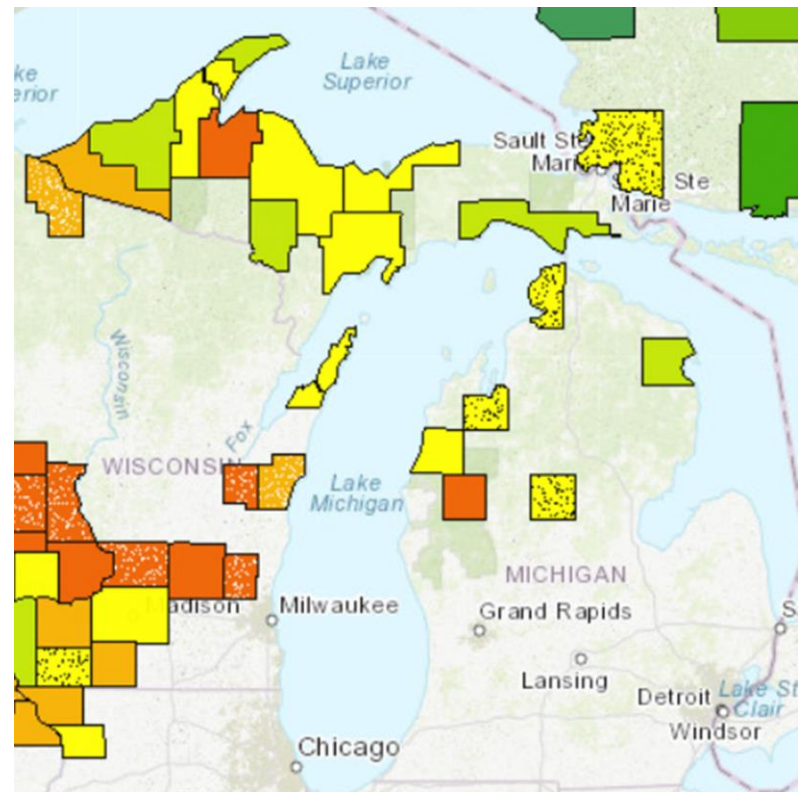
# Impacts of WNS

- 90-100% mortality
- Cause of northern long-eared bat (NLEB) declines
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the NLEB as a threatened species



# WNS in Michigan

- Michigan in 6<sup>th</sup> year of infection
- All hibernacula have presence of WNS
- Bats provide farmers 3.7 billion dollars of pest control services annually





# WNS Impacts in Michigan

- 30 hibernacula surveyed in 2018
- Survey data indicate 89% decline of the 45 sites surveyed post-WNS infection
- Colder hibernacula continue to have higher survival



# What is MI DNR Doing to Combat WNS?

- Statewide bat monitoring
  - Disease
  - Acoustic
- Protect critical hibernacula
- WNS treatment trials
- Outreach/ education
- Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)



# WNS Field Treatment Trials

- Chlorine dioxide
  - Kill Pd fungus
  - Initial results encouraging
- Chitosan
  - Helps heal tissue and suppresses growth of Pd fungus





# Hibernacula Climate Manipulation

- Reduce internal temperatures to 36-38 degrees F



# Outreach/ Education

- MI Bat Festival
  - October 5 Belle Isle Nature Center
- Programs



# Lake States HCP

- MI, WI, MN
- Necessary to obtain incidental take permit
- Protection from litigation for forestry management practices while providing habitat conservation for federally listed species



# Lake States HCP

- **Completed Activities**

- Drafted 6 of 8 chapters
- Several chapters provided for stakeholder review

- **Ongoing Activities**

- Chapters 6 & 7 almost complete
- NEPA document
- MI DNR engaging Forest Management Advisory Council and Timber Advisory Council



# Thank you!

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

