

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

October 11, 2018

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – NRC
  - Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations (FO 200.19)
  - Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations (FO 202.19)
  - Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass (FO 215.19)
  - Gear Restrictions for Fishing (FO 218.19)

# Proposed Orders

- For Action – Director
  - State-Licensed Commercial Fishing (FO 243.18)
- For Action – NRC
  - Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters (FO 206.19)
  - Designated Trout Streams for Michigan (FO 210.19)
  - Fishing Tournament Registration (FO 250.19)

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

- Fisheries Chief Update
  - Fishing Regulations
- Wildlife Chief Update
  - Preliminary Elk Season Results
  - Deer Check Update

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

October 11, 2018

# Fall Salmon Runs

- Little Manistee egg-take last week
- Boardman River run is strong for coho
- Platte River run is very strong for coho



# Arctic Grayling Initiative

- 3<sup>rd</sup> annual partners meeting to be held on Oct. 29
- Review of progress to date
- Selection of watersheds to investigate for introduction
- Fundraising event



Photos taken at MSU lab courtesy of Nicole Watson's research

**Thank you!**

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Fisheries Division

10 Brook Trout Streams

Jim Dexter and Seth Herbst

October 11, 2018

## **FO 200.18 (p. 30)**

The Department shall evaluate and determine whether up to 20% of the total mileage of the Type 1 waters in the Upper Peninsula may be recommended for this regulation. In 2018, the Department shall provide a report on this evaluation at a regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission.

# Research on 10 Brook Trout Bag

- 11 study stream reaches
- 2013-2016
- Control and treatment segments
- Electrofishing for population size/structure
- Angler creel surveys
- Electronic surveys

# Hypothesis

- A 10 brook trout daily bag limit is predicted to have minimal effect on populations
- Opportunities to harvest more fish is predicted to increase angler interest/participation/effort

# Basic Conclusions

- Brook trout populations in the Upper Peninsula are highly variable
- Research results were conflicting
- One treatment stream experienced a decline
- One control stream experienced a decline
- Reduced angler effort when a stream went to 10
- Environmental variables impossible to control

# Pertinent Facts

- 10 brook trout limit was in effect statewide for decades
- No known populations of brook trout were lost

# Social and Angler Creel Surveys

- 57% of anglers prefer a 5 fish bag limit
- 65% of anglers prefer to keep legal sized catch
- 66% of anglers are not influenced as to where to fish by the bag limit
- Fish quality, home waters, and familiarity most important
- Very light angling activity
- Most anglers catch few brook trout
- Very few can catch a limit

# Summary through 2017

- Populations are highly variable
- UP populations are low
- Higher bag limit has the potential to reduce populations
- Higher bag limit may lead to less angler activity
- Most anglers prefer a 5 fish bag limit
- No biological benefits of a 10 fish bag limit
- Potential risks with a 10 fish limit but hard to quantify

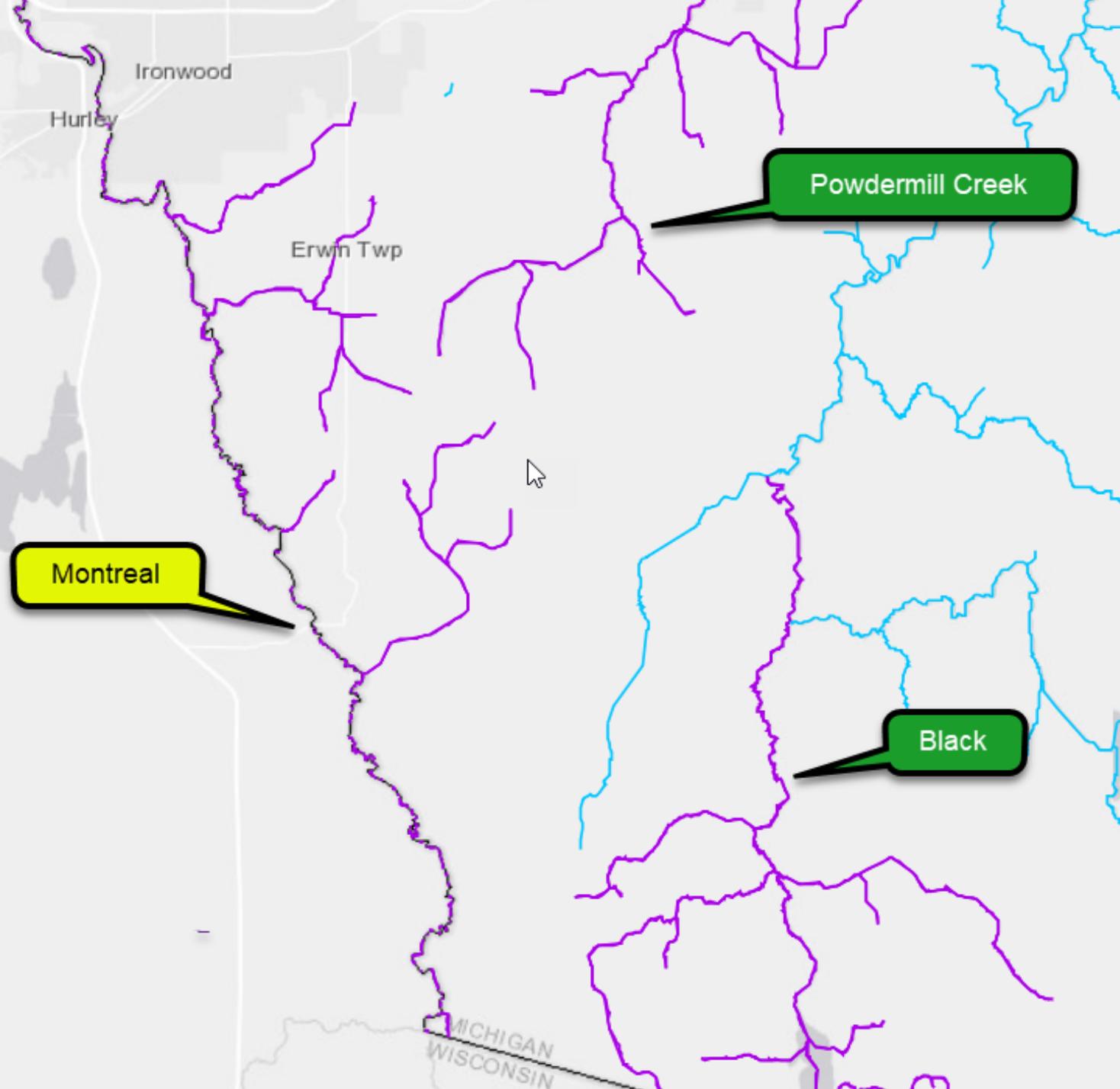
# Criteria / Guidelines for 10-Brook Trout regulation streams

- 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> order streams (3<sup>rd</sup> order where appropriate / acceptable)
- One “sub-watershed” per watershed or per county
- Judged likely to be acceptable by most people (proponents & opponents)
- **Not** streams where angling effort is high or moderate
- **Not** streams identified to date by public & staff
- **Not** critical brook trout habitat (spawning; thermal refuge)
- **Not** experimental coaster / remnant coaster / S&T streams

# Criteria / Guidelines met by 8 additional proposed streams

Criterion/Guideline	Montreal	Presque Isle	W. Br. Sturgeon	Upper Dead	Days	N. Br. Stutts	McAlpine Cr.
1st or 2nd Order stream						X	
1 stream/watershed/county							
Acceptable to most	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not critical BKT habitat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not experimental stream	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not stream previously ID'd	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not where hi/moderate effort	X	X	X	X	X	X	X





Ironwood

Hurley

Erwin Twp

Powdermill Creek

Montreal

Black

MICHIGAN  
WISCONSIN

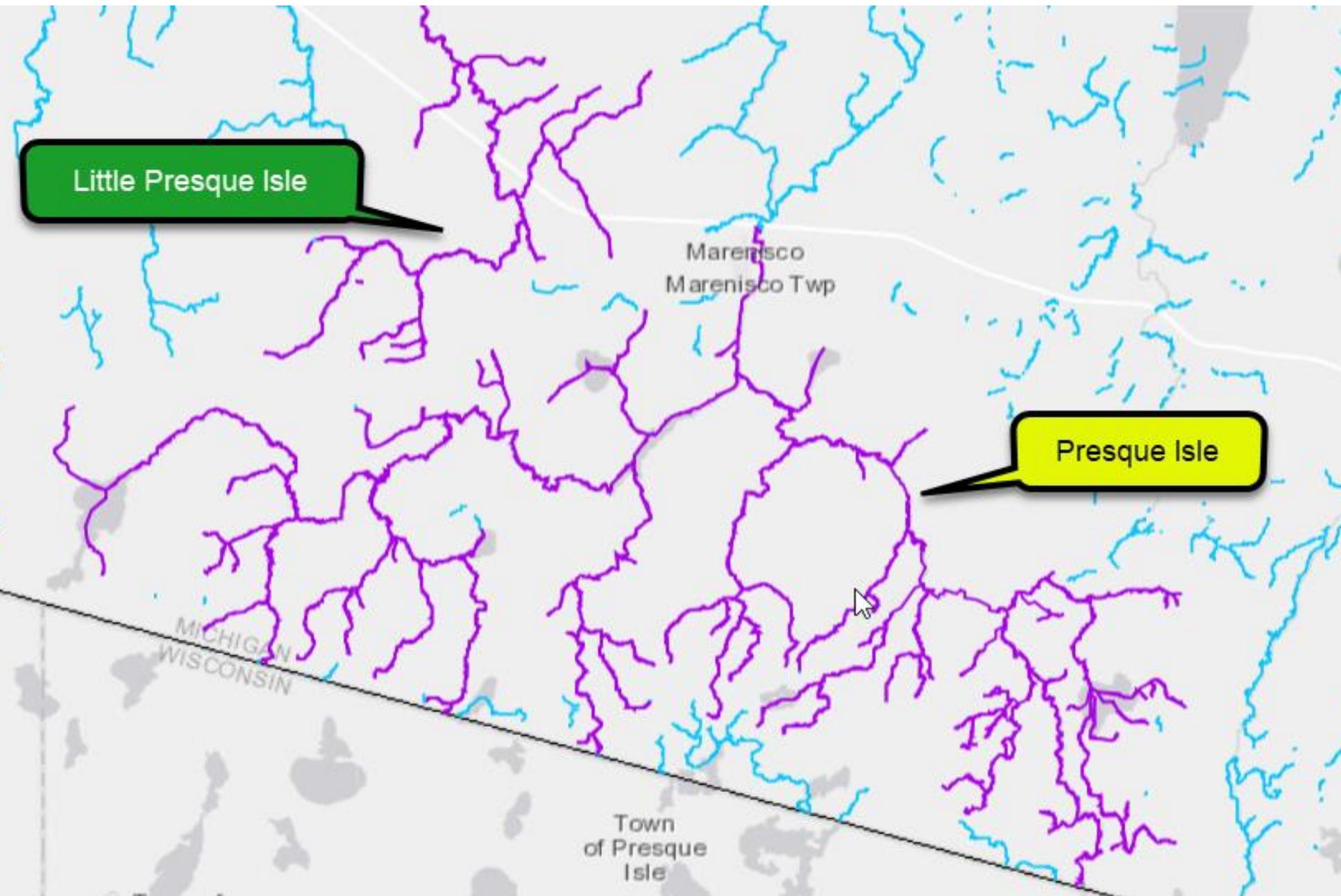
Little Presque Isle

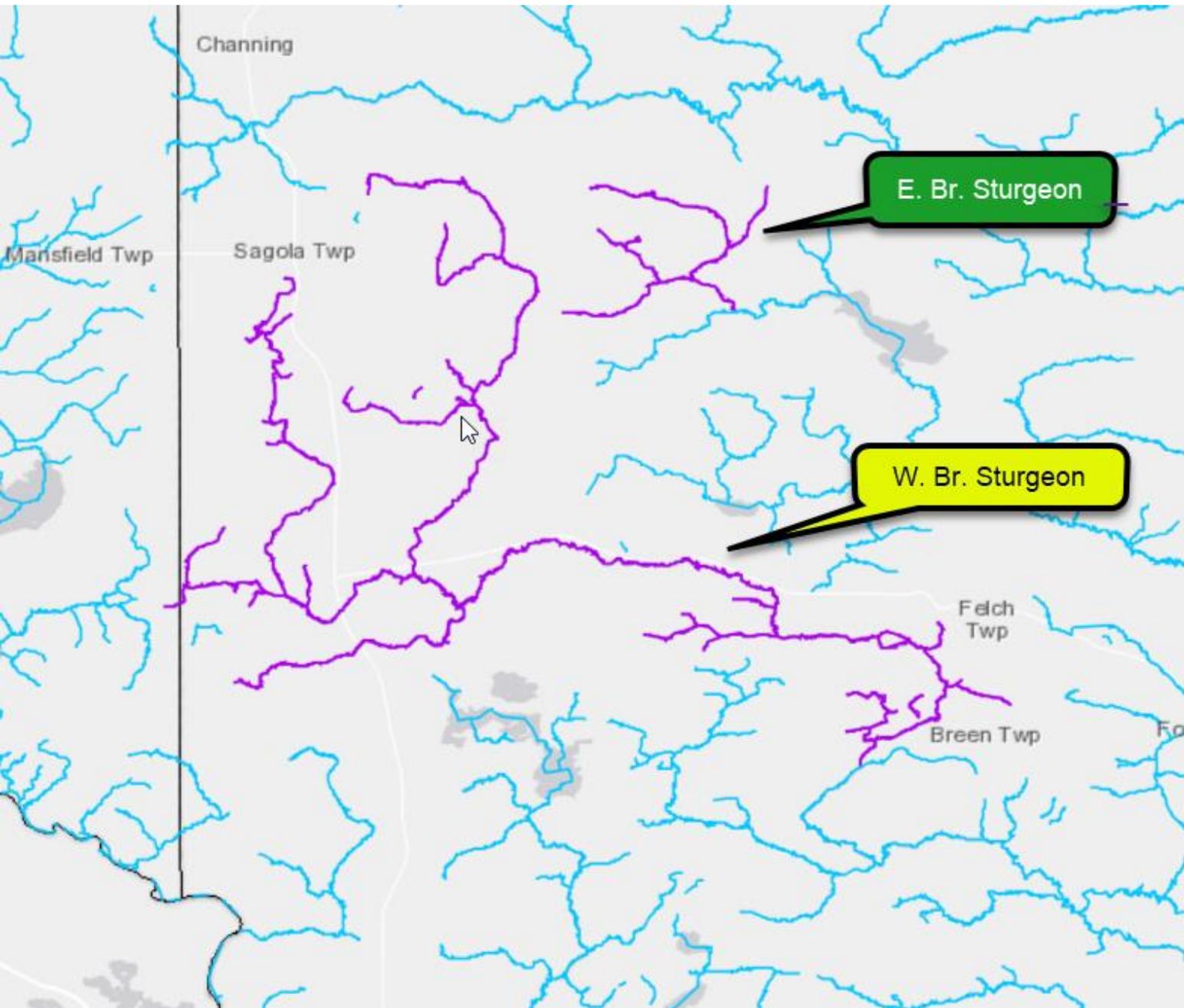
Marenisco  
Marenisco Twp

Presque Isle

MICHIGAN  
WISCONSIN

Town  
of Presque  
Isle





Channing

Mansfield Twp

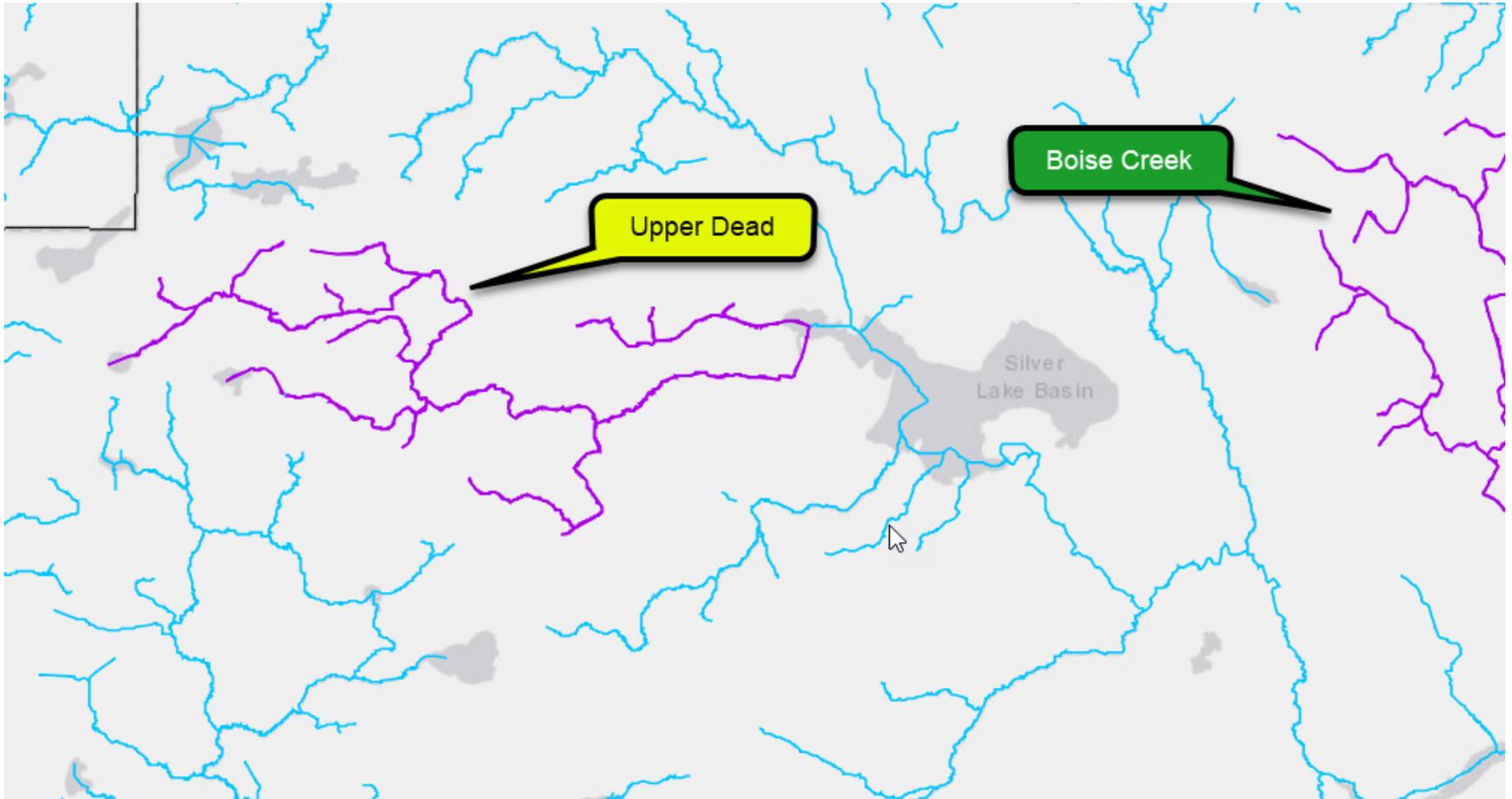
Sagola Twp

E. Br. Sturgeon

W. Br. Sturgeon

Felch  
Twp

Breen Twp





Brampton Twp

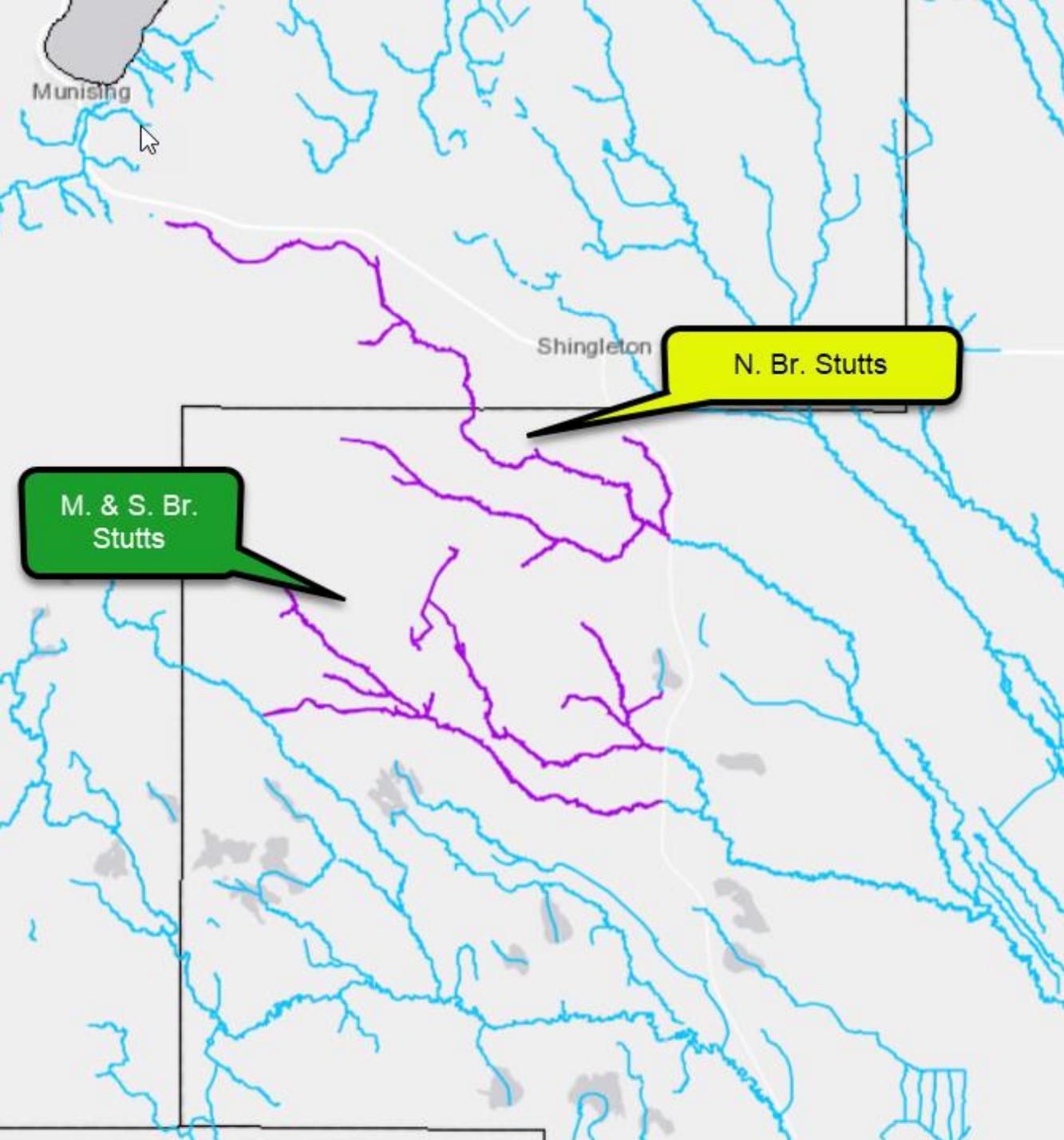
Days River

Masonville Twp

Jacobus River

Silver Creek

Days



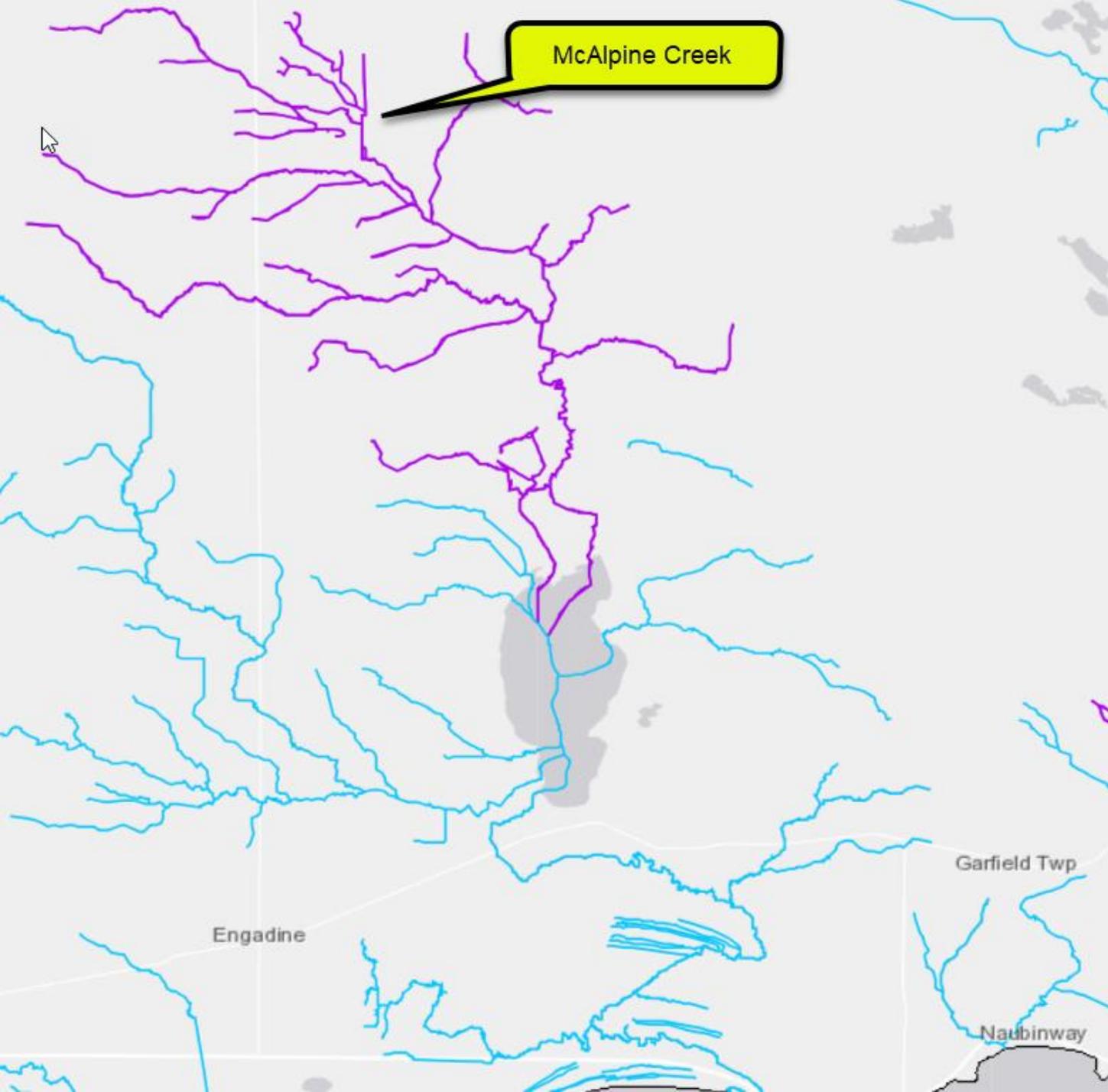
Munising

Shingleton

N. Br. Stutts

M. & S. Br.  
Stutts

McAlpine Creek



Engadine

Garfield Twp

Naubinway

# Summary Mileage / Criteria

Stream Name	County	Miles	Criteria met
Montreal	Gogebic	31	5/7
Presque Isle	Gogebic	155	5/7
W. Br. Sturgeon	Dickinson	81	5/7
Upper Dead	Marquette	23	5/7
Days	Schoolcraft/Alger	21	5/7
N. Br. Stutts	Dickinson	28	6/7
McAlpine Creek	Mackinac	52	5/7

# Recommendations

- 7 stream segments have been identified
- Limited information on 33 stream segments approved in 2017
- Conflicting research results through 2017
- Further evaluation would be beneficial

**Thank you!**

# **2018 Fisheries Orders**

Natural Resources  
Commission  
October 11, 2018

# **Fisheries Orders For Information Only**

- 200: Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations
- 202: Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations
- 215: Statewide Warmwater Species Regulations
- 218: Gear Restrictions for Fishing

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:
  - Remove “scented material” provision
    - Type D and GRS waters (except flies only waters)



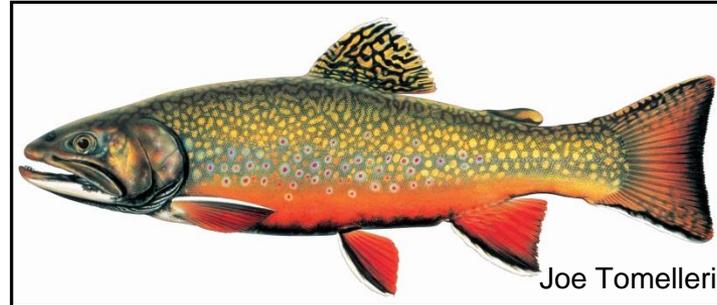
# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:
  - Remove Types on various waters
  - Change Types on various waters
  - Change boundaries on waters

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:

## Brook Trout



- Change min. size limit for non-classified streams from 8 to 7 inches

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 202:

Modifications to listings on the Muskegon, White, and Pentwater rivers

- Remove restrictive regulations above dams that were put in place to prevent snagging for salmon and trout

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

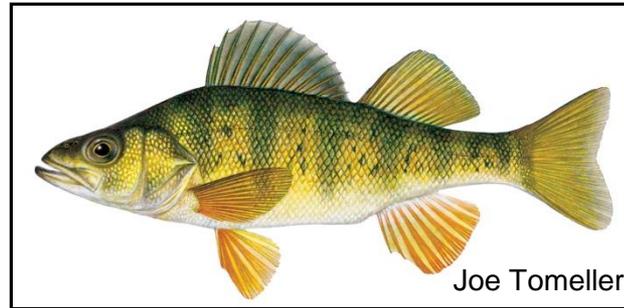
- 215:

Moves bass tournament information from FO-215 into FO-250 (new Order for fishing tournaments)



# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 215:

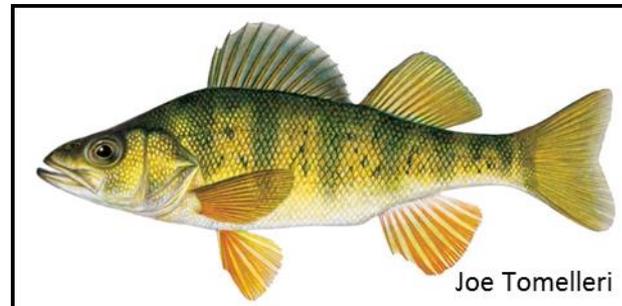


## Yellow Perch

- Remove 7” min size limit in Lake Huron waters and the St. Marys River
- Change possession limit to 25 statewide
  - Exceptions include L. Gogebic and L. Erie

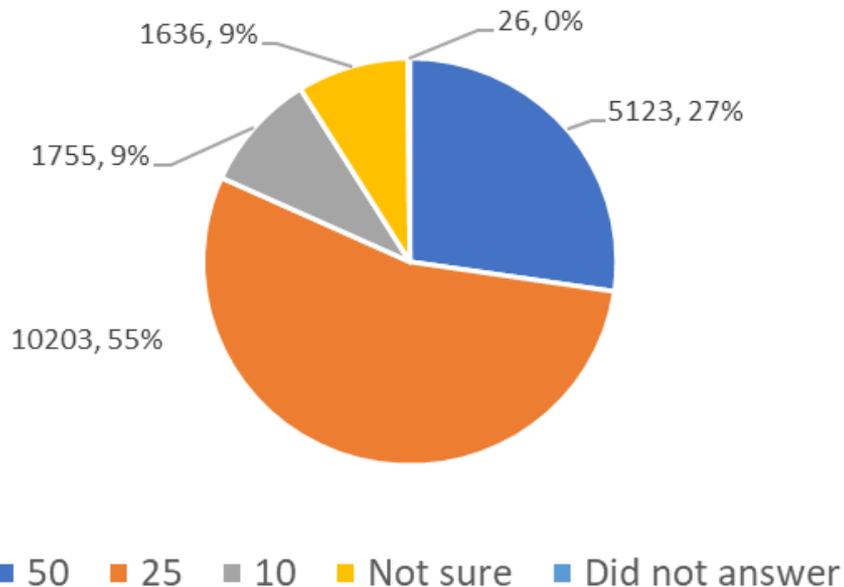
# Yellow Perch Possession Limit

- 50 fish possession limit was set in 1979
- Pattern of adding “exceptions” to the statewide regulation to limit harvest in certain areas
- Opportunity to standardize statewide yellow perch regulations
- Areas with exceptions causing enforcement issues
- Change is intended to better achieve an optimal balance between conservation and fishing opportunity



# Yellow Perch Angler Survey

What do you think is the most fair number of yellow perch for one angler to take home in a day?



## Survey Results:

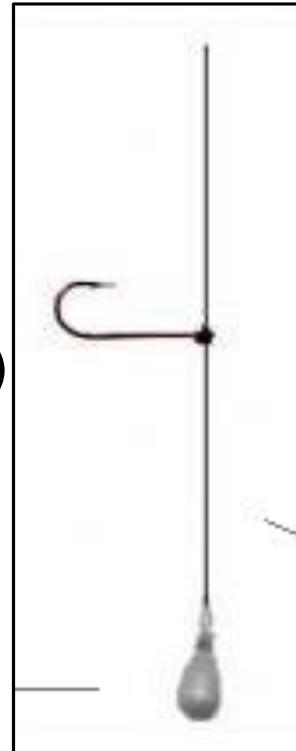
- 376,204 surveys
- 18,743 responses
- 64% for  $\leq 25$
- 27% for 50
- 9% not sure

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

218:

Allow drop-shotting in drowned river mouth lakes, but require only single-pointed hooks with  $\leq 1/2$ " gap

- Kalamazoo River and Silver Lake (Allegan)
- Betsie Lake (Benzie)
- Arcadia, Manistee, and Portage lakes (Manistee)
- Pere Marquette Lake (Mason)
- Duck, Mona, Muskegon, and White lakes (Muskegon)
- Pentwater, Silver, and Stony lakes (Oceana)
- Macatawa and Pigeon lakes (Ottawa)



**Thank You**

**Questions?**

# **Wildlife Chief Update**

**Russ Mason**

# Wildlife Chief Update

- Wildlife Habitat Grant Program
- State Fish and Wildlife Management Authority on Department of the Interior Lands and Water
  - Memorandum to the Heads of Bureaus and Offices from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke
- UP Deer Movement Study Update
  - Keep up to date: [Camp Fire Wildlife Facebook Page](#)
  - Find previous reports: [Camp Fire Program in Wildlife Conservation Deer Movement Project](#)

**Thank You**

# 2018 Fall Elk Season Results



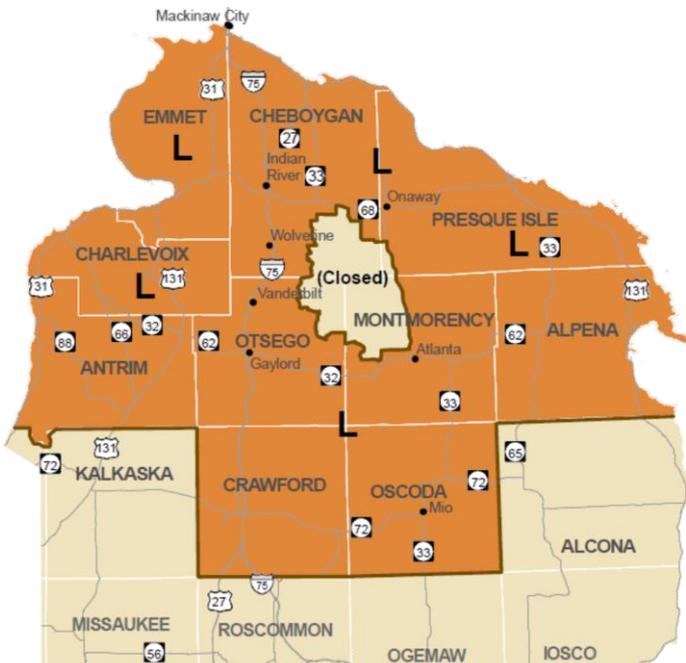
Chad Stewart  
Deer, Elk, and Moose Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

# 2018 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

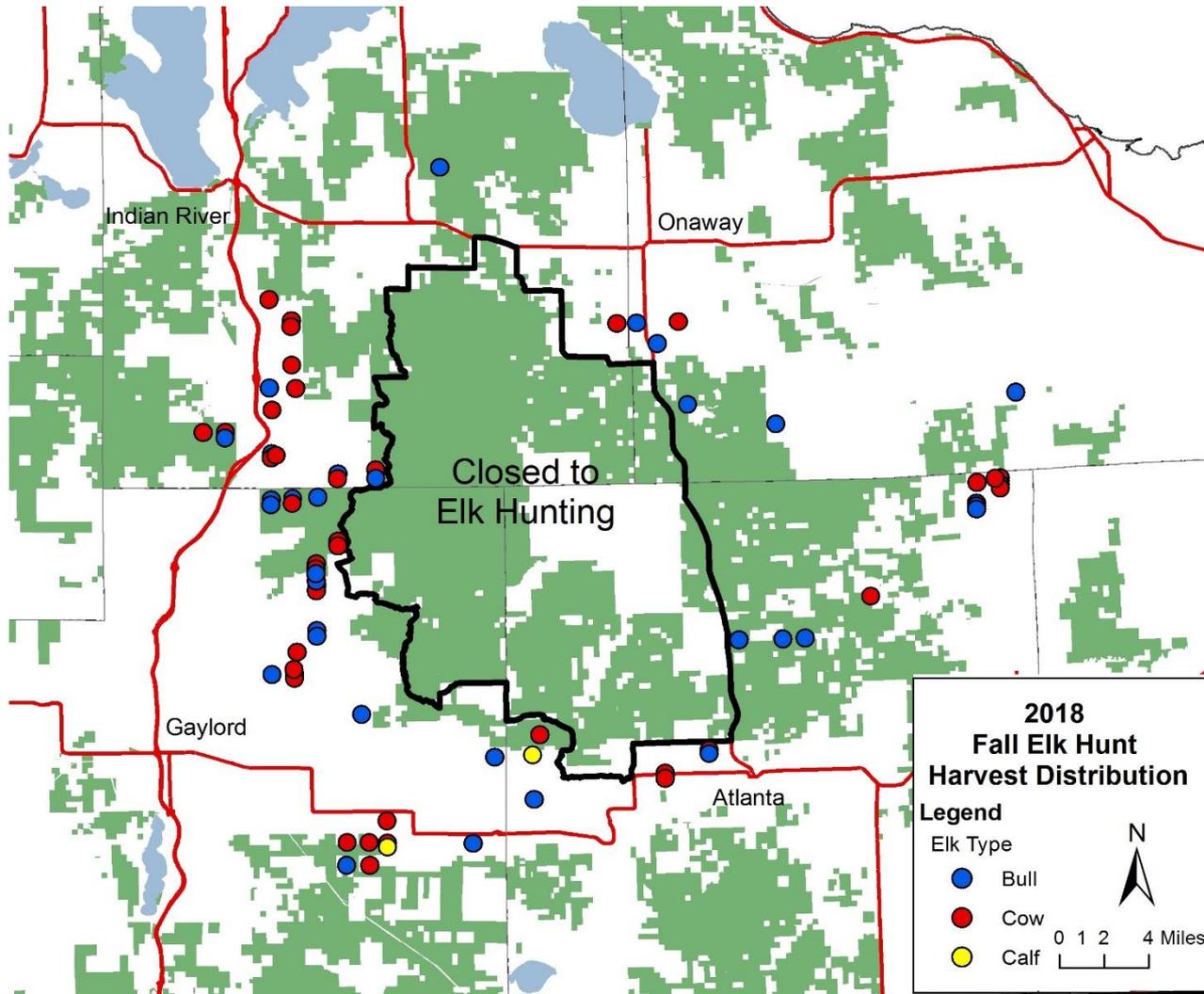
- Hunt Period 1:
  - Aug 28-Aug 31, Sept 14-17, Sept 28-Oct 1
- Weather was extremely variable
  - First portion had severe storms and tornadoes
  - Second portion had extremely high temps
  - Ideal cooler temps in final portion
- License Quota: 100
  - 30 any elk
  - 70 antlerless only elk

# Elk Harvest – Early Season

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest (99 hunters)
  - State hunter harvest: 69 legally harvested elk
    - 28 antlered elk (bulls)
    - 41 antlerless elk (38 cows)
    - 69% success
  - 3 bulls by Pure Michigan Hunters
  - Tribal harvest: 3 elk
    - 2 antlered elk (bull), 1 antlerless elk (cow)
  - No notable law issues

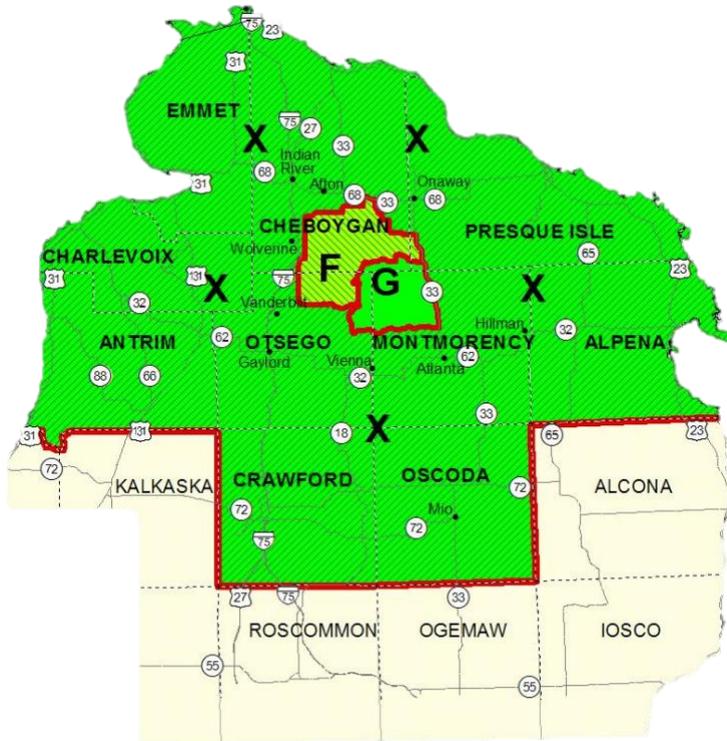


# Early Hunt Harvest Map





# Elk Harvest – Hunt Period 2



- Hunt Period 2
  - Includes F, G, and X
  - December 15-23
  - Quota is 100 elk
    - 30 any elk
    - 70 antlerless only

# Questions?

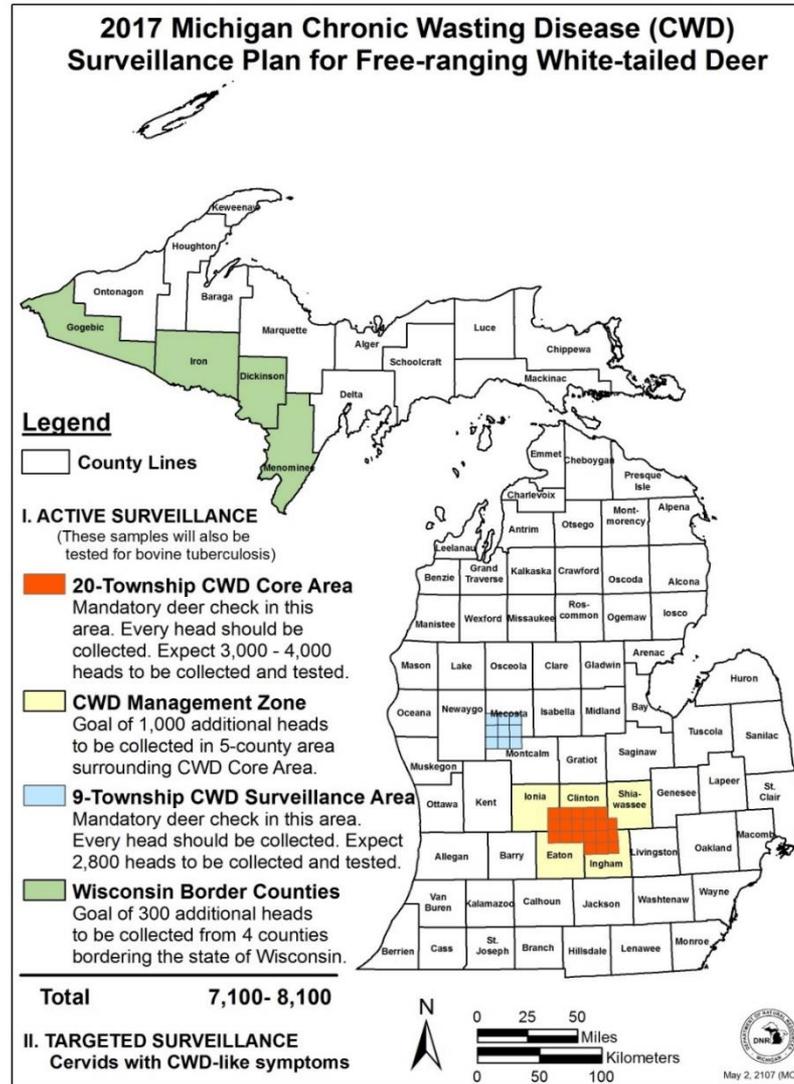


# **Deer Check Update**

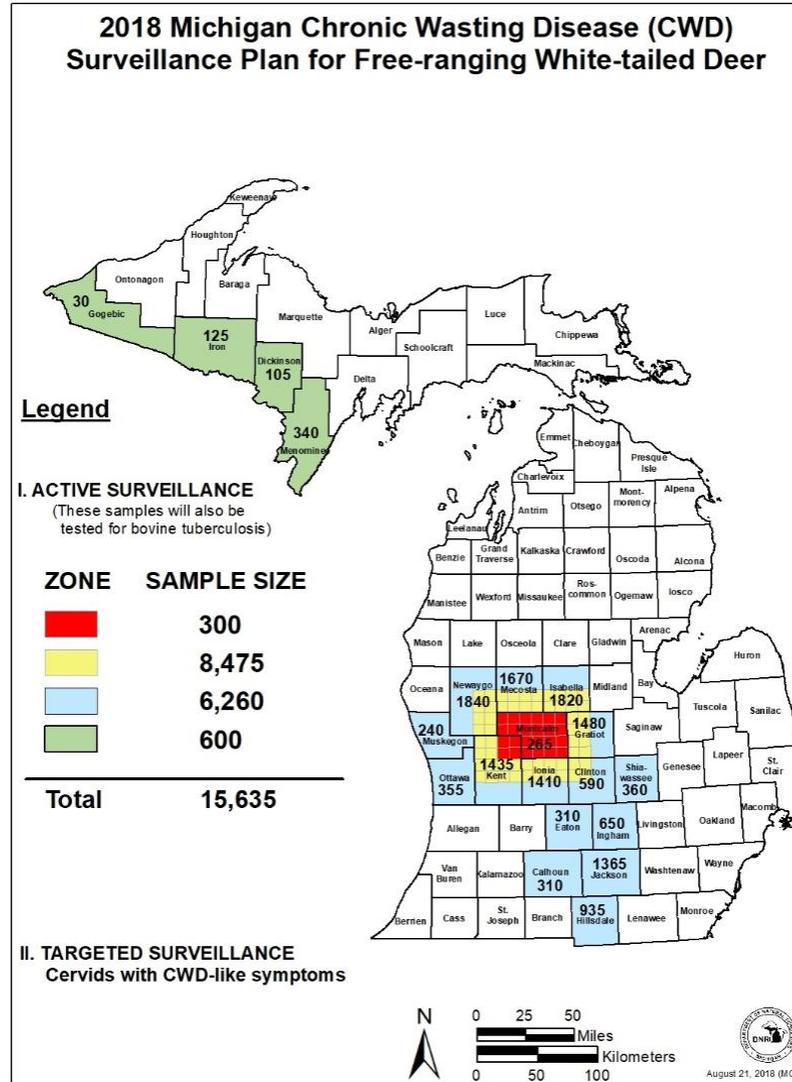
John Niewoonder

Southwest Field Operations  
Manager

# CWD Surveillance Plan 2017-2018



# CWD Surveillance Plan 2018-2019



# 56 CWD Sampling Locations in the 16 County Management Zone:

- 17 Deer Check Stations: 6 historical, 11 new locations
  - Open Sept. 22-25, Oct. 1 – Jan. 15
- 18 Deer Processors
  - Open Oct. 7 – Dec. 7
- 21 Stand Alone Deer Head Drop Boxes
  - Available Sept. 22 – Jan. 15
- 25 Taxidermists
  - Available Sept. 22 – Jan. 15



# CWD Sampling Locations

- Temporary Deer Check Stations



# CWD Sampling Locations

- DNR Staff at Deer Processors



# CWD Sampling Locations

- Stand Alone Deer Head Drop Boxes





# CWD Samples, 2018-2019

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Total Tested</b>
<b>24 TWP. Area</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>56 TWP. Area</b>	<b>8,475</b>	<b>837</b>
<b>16 County Area</b>	<b>6,260</b>	<b>1,757</b>
<b>UP 4 County Area</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,635</b>	<b>3,939</b>

# CWD Samples, 2018-2019

- CWD samples from the 2 weeks following the Liberty Hunt, 2017-2018: **389**
- CWD samples from the 2 weeks following the Liberty Hunt, 2018-2019: **Over 1,100**

**Thank You**