Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

October 12, 2017
Proposed Orders

• For Information – NRC
  • Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations (FO 200.18)
  • Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass (FO 215.18)
  • Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulations (FO 219.18)
  • Regulations on Freshwater Mollusks (FO 228.18)
  • Netting Regulations (FO 229.18)

• For Information – Director
  • PA 288 of 2016; Forest Road Inventory in the Northern Lower Peninsula (LUOD # 5 of 2017)
Proposed Orders

• For Action – NRC
  • Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations (FO 202.18)
  • Spawning Closures (FO 204.18)
  • Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations (FO 205.18)
  • Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters (FO 206.18)
  • Designated Trout Streams for Michigan (FO 210.18)
  • Sturgeon Regulations (FO 240.18)

• For Action – Director
  • Designated Campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area; Charlevoix County (LUOD # 4 of 2017)
Postponed Orders

• Order to Re-designate Bay City State Recreation Area to Bay City State Park; Tobico Marsh Boundaries (WCO No. 7 of 2017)

• Order to Re-designate Bay City State Recreation Area to Bay City State Park (LUOD No. 3 of 2017)
NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

• Fisheries Division Update
  • Fishing Regulations

• Wildlife Division Update
  • CWD Symposium Update
  • New Positive Deer
  • Preliminary Elk Season Results
  • Bovine Tuberculosis Update
Weir Updates

• Boardman river
  • 9,000 Coho
  • 900 Chinook

• Little Manistee River
  • 1,000+ Chinook
  • Egg-take finishes today

• Platte River
  • 26,000 Coho
  • Egg-take over next two weeks

• Swan River
  • 2,000 Chinook
  • Potential egg-take today
New Zealand Mudsnails

- Confirmed in Upper Manistee River
- 5-mile stretch between County Road 612 and Mancelona Road
- 4th major trout stream invaded by NZMS
Questions?
For Information:

- FO 200 – Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Herring, Smelt Regulations
- FO 215 – Statewide Warmwater Regulations
- FO 219 – Bow, Spear, Crossbow Regulations
- FO 228 – Freshwater Mollusks
- FO 229 – Netting Regulations
Proposed U.P. Brook Trout Bag Regulations
Guidelines for Selection

• Guidelines for including streams under a 10-brook trout bag regulation
  • Type 1 Streams only
  • 1st or 2nd order streams (3rd order where appropriate/acceptable)
  • One “sub-watershed” per watershed or per county
  • Likely acceptable by most people

• Guidelines for keeping streams under a 5-brook trout bag regulation
  • Critical BKT habitat (spawning; thermal refuge)
  • Experimental coaster/remnant coaster/S&T streams
  • Streams identified to date by public and staff
  • Streams where angling effort is high or moderate
Selection Process

• Fisheries Division staff considered waters in their respective U.P. units
• Proposed waters all depicted using GIS
• Individual, sub-watersheds were considered as a framework for the entire U.P.
• 34 selections proposed comprising 1,128 stream miles (8% of the UP’s Type 1 streams)
• Documents, presentations and maps prepared for public input
Stream sections proposed for 10-Brook Trout Bag regulation
Baraga County
Chippewa County
Delta County
Dickinson County
Gogebic County
Houghton County
Iron County
Keweenaw County
Mackinac County
Marquette County
Schoolcraft County
FO 200 - Modifications

- Pickerel Lake (Otsego County) - Change from Type A to Type B regulations; anglers requested longer fishing season because this lake is part of a State Forest Campground.

- Little Paw Paw Lake (Kalamazoo County) - Change Type B to C reducing minimum size limits so anglers can keep rainbow trout which do not grow to current minimum size limit.

- Buck Creek Pond (Iosco County) – Change from Type D to Type 1 regulations; trout are reportedly not attaining minimal size limit. Type 1 regulations will reduce the minimum size limit for trout.
FO 200 - Modifications Cont’d

• Dowagiac River (Berrien County) - Pucker St. Dam downstream to confluence with St. Joseph R. - Change from Type 3 to 4; Dam removal and now open to migrating trout and salmon.

• South Branch Paw Paw River (Van Buren County) – boundary changes; clarification issue.

• Whitefish River (Delta County) – Boundary change to listing in Fisheries Order 210.

• Cole Creek Pond (Alger County) – Change from Type A to Type 1 regulation; habitat conditions more like a stream than pond.

• Add Arctic Grayling Provision – unlawful to take or possess
FO 200 - Removals

- O'Brien Lake (Alcona County) - Remove from Type A; warmwater species dominate lake.
- Trout Brook Pond (Chippewa County) – Remove Type A regulations; The dam will be removed and become unsuitable for trout.
- Bass Lake (Dickinson County) - Remove from Type B; warmwater species dominate lake.
- Keyhole East Lake (Marquette County) - Remove from Type; Lost ability to stock trout and access for anglers.
FO 200 – Removals Cont’d

• Black River Lake (Gogebic County) - Remove from Type B; warmwater species dominate lake.

• Hannah-Webb Lake (Iron County) - Remove from Type A; warmwater species dominate lake.

• Lake Roland (Houghton County) - Remove from Type B; trout do not survive to current size limit so this change will allow harvest of smaller sized trout.

• Lake Gerald (Houghton County) - Remove from Type B; trout do not survive to current size limit so this change will allow harvest of smaller sized trout.
FO-215 Warmwater Regulations

• Muskellunge CIR on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and Detroit River

• Tournament Fishing Requirements
FO 219 – Bow, Spear, Crossbow Regulations

• Lower Crooked Lake - propose to prohibit spearing:
  • Trap and transfer of 66 muskellunge from Thornapple Lake
  • Managers looking to protect fish from harvest

• Lake St. Clair: extend yellow perch spearing season to December 1 - March 15
FO-228 Regulations on Freshwater Mollusks

• Insert reference to Part 413 of Act 451

• Remove reference to possession of zebra and quagga mussels

• Modify title of the Order to remove “take”
FO 229 – Netting Regulations

- Fisheries Division Review in 2016:
  - Cast net size
    - Remove 8’ diameter restriction
    - Self limiting gear
    - LED supports
  - Hoop net size restriction
    - Limited burbot fishery in U.P.
    - Standardize size to not more than 36” diameter and 7’ long
Thank You
Questions?
Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- CWD Symposium

- New CWD-Positive Free-ranging Deer
  - Confirmed by WLD Disease Lab and USDA
  - 3 ½ year-old doe harvested during Liberty Hunt
  - Montcalm Township, Montcalm County
  - Interim Order of the Director Effective Oct. 4
New CWD Regulations

• Effective October 4, 2017:
  • New Core CWD Area consisting of Douglass, Eureka, Fairplain, Maple Valley, Montcalm, Pine, and Sidney townships in Montcalm County and Oakfield and Spencer townships in Kent County.
  • Antler point restrictions are eliminated in the new Core CWD Area.
  • Antlerless deer may be tagged using the deer or deer combination license during the late antlerless, firearm and muzzleloader seasons in the new Core CWD Area.
  • Individuals picking up roadkill must obtain a permit and submit heads to the Department within 72 hours of pick-up in the new Core CWD Area.
  • Disease Control Permits will be provided to landowners in the new Core CWD Area.
New CWD Regulations

• Effective November 15, 2017:
  • The heads of all hunter harvested deer originating from the new Core CWD Area shall be presented within 72 hours of harvest to a Department deer check station established within 5 miles of the new Core CWD Area. Materials requested by the Department shall be surrendered to the Department for CWD testing and the head must be affixed with a Department-issued CWD survey tag. The hunter retains at least a portion of the Department-issued CWD survey tag.
  • Any licensed taxidermist receiving a carcass or parts thereof from a deer originating within the new Core CWD Area must report the acquisition to the Department disease laboratory within 72 hours unless a not detected test result for CWD has been reported by the Department for the deer.
  • Any commercial processor receiving a carcass or parts thereof from a deer originating within the new Core CWD Area must report the acquisition to the Department disease laboratory within 72 hours unless a not detected test result for CWD has been reported by the Department for that animal.
New CWD Regulations

• Effective January 2, 2018
  • The feeding and baiting of cervids, including deer and elk, within Kent and Montcalm counties is banned.
Thank You
2017 Fall Elk Season Results

Chad Stewart
Deer, Elk, and Moose Specialist
Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
2017 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1:
  - August 29-Sept 1, Sept 15-18, Sept 29-Oct 2
- Weather was variable
  - Extremely warm during middle segment
  - Ideal cooler temps in final segment
- License Quota: 100
  - 30 any elk
  - 70 antlerless only elk
Elk Harvest – Early Season

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest
  - State hunter harvest: 74 legally harvested elk
    - 30 antlered elk (bulls)
    - 44 antlerless elk (cows and calves)
    - 75% success
  - 3 bulls by Pure Michigan Hunters
  - Tribal harvest: 6 elk
    - 2 antlered elk (bull), 4 antlerless elk (cow)
  - No notable law issues
Elk Harvest – Hunt Period 2

• Hunt Period 2
  • Includes F, G, and X
  • December 9-17
  • Quota is 100 elk
    • 30 any elk
    • 70 antlerless only
Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update

Richard W. Smith, DVM
BOVINE TB ERADICATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR
MDARD ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

Kelly Straka, DVM MPH
WILDLIFE HEALTH SECTION SUPERVISOR
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MOU Violation

- The current MOU with USDA permits Michigan to have up to three bovine TB infected herds in the MAZ in a 12 month period.

- In 2016, Michigan had five infected herds.
Five Level of Status in National TB Program

- TB Free
- Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA)
- Modified Accredited (MA)
- Accredited Preparatory (AP)
- Non-accredited
October 16, 2017

USDA has agreed to meet with MDARD and MDNR to discuss situation
USDA’s Two Proposals

Option One:
Down grade status of four county Modified Accredited to Accredited Preparatory

Option Two:
Down grade status of entire state to Modified Accredited

It took from June 2000 to October 2014 and $126 Million to get to the point we are at now – with 95% of Michigan’s 83 counties at TB Free Status
Third Option

MDARD’s Actions:

- No reduction of program status for any portion of Michigan
- Eliminate random testing in Cheboygan and Otsego counties
- Focus testing in four county MAZ and Presque Isle
- Upgrade biosecurity program in four county MAZ, outside of core area of DMU 452, and Presque Isle
  - 75% of farms would move from one annual inspection to two
  - Greater focus on compliance
- Require participation from 149 core area farms in MDARD’s Enhanced Biosecurity Program
  - $1 Million in state funding to upgrade biosecurity in core area
Third Option

DNR’s Actions:

• Target deer management efforts on a local scale (i.e. farm level) to prevent transmission of TB between deer and cattle.

• Create a full-time Bovine Tuberculosis Coordinator in the field to lead response efforts with agricultural partners and landowners in the high-risk area of the MAZ.

• Increase enforcement of feeding and baiting bans in the high-risk area of the MAZ.

• Develop livestock and hunter deer management cooperatives in the high-risk area of the MAZ to increase antlerless deer harvest.

• Support an increased harvest of antlerless deer on hunt clubs outside of regular hunting seasons through herd health checks.

• Incentivize access to private land in the high-risk area of the MAZ through the Hunter Access Program to increase antlerless deer harvest.

• Approve additional hunts in January/February 2018 in the high-risk area of the MAZ to increase antlerless deer harvest.

• Simplify the process for cattle producers to obtain no-cost disease control permits valid for harvesting deer year-round in the high-risk area of the MAZ.

• Provide WS with approval to conduct targeted removal of deer on cattle farms in the high-risk area of the MAZ.
DNR’s Actions: Targeted Approach

Target deer management efforts on a local scale (i.e. farm level) to prevent transmission of TB between deer and cattle.
DNR’s Actions: Localize Staff Resources

Create a full-time Bovine Tuberculosis Coordinator in the field to lead response efforts with agricultural partners and landowners in the high-risk area of the MAZ.
DNR’s Actions: Plan a January Hunt

Approve additional hunts in January/February 2018 in the high-risk area of the MAZ to increase antlerless deer harvest.
DNR’s Actions: Moving the needle

The DNR is committed to the fight against bovine tuberculosis.
Questions?

Stay connected with MDARD.

@MichDeptoAg

Ml agriculture

Michigan Department of Agriculture