

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

September 14, 2017

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – 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)
  - 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)
  - Sturgeon Regulations (FO 240.18)

# Proposed Orders

- For Information- Director
  - Designated Campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area; Charlevoix County (LUOD # 4 of 2017)
- For Action- NRC
  - Order to Re-designate Bay City State Recreation Area to Bay City State Park; Tobico Marsh Boundaries (WCO # 7 of 2017)
  - Additional Colors for Hunting Apparel (WCO # 8 of 2017)
  - Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County (FO 201.18)
  - Regulation on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians (FO 224.17)
  - Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations (FO 251.17)
- For Action- Director
  - Order to Re-designate Bay City State Recreation Area to Bay City State Park (LUOD # 3 of 2017)

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

- Fisheries Division Update
  - Fishing Regulations
- Wildlife Division Update
  - Designated Campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area; Charlevoix County

# **Fisheries Chief Update**

Jim Dexter

Chief

Fisheries Division

September 14, 2017

# ACOE Brandon Road TSP

## Public Input Opportunity & Hearing

- Tentatively Selected Plan for Brandon Road Lock & Dam
- Structural and non-structural measures at “pinch point”
- \$275 M to construct
- Formal public comment period through Nov. 16 – online or by mail
- 3 public input opportunities:
  - Sept. 11 – Chicago, IL
  - Sept. 14 – Muskegon, MI
  - Sept. 18 – Joliet, IL



# Grass Carp Control Efforts: Lake Erie

- Collaborative effort led by Lake Erie Committee
- Science-based approach to control
  - Informed by Structured Design Making process
    - MSU's Quantitative Fisheries Center
  - Sampling efforts suggest very low population size
  - Difficult to capture
  - Using available science to determine timing and location of sampling to increase effectiveness of control actions



Funding Source

# Grass Carp Exercise: Sandusky Bay, Ohio

Goal: Use collaborative, multi-agency approach to refine grass carp sampling methodologies in Sandusky River

- Collaboration led by Ohio DNR
  - 5 agencies, 1 university
  - Conducted in areas where eggs and adults have historically been captured
  - Sampling locations refined using telemetry detections
  - 8 grass carp removed in 2 days
- Large-scale response on Sandusky River planned for 2018





# Salmon Weirs

- Most are up and running
- Coho are early and numerous
  - 5,000 passed
  - 15,000 below weir
- Size is up considerably
- Chinook runs just starting



**Questions?**

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Fisheries Division

Nick Popoff

September 14, 2017

# For Information:

- FO 202 – Special Hook Sizes
- FO 204 – Spawning Closures
- FO 205 – MI-WI Boundary Waters
- FO 206 – Special Regulations for Warmwater Species
- FO 210 – Designated Trout Streams
- FO 215 – Statewide Warmwater Regulations
- FO 240 – Sturgeon Regulations

# FO 202 – Special Hook Sizes

- **Add:**
  - **Pere Marquette River**
  - **Little Manistee River**
  - **White River**
  - **Muskegon River**
  - **Pentwater River and all of their tributaries**

to the list regulating treble hooks on artificial lures only  
between Aug. 1 and Nov. 15

# FO-204 Spawning Closures

- **W Br Ontonagon River** (Ontonagon Co.) – modify the language to include the tailrace canal
- Northern Lake Huron: Les Chenaux Area – remove fishing closure (March 15 – May 14)
  - No biological reason to maintain
  - Will increase angling opportunities

# FO-205 Michigan – Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations

- **Lac Vieux Desert Flowage** (Gogebic Co.) – Change walleye MSL to 18”

## All Boundary Waters

- Modify bass catch-and-immediate-release (CIR) season to open all year
- Open Boundary waters to trolling; no more than 3 rods/boat
- Remove musky and sturgeon harvest tag requirement
- Remove the ice fishing shanty reference and add to FO-251
- Muskellunge:
  - Add harvest reporting requirement and remove harvest tag requirement
  - Add CIR all year
  - Modify possession season to 1st Sat. in Jun – Nov 30
  - Change MSL to 42”

# FO-206 Special Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters

- **Woodard L** (Ionia Co) – reduce bass MSL to 10”
- **Crystal L** (Newaygo Co) – zero possession for walleye
- **Portage and Torch Lakes** (Houghton Co) – Modify walleye daily possession limit to 5 with no more than 1 > 23”
- **Ontonagon R** (Ontonagon Co) – modify the walleye daily possession limit regulation from 5 with only 1 > 25” to 5 with only 1 > 23”
- **L Thornapple** (Barry Co) and **L Hudson** (Hillsdale Co) – modify muskellunge and pike opener to the first Sat. in June



# FO-206 Special Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters

- 6 removals:
  - Lake Mary, Hamilton Lake, Lake Louise (Dickinson) – remove special bass season
  - Lake Ottawa (Iron) – remove bass harvest closure
  - Winslow Lake (Iron) – remove walleye closure
  - Big Bear Lake (Otsego) – remove 50” MSL for muskellunge

# FO 206 – Muskellunge: Proposed MSL Changes

<u>50 in MSL</u>	<u>46 in MSL</u>	<u>38 in MSL</u>
Chicagon Lake	Murray Lake	Lake Diane
Clam Lake	Lake Macatawa	Round Lake (Van Buren Co.)
Elk Lake	Lower Grand River	
Lake Bellaire	Mona Lake	
Torch Lake	Inland Waterway (Burt, Mullet, Black)	
Lake Skegemog	Upper Antrim (Intermediate Lake and upstream) St. Marys River	

# FO 206 – Northern Pike No MSL Lakes

- Brule Lake, Lake Mary, Paint River Pond, Sunset Lake (Iron County)
- Round Lake (Delta County)
- Canadian Lakes (Mecosta County)
- Echo Lake, Au Train Basin (Alger County)
- Scram Lake (Kent County)

# FO-210 Designated Trout Streams for Michigan

- **Paint R.** (Iron Co) – remove designation between Ponozzo Rd and Bates-Amasa Rd
- **S Br Paw Paw R.** (Van Buren Co) – Several boundary clarifications

# FO-215 Statewide Warmwater Regulations

## Muskellunge:

- Add harvest registration requirement
  - Add CIR season all year, statewide in all waters open to fishing
  - Change **U.P. GL waters, all inland waters, and St. Marys R.** possession season to 1st Sat. in Jun - Mar 15
  - Change **Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R., and Detroit R** possession season to first Sat. in Jun – Dec 31
  - Remove musky harvest tag information
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- Remove fishing tournament information (FO-250)

# FO-240 Sturgeon Regulations

- **Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and Detroit River** – Change CIR season from Jul 16 – Nov 30 to Jul 16 – Mar 15
- **All other waters** – Change CIR season to closed all year to protect limited populations from angling
- Remove sturgeon tag requirement

**Thank You  
Questions?**

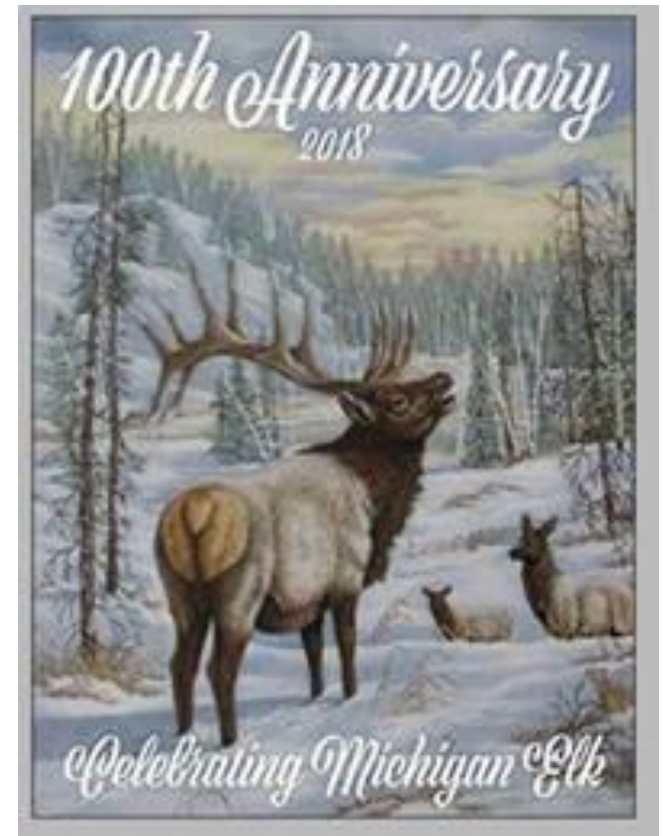
# **Wildlife Chief Update**

Russ Mason



# Wildlife Chief Update

- Summary statistics for the first elk hunt
- Overview of CWD expenditures
- Friday is the opening of grouse and other small game season in Michigan
- Celebrating 100 years of elk in Michigan poster winner



# Designated Campsites on Beaver Island SWRA

- The Department proposes posting several water trail access sites as designated campsites
- To ensure safe use at the designated campsites:
  - A person shall only build or maintain an open fire in a self-contained cooking unit, a fire ring, or a grill in a designated campsite
  - A person shall not enter, use, or occupy any designated campsite with a motorized vehicle

**Thank You**