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?
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

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

• 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