Proposed Orders

• For Information – NRC
  – Pure Michigan Hunt Name Change (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2019)
  – Deer Feeding Exception on Beaver Island (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2019)
Proposed Orders

• Orders for Action – NRC
  – Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring and Smelt Regulations (FO 200.19)

• Orders for Action – Director
  – Public Act 288 of 2016; Forest Road Inventory in Upper Peninsula and the Southern Lower Peninsula (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 7 of 2018)
  – Order to Regulate the Poweshiek Skipperling at the Holly State Recreation Area (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 9 of 2018)
NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

• Fisheries Chief Update
  – Fisheries Hatchery and Planting Strategy

• Wildlife Chief Update
  – Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results
  – January Disease Management Hunt
  – Deer Feeding Exception on Beaver Island
Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief’s Update

Jim Dexter, Chief

December 13, 2018
Fisheries Order 200

- Northern Lake Huron Lake Trout

- MH-1: changing 3 fish daily possession limit to 2 fish

- MH-2: change 3 fish daily possession limit to 4 fish?
Ramifications for MH-2

• Biological
  – Increased harvest of Lake Trout
  – Will not offset MH-1 reduction in harvest
  – One population moving toward recovery

Illustration courtesy: Joseph R. Tomelleri ©
Ramifications for MH-2

• Tribal Relationships
  – 2020 Consent Decree negotiations
  – Difficult relationship already
  – Reduced future cooperative management

Illustration courtesy: Joseph R. Tomelleri ©
Alternatives for MH-2

• Full evaluation of a 4 fish daily possession limit
• Vet the proposal through normal process
  – Staff evaluation
  – Stakeholder & agency consultation
  – Provide recommendation, Fall 2019
• Do not pursue any further
Thank you!
Michigan DNR
Fish Production Program

Why We Rear Fish
Where We Do

Ed Eisch
Fish Production Program Manager
Why Do We Stock Fish?

Provide ecosystem balance
   Pacific salmon introduction to control alewives
   Predators to control stunted panfish

Provide diverse fishing opportunities
   Inland trout stocking

Rehabilitate depressed fish populations
   Walleyes in Saginaw Bay

Reintroduce extirpated species
   Lake sturgeon in Ontonagon River
   Arctic Grayling reintroduction initiative
Species Reared

Coldwater species at all six hatcheries
  Atlantic salmon
  Brook trout
  Brown trout
  Coho salmon
  Chinook salmon
  Lake trout
  Rainbow trout (domestic)
  Rainbow trout (steelhead)
  Splake

Coolwater species at three facilities
  Walleye
  Great Lakes strain muskellunge
  Lake sturgeon (streamside facilities)
What factors into rearing assignment decisions?

Primary Factors
Water temperature
Fish health considerations
Water Quality

Secondary Factors
Transportation logistics
Hatchery logistics
Salmonid Temperature Requirements

Very Coldwater Group - 40°- 50° F
    Brook Trout
    Lake Trout
    Splake

Coldwater Group – 45°- 55° F
    Brown Trout
    Rainbow Trout

Not quite As Cold Group - 50° F to 55° F
    Chinook salmon
    Coho salmon
    Steelhead
    Atlantic salmon
What gets raised at...

Marquette
10,500 gpm of mostly surface water
Temp range 34°-51°
No ability to manipulate temperature
Brook trout, lake trout and splake

Thompson
3,100 gpm, including two geothermal wells
Temp range 46°-56°
Flexibility to manipulate rearing temperature
Steelhead, Chinook salmon and walleye
   Muskellunge and expansion of walleye in 2020
What gets raised at...

Oden

5,000 gpm groundwater
Temperature of 46°
Minimal ability to change temperature
Brown trout and rainbow trout brood and production
Photoperiod manipulation

Platte River

20,000 gpm of surface water available
Temp range 34°-60°
Some ability to manipulate temperature
Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon and walleye incubation
What gets raised at...

Harrietta

4,000 gpm of groundwater
Temperature 48\(^\circ\)
No temperature manipulation
Brown trout, rainbow trout and
Atlantic salmon

Wolf Lake

2,500 gpm well water
Temperature 52\(^\circ\)
Some temperature manipulation
Steelhead, Chinook salmon,
walleye and muskellunge
Challenges

Aging infrastructure and inadequate maintenance funding
- Facilities range from 16 to nearly 50 years old
- Lack of adequate funding has us putting out fires in place of preventative maintenance

Effluent Limitations

Pathogens
- EEDv at Marquette
- BKD
Any Questions?
Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Wildlife Chief Update

Cumulative number of people obtaining a deer kill tag in Michigan, summarized by year and date
(597,527 people; 3.1% decrease from 2017 thru 11-30-2018)
Wildlife Chief Update

Cumulative number of deer kill tags sold in Michigan, summarized by year and date
(1,266,147 tags; 1.1% decrease from 2017 thru 11-30-2018)
Wildlife Chief Update

• Adopt-a-Game-Area Program Event at Maple River

• Pure Michigan Hunt Update
  – Up 59% in sales compared to 2017
  – 35,073 applications sold YTD
  – $175,380 sales revenue YTD
  – $526,140 PR match YTD
  – $701,520 total generated YTD
Thank You
Preliminary 2018 Firearm Deer Season Results

Chad Stewart and Sarah Mayhew
Wildlife Division
December 13, 2018
Evaluation of 2018 Season

- License sales (As of 11/30/2018)
  - Unique deer license buyers down 3.1%
  - Number of deer harvest tags down 1.1%
All Check Station Data: Regular Firearms Season

Check Station Data as of December 4, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>UP</th>
<th>NLP</th>
<th>SLP</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>9,391</td>
<td>9,596</td>
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## CSC Check Station Data: Regular Firearms Season

**All Deer Checked**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>UP</th>
<th>NLP</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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**All Antlered Deer Checked**

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Check Station Data as of December 4, 2018
CSC data from 2018 Season

• Firearm deer check data:
  Deer checked as of 12/4 (compared to 2017)
  UP: +12.9%
  NLP: -0.6%
  SLP: +26.0%
  Statewide: +9.8%

Bucks checked as of 12/4 (compared to 2017)
  UP: -8.0%
  NLP: -4.0%
  SLP: +28.4%
  Statewide: +0.6%
Yearling Bucks Harvested

Deer checked as of 12/4
Yearling Beam Diameters

Deer checked as of 12/4
Final Firearm Season Estimates

• Mail survey sample of licensed hunters
• All licensed hunters may report online
  – Questionnaire will be at www.michigan.gov/deer
  • Take Harvest Survey
  – Submit after all 2018 hunting is complete
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/deer
Proposed January Disease Management Hunt

Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
December 13, 2018
Background

• Per WCO 3.101(11)
  - The Director may authorize a disease management hunt lasting no longer than nine days… where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives
January Hunt in Alpena
Cattle Herd Clusters (Defined 2017)
January Alpena Hunt Area
Alpena Hunt

• Objectives:
  – Expand our Hunter Access Program
  – Identify landowners to partner with in Southern Alpena County
  – Facilitate hunter access to critical properties along the wildlife/livestock interface
  – Promote antlerless harvest to attempt to reduce likelihood of interactions with cattle
Alpena Hunt

• Two four-day hunts
  – January 3-6, 10-13, 2019
  – Alpena County, South of M-32
  – Held on private land
  – Antlerless deer
  – Unused and newly purchased licenses eligible to be used
    • Deer license, combo license, and DMU specific antlerless licenses
Alpena HAP

- 2018
  - 18 parcels enrolled
  - 11 landowners
  - >2,200 acres opened for deer hunting
  - 102 hunters participating
  - HAP reported harvest: 33
    - 107 estimated for season
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr
Beaver Island Feeding Exception

Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
December 13, 2018
Background

• Per WCO 3.100 (a)
  – Effective January 31, 2019, it shall be unlawful for a person to engage in deer and elk feeding within zone 2 and zone 3.
  – Request from Beaver Island Wildlife Club and Beaver Island hunters for an exception to the rule
Beaver Island (DMU 115)

- Located ~30 miles offshore of Charlevoix County
- ~27 sq. miles of public land (~1/3 acreage on island)
  - Antlered harvest range 59-126
  - Antlerless harvest range 4-61
- MNFI document notable browse impacts
- >70 year history working with Beaver Island Wildlife Club
Surveillance Plan

• Continued deer checks on the island
• Continued collection of deer heads for testing
• Notification to hunters and transportation services to discourage carcass movement
• Information distributed to hunters regarding proper carcass disposal methods
• Increased understanding of origin of feed
• Encourage hunters not to use deer urine
Feeding: Recreational vs. Supplemental

• Recreational feeding
  – Not done more than 100 yards from a residence
  – At least 100 yards from any area accessible to livestock
  – Scattered directly on the ground
  – Does not exceed 2 gallons per residence at any time
Feeding: Recreational vs. Supplemental

• Supplemental feeding (only available in UP)
  – Permission received from landowner
  – Permitted by Department
  – Feed is placed >¼ mile from nearest paved public highway
  – Feed is placed >1 mile from livestock, agriculture and nursery plantings
  – Feed consists of grains, alfalfa/clover, pellets not to exceed 3 inches on the ground
  – Report on quantity/type/dates/duration
Departmental Response

• Department has no objections to allowing feeding to occur on the island
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr