Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

February 8, 2018

Proposed Orders

• For Information – NRC
  – Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons (WCO # 3 of 2018)
• For Action – NRC
  – Common Merganser Control Permit and Regulations (WCO #1 of 2018)
  – Falconry Regulations (WCO #2 of 2018)

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

• Fisheries Chief Update
  – Upper Peninsula Stocking Update
• Wildlife Division Chief Update
  – Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief’s Update

Jim Dexter
February 8, 2018
Stocking Truck Graphics: Then & Now!

THEN

• New stocking unit will be on the road this spring
• Graphics celebrate 50 years of salmon management

NOW

2018 Michigan Fishing Guide

• Back to a one-year format
• Started shipping to retailers & DNR offices on Feb. 6
• Available online at Michigan.gov/fishingguide by March 1

2018 Black Lake Sturgeon Season

• 426 anglers, a new record!
• First fish: 8:05 a.m.
• 7th fish: 10:25 a.m.
• 5 females, 2 males
• 16 – 100 pounds
• 38 DNR staff

Questions?
Fish Stocking in the U.P.

Jim Dexter
Fisheries Chief
NRC -- February 8, 2018

Why do we stock fish?

- Stocking began in 1874
- Restore fish populations -- Lake Trout
- Diversify fishing opportunities -- Rainbow Trout in lakes
- Improve ecosystem balance -- Muskie, Walleye
- Experimental studies -- Arctic Grayling, Steelhead in lakes

Stocking in the UP
1.73 M Fish/Year (plus 5.21 M Walleyes) = 6.94 M Total
Annual cost= $2.71 M/Year

Where fish are stocked by county (w/out WAE)
Where walleyes are stocked

Houghton  Delta
Lake Superior Stocking, 2010-2015

Angler Hours: 2017

Cost of fish harvested, Lake Superior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Cost per fish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Splake</td>
<td>$67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>$1,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost of fish harvested, Lake Michigan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Cost per fish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Trout</td>
<td>$248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>$3.46</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Inland U.P. waters stocked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rivers / Creeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgeon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes / Ponds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splake</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskie</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fisheries Goals:

- Protect & enhance fisheries, Quality of Life
- Fish stocking: opportunity vs. need
- Managers work toward self-sustainability
- U.P. is in better shape than the L.P.
- Celebrate wild fisheries

Thank you!

Wildlife Chief Update
Russ Mason
Wildlife Chief Update

- Upcoming Elk Survey Flight for Legislators/Commissioners
- Governor’s Duck Stamp
- Wetland Mitigation Program
- Coordination with Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Joint WLD/FRD Meeting

2018-19 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

Barbara Avers, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist

Schedule

- *Dec. 10, 2017 = Proposed Frameworks
- Dec. 13, 2017 = Waterfowl Workgroup
- Jan. 6, 2018 = CWAC
- February 8, 2018 = NRC for Information
- *Feb. 25, 2018 = Final Frameworks
- March 15, 2018 = NRC for Action
- April 30, 2018 = Season Selections Due

Thank You
Canada Goose Status and Regulation Considerations

Breeding Ranges of Historic and Currently Recognized Mississippi Flyway Canada Goose Stocks

Canada Goose Abundance in the Mississippi Flyway, 1939-2014

2018 Goose Season Federal Framework

- Season length and outside dates:
  - Maximum 107 days
  - Between Sept. 1 - Feb. 15
- 4 segments allowed

2018 Goose Federal Framework – Bag Limits

- Canada daily limits:
  - Maximum 5 birds Sept. 1-30
  - Maximum 3 birds remainder of season
- White-fronted daily limits:
  - Maximum 5 birds in aggregate with dark geese
- Brant daily limits:
  - Maximum 1 bird in aggregate with dark geese
- Snow, blue, Ross’ daily limits:
  - Maximum 20 birds

Possession limits 3X daily limit

2018-2019 Michigan Goose Season Recommendations

- Season length and outside dates:
  - Maximum 107 days
  - Between Sept. 1 - Feb. 15
- 4 segments allowed
2018-19 Goose Season Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – North Zone

- Sept. 1-30
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20
- Oct. 1 – Dec. 16
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20

2018-19 Goose Season Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – Middle Zone

- Sept. 1-30
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20
- Oct. 6 – Dec. 21
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20

2018-19 Goose Season Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – South Zone

- Sept. 1-30
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20
  - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
  - Light goose daily limit = 20

2018-19 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs

- Allegan County
  - Sept. 1-16
    - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
    - Light goose daily limit = 20
  - Nov. 3-13; Nov. 22-Dec. 9; and Dec. 15 – Feb. 14, 2019
    - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
    - Light goose daily limit = 20
- Muskegon County Wastewater
  - Oct. 16 – Nov. 13
  - Dec. 1-22
    - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
    - Light goose daily limit = 20
Duck Status and Regulation Considerations

2017 Continental Duck Population Status

- Waterfowl breeding population and habitat survey for previous year
- Compared to 2016:
  - Total ducks similar
  - Mallards down slightly
  - Green-winged teal down slightly
  - Blue-winged teal up slightly
  - Canvasbacks similar
  - Scaup down slightly
  - Pintails similar

Michigan Mallard Harvest

About 75% of MI's mallard harvest comes from birds that originate in the Great Lakes Region


- 298,120 in 2017
- 7% above 2016
2018 Duck Season
Federal Framework

• Liberal season
  – Maximum 60 days
  – Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and last Sunday in January
  – Maximum 6 birds per day
• Possession limit 3X daily limit
• Seasons set by Zone
• One split per Zone

2018 Michigan Duck Season
Recommendations

2018 Duck Season
Federal Framework – Daily Limits

• 6 ducks combined
  – Mallard
    • Maximum 4 birds total
    • Maximum 2 hens
  – Wood duck and Scaup
    • Maximum 3 birds
  – Redhead, Canvasback, American black duck, & Northern pintail
    • Maximum 2 birds each
  – All other ducks
    • 6 birds
• 5 mergansers combined
  – Maximum 2 hooded mergansers

Duck Season Goals

• Maintain Michigan’s waterfowl hunting heritage by increasing hunter recruitment and retention.

• Balance regulations simplicity with maximum hunting opportunity.

• Ensure season encompasses maximum duck numbers and abundant species.
Duck Season Considerations

- Harvest
- Migration timing
- Hunter opinion

2018 Early Teal Season Recommendation

- Sept. 1 – 16 Statewide
- Daily limit 6 teal
- Possession 3X
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise

2018 Youth Season Recommendations

- Sept. 15-16
- Daily and possession limits same as regular waterfowl seasons
- Overlap with early teal season

3-Year Stable Opening Dates

- North Zone:
  - 2018 = Sept. 29
- Middle Zone:
  - 2018 = Oct. 6
- South Zone:
  - 2018 = Oct. 13
2018 Duck Season
Recommendations – Dates

- North Zone
  - Sept. 29 – Nov. 25
  - Dec. 1 – Dec. 2
- Middle Zone
  - Oct. 6 – Dec. 2
  - Dec. 15 – 16
- South Zone
  - Oct. 13 – Dec. 9
  - Dec. 29 – Dec. 30

2018-19 Falconry Season
Recommendations

- Same dates as gun hunting
- Additional days for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens:
  - Dec. 31 – Jan. 14, 2019
  - Feb. 19 – Mar. 10, 2019
- No change to daily bag limits
- Possession limits 3X daily limit

Thank You