

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Policy Committee on
Wildlife and Fisheries

February 8, 2018

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

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

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)

Department of Natural Resources

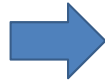
Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

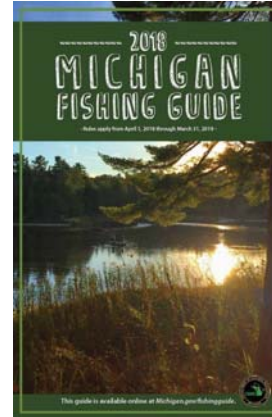
February 8, 2018

Stocking Truck Graphics: Then & Now!



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

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



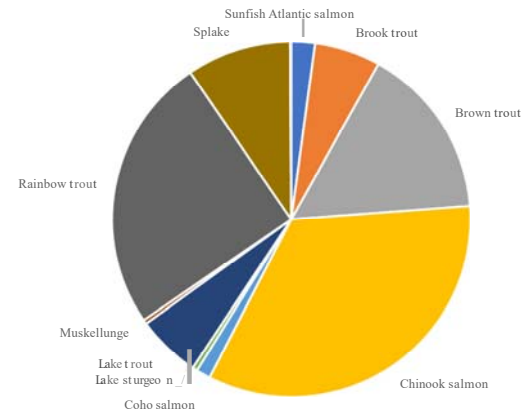
Questions?

Fish Stocking in the U.P.



Jim Dexter
Fisheries Chief
NRC -- February 8, 2018

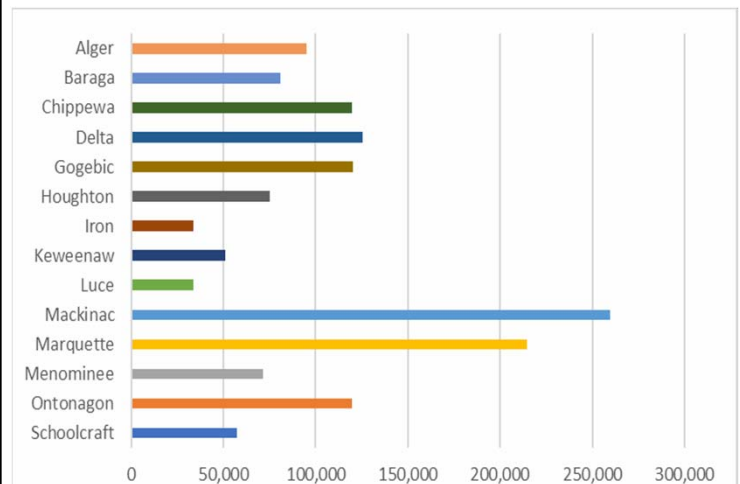
Stocking in the UP
1.73 M Fish/Year (plus 5.21 M Walleyes) = 6.94 M Total
Annual cost= \$2.71 M/Year

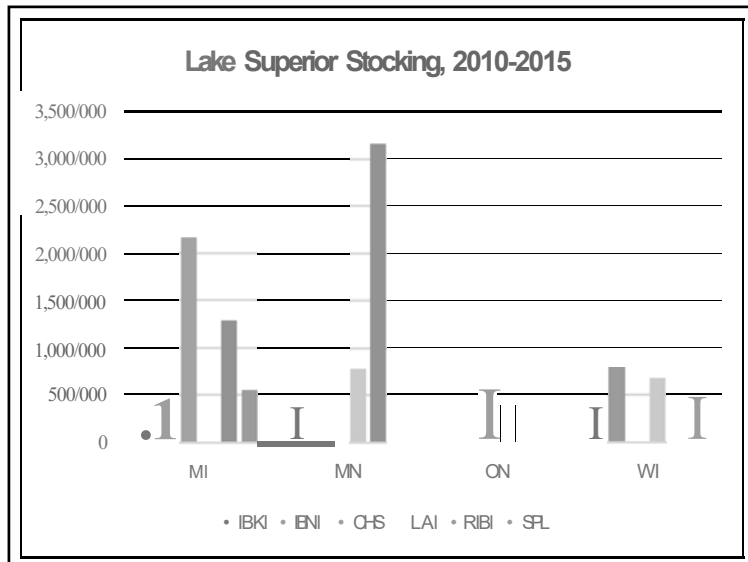
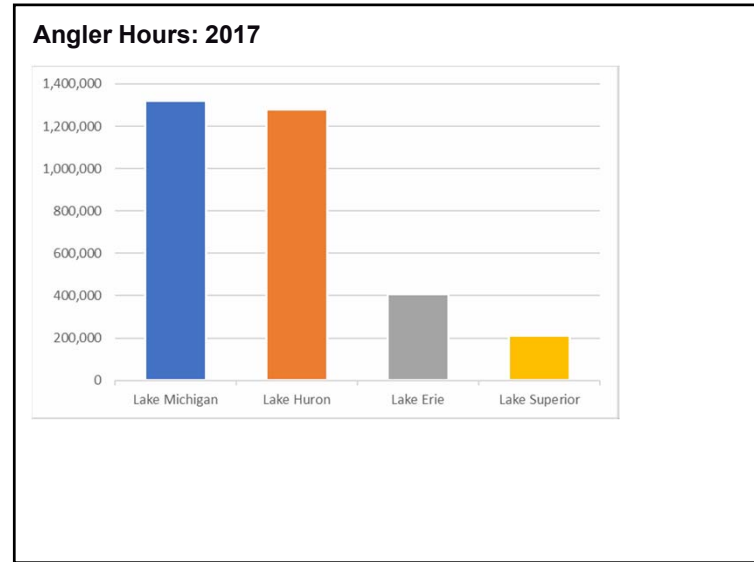
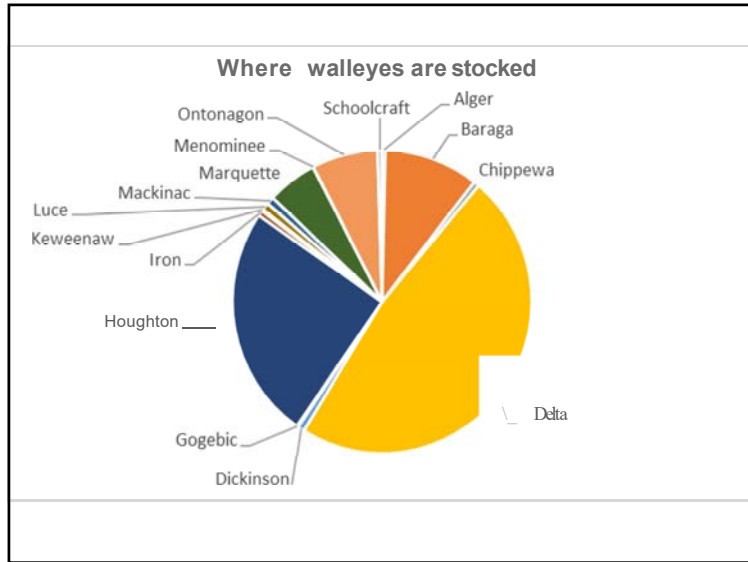


Why do we stock fish?

- 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

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





Cost of fish harvested, Lake Superior

Species	Cost per fish
Splake	\$67
Chinook	\$1,990

Cost of fish harvested, Lake Michigan

Species	Cost per fish
Brown Trout	\$248
Chinook	\$ 3.46

Inland U.P. waters stocked

		2010	2016
Rivers /	Trout	56	35
	Creeks		
	Sturgeon	2	3
	Other	5	4
	Total	63	42
Lakes /	Trout	103	88
Ponds	Splake	6	9
	Muskie	3	3
	Walleye	3	20
	Other	3	3
	Total	118	123

Thank you!



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

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



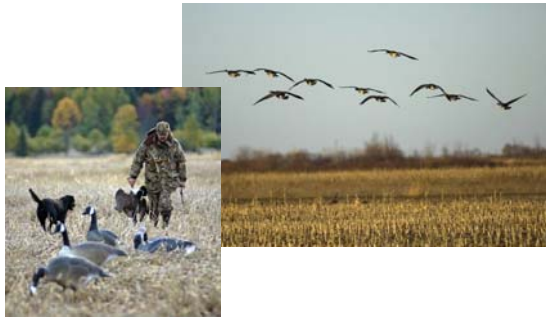
Barbara Avers, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist

Thank You

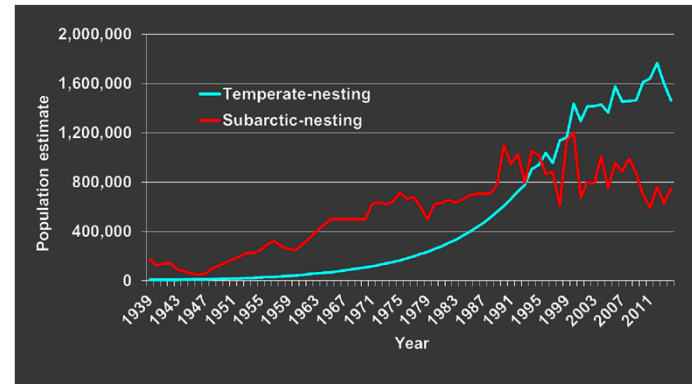
Schedule

- *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

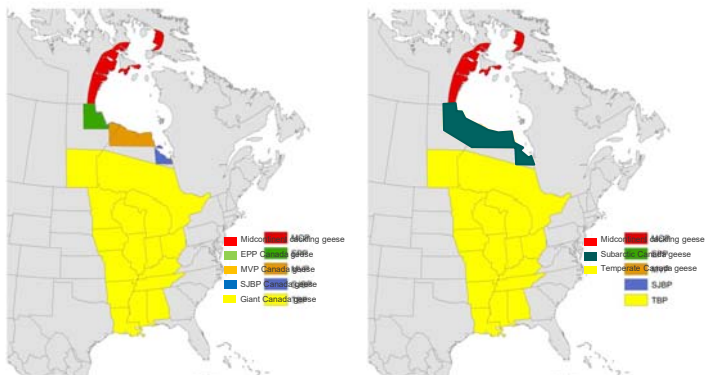
Canada Goose Status and Regulation Considerations



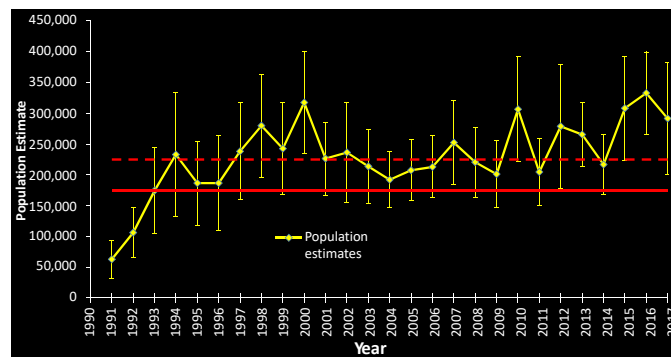
Canada Goose Abundance in the Mississippi Flyway, 1939-2014



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



Michigan Canada Goose Population Estimates, 1991-2017



2018 Goose Season Federal Framework



2018 Goose Federal Frameworks – Bag Limits

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

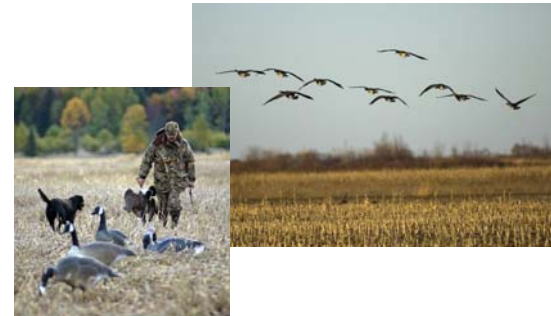
Possession limits 3X daily limit

2018 Goose Season Federal Framework



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

2018-2019 Michigan Goose Season Recommendations



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 – South Zone



- Sept. 1-30
 - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
 - Light goose daily limit = 20
- Oct. 13 – Dec. 9, Dec. 29-30, and Jan. 26-Feb. 11, 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

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 – GMUs

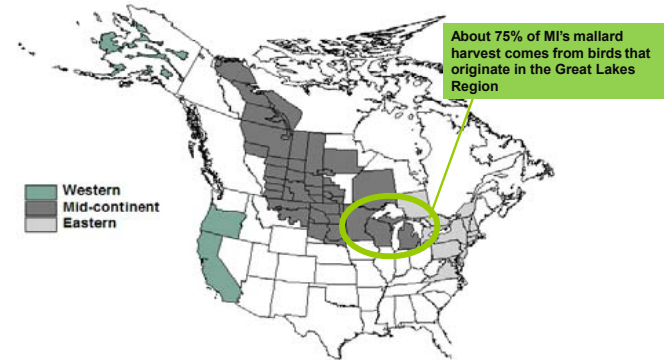


- Allegan County
 - Sept. 1-16
 - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
 - Light goose daily limit = 20
 - Nov. 3-13; Nov. 22-Dec. 9; and Dec. 15 – Feb. 14, 2019
 - Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a brant
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



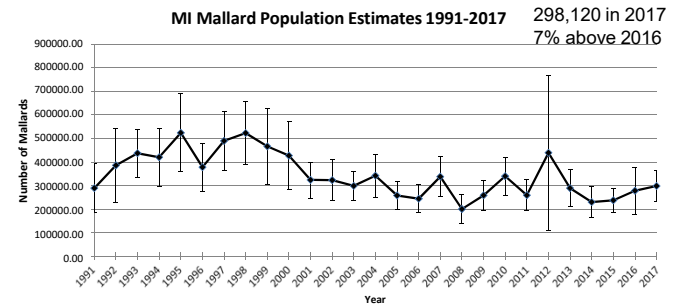
Michigan Mallard Harvest



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 Population Estimates, 1991-2017



2018 Duck Season Federal Framework



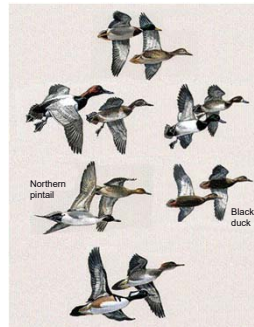
- Liberal season
 - Maximum 60 days
 - Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and last Sunday in January
 - Maximum 6 birds per day
- Possession limit 3X daily limit
- Seasons set by Zone
- One split per Zone

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.

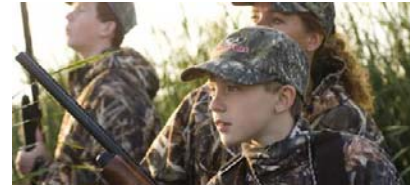


Duck Season Considerations

- Harvest
- Migration timing
- Hunter opinion

2018 Youth Season Recommendations

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



2018 Early Teal Season Recommendation

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



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



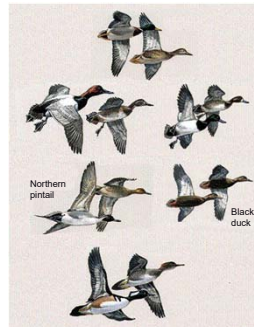
- North Zone
 - Sept. 29 – Nov. 25
 - Dec. 1 – Dec. 2
- Middle Zone
 - Oct. 6 – Dec. 2
 - Dec. 15 – 16
- South Zone
 - Oct. 13 – Dec. 9
 - Dec. 29 – Dec. 30

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

2018 Duck Season Recommendations – Daily Limits

- Maximum allowed under Federal Frameworks



Thank You