

Coldwater Regulations Committee Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2010 --- MUCC Headquarters, Lansing, MI

A meeting of the Coldwater Regulations Steering Committee was conducted after the regular meeting of the Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee. Jim Dexter requested I attend and have the Michigan Steelheaders represented on the committee. The discussion was lively and I got the impression the fly fishers were sincerely trying to compromise because of push back from the bait fishers. Kelly Smith and Jim Dexter are trying to ameliorate the proposal and keep each side from becoming polarized. I view the new proposal as a compromise for those of us who focus on steelhead and salmon fishing. We can still use bait in the fall and winter months when we are most actively seeking river fishing opportunities. Yet we can still use spinner baits and artificial baits in the summer if we want to fish the rivers.

Gear Restricted Waters

Pere Marquette River:

The committee discussed a new proposal for the Pere Marquette River from Gleason's Landing to Rainbow Rapids (10.6 miles).

New Proposal

Last Saturday in April through August 31st

Daily possession limits

Two (2) trout or salmon; except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) rainbow trout, and except that the daily possession limit shall not include more than one (1) brown trout 18 inches or greater in total length.

Size Limits

The minimum size limit shall be 8 inches or greater in total length and the maximum size limit shall be 14 inches or less in total length for all species of trout and salmon.

Terminal Tackle

Artificial lures only

September 1 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April

Daily possession limits

Zero (0) brook trout; zero (0) brown trout; one (1) rainbow trout

Same as for Type 4 Streams for all other trout and salmon

A five (5) fish, no more than three (3) over 15 inches; except five (5) Chinook or coho salmon singly or in combination

Size Limits

Not applicable for brook trout and brown trout

10-inch minimum size limit on all other trout and salmon

Terminal Tackle

All types of natural and artificial baits are allowed

In an effort to protect wild Steelhead population, the committee also discussed possible experimentation with circle hooks next year.

Upper Manistee River:

The committee discussed that the Forest Management division of the DNRE has concern for revenue loss at the State campgrounds if they lose bait fishermen. The proposal is to change the current proposal to an upper limit at Loggers Landing instead of 612 for one year and do surveys of the campgrounds. If the surveys show no significant impact on revenue the upper limit would be 612. The mileage from 72 to Loggers Landing is 5.2 miles and the mileage from 72 is 8.2. The proposal has merit and the next step would probably be a meeting with Forestry Management.

Black River:

The proposal will be changed to add brown trout to the year around harvest which now includes rainbows as the intent was to promote a brook trout fishery.

Pigeon River:

Currently the proposal calls for two trout with only a size limit for browns being 18 inches. The request is to be able to harvest one brown trout less than 18 inches.

The committee concluded discussions and Kelly Smith will run the proposal by the bait fishers who expressed the most opposition to the original proposal and see if we can move forward by the time the NRC meets on November 4th.

We adjourned at 4:30 PM