

Door County Smallmouth Bass Meeting
Crossroads at Big Creek
6:30 PM
October 15, 2019

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Genetic analysis smallmouth bass populations Green Bay/Lake Michigan
Presenter- Peter Euclide, UWSP
3. A review of smallmouth bass regulations around the Great Lakes
Presenter- Tom Meronek, DNR-Sturgeon Bay
4. Door County smallmouth bass populations: a summary of survey and tournament data
Presenter- Scott Hansen, DNR-Sturgeon Bay
5. Discussion and Questions – *Facilitated by Tom Meronek*

An aerial photograph of the Great Lakes region, showing the five large lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the surrounding land. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow and black color scheme.

Smallmouth Bass: Regulations in the Great Lakes Region

Tom Meronek

Fisheries Supervisor, Sturgeon Bay

Willie Fetzer

Former Great Lakes Specialist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

October 15, 2019

SMB Meeting of 2017

- Recap – October 2017
- Scott Hansen Presented on the most recent survey data.
- Willie Fetzer presented SMB trend data for various important Great Lakes populations.
- Tom Meronek present a summary of tournament regulations and permitting

SMB populations in GLs



Characteristics of SMB populations in GLs

Habitat

1. Shallow, coastal areas, Islands
2. Protected embayments
 - Natural
 - Manmade
3. Corridors between lakes
4. Rocky substrate
5. Warm/cool water areas

Population

1. Populations fluctuate w/moderately stable recruitment
2. Multiple age classes
3. Fast growing
4. Large maximum size
5. Condition factors are good

Great Lakes Smallmouth Bass Populations

An aerial photograph of the Great Lakes basin, showing the five large lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and their surrounding watersheds. The land is a mix of green and brown, indicating forested and agricultural areas. The text is overlaid on the top left and middle left of the image.

- Summary of Regulations on the Great Lakes
- Summary of comments from 2017
- Action item
 - New Mink River Regulation

Illinois Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
21	1	Lake Michigan	Open all year
		Inland smaller rivers	Closed April 1 to June 15



Indiana Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
14	3	Lake Michigan	Open all year



Michigan Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
14	5	St. Clair System	3 rd Sat of June to Dec. 31
14	5	All Great Lakes	Sat. before Mem. Day to Dec 31
14	5	Within 1 mile of Beaver Islands	July 1 to Dec 31



Ohio Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
12	5	Statewide	
14	5	Lake Erie	March 1 to April 30
18	1	Lake Erie	May 1 to June 21
14	5	Lake Erie	June 22 to February 29



Pennsylvania Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
		Statewide Closed	April 13 to June 14
15	4	Lake Erie	January 1 to April 12
15	4	Lake Erie	June 15 to December 31



New York Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
12	5	Statewide (Applies to L. Ont.)	Dec 1 to 3 rd Sat June
12	5	Statewide (Applies to L. Ont.)	3 rd Sat June to Nov 30
20	1	Lake Erie	Dec 1 to 3 rd Sat June
12	5	Lake Erie	3 rd Sat June to Nov 30



Ontario Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
None	6	Lake Erie and Lake Huron	4 th Sat June to Nov. 30
None	3	Georgian Bay	4 th Sat June to Nov. 30
None	6	Lake Superior	Open all year
None	4	Lake Ontario	3 rd Sat in June to Dec. 15



Wisconsin Great Lakes Regulations

Minimum Size	Daily Bag	Location	Season
14	5	St. Louis River	May 25 – March 1
C & R	0	Lake Superior	1 st Sat May to June 14
22	1 Bass	Lake Superior	June 15 to 1 st Sun March
14	5	All Tribs. to GB and Tribs. LM South of HWY 29	1 st Sat May to 1 st Sun Mar.
C & R	None	Tribs. To LM Door and Kewaunee Counties	1 st Sat May to June 14
14	5	Tribs. To LM Door and Kewaunee Counties	June 15 to 1 st Sun March
14	5	GB and LM	1 st Sat May to 1 st Sun Mar.
12	5	Within ¼ mile of the islands in Washington Township	July 1 to 1 st Sun March



Summary of Great Lakes Regulations

Spring closures through spawning

- Illinois – no closure but regulated with high size limit
- Indiana – Only state with no special spring regs.
- Michigan – St. Clair area and Beaver Islands-closed
- Ohio – L. Erie Size=18, bag=1
- Penn. – closed statewide inclusive of L. Erie -closed
- New York – L. Erie Size=20, bag=1 thru spring
- Ontario – L. Erie, Huron, Ontario closed, L. Sup –none
- Wisconsin – Tribs to L. Mi north of Hwy 29 and L. Sup. - C&R;
Washinton Isl. Closed to July 1
- Many states do not specifically prohibit C&R so it is unclear

Summary of 2017 Comments

Desired Change	Number Suggesting
Limit Tournaments	2
Tournament CPR	4
Catch and Release Period	5
Closed Areas	2
Reduce Bag Limit/Limit Harvest	1
Size Limit Change	4
Possession limit	1
More Studies/Research	1
Circle Hooks	1

Action Item

Mink River Proposal 2018

Current Rule: Catch and release (First Saturday in May until June 15); June 16 – 1st Sunday in March: 5 bag, 14” size limit

Proposed Rule: Mink River total fishery closure beginning with the normal March gamefish closure until June 15. This would result in the Mink being a fish refuge until June 16.

The rule would protect the spawning fish better and also serve to protect the expanding Northern Pike Population in Lake Michigan

The Rule passed at Spring Hearing 2019

The Rule Package is has been moved to the legislature for final review and approval before publishing for Spring 2020