

GENERAL POLICIES

The creation and maintenance of a high quality and productive fishery for both sport and food fish in the public waters of this state is the primary fisheries management objective of the Department of Natural Resources. Toward achieving this objective, the Department shall produce and plant hatchery fish; construct, maintain, and operate artificial spawning areas and rearing ponds; transfer and plant wild fish; and authorize certain private plants. The following fish planting activities are authorized.

Introducing a New Species

Game and food fish may be introduced in any public water to establish new species or reestablish native species, provided:

1. Biological assurance exists that the quality of the total sport fishery will be improved.
2. The species can be expected to maintain itself through natural reproduction or is so desirable (grayling, for example) that it will be maintained via hatcheries.
3. No species, exotic or non-indigenous to Michigan waters, will be so introduced without specific authorization of the Chief of Fisheries, the Director of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Commission.

Production Planting in Public Waters

Game fish may be stocked in any public water to maintain a high quality sport fishery whether or not such fish can be expected to reproduce in the natural environment, provided:

1. Natural reproduction and survival are inadequate for maximum production of the species.
2. A growth potential is assured in the natural environment whereby more pounds of fish will be taken in the fishery than were originally stocked.
3. The fishery produced justifies the cost of the program.

All fish stocked in public waters must be justified under one or the other of the above sets of conditions. No fish shall be stocked or furnished by the Department for other purposes, except in the following situations.