

FISHERIES ORDER

Fishing Tournament and Competitive Event Registration Order 250.19

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered on October 11, 2018, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

These rules and regulations supersede all others governing fishing tournament regulations.

A. As used in this Order the following definitions are provided:

- 1) Fishing Tournament: means an organized competition between anglers or teams of anglers that meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. The determination of a winner is based on the cumulative weight or length of the targeted fish species caught by an angler or team of anglers.
 - b. Occurs during a defined period, which can be on one or multiple days but does not exceed 5 days.
 - c. Is anchored to a single boating access site or designated nearby location where fish caught by participating anglers or teams are to be weighed in, entered, or the group is otherwise operating their event from.
 - d. Is limited to a single water body or connected waterbodies (Example: Lake St. Clair, Detroit R., and Lake Erie) that are accessed by a common access site.

A Fishing Tournament is not a competition where “winning” or prize distribution is determined solely on one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Who caught the largest fish or some combination of big fish awards
 - b. Who caught the smallest fish
 - c. Who caught the first fish
 - d. Who caught the most fish species
 - e. Any other format that does not involve an angler or teams of anglers entering a cumulative weight or length of the target species.
- 2) Competitive Fishing Event: means any other organized competition among anglers involving prize distribution or the declaration of a winner that is not defined as a fishing tournament with specific rules applying to that particular event
- 3) Director: means any person or persons organizing a fishing tournament or competitive fishing event.

B. Regulations

- 1) Beginning January 1, 2019, the following shall be registered online using the Department’s Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System:
 - a. All bass fishing tournaments;
 - b. All walleye fishing tournaments; and
 - c. All competitive fishing events targeting muskellunge.

- 2) Directors shall verify all tournament or event participants and provide a unique registration receipt to all participating anglers. Directors shall report their results to the Department by December 31, annually.
- 3) The fishing tournaments and competitive fishing events listed in this order are required to register and report their results as determined by the DNR for each event type online at <http://www.michigan.gov/fishingtournaments>

This Order shall be assigned number FO-250.19, and is entitled “Fishing Tournament and Competitive Event Registration.”

This Order shall take effect on January 1, 2019 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.