

## An Overview of the Draft Management Plan for Fisheries Management Zone 11 (FMZ 11)

# Proposed Management Strategies and Regulation Changes

### Summary

#### Lake Trout

The status of natural Lake Trout waters in FMZ 11 is of particular concern. Lake Trout populations are characterized as stressed with low abundance.



Figure 1: Lake Trout

The overall objective for Lake Trout is to increase their abundance – particularly for adult female Lake Trout – by modifying the fall Lake Trout season and implementing size restrictions.

The draft Plan proposes to close the Lake Trout season the day after Labour Day (versus the present September 30 closure).

The draft Plan also proposes a size restriction on natural lakes, and a separate size restriction is proposed for Lake Temagami due to the unique growth rates of its Lake Trout population:

- Sport (s): Limit of two fish, only one fish greater than 40cm
- Conservation (c): Limit of one fish, zero greater than 40cm
- Lake Temagami: one of two fish greater than 45cm (s); zero greater than 45cm (c)

The draft Plan also proposes modifying the Lake Obabika Lake Trout exception regulation to re-open the season:

- Limit one fish (s); zero fish (c)

#### Walleye

The Walleye population in FMZ 11 has shown slight improvement in health and the number of age classes. Walleye numbers have remained stable. As part of the proposed Plan, current Walleye regulations will remain in place:

- Limit of four fish (s); two fish (c)
- No fish between 43cm and 60cm
- Only one fish greater than 60cm (s/c)



Figure 2: Walleye

## Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass are abundant across FMZ 11. While several options are being considered, the preferred option involves extending the current angling season to align with Walleye and Northern Pike:

- Season open Jan. 1 – third Sunday in March; third Sat in May to Dec. 31

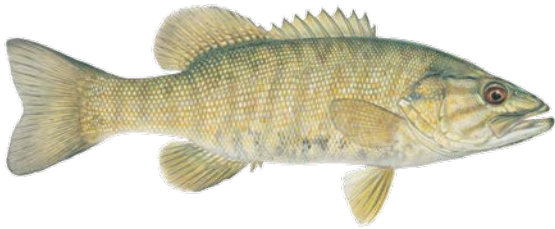


Figure 3: Smallmouth Bass

This change is intended to permit additional harvest opportunities, help trout populations where they coexist and simplify the current regulation.

## Brook Trout

The loss of natural and stocked Brook Trout lakes in FMZ 11 is thought to be significant. The inability to compete with introduced species and their dependence on up-welling, coldwater springs have made Brook Trout susceptible to decline.



Figure 4: Brook Trout

The preferred option in the Plan retains the present season, catch and size restriction on natural/diversionary lakes for Brook Trout with a proposed live baitfish ban. For additional opportunity Brook Trout lakes:

- Season open all year
- Limit five fish (s); two fish(c)

- No size restriction
- No live baitfish

## Northern Pike

The Plan states that present regulations are suitable to allow for opportunities to harvest Northern Pike. There is, however, a proposed regulation change for Obabika Lake that would revert it to zone-wide regulations:

- January 1 – third Sunday in March; 3rd Saturday in May to December 31



Figure 5: Northern Pike

## Muskellunge (Muskie)

Muskellunge regulations are proposed to remain unchanged across FMZ 11; however, enhanced information-gathering is being proposed to benefit understanding and protection of fish habitat.

Within FMZ 11, the French River system is currently listed as an exception to the Muskellunge season. The Plan proposes to streamline the angling season to that of the remainder of FMZ 11:

### French River:

- Limit one fish (s); zero fish (c)
- Open third Sat. in Jun. – Dec. 15 (consistent with zone-wide season)
- No size restriction



Figure 6: Muskie