



Public and Private Fish Stocking: When, Where, and Why?

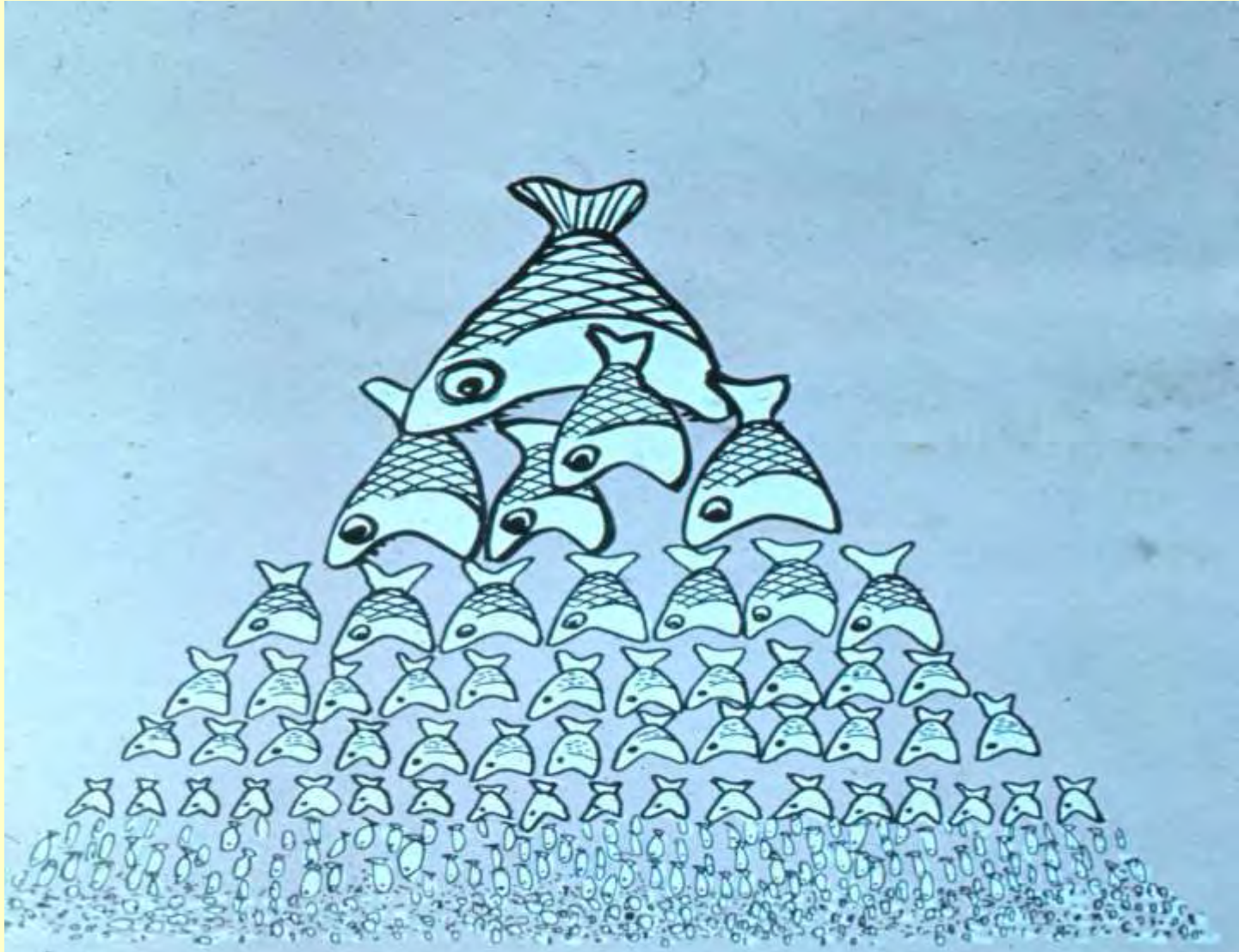
Michigan Inland Lakes
Convention
May 2nd, 2014
Jay Wesley
MDNR-Fisheries Division

Presentation Outline

- Fish Community Balance
- Basic Fisheries Management
- Lake Stocking: When and Why
- DNR Stocking in Lakes
- Private Fish Stocking

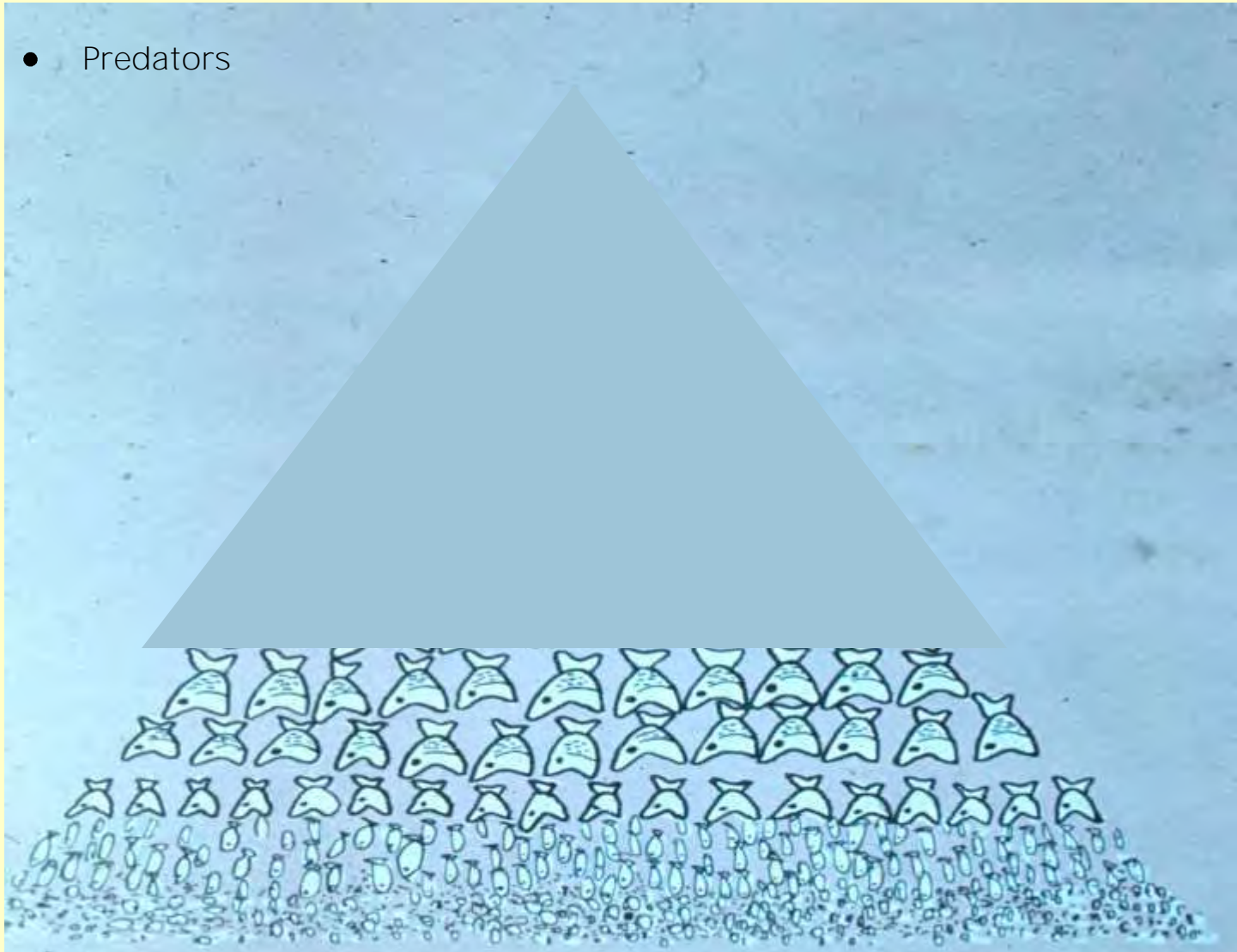


Fish Community Balance



Fish Community Balance

- Predators

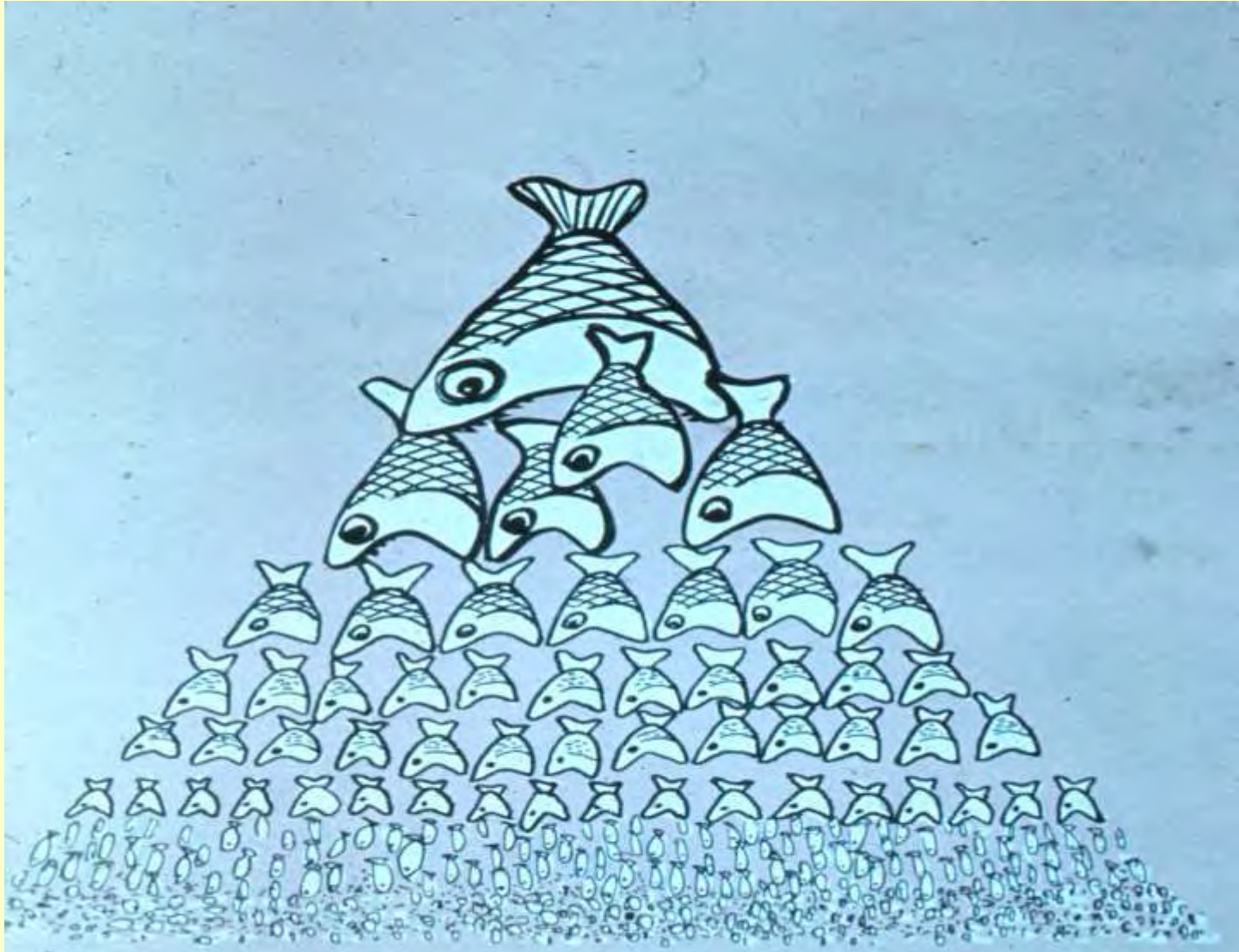


Fish Community Balance

- Too many predators
- Habitat Limitations



Fish Community Balance



Fisheries Management

- Return or Maintain Balance
- Management Techniques
 - Inventory/Survey
 - Regulations (MSL, Seasons, Bag)
 - Habitat Improvement
 - Wetland/Stream Connectivity
 - Natural Shoreline
 - Lake Vegetation
 - Stocking



Lake Stocking: When and Why

- Return Balance
 - Stock a predator (Stunting or Shad)
- Create Fishing Opportunity
- Restore Rare Species



- Not always the answer
 - “We want more and bigger bluegills and yellow perch”.



DNR Stocking in Lakes



DNR Stocking in Lakes

- History
 - 1930 through 1949 (poor habitat/WQ)
 - Trout, Bluegills, Bass, and Walleye
 - 1950 through 1964
 - Trout, Northern Pike, Muskellunge, and Walleye - some Bluegill and Bass
 - 1964 to Present (Community Balance)
 - Trout, Walleye, Muskellunge, and Channel Catfish - some Northern Pike and Lake Sturgeon.

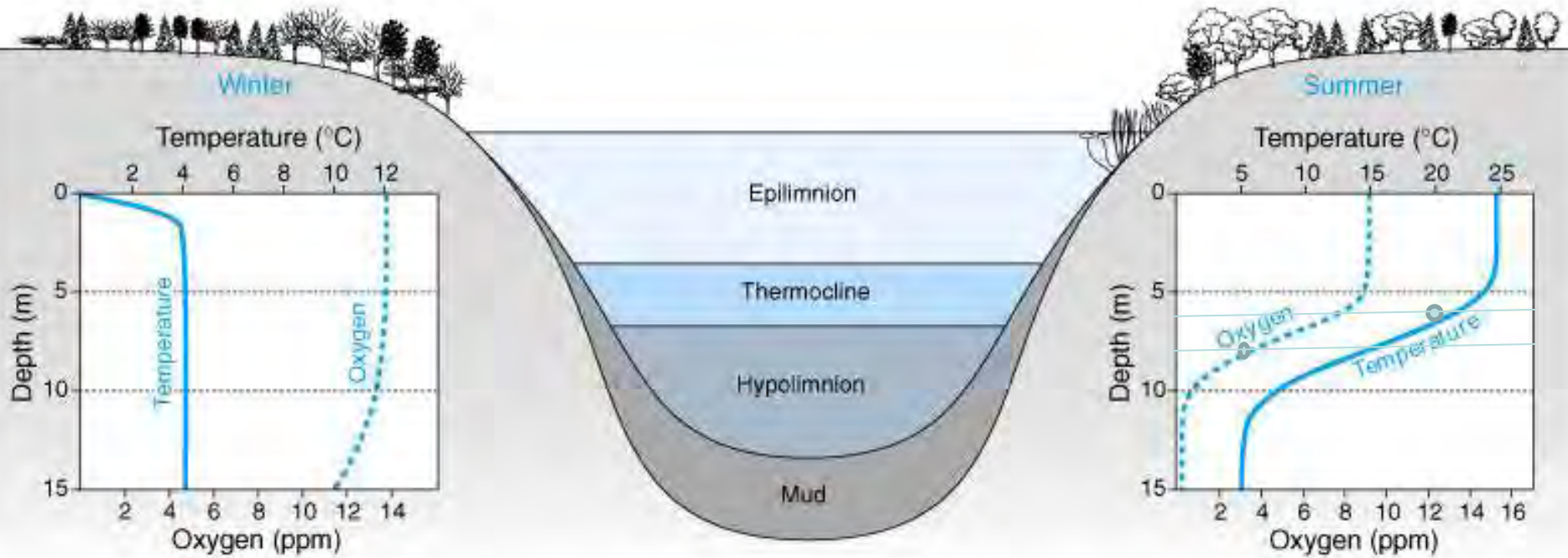


DNR Stocking in Lakes

- Trout
 - Create Unique Fishery
 - Brook trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and lake trout.
 - Stocked as yearlings (5 to 7 inches)
 - Habitat limited
 - Cold Temperature Lakes
 - Two Story Lakes



DNR Stocking in Lakes



DNR Stocking in Lakes

- Walleye
 - Predator Balance/Create Fishery
 - Eggs Collected (Muskegon/Bay de Noc)
 - Pond Raised
 - Spring Fingerlings (N. MI)
 - Fall Fingerlings
 - S. MI



DNR Stocking in Lakes

- Muskellunge
 - Predator Balance/Create Fishery
 - Eggs Collected (Detroit River)
 - Pond Raised
 - Fall Fingerlings



DNR Stocking in Lakes

- For More Information

- Contact Local Fishery Manager:

- http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/fmd_MU_internal_378278_7.html

- DNR Fish Stocking Database:

- <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/>

- DNR Fish Stocking Guidelines

- <http://michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu/uploads/files/Dexter%20et%20al.%202004.pdf>



Private Fish Stocking

- Private Ponds and Lakes
 - Owners Expense
 - Private Hatchery
- Private Stocking of Public Waters
 - Individual or Association Expense
 - Private Hatchery
 - http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mda/mda_aquaculture_192478_7.pdf



Private Fish Stocking

FACILITY NAME		FACILITY ADDRESS		PHONE	EXPIRATION DATE	
<u>Calhoun</u>						
JACK'S FISH FARM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PLANTING STOCK	14630 12 MILE ROAD	(616) 846-5844	9/30/2013	FACILITY SPECIES
JACK	PELTON	<input type="checkbox"/> DRESSED FISH	CERESCO	MICHIGAN		largemouth bass
		<input type="checkbox"/> FEE FISHING		49033		smallmouth bass
						bluegill
						hybrid bluegill
						channel catfish
						crayfish
						goldfish
						fathead minnow
						yellow perch
						northern pike
						pumpkinseed
						emerald shiner
						golden shiner
						green sunfish
						redeer sunfish
						brook trout
						brown trout
						rainbow trout
						walleye
						black crappie



Private Fish Stocking

- Public Waters Stocking Permit (Free)
 - **“Public Water”**
 - Public Access (state or local/Rd Ending)
 - Connection to Public Waters
 - Biologist Review
 - Proper Species/Stocking Rates
 - Conflicting Management
 - Disease Free Source (LMBv, VHSv)



Private Fish Stocking



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

APPLICATION TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

Under authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, stocking fish into the public waters of the State of Michigan is prohibited without an approved permit. Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

PERMITTEE INFORMATION

Applicant's Name	Telephone Number () -
Street Address	City, State and Zip Code

WATER TO BE STOCKED

Waterbody Name	Size (Acres)	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Approximate Stocking Date
Name of Inlets and/or Outlets	Is Water to be Stocked Open to Public Fishing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
Purpose of Stocking						

SOURCE OF FISH

MDA Facility Registration Number	Telephone Number () -	Facility Manager's Name	Telephone Number () -
Street Address	Street Address		
City, State and Zip Code	City, State and Zip Code		

FISH TO BE STOCKED

Species	Stock or strain	Size (inches) or Age	Number
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FOR TROUT AND SALMON ONLY

The trout and salmon for stocking must come from a facility with a certificate or report of fish health designating disease free status that includes all facilities through which said fish have passed.

Aquaculture Facility has a Current Fish Health Certificate(s) or Report(s) of Fish Health? Yes No

I hereby certify that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Purchaser or Agent's Signature

Date

Return completed application to:
Fisheries Management Unit Office Responsible for the Watershed to be Stocked (see Table 1)

FOR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES USE ONLY

APPLICATION IS: APPROVED DENIED (see attached denial letter)

Permit Number:	Approved Action:
Issue Date:	
Expiration Date:	



Private Fish Stocking

- Common Species
 - Walleye, Channel Catfish, Trout
- Species Approved - Not Recommended
 - Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Bass, Northern Pike, Fathead Minnow



Private Fish Stocking

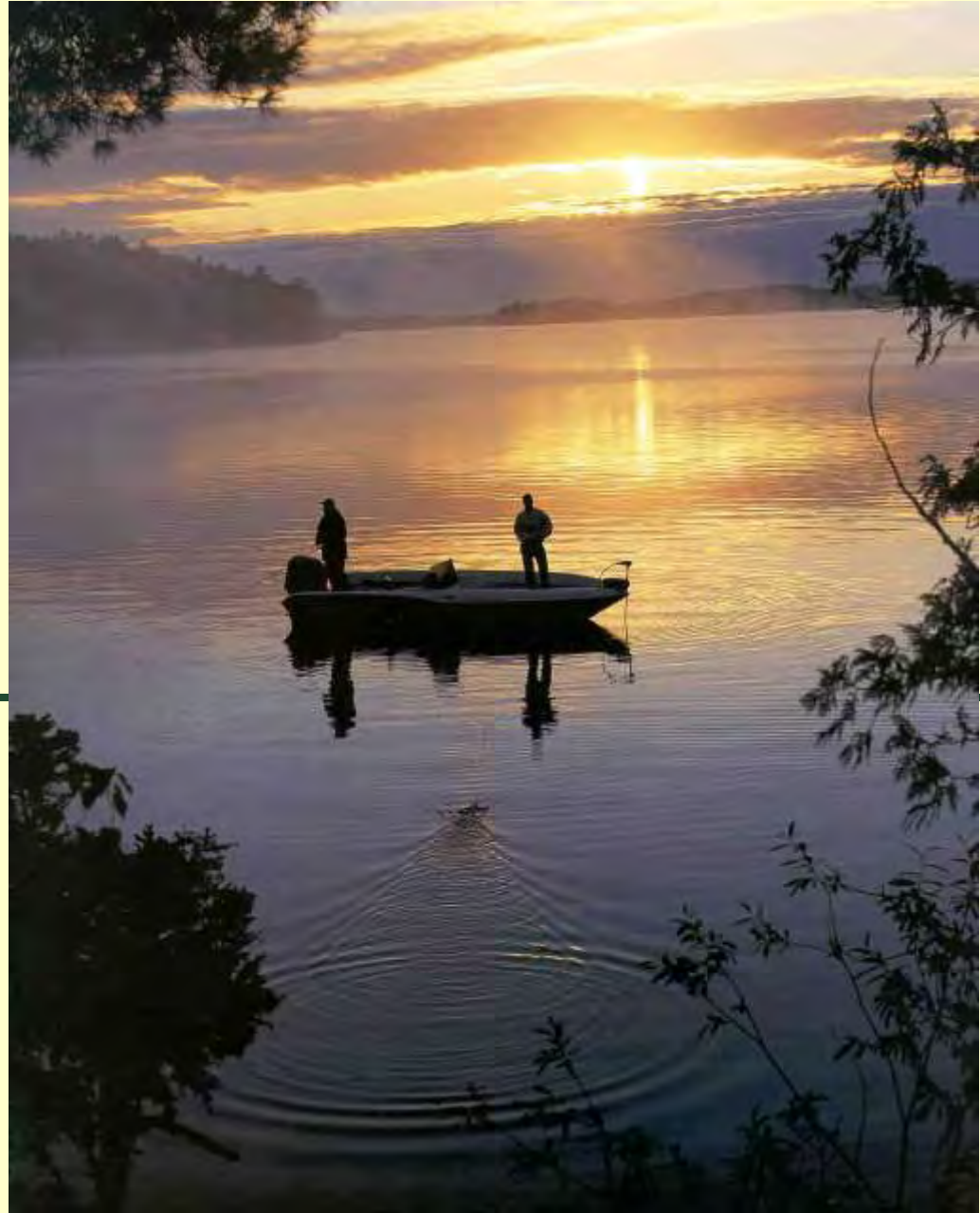
- Species Not Approved
 - Prohibited Species List
 - Most Non-Native Fish
 - Diseased or Uncertified Fish



Conclusion

- Remember Balance
- DNR Stocking (Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, and Trout)
- Private Stocking Might Require a Permit
- Healthy Fish Community





Questions?