



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Lt. Thomas R. Wanless, Boating Law Administrator

FROM: Corporal Jill Miller, Marine Specialist

DATE: November 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Investigative Report – Cisco Chain of Lakes – Channel between East Bay Lake to Indian Lake, Watersmeet Township, Gogebic County

Under the direction of Part 801 “Marine Safety” of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.80110(2), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has conducted an investigation and inquiry into whether special rules are needed on a portion of the Cisco Chain of Lakes – Channel between East Bay Lake to Indian Lake, located in Watersmeet Township, Gogebic County and included a consideration of all the following:

A. Whether the activities subject to the proposed special rules pose any issues of safety to life or property.

Activities subject to the proposed special rules do not pose any additional issues of safety to life or property.

B. The profile of the water body, including local jurisdiction, size, geographic location, and amount of vessel traffic.

The channel between East Bay Lake and Indian Lake is located within section 14, town 44 north, range 41 west, township of Watersmeet, county of Gogebic. It is a fairly wide channel, about 30 feet at the narrowest point, surrounded by marsh on both sides. There is only one residence on Indian Lake, so vessel traffic is generally slow.

C. The current and historical depth of the water body, including whether there is an established lake level for the water body.

The channel has a depth of 5-8 feet or less. There was no data on established lake levels.

D. Whether any identifiable special problems or conditions exist on the water body for the activities subject to the proposed special rules, such as rocks,

pier heads, swimming areas, public access sites, shallow waters, and submerged obstacles.

There are a few submerged stumps at the entrance of the channel.

E. Whether the proposed special rules would unreasonably interfere with normal navigational traffic.

Any special rule or local control may adversely affect vessel operation by restricting vessel speeds and increasing time of travel.

F. Whether user conflicts exist on the water body.

There have been no user conflicts reported.

G. Complaints received by local law enforcement agencies regarding activities on the water body.

Research through the Department of Natural Resources Communications Section shows that over the most recent 5-year period there have been no complaints reported to our Report All Poaching hotline. A check with Gogebic County and Watersmeet Township shows no complaints for the most recent 5-year period.

H. The status of any accidents that have occurred on the water body.

The U.S. Coast Guard Boat Accident Reporting Database shows no boating accidents reported in the last five years.

I. Historical uses of the water body and potential future uses of the water body.

The water body is a multi-use lake and is used by kayaks, anglers, recreational boaters, rowboats, and paddleboards. Except for the transfer of ownership of private residences, no other potential uses are in the foreseeable future.

J. Whether the water body is public or private.

East Bay Lake and Indian Lake are public lakes.

K. Whether existing law adequately regulates the activities subject to the proposed special rules.

Based on the information obtained through this preliminary investigation, concerns related to public safety and compatible use on the channel from East Bay Lake to Indian Lake within the jurisdiction of Watersmeet Township, Gogebic County, are negligible.

Further information will be gathered at a public hearing for Cisco Chain of Lakes – Channel between East Bay to Indian Lake.