



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

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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 Morley Lake to Lindsley 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 Morley Lake to Lindsley 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 Morley Lake to Lindsley Lake is located within section 16, town 44 north, range 41 west, township of Watersmeet, county of Gogebic. It is a wide channel, approximately 105 feet wide, to allow vessel traffic to operate in either direction as well anglers fishing on the sides.

**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 approximately five to fifteen feet in depth. 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.**

The entrance of the channel has a narrow opening with rocks and submerged obstacles on the edges. The rest of the channel opens and is wide enough to allow for vessels traffic to operate in either direction along with vessels on either side. There are approximately 4 docks.

**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 Watersmeet Township and Gogebic County showed no other reported complaints on this lake.

**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 bodies are multi-use lakes 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.**

Morley Lake and Lindsley 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 Morley Lake to Lindsley 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 Morley Lake to Lindsley Lake.