



# OAG

Office of the Auditor General

## Report Summary

*Performance Audit*

*Fisheries Division*

*Department of Natural Resources*

**Report Number:**

**751-0150-17**

**Released:**

**March 2018**

The Fisheries Division vision is to provide Michigan with world-class freshwater fishing, supported by healthy aquatic environments. To accomplish this vision, the Division conducts scientific research surveys and stock assessments of the State's waters to understand the aquatic resources, habitats, and fisheries. Information from the surveys is used to determine the types and quantities of fish to stock. During calendar year 2016, the Division placed more than 34 million fish into Michigan's waters. The Division is also responsible for preventing the introduction of new and limiting the spread of established invasive species, detecting and responding to new invasions, and managing and controlling established aquatic invasive species.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess the effectiveness of the Fisheries Division's fish stocking efforts.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
The Fisheries Division did not generate timely aquatic survey reports for 458 (57%) of the 804 surveys completed between March 3, 2014 and December 1, 2016 ( <a href="#">Finding #1</a> ).		X	Agrees
Fisheries Division locations did not maintain complete inventory records. None of the 8 locations that we sampled maintained inventory records of locally controlled fisheries equipment and property ( <a href="#">Finding #2</a> ).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #2: To assess the Fisheries Division's efforts to manage State-owned dams and regulate designated natural rivers.			Moderately effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
The Fisheries Division did not periodically review permits issued by local units of government. Also, it did not conduct required site visits prior to issuing private land use permits for properties within designated natural river areas for 94 (22%) of 433 permits that we tested ( <u>Finding #3</u> ).		X	Agrees
The Fisheries Division did not take sufficient action to obtain annual reports from local units of government that regulate private land use on designated natural rivers. For calendar years 2015 and 2016, 27 (45%) and 33 (55%), respectively, of the 60 local units of government did not submit required annual reports ( <u>Finding #4</u> ).		X	Agrees
The Fisheries Division did not complete all recommended maintenance, monitoring, and planning activities for dams for which it is responsible. Five (22%) of 23 recommendations from the Department of Environmental Quality for 8 dams that we reviewed were not implemented ( <u>Finding #5</u> ).		X	Partially agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #3: To assess the effectiveness of the Fisheries Division's efforts to address aquatic invasive species.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.			Not applicable.

**Obtain Audit Reports**

Online: [audgen.michigan.gov](http://audgen.michigan.gov)

Phone: (517) 334-8050

Office of the Auditor General  
201 N. Washington Square, Sixth Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

**Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA**  
Auditor General

**Laura J. Hirst, CPA**  
Deputy Auditor General