

Hunting, fishing license fees to rise

By Lem Meece
outdoors writer

Michigan sportsmen are resigned to seeing their hunting and fishing licenses fees rise. But they are resisting other changes being considered by the state Department of Natural Resources as it seeks to raise revenue.

Of 20 changes being proposed in "trial balloons" meetings around the state, four are being opposed in surveys of outdoors persons, according to Art Dittmar, a regional leader in the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

Sportsmen are divided 60-50 on whether the state should end the husband-wife fishing license. All other 49 states in the Union sell individual fishing licenses.

"Don't look at it as an extra cost," said Dittmar last week at a meeting of the Four Seasons Fishing Club in western Wayne County. "Look at it as Michigan's getting \$475,000 in federal aid because federal aid is based on the number of licenses sold."

His prediction: The Legislature will require separate fishing licenses for spouses.

FOUR PROPOSALS are running into stiff opposition, Dittmar reported.

Eliminating of the senior citizen reduced fee fishing license. DNR estimates this change would raise \$8.7 million in revenue over six years.

Lowering the firearm deer license age from 14 to 12, raising \$1.8 million over six years. "A kid of 12 is too young to wander around with a .30.06 rifle," he said.

Eliminating junior archery deer and small game licenses, raising \$1.5 million.

Raising licenses generally, increasing revenue by \$29 million over six years.

A few eyes are also being raised at the proposal to give the Natural Resources Commission, rather than the Legislature, authority to raise license fees.

Outdoors persons are generally cool to the pro-

outdoors

posal to create an interest-earning game and fish trust fund, using oil revenues from Pigeon River State Forest lands. "Most people don't trust the Legislature," said Dittmar, recalling how the Kammer Land Trust Fund and Veterans Trust Fund were raided when the state ran into a fiscal crunch.

THE NEED for more revenue is being outlined to MUCC and other clubs by DNR personnel, who are also polling audience reactions.

Ron Spiller, district fisheries biologist for DNR's Pontiac office, said the game and fish — general purpose budget was set at \$33 million but cut \$2 million last year and \$1.5 million in the current year because license revenues have failed to keep pace with costs.

"It's kind of a 'user pay' world these days," Spiller said.

The G&F fund supports DNR's wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement divisions. Layoffs of law enforcement officers, he said, have meant "more poaching and snagging" of game and fish.

If Dittmar and MUCC members were cool to a trust fund, Spiller was more enthusiastic. "The trust fund can be a biggie down the road. I think it's the best idea of the bunch," Spiller said.

OTHER IDEAS being considered by DNR:

Creating a lifetime licenses for fishing, hunting and a combination. The revenue would go into the trust fund.

Using the general fund to support payments in lieu of property taxes to counties for game and fish lands. These payments are currently supported by license fees.

Creating a 5 percent surcharge on hides, pelts and furs which trappers sell.

Increasing the monetary value on game and fish taken illegally by poachers who are caught.

Providing for an additional gun deer license and archery kill tag for bucks only. Fees would be the same as for the first license.

Creating a nonrefundable \$3 fee for administration and handling of hunter's choice deer permits and reservations in managed waterfowl areas.

Lowering fishing license age from 17 years to 16.



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The free program offers counseling on careers in the 1980s. OU faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about "hot fields" and what kinds of jobs await graduates.

Seniors will have a chance to compete for awards based on high school grades and a written exam. The awards are made without regard to family income.

The program opens at 12:30 p.m. in Lepsley Sports center with the competitive scholarship testing sessions scheduled for 1:40-2:30 p.m. and 2:45-3:45 p.m. All high school students can attend Career Day, but only seniors can take the examination. Competing seniors will be signed into one of these two sessions.

The schedule includes a 1:30 p.m. parents information seminar, 2:45 p.m. career workshops sessions, and 3-5 p.m. reception for students and parents in the Fireside Lounge, Oakland Center.

For registration information, call the OU Office of Admissions and Scholarships at 377-3360.

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WINE NOT? By Armando Dacapita
What wine goes with what? The answer is not, they are based on taste. Generally, red wines with red meats, white with white. Fine can be drunk with many fish dishes, especially for champagne goes with everything. (After all, champagne goes with everything.)
Fishes: Atlantic salmon are best with foods of richer, well-oiled meats or butter. A lighter red, Bordeaux style, or a Pinot Noir, is better with fish. Avoid fish dishes call for white wine or top. And a light red wine or lighter Pinot Noir.
The most popular wine is Pinot Noir. Why? Because most foods taste better with it. Sweet wine can make food taste better.
There are three types of wine, even a sweeter champagne, that are the delectable, especially single ones like custard, port, brandy or plain wine.
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