

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2008

Contacts: Jay Wesley 269-685-6851 or Mary Dettloff 517-335-3014

DNR Fisheries Division Releases Management Updates for Waters in Southwest Michigan

The Department of Natural Resources' Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit is announcing fishery management actions and activities for the 2008-2009 angling season. These actions and activities include fish stocking, habitat rehabilitation projects, creel census and fish community surveys.

“These management updates are provided as a means to notify anglers and the public of changes in management and to make lake and stream property owners aware of our survey activities,” said Jay Wesley, DNR’s Southern Lake Michigan unit manager in Plainwell. “We also value public input regarding our management actions and encourage anglers to report on current management activities.”

The Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit covers the Grand, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Galien river watersheds and all the lakes and streams within that area. Each year, fisheries biologists and technicians evaluate management options on various water bodies in order to achieve increased fishery benefits. Following is a list by county of management actions that have occurred in the past year and a list of waters that are being surveyed in 2008. Anglers are asked to provide feedback on specific management options.

Branch County

The Coldwater River is scheduled for a fish community survey and habitat assessment this summer. Walleye stocking will resume in Coldwater Lake once disinfection techniques and other procedures are approved for preventing the spread of VHSv.

Calhoun County

The Calhoun County Conservation District has been active rehabilitating rivers in this area. Rice Creek will soon be reconnected to the Kalamazoo River after the Marshall Dam in the City of Marshall is removed. An Inland Fisheries Grant was awarded in 2004 to remove this unsafe dam. The Kalamazoo River will be surveyed as a part of a long-term fixed sampling program. Channel catfish stocking in the Battle Creek River has been discontinued. Previous surveys indicate that the population may be able to sustain itself without stocking.