



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

October 18, 2023

VIA EMAIL: Townclerk@watersmeet.us

Julie Mathiesen, Township Clerk
Watersmeet Township
N4689 1st Street
P.O. Box 306
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969

Dear Ms. Mathiesen:

The Department of Natural Resources has concluded its investigation into the need for local watercraft controls on the Cisco Chain of Lakes and finds that no additional special controls are warranted at this time.

The investigation into the need for special controls included a field investigation as well as a public hearing in Gogebic County.

Local watercraft controls (LWC) are authorized only when necessary to assure compatible use and protect public safety, where enforcement of existing regulations cannot address safety issues. Our investigation showed a limited number of substantiated complaints, warnings, and citations. However, there are existing laws that can address the concerns expressed on the Cisco Chain of Lakes.

The LWC process outlined in Part 801 will only allow the DNR to address compatibility of uses and public safety, not environmental or habitat concerns. As much as these concerns are at the core of the DNR's mission, our authority is bound by the law.

Based on the field investigation, a review of testimony at the public hearing, and a review of the law enforcement records, no valid boating safety concerns are evident which would demonstrate a need to add additional rules to the current regulations. Your request has been denied.

Complaints can be reported to local authorities by calling "911" or contacting local law enforcement. Additionally, complaints can be submitted to the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline "800-292-7800". The more documentation and evidence that can be provided in a complaint will greatly increase the responding law enforcement agency's ability to thoroughly investigate the complaint and take the appropriate law enforcement action.

I will reach out to the DNR's district law supervisor to see if increased resources/patrols can be provided on the Cisco Chain of Lakes to address boating safety issues.

As a courtesy, signs encouraging boaters to be cautious can be placed on the shoreline with permission from the property owner.

If you need further assistance, please contact me by email at wanlesst@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Wanless', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lt. Thomas R. Wanless
Boating Law Administrator
DNR Law Enforcement Division
Recreational Safety, Education & Enforcement

c: Sheriff Ross C. Solberg, Gogebic County
F/Lt. Ryan Aho, DNR
Cpl. Jill Miller, DNR