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Permit Number: MB56627B-3
Effective: 03/20/2017 Expires: 03/31/2018

Issuing Office:

Department of the Interior
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Migratory Bird Permit Office
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458
Tel: 612-713-5436 Fax: 612-713-5393

CHIEF, MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT OFFICE - REGION 3

Permittee:

GERRISH TOWNSHIP
2997 E HIGGINS LAKE DRIVE
ROSCOMMON, MI 48653
U.S.A.

Name and Title of Principal Officer:

DAVID UDY - TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Authority: Statutes and Regulations: 16 USC 703-712; 50 CFR Part 13, 50 CFR 21.27.

Location where authorized activity may be conducted:

Higgins Lake
Roscommon County, Michigan

Reporting requirements:

ANNUAL REPORT DUE: 01/31

You must submit an annual report to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office each year, even if you had no activity. Form: www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-7.pdf.

Conditions and Authorizations:

D. Authorized to take up to 25 common mergansers per year in 2015, 2016, and 2017 as part of a comprehensive action plan to address swimmer's itch on Higgins Lake in Roscommon County Michigan.

Authorized to destroy up to 25 common merganser nests and all eggs therein per year in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Lethal take is not to be the primary means of control. Active hazing, harassment or other non-lethal techniques must continue in conjunction with any lethal take of migratory birds.

Permittee will apply for a separate MI DNR permit for harassment and/or non lethal and lethal take of mergansers.

Permittee will be required to conduct surveys and bird counts each year to assess trends in merganser populations and will report findings in required annual reports.

Permittee will conclude any harassment or shooting activity before broods are present on the lake each year; harassment and shooting will conclude by May 22nd each year. Only adult birds will be taken during the spring migration period and prior to hatching. No juvenile or flightless birds will be taken.

All persons carrying out lethal take/shooting activity will receive formal training on species identification so only common mergansers will be taken. No red-breasted mergansers will be taken.

This federal permit is not a special hunting permit for waterfowl or mergansers in Michigan; this permit is issued only to address the problem of swimmer's itch on Higgins Lake in Michigan. Birds taken under the authority of this federal permit will be transferred to Curtis Blankespoor's federal scientific collecting permit for research into swimmer's itch.



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E. You may use the following method(s) of take: shotgun, in accordance with Standard Condition #2, if authorized by local ordinances or per Michigan state hunting laws.

F. Anyone who takes birds under the authority of this permit must follow the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia (http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf).

G. The following subpermittees are authorized: Designated individuals per federal application signed and dated January 21, 2015 by Frank Homola, Gerrish Township Supervisor.

In addition, any other person who is

- (1) employed by or under contract to you for the activities specified in this permit, or
- (2) otherwise designated a subpermittee by you in writing, may exercise the authority of this permit.

H. You and any subpermittees must comply with the attached Standard Conditions for Special Purpose Miscellaneous Permits. **These standard conditions are a continuation of your permit conditions and must remain with your permit.**

I. **Amended 03/11/2016:** Amended to clarify the location of authorized permit activity on Higgins Lake in Michigan. Per formal letter from The Lyon Township Board dated February 18, 2016, Lyon Township does not support federal permit MB56627B. This federal permit amendment restricts all permit activity to Gerrish Township only. No permit activity will occur within the political boundaries of Lyon Township in 2016 and 2017.

Amended to also clarify the chain of custody of common mergansers taken under this federal permit. All mergansers lethally taken will be turned over to MI DNR wildlife biologist, Mark Boersen. Mr. Boersen's contact information is: Mark Boersen, DNR Customer Service Center, 8717 N Roscommon Road, Roscommon, MI 48653, 989-275-5151, ext. 2730, <BOERSEN@michigan.gov>. Gerrish Township/Northpoint Fisheries must contact Mr. Boersen and pre-arrange meetings to deliver merganser carcasses. Mr. Boersen (or another MI DNR designee) will identify the birds and notify SICON that they are available for pick up.

J. **Amended 1/19/2017:** Amended Principal Officer per letter received 1/17/2017.

K. **Amended 3/20/2017:** Amended to clarify that nest/egg destruction is for natural nests only and not for artificial nest boxes. The intent of this permit was not to allow placement of nest boxes to attract more common mergansers to Higgins Lake.