



**To: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**

May 19, 2009

**Reference: EBR Registry number 010-5587 (Additional Angling Opportunities in FMZ 17)**

Since 1974, the Four Mile Lake Association has represented the broad interests of full-time and seasonal residents on Four Mile Lake, located in FMZ-17. Our association represents well over 400 FML residents who pay annual dues to support our efforts.

We do **not** support the proposed additional angling opportunities in FMZ-17 as presented in recent public information sessions for the following reasons:

- We are a smaller lake with a stressed, but viable walleye population and extending the season will add further pressure on this and other fish populations on the lake. Over the years we have commissioned three (3) independent fish studies on our lake that all indicate stress due to over-fishing. The current season at least allows a recovery period for fish populations that would be further stressed if extended seasons become a reality
- We do not believe the Ministry will be able to adequately police the extended season(s) being contemplated and in particular, we are concerned about adequate enforcement of incidental catches of other species out of season
- Year-round access to our lake is limited, and as such we are concerned that extending the panfish season year-round will result in increased trespassing of private property to gain access, particularly if public access points are impassable
- The potential for littering, pollution and vandalism will increase as angler traffic increases at a time when lake resident population (hence vigilance) is at a bare minimum
- Due to a lack of local accommodations for "out-of-towners", particularly in the tourist "off-season", local tourism is unlikely to benefit and camping out will be encouraged, either in ice huts or near the lake

We do support the existing seasonal limits for walleye and panfish as well as the additional measure of implementing slot sizes and panfish catch limits as a means of more effectively managing our fish stocks.

We recognize that there is need to balance the interests of anglers and lakefront property owners and the current seasonal limits, in our view, accomplish this well. At the same time, we have to be mindful that maintaining our fish populations at sustainable levels should be first priority. The proposed additional angling opportunities in FMZ-17, in our view, will skew this balance disproportionately in favour of anglers and to the detriment of our fish populations.

Yours truly,

Four Mile Lake Association