

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT:

Request that the Board authorize public hearings for Board Order FH-14-14, proposed rules affecting NR 19-23 and 26 related to fishing regulation changes to be proposed at the 2015 Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings.

FOR: January 2015 Board meeting

PRESENTER'S NAME AND TITLE: Kate Strom Hiorns, Fisheries Policy Specialist

SUMMARY:

With this rule, the Department will make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters. The attached questions will be presented to gather public input at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings held in every county on the evening of April 13, 2015. The questions were written to keep the number at a minimum while providing full opportunity for citizens to understand and provide feedback on the proposed rule changes.

The Fisheries Management Bureau efforts to prepare for and make the best use of the Spring Hearings include the following:

- Multiple public stakeholder meetings and surveys over the past four years to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities and regulations
- An online survey, three public meetings, an online interactive chat, and presentations during the 2014 Conservation Congress Fall District Meetings to develop appropriate panfish regulations
- At the Spring Hearings, Fisheries will play a short introductory video to explain the statewide rule packages, how and why they were developed, and how the public has been and still is involved in shaping the final rule proposals
- Also at the Spring Hearings, Fisheries will provide comment cards with county-specific trout, panfish, and fish refuge proposals so attendees have the opportunity to provide additional input

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board authorize public hearings for Board Order FH-14-14.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> background memo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments to background memo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal estimate and economic impact analysis (EIA) form | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental assessment or impact statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response summary | <input type="checkbox"/> Board order/rule |

Approved by	Signature	Date
Ron Bruch, Fisheries Bureau Director	<i>Justin R. Hug</i> per R Bruch	1-13-15
Russ Rasmussen, Division Administrator	<i>Russell Rasmussen</i>	1-15-15
<i>Fun</i> Cathy Stepp, Secretary	<i>Cathy Stepp</i>	1/16/15

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Program attorney - LS/8

Department rule coordinator - LS/8

DATE: January 13, 2015

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: Background memo on Board Order FH-14-14, relating to authorization of public hearing questions for the April 13, 2015, Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings

Why is the rule being proposed?

With this rule, the department will make changes to fish size limits, bag limits, seasons, and other regulations related to fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters. The regulation proposals included in this rule are based on surveys and analyses conducted by fish biologists and input from local stakeholders and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The new regulations are proposed to meet new management goals.

This is a big rule with many elements. The questions posed to gather public comments at the Spring Hearings were written to keep the number at a minimum while providing full opportunity for citizens to understand and provide feedback on the proposed rule changes.

The Fisheries Management Bureau efforts to prepare for and make the best use of the Spring Hearings include the following:

- Through multiple public stakeholder meetings and surveys over the past four years, the Department reached out to trout anglers and the broader community to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities and regulations in Wisconsin.
- To develop appropriate panfish regulations, the Department considered feedback gained over the past three years through an online survey, three public meetings, an online interactive chat, and presentations during the 2014 Conservation Congress Fall District Meetings.
- When developing regulations, fish biologists often meet with lake associations and local stakeholders to discuss proposals.
- At the Spring Hearings, Fisheries will play a short introductory video to explain the statewide rule packages, how and why they were developed, and how the public has been and still is involved in shaping the final rule proposals.
- Also at the Spring Hearings, Fisheries will provide comment cards with county-specific trout, panfish, and fish refuge proposals so attendees have the opportunity to provide additional input. (An example comment card is attached.) This will give the Department more information than just a yes or no vote on the ballot.

Summary of rule

- For all put-and-take lakes and ponds stocked with trout, implement a statewide open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and a daily bag and size limit that matches the county base regulation (either allow 5 trout of any length to be kept per day or allow 3 trout to be kept per day if they are at least 8 inches)
- Expand seasonal trout fishing opportunities on inland streams by:
 - beginning the early catch and release season (on streams where it currently exists) on the first Saturday in January and ending on the first Friday in May, and
 - extending the end of the trout open season by two weeks from September 30 to October 15

- Change inland trout size limits and bag limits in every county of the state, reducing the number of special regulation types
- Apply one of the following panfish regulation options to selected lakes in order to evaluate angler acceptance and the extent to which each regulation improves panfish average size:
 - 25/10 - a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day but no more than 10 of any one species
 - Spawning season 15/5 – a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day except during May and June when a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species
 - 15/5 - a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species year round
- Allow 25 panfish of any size to be kept per day except only 5 or fewer sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7 inches on Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Oneida County and the Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes (Round, Grass, and Pine lakes) in Shawano County
- Remove or modify 51 fish refuges throughout the State
- Create a definition of Asian carp and require that all Asian carp transported within or through Wisconsin must have been eviscerated (disemboweled/gutted) or the gills plate completely severed so that the fish cannot be revived under any circumstances
- Establish a uniform open season (from the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30) and requiring that kept muskellunge be at least 50 inches on the WI-MN boundary waters (Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers) and the Nemadji River, Douglas County
- Allow catch and release angling for lake sturgeon in WI-MN boundary waters of the Mississippi River upstream of Red Wing Dam and the St. Croix River from Prescott to the Dam at the Gordon Flowage from June 16 through March 1; and allowing catch and release angling for lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream from Red Wing Dam from June 16 through April 14
- Open a catch and release only season for shovelnose sturgeon from June 16 to March 1 on waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix, and St. Louis rivers upstream of Red Wing Dam, with a closed season March 2 to June 15
- Make regulations consistent between the connected Jackson and Namekagon lakes and clarify in Administrative Code and the regulations book that Garden Lake is part of Namekagon Lake in Bayfield County
- Amend regulations for all species on Long, Herde, and Dark lakes in Chippewa County so that they will be applied to the lake chain as a whole (Long Lake Chain), and now allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass with a combined bag limit of 5 fish, but only 1 may be smallmouth bass on Long Lake Chain
- Allow only 3 walleye to be kept and they must be at least 18 inches, and allow 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept in the following waters: Upper and Lower Eau Claire lakes in Bayfield and Douglas counties; Sand Lake in Chippewa County; Squash Lake in Oneida County; Balsam Lake in Polk County; Pulaski Lake in Rusk County, and Durphee and Osprey lakes in Sawyer County
- Allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain a combined daily bag limit of 5 on the following waters:
 - Beaver Lake in Ashland County
 - McDermott Lake in Iron County
 - Julia Lake (near Rhinelander) in Oneida County
 - Riley Lake and Twin Lake in Price County
 - Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, and Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider Lake, Little Spider Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Lake, and North Lake) in Sawyer County
 - Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, and Spruce Lake in Taylor County
 - Osseo Club Pond in Trempealeau County

- Crooked Lake, Pence Lake, Rogers Lake, Saul Spring, and Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6) in Langlade County and Ament Lake, Henson Lake, Larson Lake, Moraine Lake, and Tahoe Lake in Lincoln County
- Allow 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on the following waters:
 - Round Lake in Chippewa County
 - Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake, Florence County
 - Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake in Iron County
 - Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Oneida and Vilas Counties
- Allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept, retain the 14 inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintain a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain (Lost Land Lake, Teal Lake, and Teal River Flowage) in Sawyer County
- Allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept, establish an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintain a combined daily bag limit of 5 bass, of which only 1 could be a smallmouth bass on Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Lac Courte Oreilles, and Billy Boy Flowage) and Round Lake Chain (Round Lake and Little Round Lake at T41N-R8W-S36) in Sawyer County
- Allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day in the following waters:
 - Spillerberg Lake in Ashland County
 - Pike Chain of Lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes) in Price and Vilas counties
 - Elk River from Musser Flowage Dam downstream to its confluence with South Fork Flambeau River - including the Phillips Chain of Lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes), Grassy Lake, Solberg Lake (including its tributaries upstream to the 1st dam and all of Squaw Creek), and Lac Sault Dore (a.k.a. Soo Lake) in Price County
 - Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River upstream to FR 174 in Sawyer County
- Allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on the following waters:
 - Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County
 - Archibald, Bass, Boot, Maiden, and Wheeler Lakes in Oconto County
 - Shawano Lake (including Washington Lake, Shawano Lake Outlet Channel, Wolf River Pond, and Wolf River upstream to Balsam Row Dam) in Shawano County
 - Deerskin Lake in Vilas County
 - Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake and Pewaukee Lake in Waukesha County
 - Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake in Washington County
- Allow only 1 walleye to be kept per day and it must be at least 28 inches on Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County
- Allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Hodge Lake in Chippewa County
- Allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County
- Require that kept muskellunge be at least 40 inches on the Spider Lake Chain (includes Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes), the Tiger Cat Chain (includes McClaine, Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Tiger Cat Flowage, Burns, and Placid), Mud/Callahan lakes, and North Fork Chief River from the Tiger Cat Dam downstream to Mud Lake in Sawyer County
- Allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 40 inches on Lake Ellwood in Florence County
- Allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Caroline Pond in Shawano County
- Allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 32 inches on the following lakes in Waukesha and Walworth counties:
 - Lac LaBelle

- Pewaukee Lake
- Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake (Walworth County) and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River
- Remove the regulation sunset and continue to allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Marion Millpond in Waupaca County
- Allow 5 northern pike of any size to be kept per day on Alpine Lake in Waushara County and Sharon Lake in Marquette County
- Add Wiedenbach Park Pond in Washington County to the urban fishing program
- Remove special regulations and use the general statewide or countywide length and bag limits for certain species on 25 waters in 8 counties

How does this affect existing policy?

The general policy behind fishing regulations is to protect and enhance fish populations while providing diverse fishing opportunities throughout the State. That policy will be continued and enhanced by these rule changes.

Has the Board dealt with these issues before?

A similar rule is introduced every two years to update and improve fishing regulations. The department gathers public input on rule changes at the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings held in every county in odd number years.

Who will be impacted by the proposed rule? How?

The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. As with any change in regulations, there will be a requirement for anglers to learn the new rules. The department works to notify the public of new regulations via press releases, the internet, and fishing regulations pamphlets.

The proposal to require that Asian carp are dead and unrevivable before transporting in or through Wisconsin would affect fish haulers from other states and potentially commercial fishers in Wisconsin if Asian carp numbers increase. There is only a small number of Asian carp in Wisconsin waters so far and this proposal is intended to keep it that way by educating fishers and haulers on safe methods for transporting the invasive species.

Information on environmental analysis, if needed?

The process for permanent administrative rule changes is an equivalent analysis action under NR 150.20 (2) (a) 20., Wis. Adm. Code, and no additional environmental analysis is required.

Small Business Analysis

It is not expected that there will be any economic impact or change directly related to these rule changes. The proposed rule will primarily affect sport anglers. Regulations are already in place and this rule is intended to continue protection and enhancement of the State's fish resources. One purpose of the rule is to help maintain the general economic impact of fishing throughout Wisconsin.

The department will conduct an economic impact analysis to determine if any individuals, businesses, local governments, or other entities expect to be adversely affected economically by the rule. The proposed rule does not impose any reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

FISHERIES PROPOSALS COMMENT CARDS - DRAFT

ADAMS COUNTY

Proposed Trout Seasons and Regulations:

Streams and connected spring ponds - first Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to October 15

Lakes - first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March

ALL WATERS NOT LISTED—Yellow

Daily bag and length limit: 5 trout of any size

FAIRBANKS CREEK—Red

Daily bag and length limit: 2 trout over 12"

FORDHAM CREEK—Red

Daily bag limit and length limit: 3 in total: Brown and rainbow trout over 12"; brook trout over 8"

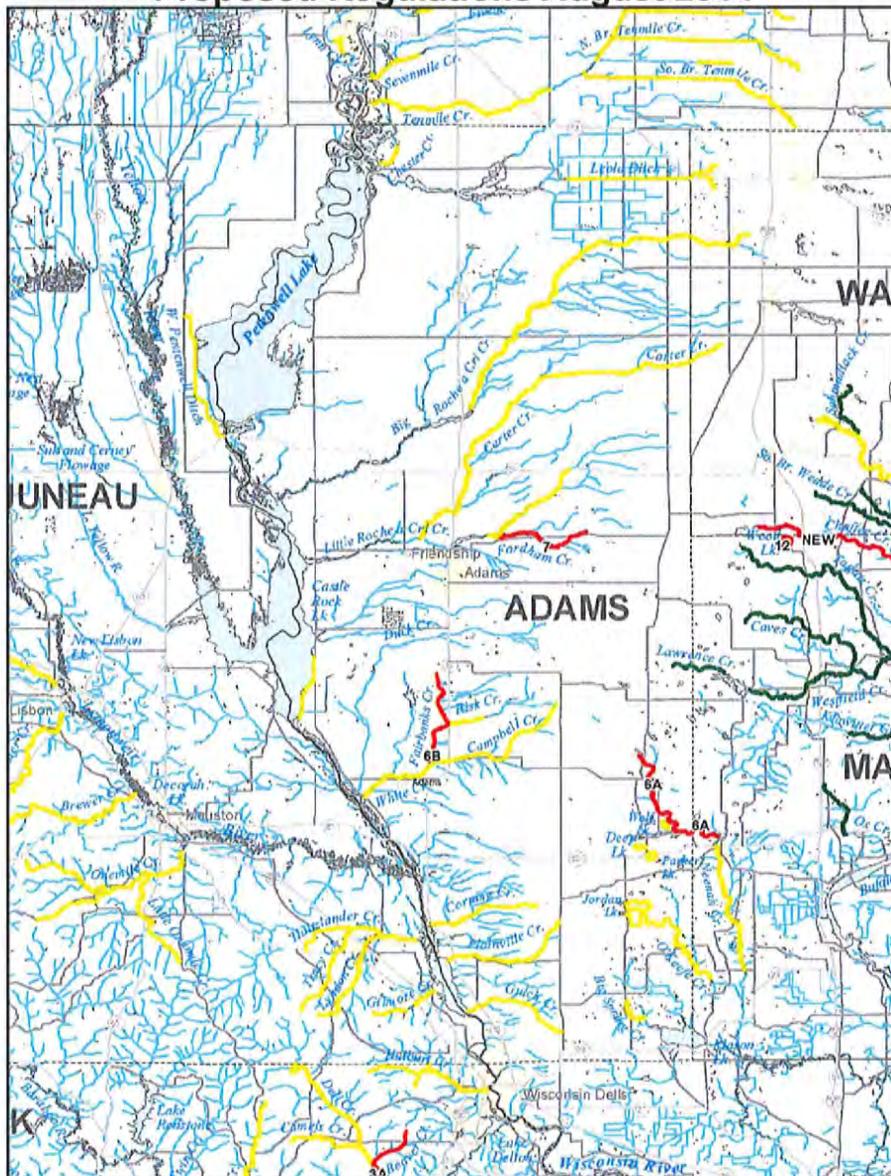
LAWRENCE CREEK—Green

NEENAH CREEK—Red

Daily bag and length limit: 2 trout over 12"

Gear Restrictions: Only artificial lures may be used

Proposed Regulations August 2014



FISHERIES PROPOSALS COMMENT CARDS - DRAFT

Proposed Panfish Regulation Package

Did you vote yes or no on Question X? Circle one: Yes No

(Do you favor utilizing the group of panfish regulations to improve the average size of panfish on lakes with overharvested and undersized panfish populations in a manner that enables a thorough evaluation?)

County	Lake Name	Do you support including the following lakes in the panfish regulation evaluation?	
Adams	Arrowhead	Yes	No (circle one)
Adams	Camelot	Yes	No
Adams	Crooked	Yes	No
Adams	Lake Sherwood	Yes	No
Adams	Parker	Yes	No

Proposed Changes to Refuges in Adams County

(there aren't any in Adams County, but this gives you the idea of how it would look)

County	Waterbody	Start Date	End Date	ACTION	Justification
Barron	Sand creek (from Little Sand lake to Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Sand creek (the dam outlet of Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Spring creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before the 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Lake Montanis; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties

Comments on trout, panfish, refuge, or any other regulation proposals:

FISHERIES SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS – DRAFT 1/13/15

STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL PROPOSED FISHERIES RULE CHANGES

QUESTIONS 1.-3. Trout Regulation Package

Please vote on your support for each trout regulation proposal. If you have comments on individual streams or regulations, please give the Department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

The Department has conducted a review over the past four years of Wisconsin's inland trout fishing regulations using input from trout anglers and fisheries biologists. Through public stakeholder meetings and surveys, the Department reached out to trout anglers and the broader community to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities in Wisconsin. The Department has reviewed the public and scientific input to develop new regulation proposals that address the following goals: (1) retain or improve traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing, (2) expand seasonal fishing opportunities for all anglers, and (3) simplify regulations.

Stocked Inland lake and pond seasons, length limits, and daily bag limits

Wisconsin has "put-and-take" lakes and ponds in which trout are stocked but are not expected to live through the following winter. This does not include spring ponds which drain to streams. The put-and-take lakes are typically stocked annually with the majority of stocked trout being caught by anglers shortly after the season opens. Seasons on these lakes and ponds currently have various opening and closing dates. Length and bag limits also vary across the state. To simplify regulations for stocked put-and-take lakes, we propose (1) an open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and (2) a daily bag limit and length limit that matches the base regulation of the lake's county. County base regulations will either allow 5 trout of any length to be kept per day or allow 3 trout to be kept per day if they are at least 8 inches.

1. For all put-and-take lakes and ponds stocked with trout, do you favor a statewide open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and a daily bag and size limit that matches the county base regulation?

Inland stream seasons

The current general open season for trout fishing runs from the first Saturday in May to September 30th. Many trout streams also have an early catch and release season that runs from the first Saturday in March to the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May. To address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities and to reduce confusion about the 5-day closure between the early and general seasons, we propose expanding the early catch and release season on waters where it currently exists to begin on the first Saturday in January and extending to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May. This would eliminate the 5-day closure prior to the general open season for trout fishing.

In addition, to further address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities, we propose to extend the regular general trout fishing season to October 15th on all inland streams. Extending the season by two weeks to October 15th will provide more opportunities

for catching or harvesting trout without impacting spawning or generating user conflicts along streams.

2. Do you favor expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities on inland streams by:

- **beginning the early catch and release season (on streams where it currently exists) on the first Saturday in January and ending on the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May, and**
- **extending the end of the trout open season by two weeks from September 30 to October 15?**

Inland stream length limits and daily bag limits

To address the goals of retaining or improving traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplifying regulations, the Department reduced the number of regulation categories that will be applied to Wisconsin's trout streams (listed below). Management goals for the regulations vary, but include allowing additional harvest opportunities, improving the range of sizes of trout, protecting species from harvest in some waters, and expanding opportunities to catch trophy-sized trout in other waters. There are a few additional special regulations that are not listed below that were only recommended in unique situations (e.g. boundary waters, lake trout waters). *Please refer to the Fisheries Comment Card for changes made within counties or to specific waters.*

Category (green) <input type="radio"/>	No Minimum Length Limit, Daily Bag Limit: 5
Category (yellow) <input type="radio"/>	8-inch minimum Length Limit, Daily Bag Limit: 3
Category (red) <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Special Regulations: Length, Bag and Possession Limits vary by water:
	10 trout of any size may be kept per day
	5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and brook trout must be less than 9 inches
	5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and all brook trout shall be immediately released
	5 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches
	3 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches
	3 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout must be at least 12 inches and brook trout must be at least 8 inches
	2 trout may be kept per day if they are at least 12 inches
	1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 14 inches
	1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 18 inches
	All trout caught shall be immediately released
Total Daily Bag Limit (combined daily limit of all waters fished) of trout from inland waters: 5, except as listed in specific waters	

3. Do you favor the proposed changes to inland trout regulations that pertain to size limits and bag limits as listed above in order to improve opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplify regulations?

Please vote above on your support for the overall trout proposal. If you have comments on individual streams or regulations, please give the Department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

QUESTION 4. Panfish Regulation Package

Please vote on your support for the overall proposal to apply panfish bag limit regulations to selected waters. If you have comments on individual lakes, please give the Department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

The Department is in the process of developing a panfish management plan. One recommendation is to pursue regulation changes that would attempt to improve the average size of panfish. The public weighed in on panfish regulations at the 2014 Conservation Congress advisory spring hearings. While attendees opposed regulation changes that would apply to panfish statewide, they did support a focused approach on lakes where panfish are currently overharvested and dominated by undersized fish. In response to this feedback and additional local outreach, the Department identified lakes where bluegill and/or black crappie average size is poor, but growth is good, on which to apply new regulations.

To develop appropriate regulations that are restrictive enough to limit some harvest, but still be acceptable to anglers, the Department considered feedback from public comments, an online survey, three public meetings, an online interactive chat, and presentations during the 2014 Conservation Congress Fall District Meetings. The Department heard many productive suggestions such as using regulations that protect highly vulnerable spawning bluegills and black crappies. Based on those suggestions and recommendations of the local fish biologist of which regulation is most likely to improve panfish size on a particular lake, the Department is proposing the following regulations on the selected lakes listed in Appendix A:

- **25/10** - a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day but no more than 10 of any one species
- **Spawning season 15/5** – a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day except during May and June when a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species
- **15/5** - a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species year round

This proposal is presented as a package. By simultaneously implementing the three regulation options on the selected waters, the Department can evaluate how best to improve average panfish length and which regulations are most accepted by anglers. A thorough evaluation will be completed by 2022 and the findings will be relayed to anglers and adjustments discussed before a 10-year sunset of the regulations in 2026.

Do you favor utilizing the group of panfish regulations to improve the average size of panfish on lakes with overharvested and undersized panfish populations in a manner that enables a thorough evaluation?

Please vote on your support for the overall proposal to apply panfish bag limit regulations to selected waters. If you have comments on individual lakes in Appendix A, please give the Department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

QUESTION 5. Fish Refuges Statewide

This proposal would remove or modify existing fish refuges throughout the State. Fish refuges are created to prevent people from disturbing, catching, taking, or killing fish in any manner from specified areas of water. Refuges protect game fish during times when they aggregate for spawning or when migrating through areas that make them easily susceptible for harvest. Refuges are also put in place to protect critical habitat areas, enhance public safety (for example, to create a buffer around a hydroelectric plant), and prevent illegal harvest in areas with unique enforcement concerns.

In fall 2013, fish biologists and wardens met to discuss regulations and refuges in their counties. Appendix B is a list of the refuges they suggested to remove or modify. No new refuges are added.

Do you favor the changes to the refuges on waters listed in Appendix B?

If you have comments on individual refuges, please give the Department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

QUESTION 6. Asian carp definition and transport requirements

This proposal would define "Asian carp" to mean grass carp, silver carp, bighead carp, black carp, and all other nonnative carp except the common carp, goldfish, and koi carp. It would also require that, except as authorized under certain Department and federal permits, no person may transport or cause the transportation of Asian carp within or through the state unless the Asian carp have been eviscerated (disemboweled/gutted) or the gills plate completely severed so that the fish cannot be revived under any circumstances.

There have been incidents where "dead" Asian carp have been shipped on ice for long distances yet began to swim again when put in water upon arrival. The Department has been actively working with other states and federal agencies to prevent Asian carp from becoming established in the Upper Mississippi River and in the Great Lakes. Individual adult fish have been found on occasion in Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi River and in the Lower Wisconsin River, but no young fish nor any other signs of reproduction have been found in any Wisconsin waters to date. Asian carp species are a serious concern because they can aggressively compete with native commercial and sport fish for food and can potentially disrupt entire ecosystems. Also, silver carp can injure boaters when the fish leap out of the water.

Do you favor creating a definition of Asian carp and requiring that all Asian carp transported within or through Wisconsin must have been eviscerated (disemboweled/gutted) or the gills plate completely severed so that the fish cannot be revived under any circumstances?

QUESTION 7. Muskellunge Seasons and Size Limits on Wisconsin-Minnesota Boundary Waters and Nemadji River, Douglas County

This proposal would establish uniform seasons and size limits for muskellunge on the WI-MN boundary waters as well as the Nemadji River, Douglas County. The open season would run from the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30 (rather than March 1), and would require

kept muskellunge be at least 50 inches (rather than 40 inches) on the Mississippi River and St. Croix River boundary waters and the Nemadji River, Douglas County. The minimum length limit on the St. Louis River is already 50 inches.

This season change was requested by anglers in the Duluth/Superior area for the St. Louis River and the length limit change will ensure that regulations are consistent between the Wisconsin and Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

Do you favor establishing a uniform open season (from the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30) and requiring that kept muskellunge be at least 50 inches on the WI-MN boundary waters (Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers) and the Nemadji River, Douglas County?

QUESTION 8. Lake Sturgeon Seasons on Wisconsin-Minnesota Boundary Waters

This proposal would allow for:

- Catch and release angling for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin-Minnesota border waters of the Mississippi River upstream of the Red Wing dam and the St. Croix River from Prescott to the dam at the Gordon Flowage (in **Burnett and Douglas** counties) from June 16 through March 1, with a closed season from March 2 through June 15.
- Catch and release angling for lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream from Red Wing dam from June 16 through April 14, with a closed season from April 15 through June 15.

The current lake sturgeon harvest season from the first Saturday in September through September 30 on the St. Croix River downstream from St. Croix Falls dam requiring that kept fish be at least 60 inches would remain in place.

The management goal is to help restore lake sturgeon populations in these three rivers while still allowing angling opportunities and limited harvest. This regulation proposal will allow anglers an opportunity to catch (and release) a lake sturgeon while not affecting restoration objectives. Regulations will also be consistent with those in Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis Rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

Do you favor allowing catch and release angling for lake sturgeon in WI-MN boundary waters of the Mississippi River upstream of Red Wing dam and the St. Croix River from Prescott to the dam at the Gordon Flowage from June 16 through March 1; and allowing catch and release angling for lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream from Red Wing dam from June 16 through April 14?

QUESTION 9. Shovelnose Sturgeon Season on Wisconsin-Minnesota Boundary Waters

This proposal would allow for:

- Opening a catch and release only season for shovelnose sturgeon from June 16 to March 1 on waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix, and St. Louis rivers upstream of Red Wing Dam, with a closed season March 2 to June 15.

The current year-round open season for shovelnose sturgeon in the Mississippi River downstream of Red Wing Dam allowing 10 of any size to be kept per day would remain in place.

This regulation proposal will allow anglers an opportunity to catch (and release) a shovelnose sturgeon on WI-MN boundary waters above the Red Wing Dam. Regulations will also be consistent with those in Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis Rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

Do you favor opening a catch and release only season for shovelnose sturgeon from June 16 to March 1 on waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix, and St. Louis rivers upstream of Red Wing Dam, with a closed season March 2 to June 15?

QUESTION 10. Bass-Walleye Proposal on lakes in 7 counties

Under this proposal, only 3 walleye may be kept and they must be at least 18 inches, and 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any length may be kept in the following waters: Upper and Lower Eau Claire lakes in **Bayfield and Douglas** counties; Sand Lake in **Chippewa** County; Squash Lake in **Oneida** County; Balsam Lake in **Polk** County; Pulaski Lake in **Rusk** County, and Durphee and Osprey lakes in **Sawyer** County.

The management goal is to eventually restore naturally reproducing walleye populations. The lakes included in this proposal are scattered across the Ceded Territory. All have a history of natural walleye reproduction, yet they recently experienced some marked decline in walleye recruitment and a concurrent increase in largemouth bass abundance.

This proposal is being presented as a package in order for the Department to learn whether this combination of regulations is a tool capable of helping to restore naturally reproducing walleye.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept and they must be at least 18 inches, and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any length to be kept in the following waters: Upper and Lower Eau Claire lakes in Bayfield and Douglas counties; Sand Lake in Chippewa County; Squash Lake in Oneida County; Balsam Lake in Polk County; Pulaski Lake in Rusk County, and Durphee and Osprey lakes in Sawyer County?

LOCAL PROPOSED FISHERIES RULE CHANGES

ASHLAND COUNTY

QUESTION 11. Beaver Lake No Minimum Length Limit for Bass

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Beaver Lake in Ashland County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Beaver Lake in Ashland County?

QUESTION 12. Spillerberg Lake Walleye 1 > 14 Inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on Spillerberg Lake in Ashland County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15

inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day on Spillerberg Lake in Ashland County?

BAYFIELD COUNTY

QUESTION 13. Jackson, Garden, and Namekagon Lakes Consistent Regs

This proposal would apply consistent regulations for Jackson and Namekagon lakes in Bayfield County and clarify that Garden Lake is treated as part of Namekagon Lake for fishing regulation purposes. The three lakes currently have the same regulations except for muskellunge and walleye limits. This proposal would apply a 1-fish daily bag limit and 50-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge and clarify that walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any length may be kept, but only one can be over 14 inches.

Garden Lake has historically been managed as part of Namekagon Lake, but there has been confusion in recent years because it is not listed that way in the regulations booklet. Jackson, Namekagon and Garden Lakes are interconnected and allow passage of fish and watercraft from one waterbody to the next. Applying consistent regulations for all of the lakes in the Namekagon chain would alleviate enforcement concerns and make regulations easier for anglers to interpret.

Do you favor making regulations consistent between the connected Jackson and Namekagon lakes (as noted above) and clarifying in Administrative Code and the regulations book that Garden Lake is part of Namekagon Lake in Bayfield County?

QUESTION 14. Removing Special Regulations - Bass

In order to maintain largemouth bass as the dominant predator while allowing some angler harvest, do you favor removing the 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 bass per day bag limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined that are at least 14 inches to be kept per day on Crooked and Lund lakes in Bayfield County?

QUESTION 15. Removing Special Regulations - Pike

In order to allow additional harvest of northern pike to reduce abundance and increase growth rates, do you favor removing the 2-fish per day bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 northern pike of any length to be kept per day on Muskellunge Lake, Sandbar Lake, and Tomahawk Lake in Bayfield County?

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

QUESTION 16. Long Lake Chain Consistent Regulations

This proposal would allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass with a combined bag limit of 5 fish, but only 1

smallmouth bass, on Long Lake Chain (Long, Herde and Dark lakes) in Chippewa County. In addition, the proposal clarifies that regulations for all species on Long, Herde, and Dark lakes will now be applied to the lake chain as a whole, reflecting how the connected lakes are managed.

The primary management goal is to reduce largemouth bass abundance and maintain a high quality smallmouth bass fishery. Over 80% of the largemouth bass in Long Lake are less than 14 inches in length, whereas 78% of the smallmouth bass are larger than 14 inches. Smallmouth bass provide a high quality bass fishery and this regulation should maintain that fishery.

Do you favor amending regulations for all species on Long, Herde, and Dark lakes in Chippewa County so that they will be applied to the lake chain as a whole (Long Lake Chain), and also allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass with a combined bag limit of 5 fish, but only 1 may be smallmouth bass on Long Lake Chain?

QUESTION 17. Round Lake Bass Protected Slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Round Lake, Chippewa County. The primary management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Round Lake. The goal is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14-inch) bass. The objective is to increase the proportion of bass over 15 inches from 1% to over 10% within the next 10 years and reduce overall bass densities by 50%.

Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Round Lake in Chippewa County?

QUESTION 18. Hodge Lake Panfish Bag Limit

This proposal would allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day in Hodge Lake, Chippewa County. The current regulation is a 25-fish bag limit and there is no minimum size limit.

The management goal is to protect a high quality pan fishery that is currently present in Hodge Lake. In 2012, the Department purchased Hodge Lake which is a 38-acre undeveloped lake that was formally in private ownership. A 2013 fish survey documented that over 50% of the bluegill in Hodge Lake were larger than 8 inches. Considering the lake's small size as well as public access now being present, overharvest of panfish is likely. This regulation should help ensure a desirable and quality sized fishery is maintained, as well as provide a quality fishery in a wilderness setting, which is limited in Chippewa County.

Do you favor allowing only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Hodge Lake in Chippewa County?

FLORENCE COUNTY

QUESTION 19. Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake Bass Protected Slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake, Florence County. The management

goal is to increase largemouth bass size structure by reducing abundance in these waters. This regulation will allow increased harvest opportunity on these high density bass populations, causing decreased abundance and increased growth rates while protecting desirable-sized fish.

Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake, Florence County?

QUESTION 20. Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Walleye 3-bag, 18-inch
This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County?

QUESTION 21. Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Panfish Limit
This proposal would allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day in Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake, and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County. The current regulation is a 25-fish bag limit and there is no minimum size limit. These waters are included in the panfish proposal package with different regulations. The Department is gathering public hearing comments on this proposal as well.

The management goal is to increase the range of panfish sizes on these three waters that currently have exceptionally poor size structure of panfish species. Angler harvest is so high that fish are not able to live to a larger, quality size. This regulation should reduce the amount of panfish removed from the lake by anglers and allow fish to increase in size.

Do you favor allowing only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County?

QUESTION 22. Lake Ellwood Northern Pike 1 > 40 inches
This proposal would allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 40 inches in Lake Ellwood, Florence County.

The management goal is to create a one-of-a-kind trophy pike opportunity in northeastern Wisconsin. Without a 40-inch minimum size limit, the harvest of the faster growing females will not allow the lake to reach its potential for natural reproduction of pike in Lake Ellwood. Under current regulations, the northern pike population will continue to decline to very low numbers.

Under the new regulation, the female proportion of the population should increase to near 50%, which should result in more fish growing beyond trophy size. Without the 40-inch minimum size limit, the fishery will be dependent on expensive stocking to try to maintain a quality

population. In addition to the new regulation, low level stocking at ≤ 1 large fingerling pike per acre would occur to manage the pike population similar to a muskellunge population.

Do you favor allowing only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 40 inches on Lake Ellwood in Florence County?

FOREST COUNTY

QUESTION 23. Removing Special Regulations - Bass

In order to simplify regulations and respond to local stakeholder desires, do you favor removing the 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 bass per day bag limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined that are at least 14 inches to be kept per day on Windfall Lake in Forest County?

QUESTION 24. Removing Special Regulations - Walleye

The current liberal walleye size limit on Franklin Lake in Forest County has decreased the adult population to a point where it can no longer sustain itself. **In order to help reestablish an abundant walleye population (3-8 adults/acre), do you favor removing the current no minimum size limit with a 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 3 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18-inches) and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Franklin Lake in Forest County?**

IRON COUNTY

QUESTION 25. McDermott Lake Bass No Minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on McDermott Lake in Iron County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on McDermott Lake in Iron County?

QUESTION 26. Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Bass Protected Slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake in Iron County. The goal is to manage for a smallmouth bass population with a moderate proportion of memorable-sized fish (10-15% would be 17 inches or longer). There are very few largemouth bass in these lakes. Currently there are abundant numbers of smallmouth bass, but only 5% are memorable-sized fish. This proposal also creates a uniform regulation for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake, which are connected via a navigable waterway.

Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake in Iron County?

QUESTION 27. Removing Special Regulations - Walleye 1>14

In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current minimum length limit with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed to be kept and allowing 5 walleye that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on the Turtle River system of lakes: Cedar Lake, Catherine Lake, Echo Lake, Little Oxbow Lake, Oxbow Lake, and the Turtle River in Iron County?

QUESTION 28. Removing Special Regulations - Walleye No minimum

Wilson Lake in Iron County is being managed for species other than walleye because conditions within the lake (habitat and fish community structure) are not favorable for walleyes to sustain a population. **In order to simplify regulations, do you favor removing the no-minimum length limit and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Wilson Lake in Iron County?**

LANGLADE COUNTY

QUESTION 29. Bass No Minimum Length Limit on 10 lakes

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on ten waters in Langlade and Lincoln counties in order to encourage harvest of predatory bass in trout waters. The waters are Crooked Lake, Pence Lake, Rogers Lake, Saul Spring, and Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6) in Langlade County and Ament Lake, Henson Lake, Larson Lake, Moraine Lake, and Tahoe Lake in Lincoln County.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Crooked Lake, Pence Lake, Rogers Lake, Saul Spring, and Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6) in Langlade County and Ament Lake, Henson Lake, Larson Lake, Moraine Lake, and Tahoe Lake in Lincoln County?

LINCOLN COUNTY - See the "No minimum length limit for bass" question in Langlade County

MARINETTE COUNTY

QUESTION 30. Removing Special Regulations

In order to improve harvest opportunity for northern pike and simplify fishing regulations, do you favor removing the 2-fish per day bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 northern pike of any length to be kept per day on the Peshtigo Flowage in Marinette County?

MARQUETTE COUNTY - See the Northern Pike proposal question in Waushara County section

OCONTO COUNTY

QUESTION 31. Archibald, Bass, Boot, Maiden, and Wheeler Lakes Walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Archibald, Bass, Boot, Wheeler and Maiden Lakes in Oconto County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to

improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Archibald, Bass, Boot, Maiden, and Wheeler Lakes in Oconto County?

ONEIDA COUNTY

QUESTION 32. Sunfish Limits

This proposal seeks to improve average size of panfish but focuses on sunfish (bluegills and pumpkinseed) using a modified length and bag limit restriction on Gunlock and Shishebogama lakes in Oneida County and Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes (Round, Grass, and Pine lakes) in Shawano County. The goal of this proposal is to improve the size of sunfish by encouraging anglers to function like natural predators – taking small fish – while still maintaining substantial harvest opportunity. The regulations proposed for these lakes are supported by locally engaged anglers who will play a vital role in collecting data to evaluate the regulation.

Do you favor allowing 25 panfish of any size to be kept per day except only 5 or fewer sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7 inches on Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Oneida County and the Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes (Round, Grass, and Pine lakes) in Shawano County?

QUESTION 33. Julia Lake Bass No Minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Julia Lake (near Rhinelander) in Oneida County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Julia Lake (near Rhinelander) in Oneida County?

QUESTION 34. Gunlock and Shishebogama Lakes Bass Protected Slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Gunlock and Shishebogama lakes in Oneida and Vilas Counties. The management goals for these connected lakes are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Goals are not currently being met because an over-abundance of 10- to 13-inch bass is causing slow growth and poor size structure of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Oneida and Vilas Counties?

POLK COUNTY - See "Removing Special Regulations" question in the Taylor County section

PRICE COUNTY

QUESTION 35. Riley Lake and Twin Lake Bass No minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Riley Lake and Twin Lake in Price County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Riley Lake and Twin Lake in Price County?

QUESTION 36. Price County Lakes Walleye 1 > 14 Inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on the Pike Chain of Lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes) in Price and Vilas counties and Elk River from Musser Flowage Dam downstream to its confluence with South Fork Flambeau River, including the Phillips Chain of Lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes), Grassy Lake, Solberg Lake (including its tributaries upstream to the 1st dam and all of Squaw Creek), and Lac Sault Dore (a.k.a. Soo Lake) in Price County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15 inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day on Pike Chain of Lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes) in Price and Vilas counties and Elk River from Musser Flowage Dam downstream to its confluence with South Fork Flambeau River - including the Phillips Chain of Lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes), Grassy Lake, Solberg Lake (including its tributaries upstream to the 1st dam and all of Squaw Creek), and Lac Sault Dore (a.k.a. Soo Lake) in Price County?

SAWYER COUNTY

QUESTION 37. Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, Spider Lake Chain Bass No Minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider Lake, Little Spider Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Lake, and North Lake), and Windigo Lake in Sawyer County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, and Spider Lake

Chain (Big Spider Lake, Little Spider Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Lake, and North Lake) in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 38. Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain Bass

This proposal would maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined, allow largemouth of any length to be kept, and retain the 14-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass on Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain (Lost Land Lake, Teal Lake, and Teal River Flowage) in Sawyer County.

The management goal for all these waters is for largemouth bass to exist in low numbers, grow at a satisfactory rate, and reach lengths preferred by most bass anglers. Goals for largemouth bass are not being achieved because abundance of largemouth bass has increased and growth rates have slowed. However, similar goals for smallmouth bass are currently being reached. This regulation proposal will allow angler harvest of small, slow-growing largemouth bass, which should promote faster growth of remaining fish.

Do you favor allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept, retaining the 14-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain (Lost Land Lake, Teal Lake, and Teal River Flowage) in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 39. Lac Courte Oreilles Chain and Round Lake Chain Bass

This proposal would allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept and establish an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass while maintaining the statewide daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined, of which only one may be a smallmouth bass, on Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Lac Courte Oreilles, and Billy Boy Flowage) and Round Lake Chain (Round Lake and Little Round Lake at T41N-R8W-S36) in Sawyer County.

The management goal for these waters is to create and sustain a high quality fishery for smallmouth bass while maintaining largemouth bass in low numbers with acceptable growth rates. Stakeholder-influenced goals for smallmouth bass in the Round Lake Chain and Lac Courte Oreilles Chain are more likely to be met and sustained under these more restrictive harvest regulations. The proposed regulation will allow the harvest of small, slow-growing largemouth bass, promote faster growth of remaining largemouth bass, and offer additional protection to sensitive, high-quality smallmouth bass populations.

Do you favor allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept, establishing an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 bass, of which only 1 could be a smallmouth bass on Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Lac Courte Oreilles, and Billy Boy Flowage) and Round Lake Chain (Round Lake and Little Round Lake at T41N-R8W-S36) in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 40. Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River Walleye 1 > 14 Inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River upstream to FR 174 in Sawyer County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15 inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met

because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day on Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River upstream to FR 174 in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 41. Spider Lake Chain, Tiger Cat Chain, Mud/Callahan lakes, and the North Fork Chief River Muskellunge

This proposal would require kept muskellunge be at least 40 inches (rather than 28 inches) on the Spider Lake Chain (includes Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes), the Tiger Cat Chain (includes McClaine, Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Tiger Cat Flowage, Burns, and Placid), Mud/Callahan lakes, and the North Fork Chief River from the Tiger Cat Dam downstream to Mud Lake in Sawyer County. The daily bag limit would remain at 1 fish.

The management goal for these waters is moderate- to high-density muskellunge populations that support high angler catch rates and provide occasional opportunities to encounter memorable-size fish. This regulation proposal will meet social desires (based on responses to a recent Conservation Congress advisory question) to protect these fish with a higher length limit rather than relying solely on voluntary release.

Do you favor requiring that kept muskellunge be at least 40 inches on the Spider Lake Chain (includes Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes), the Tiger Cat Chain (includes McClaine, Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Tiger Cat Flowage, Burns, and Placid), Mud/Callahan lakes, and North Fork Chief River from the Tiger Cat Dam downstream to Mud Lake in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 42. Removing Special Regulations - Walleye Slot

In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 5 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18-inches) and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Winter Lake and the Brunet River upstream to Lake Loretta Dam in Sawyer County?

QUESTION 43. Removing Special Regulations - Walleye No Minimum Size

In order to restore and maintain a walleye-dominated fish community and give stocked fish and natural recruits 2-3 years of additional protection needed to increase adult density and size structure, do you favor removing the no-minimum size limit and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County?

SHAWANO COUNTY - Also see Sunfish Limits question in Oneida County section

QUESTION 44. Shawano Lake Walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Shawano Lake (including Washington Lake, Shawano Lake Outlet Channel, Wolf River Pond,

and Wolf River upstream to Balsam Row Dam) in Shawano County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Shawano Lake (including Washington Lake, Shawano Lake Outlet Channel, Wolf River Pond, Wolf River to Balsam Row Dam) in Shawano County?

QUESTION 45. Caroline Pond Northern Pike

This proposal would allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Caroline Pond, Shawano County. The current regulation allows 5 pike of any size to be kept. A Conservation Congress advisory question to change the northern pike regulations on Caroline Pond was supported by spring hearing attendees in 2012.

The management goal is to provide a northern pike fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Caroline Pond. It is currently not being met because of suspected overharvest of northern pike. The objective is to increase density of northern pike from 5/acre to 8-10/acre within the next 8 years. This regulation has worked well on the Pella Pond (next downstream impoundment) with little if any angler dissatisfaction.

Do you favor allowing only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Caroline Pond in Shawano County?

TAYLOR COUNTY

QUESTION 46. Taylor County Lakes Bass No Minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, and Spruce Lake in Taylor County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, and Spruce Lake in Taylor County?

QUESTION 47. Removing Special Regulations

In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 5 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18-inches) and allowing 5 walleye that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake in Price and Taylor counties and North Harper Lake, South Harper Lake, Sackett Lake, and Diamond Lake in Taylor County?

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

QUESTION 48. Osseo Club Pond Bass No Minimum Length Limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Osseo Club Pond in Trempealeau County. The management goals are to provide a naturally reproducing harvest-oriented largemouth bass fishery. Osseo Rod and Gun Club originally submitted this regulation request, which passed 27-0, through a citizen resolution at the 2014 spring hearings.

Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Osseo Club Pond in Trempealeau County?

VILAS COUNTY - Also see "Bass protected slot proposal" question in the Oneida County section; and "Walleye 1 > 14 inches proposal" in the Price County section

QUESTION 49. Deerskin Lake Walleye 3 > 18 Inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Deerskin Lake in Vilas County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Deerskin Lake in Vilas County?

WALWORTH COUNTY - See "Northern Pike 1 > 32 Inches" question in Waukesha County

WASHBURN COUNTY

QUESTION 50. Removing Special Regulations

Almost all waters in Washburn County allow harvest of any size largemouth and smallmouth bass. **In order to maximize bass harvest opportunities for anglers and possibly increase bass growth rates, do you favor removing the 14-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day on Shell Lake in Washburn County?**

WASHINGTON COUNTY

QUESTION 51. Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake Walleye 3 > 18 Inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake in Washington County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake in Washington County?

QUESTION 52. Urban Fishing Program: Wiedenbach Park Pond

This proposal would add Wiedenbach Park Pond in Washington County to the Urban Fishing Program with the following regulations:

- No closed season
- No length limits
- A special season from the second Saturday in March up to but not including the last Saturday in April for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers

Urban Ponds also have a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) game fish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead). Designating Wiedenbach Park Pond as an urban fishing pond will increase fish abundance and provide better accessibility to children and disabled anglers.

Do you favor adding Wiedenbach Park Pond in Washington County to the DNR urban fishing program?

WAUKESHA COUNTY

QUESTION 53. Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake, and Pewaukee Lake Walleye 3 > 18 Inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake, and Pewaukee Lake in Waukesha County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake and Pewaukee Lake in Waukesha County?

QUESTION 54. Lac LaBelle Walleye 1 > 28 Inches

This proposal would allow only 1 walleye to be kept per day and it must be at least 28 inches on Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County. The primary goal for Lac LaBelle is to maximize predation on panfish and forage species. This should improve water quality and angler satisfaction with a quality catch and release angling opportunity. The 15 panfish daily bag limit and the closed season on flathead catfish will not be changed by this proposal.

Do you support allowing only 1 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrid) to be kept per day and it must be at least 28 inches on Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County?

QUESTIONS 55-57. Waukesha County Lakes Northern Pike 1 > 32 Inches

This proposal would allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 32 inches in Lac LaBelle, Pewaukee Lake, Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River in Waukesha and Walworth counties.

The management goal is to increase pike abundance and provide a northern pike fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in these lakes and to help establish a strong predator population. The fish

community of each of these systems is not balanced; the panfish or bass populations are growing slowly and are overabundant. This is one tool that will help protect the northern pike population from too much angler harvest and provide additional predation on small panfish and bass.

Do you favor allowing only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 32 inches on the following lakes in Waukesha County?

QUESTION 55. Lac LaBelle

QUESTION 56. Pewaukee Lake

QUESTION 57. Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake (Walworth County) and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River

WAUPACA COUNTY

QUESTION 58. Marion Millpond Northern Pike

This proposal would continue to allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches in Marion Millpond, Waupaca County. If no action is taken, this regulation is due to sunset to the default statewide regulation of no size limit and 5 daily bag limit in April 2016.

The management goal is to restore a naturally reproducing northern pike population with a moderate proportion of quality size fish. The original intent of the regulation was to provide additional protection to northern pike in order to maximize fish population rehabilitation efforts from water level drawdown in 2010. At this time, it is felt that additional time is needed to protect northern pike. Recent surveys indicated that higher predator populations were needed to control abundant yellow perch and black bullhead populations. This proposal was supported by Marion Millpond Lake Association.

Do you favor removing the regulation sunset and continuing to allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Marion Millpond in Waupaca County?

WAUSHARA COUNTY

QUESTION 59. Northern Pike in Alpine Lake, Waushara County and Sharon Lake, Marquette County

This proposal would allow 5 northern pike of any size to be kept per day on Alpine Lake in Waushara County and Sharon Lake in Marquette County. The management goal is to allow harvest of small pike, reducing the density and improving growth for remaining pike. It is currently not being met because most pike do not reach the current 26-inch minimum size limit. The regulation should help reduce northern pike numbers to less than 1 adult per acre, which will improve growth rates of remaining fish.

Do you favor allowing 5 northern pike of any size to be kept per day on Alpine Lake in Waushara County and Sharon Lake in Marquette County?

Appendix A. Proposed Panfish Regulations (Question 4.) These regulations would sunset in 2026.

- **25/10** - a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day but no more than 10 of any one species
- **Spawning Season 15/5** – a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day except during May and June when a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species
- **15/5** - a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species year round

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Adams	Arrowhead	25/10
Adams	Camelot	25/10
Adams	Crooked	Seasonal 15/5
Adams	Lake Sherwood	25/10
Adams	Parker	15/5
Eau Claire	Lake Eau Claire	25/10
Florence	Halsey	25/10
Florence	Sea Lion	15/5
Florence	Spread Eagle Chain Of Lakes (Bass, East, Long, Middle, North, Railroad, South and West lakes)	Seasonal 15/5
Forest	Wabikon & Riley	25/10
Kenosha	Paddock	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Big Twin	25/10
Langlade	Crystal	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Dynamite	25/10
Langlade	Long T33N R10E S35	25/10
Langlade	Post (Lower & Upper)	25/10
Langlade	Meyer	15/5
Langlade	Moose	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Mueller	25/10
Langlade	White	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Clara	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Crystal	15/5
Lincoln	Echo	15/5
Lincoln	Hilderbrand	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Hilts	25/10
Lincoln	Lake Clara T35N R07E S14	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Pesabic	Seasonal 15/5

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Racine	Bohners	15/5
Rusk	Lower Flambeau River Flowages: Big Falls Flowage, Dairyland Flowage, Ladysmith Flowage, Thornapple Flowage	15/5
Sawyer	Black Dan	15/5
Sawyer	Blueberry	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Connors	25/10
Sawyer	Durphee	15/5
Sawyer	Evergreen	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Island	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Lake Of The Pines	25/10
Sawyer	Loretta	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Lost Land	25/10
Sawyer	Teal	25/10
Sawyer	Lower Holly	15/5
Sawyer	Mason	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Osprey	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Round (Big & Little)	25/10
Sawyer	Spring	25/10
Sawyer	Windigo	15/5
Sawyer	Winter	25/10
Shawano	White Clay	25/10
Sheboygan	Crystal Lake	Seasonal 15/5
Taylor	Chequamegon Waters Flowage	Seasonal 15/5
Taylor	Rib	15/5
Vilas	Allequash	Seasonal 15/5
Vilas	High	15/5
Vilas	Fishtrap	15/5
Vilas	Rush	15/5

Lincoln	Rice Reservoir Chain (Bridge lake, Deer lake, Lake Nokomis, Rice River Flowage)	25/10
Manitowoc	Bullhead	Seasonal 15/5
Manitowoc	English	15/5
Manitowoc	Harpt	25/10
Manitowoc	Long	15/5
Manitowoc	Pigeon	25/10
Marathon	Lake Wausau	25/10
Marathon	Mud	15/5
Marathon	Pike	Seasonal 15/5
Marinette/ Oconto	Caldron Falls Reservoir	25/10
Oneida	Boom-Rhineland Chain (Rhineland Flowage, Boom Lake, Bass Lake, Thunder Lake, Lake Creek)	Seasonal 15/5
Oneida	Carrol	25/10
Oneida	Gilmore	25/10
Oneida	Indian	15/5
Oneida	Madeline	25/10
Oneida	Moen Chain (Moen, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth)	25/10
Oneida	Oneida	15/5
Oneida	Squaw	15/5
Portage	Emily	25/10
Portage	Lime	25/10
Price	Butternut	25/10
Price	Phillips Chain	15/5
Price/Vilas	Pike Chain (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner)	25/10
Price	Solberg	15/5

Vilas	Kentuck	25/10
Vilas	Little Saint Germain	25/10
Vilas	Palmer	25/10
Vilas	Partridge	Seasonal 15/5
Vilas	Pickerel	25/10
Vilas/Price	Pike Chain (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner)	25/10
Walworth	Tripp	25/10
Washington	Big Cedar	25/10
Washington	Little Cedar	25/10
Washington	Silver	15/5
Waupaca	Graham	15/5
Waupaca	Hartman	15/5
Waupaca	School Section	25/10
Waupaca	Shadow	Seasonal 15/5
Waupaca	Stratton	25/10
Waupaca	White	25/10
Waushara	Big Hills	25/10
Waushara	Irogami	Seasonal 15/5
Waushara	Kusel	Seasonal 15/5
Waushara	Porters	15/5
Waushara	Witters	15/5
Wood	Nepco	Seasonal 15/5

Appendix B. Fish Refuge Modifications and Removals (Question 5.)

County	Waterbody	Start Date	End Date	ACTION	Justification
Barron	Sand creek (from Little Sand lake to Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Sand creek (the dam outlet of Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Spring creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Lake Montanis; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Staples creek	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	The refuge is no longer needed because Staples Lake is no longer managed for walleye
Barron	Beaver Dam lake inlets (unnamed stream)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	No longer needed in this area, see below
Barron	Beaver Dam lake inlets (from Riebe lake to Cumberland ditch)	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Walleyes do periodically use this area; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Granite lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Granite Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Duck lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on the Duck Lake walleye population
Barron	Silver lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on the Silver Lake walleye population
Barron	Hemlock creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Hemlock and Red Cedar lakes; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Turtle creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Lower Turtle Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties; combine these two to be the stretch of Turtle Creek between Upper Turtle and Lower Turtle lakes
Barron	Turtle creek (outlet of Lower Turtle lake)	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	
Barron	Rice creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Prairie Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Brown	Duck creek	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season	REMOVE	The refuge below two small dams located in Pamperin Park was established to protect migrating fish from illegal harvest; these two small dams were removed in 2012 and

			opener		refuge is no longer needed
Burnett	Clam river	Apr 15th	Jun 1st	REMOVE	The refuge was put in place to protect migrating sturgeon in the spring; there is no open sturgeon season on the Clam River and it can be enforced without this refuge
Columbia	Lake Columbia	year round	year round	REMOVE	This fishery is no longer intensively managed and is not needed
Dane	Wingra creek	Mar 1st	May 15th	MODIFY: Extend it to end at Arboretum Drive (bridge across Wingra Creek)	Bridge is an easily identifiable limit, rather than currently using a buoy placed during the refuge period
Dunn	Red Cedar river	Jan 1st	May 1st	MODIFY: only keep Red Cedar River - section 6, township 28 north, range 12 west; remove other section; and change end date to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	All walleye in the Lake Menomin system spawn in this section below the dam and are susceptible to illegal harvest
Eau Claire	Little Niagra creek	year round	year round	REMOVE	Refuge was created for a fish hatchery that is no longer present
Fond Du Lac	Fond du Lac river	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	There used to be spawning runs of white bass that migrated up the river and were fished at the Hickory St. Bridge, but this has greatly diminished in the last 20 years
Lafayette	Yellowstone lake sub-impoundment and rearing pond	when posted	when posted	REMOVE	Refuge no longer needed
Marquette	Fredereck creek	year round	year round	REMOVE	Westfield hatchery is now closed and there is no reason for the refuge
Marquette	Fox river/Buffalo lake	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	With the rebuild of the dam and incorporation of a fishway into the design, this refuge is no longer necessary
Marquette	Lower Neenah creek	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	With the rebuild of the dam and incorporation of a fishway into the design, this refuge is no longer necessary
Polk	Balsam branch	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	The area can get muskellunge and walleye from Wapogasset and Bear Trap lakes; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties

Polk	Butternut creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	The area can get walleye run from Big Butternut Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Harder creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	The area can get walleye run from Balsam Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Horse creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Has walleye run from Cedar Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Sucker creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Commonly has walleye and muskellunge in the spring, likely spillovers from Wapogasset Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Price	Solberg creek	April 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	The refuge does not have a meaningful effect on walleye populations
Price	Squaw creek	April 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	The refuge does not have a meaningful effect on walleye populations
Price	Round lake	April 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	Walleye spawn on many other rocky areas of Round Lake—spawning is not concentrated on the artificial reef refuge area
Price	South Fork Spirit river	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY DESCRIPTION	There is no South Fork Spirit River in WDNR's Registry of Waterbodies - correct location is on the Spirit River entirely within Price County just north of the Price-Taylor County line
Price	Big Elk river	Apr 15th	Jun 15th	REMOVE	Not needed: there is no public access by road or land, and access by water is difficult from upstream (portage required) or downstream (against the substantial springtime current in a shallow, rocky channel)
Rusk	Swift creek	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Season, bag limit, and size limit regulations on walleye should effectively limit legal harvest of walleyes
Shawano	Wolf river	Apr 15th	May 15th	MODIFY: starting on April 1st to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Refuge is below the Shawano dam and is in place to protect fish that are concentrated there during spawning

Shawano	Embarrass river	Apr 15th	May 15th	MODIFY: starting on April 1st to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	The refuge reduces or prevents the illegal taking of sturgeon from the remote areas known as the Rips and the High Banks
Washburn	Balsam lake outlet	April 1st	May 14th	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Red Cedar Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent with the Hemlock Creek refuge (Barron County) on Red Cedar Lake
Washburn	Bear creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washburn	Birch creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washburn	Little Mud lake outlet	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washburn	Slim creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washington	Pike lake dam	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	Season, bag limit, and size limit regulations should effectively limit legal harvest of walleyes
Washington	Milwaukee river (Newburg dam)	Mar 1st	Apr 15th	REMOVE	Dam removed and refuge no longer needed
Waukesha	Scuppernong Springs	year round	year round	REMOVE	Scuppernong Springs has become rehabilitated through dam removal, stream restoration and stocking efforts and angler opportunity should be promoted
Waukesha	Bark river	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	Modify: expand to cover the entire section of river between Upper Nemahbin and Nagawicka lakes; "inlet to Upper Nemahbin lake upstream to the Nagawicka Dam"	Expansion of the current refuge accounts for removal of the Nemahbin Roller Mill dam and the ability for walleyes to move upstream into critical spawning habitat of the Middle Bark River
Waukesha	Pewaukee lake inlet	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	Pewaukee Lake inlet does not have adequate habitat to support game fish spawning and nursery potential
Waukesha	Lac La Belle	Mar 1st	day before general fishing season opener	REMOVE	Lac LaBelle refuge no longer has an outlet grate and no longer supports concentrations of game fish

Waukesha	Oconomowoc river	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: expand boundaries to be "Oconomowoc Lake inlet upstream to the Okauchee Lake Dam" and change date to match others in county: 3/1 to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	The Oconomowoc River refuge downstream of Upper Oconomowoc Lake should be expanded to include from the outlet of Okauchee Lake downstream to the inlet of Oconomowoc Lake
Waupaca	Little Wolf River	April 1st	May 14th	MODIFY: starting on April 1st to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	This refuge is below the Manawa dam and is in place to protect sturgeon that are concentrated there during the spawning migration
Winnebago	Fox River	Jan 1st	May 1st	MODIFY: starting March 1st to Friday before 1 st Saturday in May	A later refuge start date would be better to cover the migration period for walleye and sturgeon