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## PRESS RELEASE

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May 22, 2013  
For Immediate Release

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### **MADISON – Wisconsin Conservation Congress Supports Announcement of Walleye Initiative**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is announcing its support for Governor Scott Walker's recently unveiled Wisconsin Walleye Initiative, which aims to increase the number of walleye available in the state's lakes by expanding production at state, tribal and private fish hatcheries.

"We are pleased that substantial investment is being made to improve the northern walleye fishery," said Rob Bohmann, Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. "We applaud Gov. Walker, the legislature, and the Department of Natural Resources for recognizing the value of walleye to the state. Investing in the fishery is also investing in Wisconsin's sporting heritage, tourism, and local economies."

According to the 2008 report "[Sportfishing in America](#)," nearly 1.4 million licensed anglers fish in Wisconsin each year. Angling in Wisconsin contributes an estimated \$2.7 million annually to the economy and over 30,000 jobs.

"Walleye are a very popular game fish and we've come to a point where more fish are needed to meet all user needs," said Bohmann. "We are glad that this need has been heard and that solutions are being found to move the needle on walleye production. It's a win for all who have a stake in the health, harvest and enjoyment of the fishery."

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As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.