



Robert Bohmann, Chair  
1105 Melvin Avenue  
Racine, WI 53402  
608-235-5825

Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair  
22514 Rockville Road  
Kiel, WI 53042  
920-286-3327

Dale Maas, Secretary  
Lee Fahrney, Public Relations  
Joe Weiss, Historian

---

September 24, 2015

RE: Board Order FH-18-14, proposed rules affecting NR 20 and 23 related to modifications in walleye harvest management in Ceded Territory waters

Chair Cole, Secretary Stepp, and members of the Natural Resources Board;

The Conservation Congress would like to offer our support for the rule before you relating to walleye harvest on waters within the Ceded Territory. The proposed rule will make permanent the emergency rule you approved in April and will provide a more stable and predictable fishing season structure for both anglers and associated businesses by creating a three walleye bag limit with varying size limits on waters within the Ceded Territory. The current emergency rule in effect has been working well and eliminates the annual fluctuation in the number of walleye available to non-Chippewa anglers caused by the mid-season adjustments to bag limits based on Chippewa tribal declarations.

This three-bag limit simplifies and stabilizes walleye harvest regulations on waters of the Ceded Territory and is also a large step toward mending sometimes strained relationships between tribal and non-tribal anglers.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to thank the department staff for their work on this rule and adjustments they made based on public input. We applaud the DNR's effort to streamline the regulations and alleviate uncertainty with non-tribal walleye harvest in the Ceded Territory while maintaining a sustainable walleye fishery. The Congress looks forward to continuing to work closely with both the DNR and the tribes on future conservation efforts.

Rob Bohmann, Chair  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

---

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.