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Title: NR 21.15 (1) (a) Fish refuges. (La Crosse, Onalaska dam)

The Problem:

March 15 through April 25, the Mississippi river beginning at the Onalaska dam, in the city of Onalaska, and extending downstream for a distance of 300 feet is closed off for fishing. Due to the old spillway structure, it was closed off to public because there was a terrible problem with snagging fishes there.

Right now with the new spillway structure that had been modified by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE), there is no biological need for that area to be closed until April 26. With the new spillway structure, there are many ways for fishes to roam freely throughout the spillway area.

Opening that area to fishing year round will benefit the younger people who are interested in fishing and those who don't have access to boats. It also allows local access to fishing.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in La Crosse County on April 16, 2007 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change opening the Onalaska dam to public fishing all year round.

Name of Author: Allen Vue

Name of Organization: Private Citizen

Address: 1513 Livingston St

City, State, Zip Code: La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

Name of the County Introducing In: La Crosse

Telephone Number (including area code): 608-797-2362

Passed

73 Yes

12 No