64-04-07

Conservation Congress
Resolution: **RUSTY CRAYFISH / BAIT**

The Problem:
The rusty crayfish is a major problem in many of the lakes of Wisconsin, and is classified as an invasive species by the Department of Natural Resources. They overtake a lake and damage weed beds, fish reproduction and hinder summer water activities. Young crayfish can also be transplanted to other Wisconsin lakes by boats, live wells and animals. Currently the only method to control their population is through intensive trapping, which requires hundreds of pounds of bait.

The Problem:
DNR rules only allow fish parts to be used in the trapping of crayfish. Fish parts are not readily available in the quantities that would be required to do any intensive trapping. It is not practical to remove fish from a lake to use as bait, as many species are predators of the crayfish. Many of the rough fish species that are a good bait source are difficult to obtain during the entire open water trapping season.

Whereas, The only method to control rusty crayfish is through intensive trapping.

Whereas, The only bait allowed by the DNR is fish parts, which are not available in quantities relative to the number of crayfish traps that need to be set to control the rusty crayfish.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Vilas County on April 16, 2007 recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes, **Allowing the use of baits including fish parts, animal parts and plants (vegetables).**

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For Office Use Only:
County_____
Passed Or Failed
County Resolution Number _____
County Vote: Yes 56 No 1 (by show of hands / written ballot)