



**Department of Natural Resources  
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife  
Rule Hearings**

**&**

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Annual County Meetings**



**Monday, April 14, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

**Agenda**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Registration                                       |                     |
| 2. WCC – Delegate Elections                           | WCC Delegate(s)     |
| 3. DNR – Wildlife Rules Hearing & Advisory Questions  | DNR Hearing Officer |
| 4. DNR – Fisheries Rules Hearing & Advisory Questions | DNR Hearing Officer |
| 5. WCC – Advisory Questions                           | WCC Delegate(s)     |
| 6. Citizen Resolutions                                | WCC Delegate(s)     |

Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. No argument or rebuttal will be allowed on DNR rule proposals. Written comments on all DNR rule proposals will be accepted until the end of the comment period in the hearing notice found on pages 5-9.

**To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are registered              | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a white ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received this questionnaire | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a blue ballot  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a pencil               |  |

**If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. A photo id is required in order to receive ballots to vote for candidates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Term ballot         | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Term ballot         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Term run off ballot | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Term run off ballot |

**If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age you may run to be elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.**

**Please visit our website at  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/>**

**Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting**

**Please read the instructions below before voting.**

Again this year, votes in every county will be recorded on electronic ballots. Statewide, no hand count will be taken.

After you have registered, staff will provide you with a **white ballot** – the white ballot is for all the Department of Natural Resources Proposed Wildlife & Fisheries Rule Changes, the Natural Resources Board advisory question, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress proposed advisory questions that are printed in this questionnaire.

You will also be given a **blue ballot** – the blue ballot is for all citizen introduced resolutions which are presented at the end of the Conservation Congress county meeting.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

1. Use a PENCIL on ballots - not pen
2. DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
3. DO NOT circle answers
4. DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot

**Please see the examples of the white ballot below and blue ballot on the following page.**

**Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting**

**Sample white ballot below, the white ballot is for proposed questions contained within the questionnaire.**

001

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

INSTRUCTIONS: To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

QUESTIONS	QUESTIONS (cont.)
Question 1: YES NO	Question 22: YES NO
Question 2: YES	Question 23: YES

**Question 1: Do you support changing the date of the ruffed grouse season?**

1. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **Yes** as indicated above. If you are **Not** in favor of the proposed question please mark **No**.

## Important Notice: Statewide Electronic Balloting

Sample blue ballot below: the blue ballot is for citizen introduced resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your vote.

002

### CONSERVATION CONGRESS SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS: To vote on a resolution, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the resolution or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the resolution.

RESOLUTIONS	RESOLUTIONS (cont.)
Resolution 1: YES ← NO ←	Resolution 22: YES ← NO ←
Resolution 2: YES ←	Resolution 23: YES ←

**Resolution 1:** BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season?

1. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **Yes** as indicated above. If you are **Not** in favor of the proposed question please mark **No**.

And remember, in order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - not pen
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot

Typically, the results of the hearing are available after 3 p.m. the Tuesday following the hearing. The results of the citizen resolutions are typically available at the end of April.

The results can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/>

**Thank you for your participation and cooperation.**

**Please enjoy the Hearing and Meeting.**

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## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo Needs Volunteers and Sponsorships Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Help get our kids involved in hunting, fishing and conservation heritage.  
Help make Expo 2008 a success!



Fishing • Sporting Dogs • Wildlife Trail • Heritage • Archery •  
Firearm Safety • Camping and Trail Recreation

For more information or to get involved visit [www.wisexpo.com](http://www.wisexpo.com)  
or call Heidi Hubble 1.877.WIS.EXPO



BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
WM-01-08  
FH-02-08

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 23.09(2)(b), 23.11, 27.01(2)(j), 29.014, 29.041, 29.192(3), 169.20 and 169.21, Stats., interpreting ss. 23.09(2)(b), 23.11, 27.01(2)(j), 29.014, 29.192(3), 160.20 and 169.21, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to chs. NR 10, 11, 17 and 45, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to hunting and trapping regulations and the use of department managed lands. The proposed rules will:

1. Extend the raccoon trapping and hunting seasons by 15 days to coincide with the closing of the coyote trapping and fox trapping and hunting seasons.
2. Establish definitions for live trap and body gripping type trap.
3. Establish a new population goal for bobcat of 2,500 animals, plus-or-minus 20%.
4. Add an additional year to the experimental fall season for hunting wild turkeys with the aid of dogs in 9 counties in southwest Wisconsin.
5. Eliminate one fisher trapping closed area in Vilas, Forest and Oneida counties, another in Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland counties, and establish unique trapping regulations to protect pine marten in those areas.
6. Allow dog training with captive wild animals by license during the period when dog training is otherwise prohibited in the northern restricted zone.
7. Prohibit paintball activity on department-managed lands except when approved by the department.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053, 29.531 and 29.533, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to chs. NR 20, 21, 22 and 23, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The proposed rules will:

1. Reduce daily bag limits from 2 fish to 1 fish and possession limits from 10 fish to 2 fish for flathead catfish taken from Winnebago system waters and implement a 30-inch minimum size restriction for flathead catfish taken from these waters, with an additional provision prohibiting harvest of flathead catfish between 36 and 42 inches in length.
2. Clarify the difference between landing nets and dip nets and how landing nets may be used for fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters of the state.
3. Require that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for bass during a catch-and-release season for bass.
4. Establish a special catch-and-release season for muskellunge in inland waters north of US highway 10 and require that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for muskellunge during a catch-and-release season for muskellunge.
5. Extend the end of the open season for muskellunge in waters south of US highway 10 from November 30 to December 31.

6. Remove special regulations for walleye in English lake, Ashland county.
7. Implement a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Dummy and Little Dummy lakes, Barron county, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.
8. Implement a 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike, with a 26 inch minimum size restriction.
9. Establish Manger lagoon, Brown county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.
10. Remove special regulations for walleye in Boot, Long, and McDermott lakes, Iron county.
11. Increase the maximum allowable size for catfish in Yellowstone lake, Lafayette county, from 18 to 24 inches.
12. Simplify muskellunge regulations on the Black river in LaCrosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau counties by increasing the minimum length restriction to 40 inches.
13. Establish Remington lake, Langlade county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.
14. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 34 to 50 inches in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties.
15. Change walleye regulations in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties, replace a restriction that only 1 fish larger than 14 inches may be kept with a restriction that no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept but that 1 larger than 18 inches may be kept. Also reduce the daily bag limit from 5 walleye to 3 walleye in Enterprise lake.
16. Establish Mirror lake, Lincoln county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implement a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.
17. Remove the continuous open season for bass, northern pike, and walleye, sauger and their hybrids in the Wisconsin river in Lincoln and Oneida counties, downstream from the St. Regis dam in Oneida county, and place those waters under the department's standard fishing seasons for those species.
18. Increase the minimum size restriction for brook trout in the Prairie river, Lincoln county, from R &H road downstream to STH 17, from 8 to 12 inches, increases the minimum size restriction for brown trout from 12 to 18 inches, and reduces the daily bag limit from 3 trout to 1 trout, until April 1, 2011.
19. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 40 to 50 inches in Bone lake, Polk county.
20. Increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 45 to 50 inches in the Chippewa flowage, Sawyer county.
21. Reduce the minimum size restriction for walleye in Sand lake, Sawyer county, from 28 inches to 18 inches and increases the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish.

22. Increase the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches on Big Portage, Presque Isle, Van Vliet, Averill, and Star lakes, Vilas county, and reduce the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 1 fish.

23. Extend the sunset clause on special regulations for muskellunge and walleye in Sparkling lake, Vilas county from 2008-09 to 2013-14.

24. Remove special regulations for trout in Long lake (Town of Saxeville), Waushara county.

25. Clarify regulations on Green Bay tributaries by increasing the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger and hybrids from 3 fish to 5 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from no minimum to 15 inches.

26. Increase the daily bag limit for sauger in Lake Winnebago system waters from 0 fish to 1 fish.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to s. 227.114, Stats., it is not anticipated that the proposed rules will have a significant economic impact on small businesses. The Department's Small Business Regulatory Coordinator may be contacted at [SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us) or by calling (608) 266-1959.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department has made a preliminary determination that this action does not involve significant adverse environmental effects and does not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. However, based on the comments received, the Department may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with the proposal. This environmental review document would summarize the Department's consideration of the impacts of the proposal and reasonable alternatives.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Hearing/Conservation Congress meeting will convene to take comments on the foregoing rule modifications.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the hearings will be held on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, Board Room, 402 Main Street, Friendship
Ashland	Ashland Senior High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland
Barron	Old Courthouse Building Lower Level, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron
Bayfield	Bayfield County Old Courthouse, Second Floor, 117 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> , Washburn
Brown	Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 1234 W. Mason, Green Bay
Buffalo	Alma High School, Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma
Burnett	Siren Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark	Greenwood High School, West Gymnasium, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood
Columbia	Columbia County Courthouse, Community Room, 400 DeWitt St., Portage
Crawford	Crawford County Courthouse, Court Room, 220 N. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien
Dane	Dane County Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake Street, Horicon
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Auditorium, 1230 Michigan Ave., Sturgeon Bay
Douglas	Springs High School, 8993 E. Baldwin Avenue, Solon Springs
Dunn	Dunn County Fish And Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie
Eau Claire	South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, Highway 70/101, Florence
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac
Forest	Grandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 USH 8 W, Crandon
Grant	Grant Co. Youth & Ag Building, 916 E. Elm Street, Lancaster

Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W. Margaret Street, Mercer
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston
Kenosha	Bristol Grade School, Gymnasium, 20121 83 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Bristol
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Kewaunee
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Field House, 700 Hilltop Place, Onalaska
Lafayette	Darlington High School, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Antigo
Lincoln	Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East Kings Road, Tomahawk
Manitowoc	UW Manitowoc, Theater, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield
Marinette	Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Ave, Crivitz
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena
Milwaukee	Greenfield High School, 4800 South 60 <sup>th</sup> Street, Greenfield
Monroe	Sparta High School, Auditorium, 506 N. Black River Street, Sparta
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma St., Suring
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia, Rhinelander
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue W., Durand
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk	Unity High School, Gymnasium, 1908 150th Street/Hwy 46, Balsam Lake
Portage	Ben Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
Price	Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips
Racine	Union Grove High School, Gymnasium, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center
Rock	Janesville Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Ave., Janesville
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith
Sauk	UW Baraboo, R.G. Brown Theater, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
Sawyer	Winter High School, Auditorium, 6585 West Grove Street, Winter
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls High School, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
St. Croix	WI Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Conf. Room, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Taylor	Taylor Co. Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, State Hwy 13 and Hwy 64 Intersection, Medford
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 36245 Park Street, Whitehall
Vernon	Viroqua High School, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
Vilas	Plum Lake Community Center, Golf Course Road, Sayner
Walworth	Delavan/Darien High School, Auditorium, 150 Cummings, Delavan
Washburn	WI Ag Research Station, W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College (WCTC), Richard T. Anderson Bldg., 800 Main St., Pewaukee
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca
Waushara	Waushara County Court House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Old Courtroom, 209 S. St. Marie, Wautoma
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh
Wood	Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-2952 with specific information on your request by April 7, 2008.

The proposed rules and fiscal estimates may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted at the following Internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>. Written comments on the proposed hunting and trapping regulations may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments on the proposed fishing regulations may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Joe Hennessy, Bureau of Fisheries Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments shall be postmarked not later than April 15, 2008. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will NOT, however, be counted as spring hearing votes.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

## Conservation Congress Delegate Election

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

The nominee has the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how he or she could best represent their county and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level.

3-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 3-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS  I vote for the above named individual to serve a three-year term on the WCC.
2-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 2-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS  I vote for the above named individual to serve a two-year term on the WCC.

As a county delegate you agree 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.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of eligible voters in attendance.

### Delegate Eligibility

- Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.
- A delegate must be a Wisconsin resident.
- An elected delegate must be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county they wish to represent.

**Note:** To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same civil town, city or village.

- Must be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
  - Attending 2 district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting in the county meeting in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
  - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
- To guard against possible conflict of interest or bias, no full or part-time employee(s) of the Department of Natural Resources or member of the Natural Resources Board shall be members of the WCC.

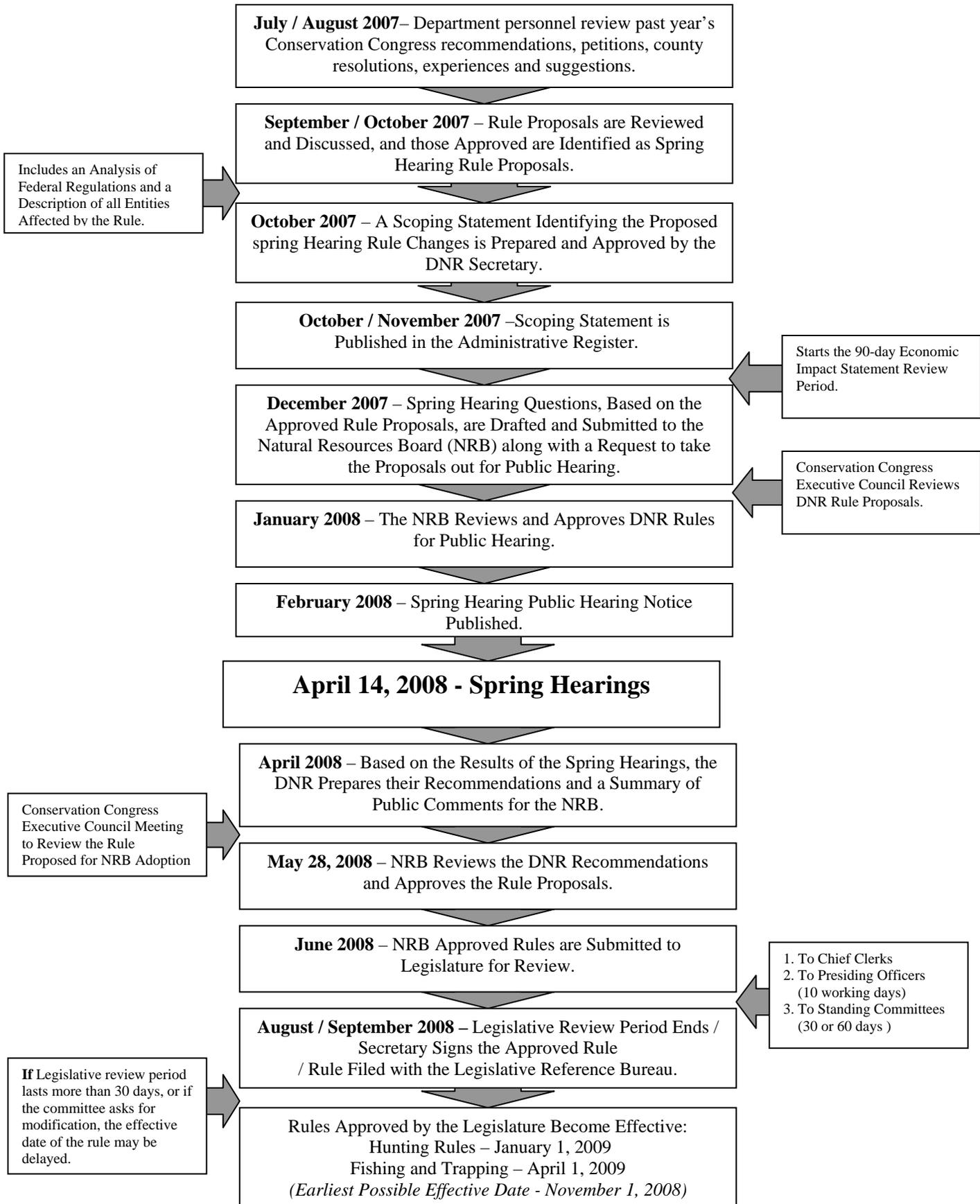
**Note:** The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

### County Voter Eligibility

Individuals voting for county delegates shall be:

- Residents of the county in which they are voting
- At least 18 years of age
- In attendance at the annual WCC county meeting

## Wildlife and Fisheries Administrative Rule Promulgation Timeline



**PROPOSED STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES**

**QUESTION 1: Extend the raccoon trapping and hunting seasons to be consistent with the fox trapping and hunting seasons and coyote trapping season. (2009)**

Currently the raccoon trapping and hunting seasons end on January 31 while the fox and coyote trapping seasons close on February 15. Fox hunting also ends on February 15 while the coyote hunting season is open year round except during firearm deer seasons in certain areas.

This proposal would extend the raccoon trapping and hunting seasons by 15 days so they would run concurrently with the fox and coyote trapping seasons. If those seasons are open at the same time then fox and coyote trappers will not have to be concerned about incidentally catching raccoon because they could possess and utilize those animals. Additionally, raccoon hunters may gain additional opportunities. It is anticipated that this proposal will lead to a very minor increase in raccoon harvest. Raccoons are generally abundant and the population is believed to be stable.

- Do you favor extending the raccoon hunting and trapping seasons by 15 days so that the last day of the season would always be February 15?

1. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 2: Define “cage or box trap” as a live trap that is able to catch only one animal. (2009)**

There is currently no definition of live trap but establishing one will make trapping rules easier to explain and enforce and would help make possible the elimination of two dryland trapping closed areas in northern Wisconsin. This proposal would establish that a “cage or box trap” is a trap that is designed to allow an animal to enter the trap enclosure, be captured and remain alive inside the cage or box type enclosure until it can be released unharmed or reduced to possession by the operator of the trap. A cage or box trap is a trap that is not used as a water set or in conjunction with a steel jawed trap, an enclosed trigger trap or body grip trap.

- Do you favor creating the definition of a “cage or box trap” described above?

2. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 3: Create a definition of body gripping trap. (2009)**

There is currently no definition of body gripping trap even though that term is used throughout the trapping regulations and in administrative code. Creating a definition will make trapping rules easier to explain and enforce. This proposal would establish that a “body gripping trap” is a steel trap designed to allow the animal’s head, neck or torso to enter the trap opening and be held by compression of the jaws around the head, neck or torso when the trap is sprung and which is not a cage trap, enclosed trigger trap, snare, cable restraint or steel jawed trap.

- Do you favor establishing the definition of body gripping trap described above?

3. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 4: Establish a new population goal for bobcat of 2,500 animals, plus-or-minus 20%. (2009)**

The current population goal for bobcat in the area north of State Highway 64 is one per 10 square miles of habitat or approximately 1,800 animals. Department staff believe that, while the population has exceeded that goal, the public has been supportive of the increased population of approximately 3,000 animals and there have been few complaints or problems. There appears to be no reason to reduce the bobcat population to the current goal other than that it is required by rule. Additionally, this proposal would create a range of plus-or-minus 20%. Establishing a target range is more practical for a species which has small over-all numbers and for which harvest success can vary greatly based on weather conditions.

- Do you favor establishing a new bobcat population goal of 2,500 animals, plus-or-minus 20%?

4. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 5: Prohibit paintball activity on department managed lands except when approved by the department. (2009)**

This proposal would prohibit the use of paintball guns on department-managed properties unless prior authorization is obtained from the department. Department staff and members of the public have expressed concern with littering, user conflict, and firearm identification challenges for law enforcement that can lead to unsafe situations. While paintball activities would generally not be allowed on department property, they could be allowed if it were determined that it is a legitimate outdoor activity that does not conflict with the intended use of a particular property. Requiring prior department authorization to use paintball guns will better assure that the public is aware the activity is occurring and that law enforcement staff have advance notice that people possess paintball guns, not real firearms.

- Do you favor prohibiting paintball gun activity on department managed lands except when approved by the department?

5. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 6: Establish a fee of \$2.75 for a duplicate copy of the trapper education course certificate of accomplishment and make them available from any DNR license vendor. (2009)**

Duplicate trapper education course certificates of completion are currently available by request through the department's Madison office and are delivered by mail. Obtaining a duplicate copy takes valuable time but there is no fee. This proposal would make those duplicates available over-the-counter through any license vendor and establishes a fee that would cover the costs of providing this service.

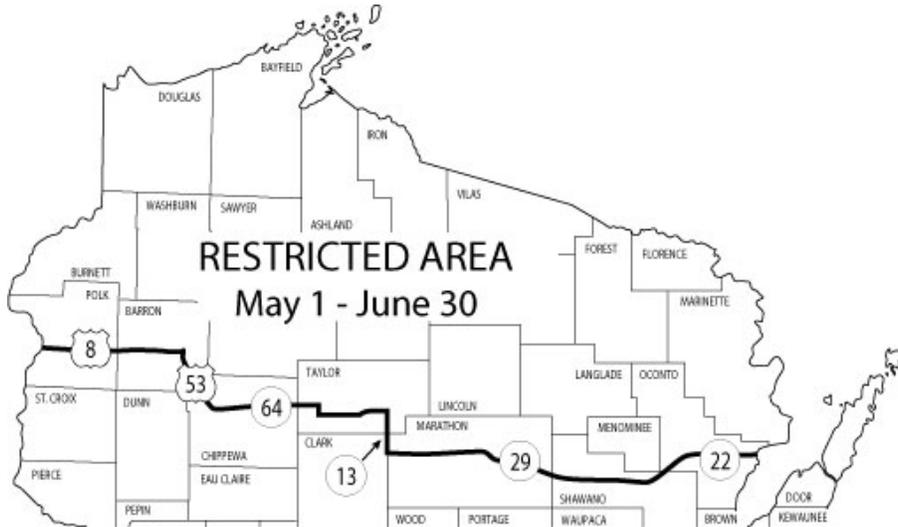
This service is already provided for graduates of hunter safety, boating, snowmobile and ATV courses for the same fee.

- Do you favor making duplicate copies of the trapper education course certificate of completion available through all license outlets and establishing a fee of \$2.75 for that service?

6. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 7: Allow dog training with captive wild animals by license during the period when dog training is prohibited in the northern restricted zone. (2009)**

Dog training utilizing captive wild animals such as pheasants, gray partridge, quail, raccoon, rabbit, coyote and fox is currently allowed by the department by license. However, no dog training using captive or free-ranging wild animals is allowed in the northern restricted zone from May 1 to June 30 on any private or public lands other than Class 1 field trial grounds and shooting preserves.



The prohibition is intended to protect wild, free-roaming, ground nesting birds at the time when they are most likely to be nesting. The current prohibition is in conflict, however, with new rules that allow the use of captive wild animals year-round in hound dog training enclosures. Additionally, the general prohibition on the use of captive wild animals for dog training may not be necessary because that activity is already regulated through the dog training license. In fact, there is no restriction in the Southern part of the state where ground nesting birds are also common. This proposal would allow dog training with captive wild animals, clearing up a conflict with other administrative rules that allow it. All use of captive wild animals under this proposal would continue to be controlled by license and the prohibition on training dogs on free-roaming wild animals in the Northern Restricted Zone from May 1 through June 30 would remain in effect.

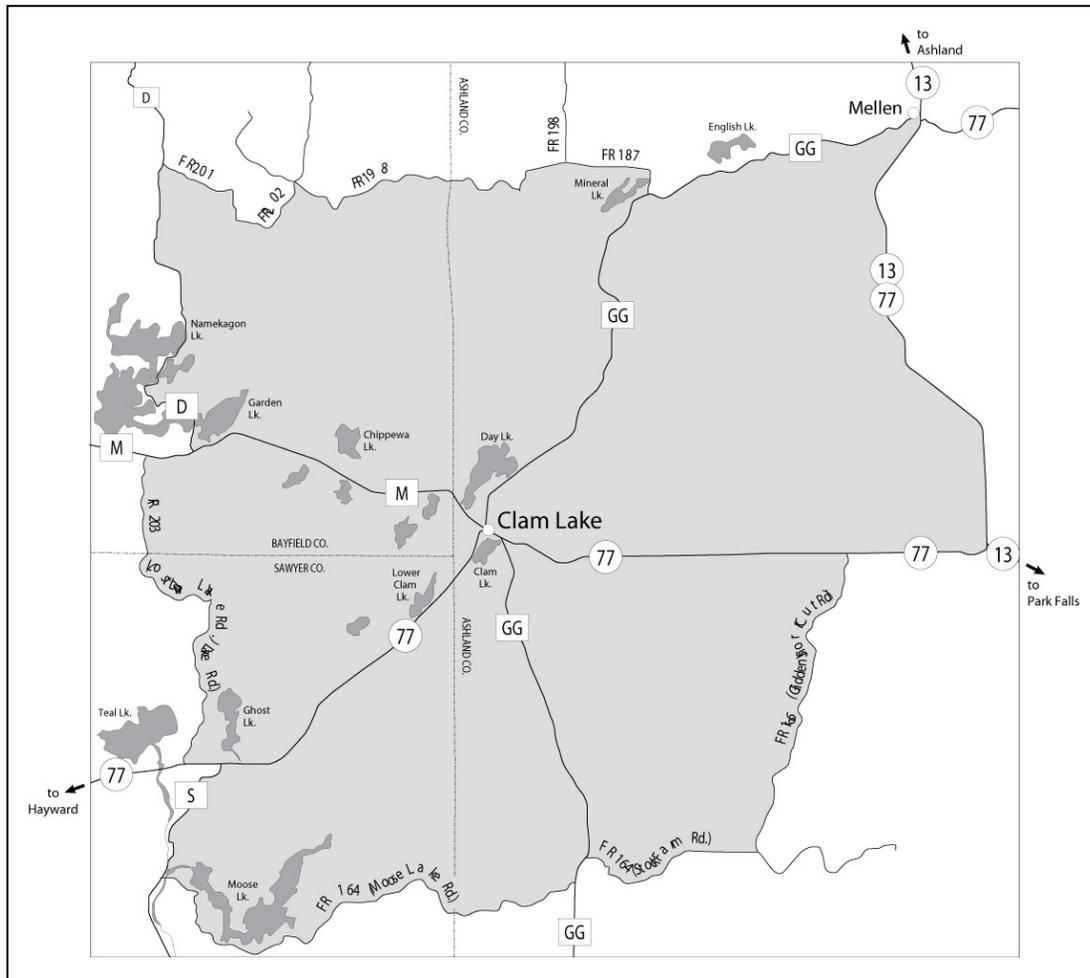
- Do you favor lifting the prohibition on dog training with the use of captive wild animals in the Northern Restricted Zone from May 1 through June 30 but still regulating the practice by license?

7. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

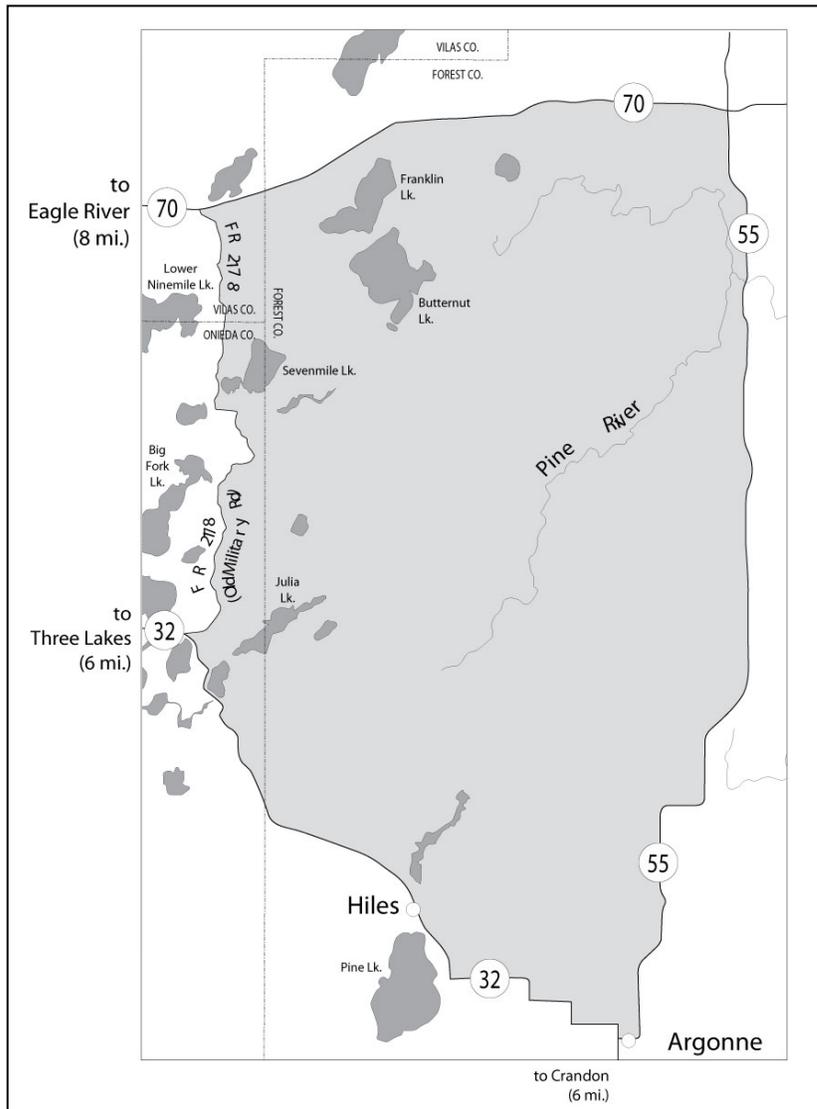
## PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

**QUESTIONS 8 & 9: Eliminate both of Wisconsin's dryland trapping closed areas and allow the use of dryland trapping techniques that protect pine marten (Vilas, Forest & Oneida and Bayfield, Sawyer & Ashland counties). (2009)**

Currently there are two dryland trapping closed areas which were established in order to aid in the reintroduction of fisher and pine marten. Dryland trapping is not allowed in either area. Fisher are now well established in available habitat throughout northern Wisconsin but marten have not expanded beyond the original reintroduction areas after nearly 50 years. The abundant fisher population may be suppressing pine marten. The prohibition on dryland trapping also reduces opportunities for people who would like to trap a variety of upland furbearers. This proposal will allow the use of trap types on dryland that are not likely to catch or kill pine marten but which will be effective for species like fisher, raccoon, bobcat, coyote and fox. Allowable trap types would include cage or box type traps and cable restraints.



**Clam Lake fisher/marten restoration area closed to dryland trapping**



**Forest County fisher/marten restoration area closed to dryland trapping**

➤ Do you favor eliminating the Clam Lake dryland trapping closed area and allowing the use of box or cage traps and cable restraints for species other than pine marten?

8. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Do you favor eliminating the Forest County dryland trapping closed area and allowing the use of box or cage traps and cable restraints for species other than pine marten?

9. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 10: Add an additional year to the experimental fall season for hunting wild turkeys with the aid of dogs in nine counties in Southwest Wisconsin (Crawford, Vernon, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk, Wood, Monroe and Jackson counties). (2009)**

In 2007, the first year of the two-year trial, hunting was not legal during the September portion of the season because the administrative rule-making process was not completed in time. Additionally, the rule went into effect after regulations pamphlets were printed meaning there was limited notice of this opportunity. Extending the experiment to run through 2009 will ensure that there are actually two complete fall seasons of hunting and that the public has adequate notice of this opportunity. The department is not aware of complaints related to hunting activity during the October and November portions of the first year of the pilot season. Hunting wild turkeys with dogs in autumn is a traditional activity in other states where dogs are used to scatter flocks of turkeys that are then called back to the hunter.

- Do you favor adding one year to the experimental fall season for hunting wild turkeys with the aid of dogs in nine counties so that there are two full seasons and the public is aware of this opportunity?

10. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTION**

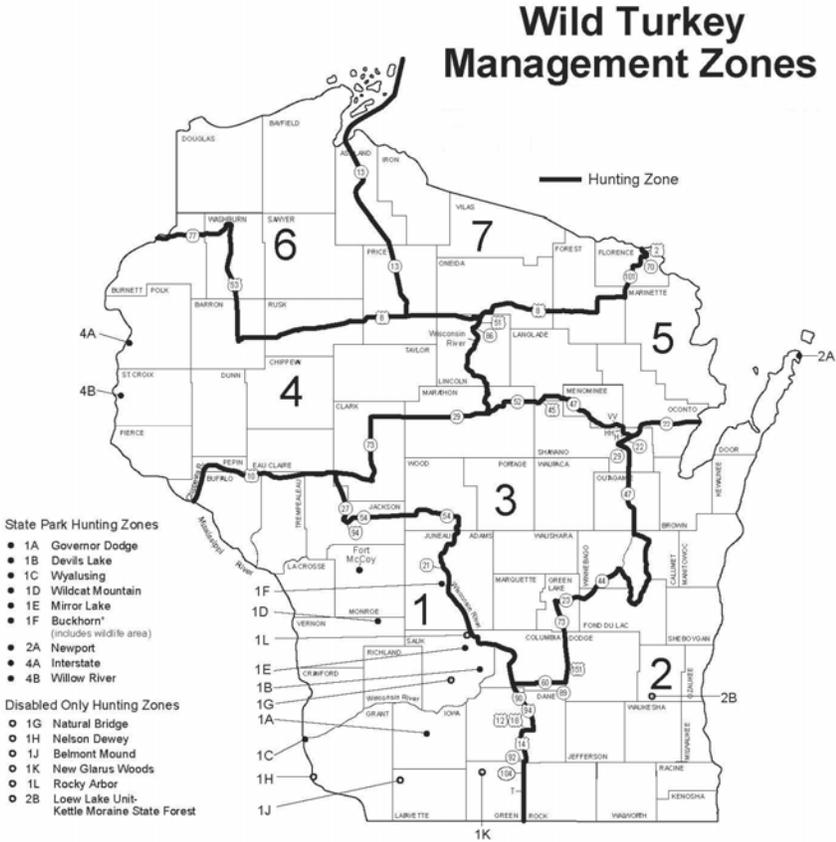
**QUESTION 11: Extend the Fall Turkey Season**

Prior to 2007, the fall turkey season extended from October 1 – November 10. In 2007, the fall turkey season was expanded earlier and later, and currently the season begins on the Saturday nearest September 15 and extends to the Thursday prior to the beginning of the 9-day November Deer Gun Season (In 2008, September 13 – November 20). This change created more hunting opportunities for fall turkey hunters and did not negatively impact the turkey population. With a healthy and well established turkey population across the state, more hunting opportunity could be provided to fall turkey hunters by extending the season into December, after the completion of the 9-day deer gun season.

Biologists have indicated that they do not anticipate negative impacts to the turkey population with a further extension of the season. However, at the northern extent of the turkey’s range, cold and deep snow may provide hunter’s with an unfair advantage. Therefore, providing a season extension in southern Wisconsin, during a two year trial, may provide the state with enough data to determine if a season extension is a workable and biologically sound option.

- Do you support extending the turkey season to include the Monday following the 9-day gun deer season through December 31 in turkey management zones 1 – 5 for two years (Zones 6 and 7 would be excluded)?

11. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



## PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

*(If approved, these proposed rule changes would take effect on April 1, 2009, unless otherwise indicated.)*

### **QUESTIONS 12 – 13: Create catch-and-release season for muskellunge in waters north of US Highway 10, requiring anglers to use artificial lures with barbless hooks only**

The 2007-09 State Budget Bill included the following changes to state statute:

29.428 Catch and release muskellunge fishing. (1) The department shall establish a fishing season that authorizes catch and release muskellunge fishing on inland waters north of US Highway 10 other than the boundary waters between this state and the state of Michigan. The catch and release muskellunge fishing season established under this section shall begin on the first day of the general fishing season established by the department and shall end on the day before the first day of the regular muskellunge fishing season established by the department.

(2) No person may use any hook, bait, or lure, other than an artificial lure that has a barbless hook, while fishing the catch and release muskellunge fishing season established by the department under sub. (1).

The department is obligated to implement this statute change in its administrative rules and is doing so through the spring hearing process. The department has identified two options for implementing this mandatory change.

The department recommendation is to maintain the current general fishing (first Saturday in May) and northern zone muskellunge season (Saturday preceding Memorial Day) opening dates, and allow anglers to fish for muskellunge between those dates provided that all muskellunge are released and anglers fishing for muskellunge use only artificial lures with barbless hooks. This is the most protective option for spawning muskellunge.

However some anglers may object to the complexity created by the new season, the need to use artificial lures and barbless hooks, or the fairness of allowing only catch-and-release anglers to fish for muskies. Another option is move the northern zone muskellunge season opening day to coincide with the general fishing season opening day so there would be no need for a muskellunge catch and release season. This would be the simplest option, allowing all persons to fish for muskellunge when the general fishing season opens, and carry no barbless hook restrictions. The Department did not recommend this option because it would allow additional and earlier harvest of muskellunge during their spawning period.

Please choose which option you would prefer:

- Do you favor moving the opening day for the regular musky season in waters north of US Highway 10 to the first Saturday in May? The current closed season (First Saturday in May through the Friday preceding Memorial Day) for musky would be eliminated.

12. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- If not, do you favor creating a catch-and-release season for muskellunge in waters north of US Highway 10, during which musky anglers would be restricted to using artificial lures with barbless hooks, beginning the first Saturday in May and ending on the day immediately preceding the regular musky season opening day, which is currently the Saturday preceding Memorial Day?

13. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS 14-16: Require anglers to use artificial lures and barbless hooks only during the northern zone catch-and-release season for bass**

The 2007-09 State Budget Bill included the following change to state statute:

29.426 Catch and release bass fishing. No person may use any hook, bait, or lure, other than an artificial lure that has a barbless hook, while fishing a catch and release bass fishing season established by the department.

There is currently a catch-and-release bass season in the northern part of the state. The northern bass zone includes all waters north of a line following STH 77 from its bridge over the St. Croix river east to STH 27, south on STH 27 to STH 64, east on STH 64 to its terminus in the city of Marinette and continuing due east to the shore of Green Bay and all waters north of STH 29 from its bridge over the Fox river east to its terminus in the city of Kewaunee and continuing due east to the shore of Lake Michigan. The northern zone catch-and-release season begins the first Saturday in May and ends on the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June.

With the passage of the statute change, all anglers fishing for bass in the northern bass zone during the current catch-and-release season must now use artificial lures with barbless hooks only. This change is effective immediately and is not subject to development of administrative rules.

However, there may be anglers who may now object to the current bass catch-and-release season if they are required to use artificial lures with barbless hooks, so the Department is asking for your input on the best way to implement this new statute.

The Department recommendation is to maintain the current northern zone bass catch-and-release season but require anglers fishing for bass during that season to use only artificial lures with barbless hooks. This option continues to provide additional protection for spawning bass and still allows anglers additional fishing opportunities.

Some anglers may prefer to eliminate the catch-and-release season rather than require artificial lures with barbless hooks. This option would allow for additional fishing opportunities but would also allow for additional harvest of spawning bass.

Finally, some anglers may prefer to eliminate the catch-and-release season for bass entirely. This option would provide maximum protection of spawning bass but significantly restrict spring bass fishing opportunities.

Please choose which option you would prefer:

- Do you favor eliminating the northern zone early bass catch-and-release season by moving the opening day in that zone to the first Saturday in May?

14. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor eliminating the northern zone early bass catch-and-release season and having the regular bass season open the third Saturday in June?

15. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor the current season structure, with a catch-and-release season beginning the first Saturday in May and ending on the day before the third Saturday in June, and the regular bass season beginning the third Saturday in June? Bass anglers would be restricted to using artificial lures with barbless hooks during the catch-and-release season.

16. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS 17 – 18: Flathead catfish rule changes in the Lake Winnebago system**

Flathead catfish are one of the most important recreational and predator sport fish in the Winnebago System. It is a long-lived species that takes many years to reach trophy/quality size. Age and growth analysis has estimated these fish can live more than 30 years and are capable of attaining weights in excess of 60 pounds. Due to their long life span these fish populations may be particularly sensitive to angling pressure and harvest. In the Winnebago System, flathead catfish angling effort is directed by a combination of conventional rod and reel gear, setlines, and bankpoles. In the Wolf River, recent surveys of setline and bankpole effort indicate fishing pressure has remained at relatively high levels. Several measures have been taken to reduce exploitation including a ban on commercial fishing and lowering of daily bag limits in 2002. However, exploitation rates have still remained high, often reaching 33% or more of the quality to trophy size stock. Other concerns include the potential over harvest and/or snagging of flatheads during the late fall and winter. Anglers have voiced concern over declining flathead catfish numbers and size and have worked together with the department to formulate several management options to improve the quality of the fishery including:

- Implementing a 30 inch minimum size limit for flathead catfish in Winnebago system waters, with possession of fish between 36-42 inches prohibited, and a 1 fish daily bag limit (anglers could keep 1 flathead between 30-36 inches, or 1 larger than 42 inches). There is currently a 2 fish daily bag limit for flathead catfish in Winnebago system waters, with no minimum size limit.

One of the major concerns expressed by anglers was a desire to improve the density of larger, trophy- sized (>40 inch, or 30+ pound) flathead catfish. This regulation would ensure protection of both young and old spawning stock. This is especially important considering these fish can live up to 30+ years of age and some of the larger females are capable of producing massive numbers of eggs. This regulation should improve overall population abundance, recruitment, and trophy potential for Winnebago System flatheads.

- For general anglers, establish a harvest season for flatheads that would open on the first Saturday of May and close on September 30 of each year (catch and release would apply the rest of the year). The current setline/bankpole season would remain the same.

Currently, the flathead catfish season for general anglers is continuous. Information collected from radio telemetry tracking studies show flatheads have strong tendencies to congregate in large numbers and in select locations during over-winter periods (September – March). During the early and late phases of these periods they can be particularly susceptible to angling pressure and overexploitation since these fish do not move far from their over-winter habitat. In addition, during mid-winter coldwater periods the fish become very inactive and are easily snagged. The department has received several reports of anglers snagging catfish in both the Fox and Wolf Rivers. Having a closed harvest season during this period will ensure these fish are adequately protected during a vulnerable stage of their life history.

- Do you favor changing the open season for flathead catfish in Winnebago System waters from a continuous season to one that would open on the first Saturday of May and close on September 30 of each year?

17. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor implementation of a 30 inch minimum size limit for flathead catfish in Winnebago system waters, with possession of fish between 36-42 inches prohibited, and a 1 fish daily bag limit (anglers could keep 1 flathead between 30-36 inches, or 1 larger than 42 inches) ? There is currently a 2 fish daily bag limit for flathead catfish in Winnebago system waters, with no minimum size limit.

18. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 19: Extension of southern zone muskellunge season**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has greatly expanded the range of muskellunge in Wisconsin by stocking. Originally, the range of muskellunge in Wisconsin was concentrated in north central Wisconsin, waters in the Chippewa River basin, and in the Mississippi River. The expansion of the range has included southern Wisconsin waters and anglers can now enjoy fishing for muskellunge in 41 lakes and 4 rivers managed for muskellunge south of Highway 10. Interest in musky fishing has also increased dramatically in recent years and we notice more fishing pressure directed at muskellunge in the fall months right up to the close of the season on November 30. Musky anglers have requested that the Department extend the season, so they can have additional opportunities to pursue muskellunge in the late fall. The Department believes that this species is adequately protected by appropriate size limits in this part of the state, so we do not think this proposal will hurt the populations. If a waterbody freezes before December 31, anglers would be permitted to fish for muskellunge through the ice.

- Do you favor changing the ending date of the muskellunge open season in the waters south of U.S. Hwy 10 from November 30 until December 31? The opening date of the season would remain the first Saturday in May.

19. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 20: Sauger bag limit on Winnebago system waters**

Much work has been done to restore the sauger population in Lake Winnebago. Thirteen spawning reefs have been placed in the northeast corner of Lake Winnebago where sauger historically spawned. Netting surveys show spawning sauger appear to be using these. Roughly 5,000,000 fry and 16,500 fingerling sauger have been stocked in the lake since 2001 in a cooperative effort between Otter Street Fishing Club, Walleyes for Tomorrow and WDNR. Harvest of sauger has been eliminated since 1999 in an effort to protect the remaining stock. The combination of these efforts appears to be having positive results. The number of spawning sauger captured during spring netting is increasing. Marked fingerling sauger from stocking and unmarked, naturally produced ones are showing up in increasing numbers in annual trawling surveys on Lake Winnebago. Fin clipped sauger, stocked as fingerlings in 2001, are now showing up as young mature spawning fish in the northeast corner of Lake Winnebago. And anglers are reporting increased catches of sauger while fishing. Based on these data, it is felt that the sauger population has recovered enough to allow a limited harvest.

- Do you favor changing the current 0 daily bag limit for sauger and walleye/sauger hybrids on Winnebago system waters to a combined daily bag limit for walleye, sauger, and walleye/sauger hybrids of 5 in total of which no more than 1 may be a sauger or walleye/sauger hybrid?

20. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 21: Open season on Lake Alice, Hat Rapids Flowage, and the connecting portion of the Wisconsin River**

This proposal would make open seasons on the portion of the Wisconsin River system from Rhinelander Paper Mill (St. Regis) Dam downstream to Kings Dam, including Hat Rapids Flowage and Lake Alice consistent with other inland waters in northern Wisconsin. This change would protect gamefish from harvest during March and April. This encompasses about 22 miles of the Wisconsin River system.

The angling season on this stretch of the Wisconsin River has been open continuously for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye since 1970 while all surrounding waters are subject to the general inland open seasons for northern Wisconsin for these species. At that time, the river was highly polluted, and closed seasons were not needed to protect fish that people either did not want to eat or couldn't safely eat. The Wisconsin River has undergone a dramatic restoration in response to cleanup mostly due to the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. It now supports improved populations of fish that are safe for human consumption. However, many anglers believe that high exploitation during spawning seasons when all surrounding waters are closed for gamefish is impacting abundance and size structure, especially of bass and walleye. The public voted in favor of a resolution to follow the same seasons as other inland waters in this part of the state by 78 and 71% margins at the 2007 Lincoln and Oneida County spring hearings, respectively.

- Do you favor making the open season on the Wisconsin River system from Kings Dam (Lake Alice) upstream to the St. Regis Dam (Rhinelander Paper Mill) consistent with the general inland open season in northern Wisconsin? For largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye, this would change the open season from continuous to the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March. In addition, the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass would be 0 (catch and release only) from the first Saturday in May through the Friday before the third Saturday in June.

21. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 22: Lower Black River muskellunge regulations**

The Lower Black River flows uninterrupted from the dam in downtown Black River Falls downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi River near New Amsterdam, Wisconsin. This stretch of river borders Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties. Currently only Jackson County is listed under a 40 inch minimum size and a "quality fishing opportunity" for muskellunge in the "Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations". The "Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations" does not list La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties with the same regulation. These counties fall under the standard statewide 34 inch minimum length limit. This inconsistency has led to law enforcement problems and confusion among anglers. Furthermore, on certain parts of the river fish caught on the north half of the stream must be 40 inches to harvest, while those caught on the south half need only be 34 inches. In addition, the Lower Black River joins the Mississippi River, a border water (MN), and has a 40 inch minimum length limit for muskellunge.

The DNR Spring Rules Hearings in 1991 listed the Black River as part of a large package of waters (160) proposed for a 40" minimum. This change was designed to improve potential for natural reproduction and provide higher quality fisheries. This proposal was supported by a total margin of 200 to 14 in the four counties through which the Lower Black River flows. This regulation change will provide consistency throughout the Lower Black River.

- Do you favor changing the muskellunge regulations on the Lower Black River and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake from a 34 inch minimum size limit and daily bag of 1 fish in La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties to a 40 inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 1 fish in those counties?

22. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 23: Walleye regulations in Green Bay tributaries**

The proposed changes will create uniform seasons, size limits and bag limits for walleye in all Green Bay tributaries. Changes were made in 2006 which created consistency in walleye regulations in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters, Green Bay, and major Green Bay tributaries. However, minor tributaries to Green Bay were inadvertently excluded. This proposal would bring regulations for walleye in minor Green Bay tributaries into line with other streams and rivers in the area. The proposal would change the current regulation of a 3 walleye daily bag limit and no minimum length restriction to a 5 fish daily bag limit with a 15 inch minimum size restriction. If adopted, this change would take effect on the first day of the month following its publication in the administrative register.

- Do you favor replacing the current regulation of a 3 walleye daily bag limit and no minimum length restriction to a 5 fish daily bag limit with a 15 inch minimum size restriction in minor Green Bay tributaries, to bring consistency to walleye regulations in Green Bay and all of its tributaries?

23. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 24: Chippewa Flowage muskellunge regulations**

The goal for the Chippewa Flowage muskellunge fishery is to create and maintain a population of moderate to high density with a moderate proportion of memorable-size fish and a low proportion of trophy-size fish. Specifically, we seek a density of 0.3 to 0.4 adult muskellunge per acre with 30 to 40 percent of all adult muskellunge 42 inches and longer and 3 to 5 percent 50 inches and longer (similar to Lake of the Woods, Ontario, during its heyday).

In a comprehensive netting survey conducted by DNR biologists in spring of 2006, only 1.3 percent of adult muskellunge in the Chippewa Flowage exceeded 50 inches in length. A majority of local stakeholders in the Chippewa Flowage fishery, and musky anglers in general, desire a higher proportion of trophy-size fish (those over 50 inches long) in the rare waters that are capable of producing them in substantial numbers.

Despite the fact that the Chippewa Flowage musky population does not yet meet our high expectations, indexes of size structure have increased substantially over the past 16 years due primarily to an excellent catch-and-release ethic among Flowage anglers. The proportion of adult fish 40 inches and longer increased from 12% in 1990 to 34% in 2006. And the proportion over 45 inches increased from <2% in 1990 to almost 9% in 2006. The 45-inch minimum length limit in effect since 2003 may have played a minor role in this improvement. This gives us reason to believe that a combination of voluntary catch-and-release and mandatory release under a 50-inch minimum length limit can, in fact, further improve the size structure of this muskellunge population such that the Chippewa Flowage may once again be regarded as a world-class musky fishery.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 45 inches to 50 inches on the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County?

24. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS 25 – 26: Clarification on the use of the term “landing net” in Administrative Code**

This proposal was introduced by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. Rules on use of nets state that no person may possess, control or operate in any manner any net, seine or similar device that might be used for the purposes of fishing at any time while on any water or on the banks or shores of any water except as specifically authorized by rules. There currently is no rule that specifically authorizes nets commonly known as landing nets. Some rules currently refer to nets used to land legally caught fish as dip nets. However, other rules define dip nets as a piece of netting suspended from a round or square frame that does not exceed 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square and that they may only be used from sunrise to sunset, by raising and lowering it vertically while fishing, and that a person may not fish in any other manner while operating a dip net or fish with hook and line from any boat while in possession of a dip net. In some parts of the state, nets commonly known and used as landing nets are also used to take rough fish such as suckers. When landing nets are used to take suckers, they are typically not used in a manner where the nets are only raised and lowered vertically. Landing nets are also commonly possessed and used statewide by many anglers while fishing with hook and line to assist in landing game fish caught by hook and line. This proposal will define a landing net as a net suspended on a frame with an attached handle and used to land a fish that has been caught using hook and line. This proposal would also clarify that landing nets are legal to possess and use while fishing with hook and line equipment, and can also be used to take rough fish when and where the harvest of rough fish is allowed with the use of a dip net.

- Do you favor the creation of a definition of a landing net, clarifying that landing nets are legal to possess and use while fishing with hook and line equipment?

25. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you favor allowing the use of landing nets to take rough fish when and where the harvest of rough fish is allowed with the use of a dip net?

26. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
ASHLAND & IRON COUNTIES**

**QUESTION 27: Walleye regulation changes in Ashland and Iron counties**

A 14- to 18-inch protected slot limit was implemented on a trial basis for walleye on four small Iron/Ashland county lakes in 1997. Walleye population objectives for those waters included maintaining adult densities at 2-4 per acre at McDermott and Boot lakes and 1-3 per acre at Long and English lakes. Of all walleye 10 inches and longer captured by fyke netting in early spring, 30-50% were expected to be 15 inches or longer.

Biologists have evaluated the impact of this regulation and determined that low recruitment (survival of naturally produced or stocked fish), angler over-harvest of legal-size walleye shorter than 14 inches, and angler non-compliance with the mandatory release of 14- to 18-inch fish have resulted in walleye populations that fail to meet our stated objectives.

- Do you favor changing from the 14- to 18-inch protected slot limit (with only one fish greater than 18 inches) to the statewide 15-inch minimum length limit (and regular bag limits based in part on tribal harvest declarations) on McDermott, Boot, and Long Lakes in Iron County and English Lake in Ashland County?

27. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
BARRON COUNTY**

**QUESTIONS 28 – 29: Big and Little Dummy Lake bass and northern pike regulation changes**

Big and Little Dummy Lakes have historically harbored a high density stunted bluegill population. During the past twenty years, walleye were stocked to try and increase predation by reducing bluegill abundance with the goal of increasing bluegill growth and size structure. A 2006 survey indicated that the historic walleye stocking has failed to create a detectable walleye population and bluegill size structure and growth is still poor with no bluegill larger than 7 inches collected. A management strategy was generated with local support from the Big Dummy Lakes District to try and improve the abundance of northern pike and size structure of largemouth bass in an effort to increase natural predation on the abundant bluegill fishery. The goal of this effort is to increase the percentage of seven inch and larger bluegill from 0 to 10% over the next 10 years.

It is felt that increasing the minimum length limit for northern pike to 26 inches with a daily bag of 2 would improve the abundance and size structure of northern pike. This regulation has worked well on other waters in Barron County with little if any angler dissatisfaction and still allows good opportunities for angler harvest. In addition, it is also felt that implementation of a protective length limit for bass of 14-18 inches would increase the number of larger bass in the population which would likely increase natural predation on the abundant bluegill fishery. This regulation would also allow harvest opportunities for smaller bass 8-14 inch size range which are abundant in the fishery. Furthermore it would allow harvest of an 18 inch and larger bass as a trophy.

Therefore in an effort to improve the abundance or size structure of top predators in Big and Little Dummy Lakes with the goal of increasing bluegill growth and size structure over time;

- Do you support replacing the current no minimum length limit, daily bag of 5 fish for northern pike on Big and Little Dummy Lakes in Barron County, with a 26 inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 2?

28. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you support replacing the current 14 inch minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit for bass on Big and Little Dummy Lakes in Barron County with a no minimum length limit, with a 14-18 inch protected slot and a 3 fish total daily bag limit, where only one bass harvested may be longer than 18 inches?

29. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES</b> <b>BROWN COUNTY</b></p>
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**QUESTION 30: Designate Manger Lagoon, City of Green Bay, as an urban fishing water**

Manger Lagoon is located within the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in the City of Green Bay. Manger Lagoon is an artificial impoundment with 15 surface acres. Sanctuary staff currently maintain the fishery through stocking from private fish hatcheries. Species stocked include: rainbow trout, hybrid bluegill and bass.

The Wisconsin DNR and City of Green Bay desire to enroll Manger Lagoon in the DNR Urban Fishing Program. These parties would work cooperatively on fishery management of Manger Lagoon. Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) adopt daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species; b) restrict fishing in the lagoon to youth and disabled anglers only, and c) make the lagoon open to fishing year round.

- Do you favor adding Manger Lagoon to the DNR urban fishing program, with daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species? Fishing would be open year round, but restricted to youth and disabled anglers only.

30. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES</b> <b>IRON COUNTY</b></p>
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**Please see question 27 regarding walleye regulation changes in four Ashland and Iron County lakes.**

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY**

**QUESTION 31: Catfish regulations in Yellowstone Lake**

Yellowstone Lake is managed to protect predator fish in order to have a high quality fishery for both panfish and game fish, and to control carp. From 1998 to 2000 Yellowstone Lake was catch and release only for game fish in order to control carp in coordination with a carp removal project. The management of the lake has developed a very nice fishery with quality opportunities for many species.

The current management objective for catfish in Yellowstone Lake is to allow anglers to harvest larger channel catfish while maintaining quality fishery objectives. Currently the population is a self-sustaining population that has reached desirable numbers and size structure for anglers. Anglers would like to continue the harvest of larger channel catfish but maintain the quality fishery that has been established. The current regulation for catfish is a harvest slot size limit that allows for the harvest of catfish between 15 and 18 inches total length. The proposed harvest slot size limit will allow for the harvest of catfish between 15 and 24 inches total length while maintaining the quality population that has been established. This proposal passed in Lafayette County as a local resolution 41 yes 1 no during the 2007 spring hearings. This proposal is strongly supported by all Lafayette County members of the Conservation Congress as well as the Lafayette County Sportsman Alliance.

The Department of Natural Resources conducted channel catfish surveys during March and April of 2007. Over 1500 channel catfish ranged in size from 8 to 30 inches total length. More than eighty percent of the catfish sampled fell within the proposed harvest slot limit of 15-24 inches. A majority of the population will be available to anglers for harvest, but the aggregate bag for game fish (walleye, sauger, channel catfish, flathead catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass) will remain at 2 fish per day. The Department will also conduct a survey in spring 2008 that will enable us to measure the impacts of the new regulations if adopted.

- Do you favor increasing the harvest slot size limit for channel and flathead catfish from the current 15 – 18 inch harvest slot to a 15 - 24 inch harvest slot size limit on Yellowstone Lake (including the Yellowstone River from the lake upstream to Co. Hwy F), Lafayette County?

31. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
LANGLADE COUNTY**

**QUESTION 32: Enterprise Lake muskellunge regulations**

Enterprise Lake, a 505-acre drainage lake, is an important muskellunge fishery in Langlade County and the surrounding area. It has good densities and growth potential to be managed as a trophy muskellunge fishery. Harvest of adult muskellunge over 34 inches is great enough to limit the growth and trophy potential of them in Enterprise Lake. A 2005-06 survey estimated the adult (30 inches and larger) muskellunge abundance at 0.38 per acre which is good for a stocked population. Local anglers and the Enterprise Lake Association have expressed a desire to improve the size quality of muskellunge and to maximize growth and trophy potential of muskellunge in Enterprise Lake. Analyses have shown that a 50 inch size limit will accomplish these goals.

- Do you favor changing the muskellunge regulations on Enterprise Lake from a 34 inch minimum size limit and daily bag of 1 fish to the following: 50 inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 1 fish?

32. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 33: Enterprise Lake walleye regulations**

Enterprise Lake, a 505-acre drainage lake, is an important walleye fishery in Langlade County and the surrounding area. It has excellent natural reproduction of walleye and is supported entirely by natural recruitment of fish. Harvest of adult walleye is very high and limits the overall population density (number per acre). A 2005 survey estimated the adult walleye abundance at 0.8 per acre which is low for a highly reproductive, naturally reproducing walleye population. Local anglers and the Enterprise Lake Association have expressed a desire to improve the number of adult walleye, while continuing to be able to harvest some of the abundant smaller fish. Analyses have shown that a protected slot size of 14-18 inches and daily bag of 3 fish and only 1 per day over 18 inches is an appropriate regulation to meet these goals. This regulation is intended to continue to allow anglers to harvest abundant walleye less than 14 inches while at the same time increasing the number of adult walleye in the population. The regulation has the potential to increase the number of walleye 15 inches and greater from 0.7 to 2.5 per acre.

- Do you favor changing the walleye regulations on Enterprise Lake from no minimum size limit but only 1 fish over 14 inches to no minimum length limit, but with a protected slot size of 14-18 inches and daily bag of 3 fish with only 1 per day over 18 inches?

33. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 34: Designate Remington Pond, City of Antigo, as an urban fishing water**

Remington pond is a 4.8-acre city of Antigo storm water retention pond that was constructed about 5 years ago. The dug impoundment is shallow (about 6 feet maximum depth), not spring fed, and other than storm water drainage has no inlets or outlets. The pond is prone to low dissolved oxygen and winterkills most years. It cannot support trout or most other species of fish year-round, but The Northwoods Sportsmen's Club and Antigo Chapter of Trout Unlimited have been stocking trout in the pond in the spring and fall periodically since 2005 for children to enjoy.

The Wisconsin DNR and City of Antigo desire to enroll Remington Pond in the DNR Urban Fishing Program. Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) adopt daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species; b) restrict fishing in the pond to youth and disabled anglers only, and c) make the pond open to fishing year round.

- Do you favor adding Remington Pond to the DNR urban fishing program, with daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species? Fishing would be open year round, but restricted to youth and disabled anglers only.

34. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES</b> <b>LINCOLN COUNTY</b></p>
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**Please see questions 32 – 33 regarding proposed muskellunge and walleye regulation changes in Enterprise Lake, Langlade and Lincoln Counties.**

**QUESTION 35: Designate Mirror Lake, City of Tomahawk, as an urban fishing water**

Mirror Lake is a 4.4-acre lake within the city limits of Tomahawk. It is a very soft water seepage lake with a maximum depth of 7 feet. Mirror Lake is prone to low dissolved oxygen that winterkills most years and cannot support trout or most other species of fish year-round. The city and Tomahawk Fishing Unlimited have built and maintained a handicapped fishing pier to improve the angling experience for some. Mirror Lake is a popular lake for kids and school groups to go fishing. It receives quite a bit of fishing activity following stocking, and seems to be very popular with city officials and people in the community.

The Wisconsin DNR and City of Tomahawk desire to enroll Mirror Lake in the DNR Urban Fishing Program. Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) adopt daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species; b) restrict fishing in the lake to youth and disabled anglers only, and c) make the lake open to fishing year round.

- Do you favor adding Mirror Lake to the DNR urban fishing program, with daily bag limits as 3 trout, one gamefish, and 10 panfish, with no size limit on any species? Fishing would be open year round, but restricted to youth and disabled anglers only.

35. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 36: Prairie River trout regulations**

Category 5 trout regulations on a short stretch of the Prairie River in Lincoln County have been the subject of considerable debate since they went into effect on April 1, 2003. The Department would like input on whether to keep these Category 5 regulations to allow for a full evaluation of whether they significantly increase the number of larger trout in that section of the river, or to eliminate these regulations and manage that section of the river as a Category 4 harvest fishery.

The questionnaire presented at the 2002 spring hearings included a proposal for a Category 5 regulation on five miles of the 44 mile long Prairie River among a package of statewide trout regulation revisions. The Category 5 regulation called for a 12-inch minimum size for brook trout, 18-inch minimum for brown trout, an aggregate daily bag limit of one trout, and use of artificial lures only on the stretch of river from R & H Road downstream to State Highway 17 in Lincoln County. The rest of the river retained a Category 4 designation with an 8-inch minimum size for brook trout and 12-inch minimum for brown trout, an aggregate daily bag limit of 3, and no gear restrictions.

The purpose of the Category 5 regulation was to increase opportunity to catch larger trout in a county with few special regulations. This reach of river was considered to be the most likely to be able to produce larger trout because of its forage base. More than 80% of the trout in this reach of the river are brook trout, with the remainder being brown trout. Artificial lures were required because hooking mortality with bait has been shown to be 10 times higher than with spinners or flies. The Category 5 proposal was approved at the 2002 spring hearings (64-18 in Lincoln Co. and 4,662-1,611 Statewide) and by the Natural Resources Board and went into effect for the 2003 season.

The Department routinely evaluates Category 5 trout regulations to determine if they are effective in producing larger trout fisheries. To be definitive, these evaluations must run for at least a generation of the fish species involved, and preferably longer. In the Prairie River that would be 5-7 years for brook trout and 6-8 years for brown trout. In the first 4 years of the regulation, preliminary population data have shown a 135% increase in the numbers of brook trout over 10 inches in the protected reach. There has not been an increase in brown trout, but for both species the regulation has not been in effect long enough to determine whether it is meeting its management objectives.

However, some local landowners and fishermen would prefer to see the fishery managed as a consumptive fishery rather than a fishery managed for larger trout, regardless of the potential positive effects of more restrictive regulations. A resolution requesting a return to Category 4 harvest regulations was approved by a vote of 69-6 at the 2004 Lincoln County spring hearing, and after a series of public meetings Department staff agreed to ask the Natural Resources Board to consider this resolution after allowing for a 5 year evaluation of the Category 5 regulations.

The Department recommends that the Category 5 regulations be retained through the 2010 season to allow for a 5 year evaluation of whether it will meet the management objective of developing a larger trout fishery. At that time the Natural Resources Board can determine whether to permanently institute these Category 5 regulations based on results of the evaluation, or begin an evaluation of the Category 4 alternative.

Action of the Natural Resources Board is required before the 2009 season for the Category 5 regulations to be in effect. If the Category 5 regulations are not approved by the Natural Resources Board, then this stretch of the river will automatically revert to Category 4 regulations (aggregate daily bag limit of 3 trout, 12" minimum size limit on brown and rainbow trout; 8" minimum size limit on brook trout, no bait restriction) starting with the 2009 season.

- Do you favor Category 5 trout regulations (aggregate daily bag limit of 1 trout; 18" minimum size limit on brown trout; 12" minimum size limit on brook and rainbow trout; artificial lures only) on the Prairie River in Lincoln County from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 (5 miles) through the 2010 season? At that time the Natural Resources Board can determine whether to permanently institute these Category 5 regulations based on results of the evaluation, or begin an evaluation of the Category 4 alternative. This will allow a full evaluation of the regulation and the capacity of this stretch of river to grow larger trout.

36. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES</b> <b>POLK COUNTY</b></p>
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**QUESTION 37: Bone Lake muskellunge regulations**

Bone Lake has been actively used as a muskellunge research lake over the past several decades. In 1990, Bone Lake was one of the first lakes in northwest Wisconsin to be managed under a 40 inch minimum length limit. The benefits of this regulation were evident during a recent fish survey during 2005-2006 that documented a very desirable muskellunge population of 0.56 fish per acre with 0.11 fish per acre larger than 40 inches. However, there were very few fish larger than 45 inches in the population and over a two year period only 5 fish were sampled larger than 45 inches in length and the largest fish captured was 47.5 inches. In addition, growth and condition of muskellunge was not considered to be a limiting factor because Bone Lake muskellunge condition actually improved over the past 10 years suggesting some other factor is likely limiting the presence of larger muskellunge in the population.

To get a better grasp of this, in 2006, 52 legal length (40 inches and larger) muskellunge were tagged with external floy tags. Based on tag returns received from anglers, 16% of the reported tagged muskellunge died from angling or hooking mortality. It is felt this level of mortality of larger fish is too high to produce large numbers of 45 inch and larger muskellunge and is likely one of the main reasons for the lack of 45 inch and larger muskellunge in Bone Lake.

The current management plan for Bone Lake calls for increasing the percentage of 45 inch and larger fish from 1% to 5% over the next 15 years and increasing the number of 50 inch muskellunge from 0% to 1%. It is felt that increasing the minimum length limit to 50 inches will achieve this goal by reducing angler harvest of smaller 40-44 inch muskellunge which are common in the population and allow those fish to grow and recruit into a more preferred 45-50 inch size range over time.

- Do you support increasing the muskellunge minimum length limit from 40 to 50 inches with a daily bag of 1 on Bone Lake?

37. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
SAWYER COUNTY**

**QUESTIONS 38: Sand Lake walleye regulations**

The objective for the Sand Lake walleye fishery is to restore a naturally reproducing population by allowing only conservative harvest and maintaining a moderately high density of 4 to 8 adults per acre, with 30 to 50 percent of all 10-inch and larger walleye over 15 inches long and 10 to 20 percent over 18 inches long. We believe a walleye population with these characteristics is desirable in itself; but that it also will maximize the odds that a popular crappie fishery at Sand Lake will be characterized by low to moderate numbers of fast-growing, preferred-size black crappie.

In spring of 2007, biologists estimated the adult walleye population of Sand Lake had increased to a density of 2.8 per acre under a restrictive 28-inch minimum length limit since a major restoration project began approximately six years ago. The proportion of 10-inch and larger walleye over 15 inches long in spring of 2007 was only 23 percent, though it is likely that many females 16 to 17 inches long were still immature and therefore not vulnerable to capture by fyke nets on the spawning grounds. At any rate, density and size structure have improved dramatically since 2000, but they are not yet within our target ranges.

At this time, we do not know whether natural reproduction or aggressive stocking is most responsible for the comeback of walleye to Sand Lake, but we are prepared to relax angler harvest restrictions in order to see if objectives can be met under a still-conservative minimum length limit of 18 inches, with a daily bag limit of 3 fish.

Growth rates of walleye in the restored population have been above average, leading us to believe that some fish in the population will exceed 18 inches by the time the proposed regulation becomes effective. If adopted, this change would take effect on the first day of the month following its publication in the administrative register.

- Do you favor decreasing the minimum length limit for walleye from 28 inches to 18 inches and increasing the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish on Sand Lake in Sawyer County?

38. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES**  
**VILAS COUNTY**

**QUESTION 39: Big Portage Lake bass regulations**

The current 14 inch minimum size limit and 5 fish bag limit, combined with the early catch and release season is not adequate to provide a quality bass fishery in Big Portage Lake. Changing the bass regulation to an 18 inch minimum and one fish bag limit should increase bass numbers and quality. Several similar lakes in the area have had this regulation on them since the late 1990s. In each case we have seen a dramatic improvement in the numbers of bass, average length, and improved catch rates.

Plum Lake, located in central Vilas County, is an example of where 18 inch size limit has produced a quality bass fishery. In 1996, the size limit was changed from 12 to 18 inches and the bag limit was reduced from 5 to 1. Based on surveys conducted in 1995 and 2003 the number of smallmouth bass > 8 inches has increased from 0.2 to 0.6 fish/acre. The number of bass > 18 inches also increased from 0.03 to 0.2 per acre. Creel surveys conducted in these same years showed that angler catch rates for smallmouth bass improved from 15.5 to 4.4 hours to catch a fish. There is no reason to believe that the 18 inch minimum and 1 fish bag limit would not produce the same quality results on Big Portage Lake.

This regulation change should boost bass numbers, increasing predation on rusty crayfish present in Big Portage Lake. Recent research on rusty crayfish in northern Wisconsin has found that an increasing numbers of predatory fishes through restricted fishing, combined with trapping can substantially decrease crayfish numbers in a lake.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 14 inches to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 1 in total for bass on Big Portage Lake, Vilas County?

39. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 40: Sparkling Lake game fish regulations**

This proposal would extend the current regulations for largemouth and smallmouth bass (18" minimum length limit, 1 daily bag limit), walleye (28" minimum length limit, 1 daily bag limit), and Muskellunge (40" minimum length limit) on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County, for an additional 5 years. The current regulations have been in place for 6 years, but are set to expire at the end of the next fishing season, by sunset clause.

The University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wish to continue a research project to evaluate the impacts of game fish population manipulations on controlling exotic species. This study has combined intensive harvest of exotic species (rusty crayfish and rainbow smelt) with increased predation by game fish in order to control the impact of these species on Sparkling Lake. The goal is to restore the natural fish and plant community that was present prior to the invasion of these two exotic species. Some of these goals have been met but the 7 year time limit has not been long enough to fully see the expected changes in the fish community. Researchers feel a 5 year extension of the current special rules will give them the necessary time to see if all the fishery goals can be met. It is hoped that the information gained from this intensive cooperative project can be applied to control exotic species in other waters of the state.

- Do you favor maintaining the restrictive regulations for largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, and muskellunge on Sparkling Lake, Vilas County, for 5 additional years?

40. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 41: Presque Isle Chain bass regulations**

The current 14 inch minimum size limit and 5 fish bag limit, combined with the early catch and release season is not adequate to provide a quality bass fishery in the Presque Isle Chain of lakes, including Presque Isle, Van Vliet, and Averill Lakes. Changing the bass regulation to an 18 inch minimum and one fish bag limit should increase bass numbers and maintain quality. This system has the potential to provide a memorable fishing opportunity based on the criteria outlined in Wisconsin's Black Bass Management Plan (Simonson 2001). Several similar lakes in the area have had this regulation on them since the late 1990's. In each case we have observed a dramatic improvement in the numbers of bass, average length, and improved catch rates.

Plum Lake, located in central Vilas County, is an example of where an 18 inch size limit has produced a quality bass fishery. In 1996, the size limit was changed from 12 to 18 inches and the bag limit was reduced from 5 to 1. Based on surveys conducted in 1995 and 2003 the number of smallmouth bass > 8 inches has increased from 0.2 to 0.6 fish/acre. The number of bass > 18 inches also increased from 0.03 to 0.2 per acre. Creel surveys conducted in these same years showed that angler catch rates for smallmouth bass improved from 15.5 to 4.4 hours to catch a fish. There is no reason to believe that the 18 inch minimum and 1 fish bag limit would not produce the same quality results on the Presque Isle Chain.

This regulation change should boost bass numbers, increasing predation on rusty crayfish present in the chain. Recent research on rusty crayfish in northern Wisconsin has found that increasing numbers of predatory fishes through restricted fishing, combined with trapping, can substantially decrease crayfish numbers in a lake.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 14 inches to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 1 in total for bass on the Presque Isle Chain of Lakes, including Presque Isle, Van Vliet, and Averill Lakes, Vilas County?

41. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 42: Star Lake bass regulations**

The current 14 inch minimum size limit and 5 fish bag limit, combined with the early catch and release season is not adequate to provide a quality bass fishery in Star Lake. Changing the bass regulation to an 18 inch minimum and one fish bag limit should increase bass numbers and quality. Several similar lakes in the area have had this regulation on them since the late 1990's. In each case we have seen a dramatic improvement in the numbers of bass, average length, and improved catch rates.

Plum Lake, which is connected to Star Lake, is an example of where 18 inch size limit has produced a quality bass fishery. In 1996, the size limit was changed from 12 to 18 inches and the bag limit was reduced from 5 to 1. Based on surveys conducted in 1995 and 2003 the number of smallmouth bass > 8 inches has increased 200%. During this same time span the number of bass > 18 inches has increased over 500%. Creel surveys conducted in these same years showed that angler catch rates for smallmouth bass improved from 15.5 to 4.4 hours to catch a fish. Plum Lake is very similar in size, depth, fertility, habitat, and fish community to Star Lake. There is no reason to believe that the 18 inch minimum and 1 fish bag limit would not produce the same quality results on Star Lake.

This regulation change should boost bass numbers, increasing predation on the abundant rusty crayfish population present in Star Lake. Recent research on rusty crayfish in northern Wisconsin has found that a combination of increasing numbers of predatory fishes through restricted fishing and removals can decrease crayfish numbers substantially.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 14 inches to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 1 in total for bass on Star Lake, Vilas County?

42. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES  
WAUSHARA COUNTY**

**QUESTION 43: Long Lake trout regulation changes**

Long Lake is a 272 acre clear water seepage lake with a maximum depth of 71 feet. Long Lake had historically been managed as a two story fishery and stocked with trout. As part of the current management plan, local fishing clubs and the DNR began a coldwater stocking program. The current regulation closes the trout fishing season on September 30. This proposal would extend the season for trout until the first Sunday in March and increase opportunity by allowing trout to be harvested through the ice.

- Do you support extending the open season for trout, on Long Lake in the Town of Saxeville, Waushara County, from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March?

43. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



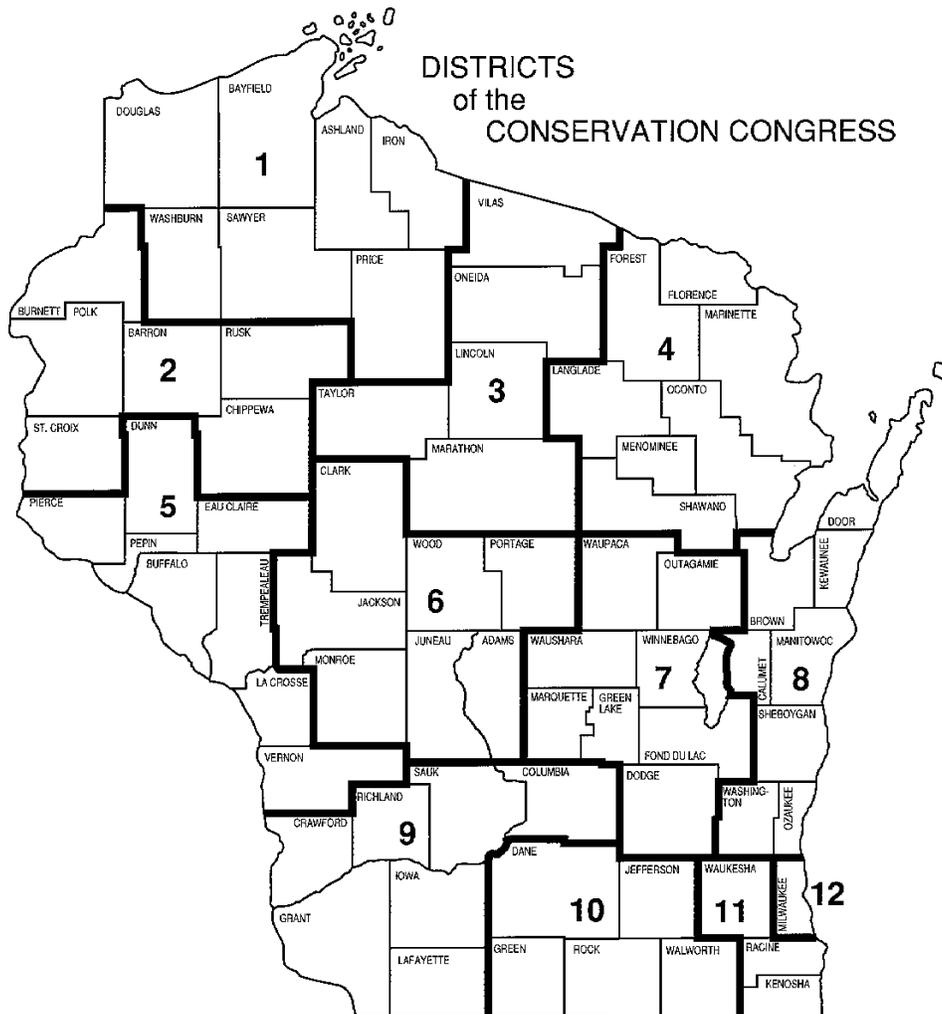
**You are now entering the  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
County Meeting**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress does NOT accept written comments on its advisory questions. Only the tallies of the public votes received the night of the county meetings are taken into consideration when developing final recommendations.

Any comments on the Spring Hearing process only, may be made directly to:  
Kari Lee-Zimmermann, LS/5, DNR, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

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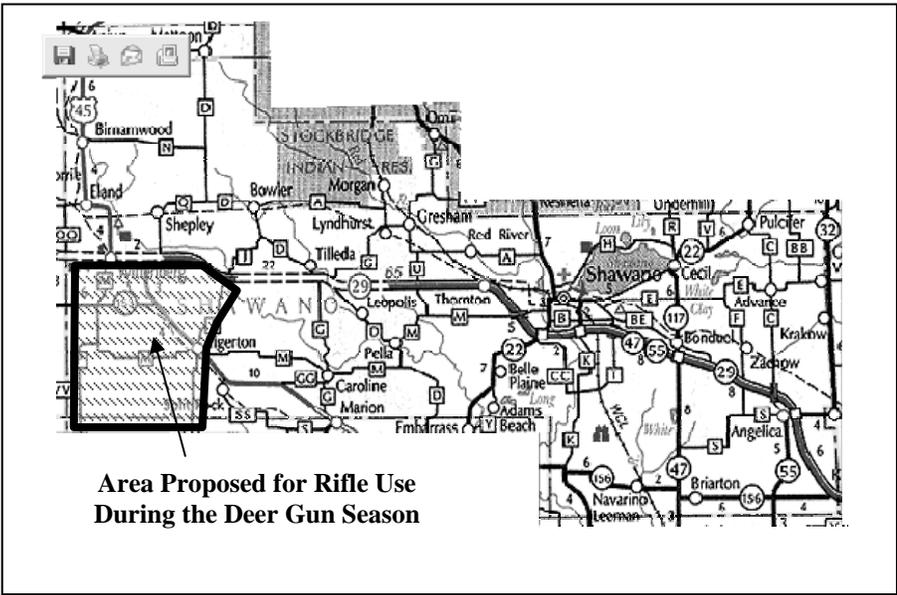
<p><b>District 1</b> Joe Weiss W5390Bobcat Road Spooner, WI 54801 715-635-2209</p> <p>Dan Cobb 10646 N Riverside Rd. Hayward, WI 715-634-8024</p>	<p><b>District 2</b> Michael Reiter 461 Parkview Drive New Richmond, WI 54017 715-246-6643</p> <p>Raymond Smith 1034 170<sup>th</sup> Avenue Balsam Lake, WI 54810 715-268-8267</p>	<p><b>District 3</b> Allen Opall 3208 Thunderbird Wausau, WI 54401 715-845-5618</p> <p>Roger Sabota 5000 Isle View Drive Rhineland, WI 54501 715-369-2283</p>	<p><b>District 4</b> Arold Ninneman 3671 Hwy 2 Florence, WI 54121 715-528-4203</p> <p>Wade Jeske 8090 Waschbisch Rd. Oconto Falls, WI 54154 920-846-2368</p>
<p><b>District 5</b> Mark Noll S1917 Buena Vista Rd. Alma, WI 54610 608-685-4580</p> <p>Marc Schultz W8155 County Road ZB La Crosse, WI 54601 608-788-0220</p>	<p><b>District 6</b> David Puhl W7995 Walters Road Mauston, WI 53948 608-847-4190</p> <p>Frank Reith W11440 Willow Rd. Stanley, WI 54768 715-644-3620</p>	<p><b>District 7</b> Dale Maas W9449 Breezy Point Road Fox Lake, WI 53933 920-928-2131</p> <p>Richard Koerner 540 Sunrise Bay Road Neenah, WI 54956 920-722-0433</p>	<p><b>District 8</b> John Edelblute 2332 Belfast Lane Hartford, WI 53027 262-673-2813</p> <p>Edgar Harvey Jr. N3635 Timberview Road Waldo, WI 53093 920-528-7071</p>
<p><b>District 9</b> Mike Rogers S8955 Matoushek Road Prairie Du Sac, WI 53578 608-643-8057</p> <p>Larrie Hazen 7656 Big Green Road Mount Hope, WI 53816 608-988-4549</p>	<p><b>District 10</b> Ken Risley W3874 Krueger Monticello, WI 53570 608-938-4743</p> <p>Joe Caputo 36320 Sighting Road McFarland, WI 53588 608-838-3415</p>	<p><b>District 11</b> David Poff 17310 W. Observatory Road New Berlin, WI 53146 262-782-2562</p> <p>Robert Bohmann 1105 Melvin Avenue Racine, WI 53402 262-681-2055</p>	<p><b>District 12</b> Joann Kuharske 6145 N. River Trail Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53225 414-760-2126</p> <p>James Wrolstad 4469 N. 51st Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53218 414-463-3735</p>
<p><b>Conservation Congress Liaison</b> Kurt Thiede Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 - LS/5 Madison, WI 53707 608-266-0580 kurt.thiede@wisconsin.gov</p>		<p><b>Conservation Congress Coordinator</b> Kari Lee-Zimmermann Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 - LS/5 Madison, WI 53707 608-266-2952 kari.lee-zimmermann@wisconsin.gov</p>	

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 44: Legalize Rifles for Deer Hunting in Shawano County**

State law prohibits the use of rifles for deer hunting in the southern portion of Shawano County (Deer Management Unit (DMU) 62B); therefore deer hunters in this DMU are restricted to the use of shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloaders to harvest deer during the gun deer seasons. There are no biological or safety reasons for the current restriction. Rifles are currently allowed for use in the portion of Shawano County north of Hwy 29.

DMU 62B has been over its deer population goal for the past several years and there is potential for a greater harvest by allowing the use of rifles. This proposal would allow the use of rifles in the southwest corner of Shawano County during the gun deer season.



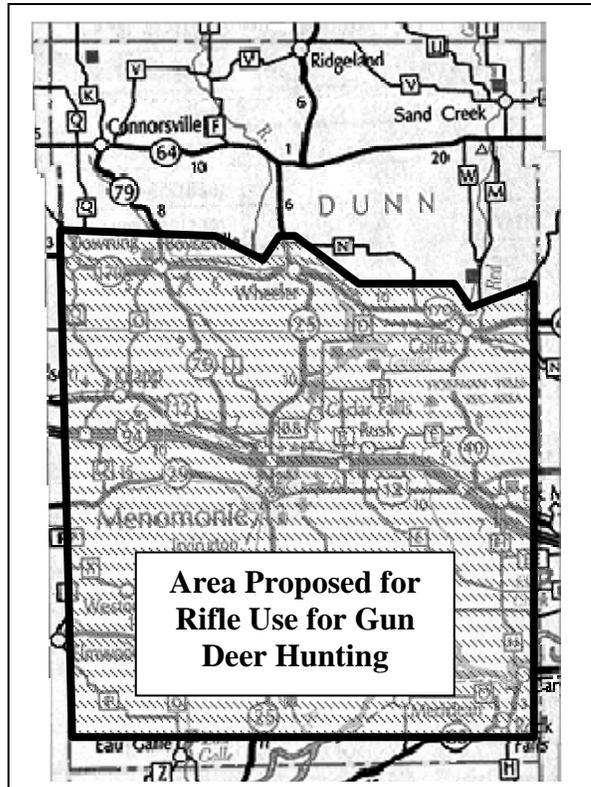
➤ Do you support allowing the use of rifles in the southwest corner of Shawano County during the gun deer season?

44. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 45: Legalize Rifles for Deer Hunting in Dunn County**

State law prohibits the use of rifles south of Hwy 170 in Dunn County; therefore deer hunters in this area are restricted to the use of shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloaders to harvest deer during the gun deer seasons. However, areas of Dunn County north of Hwy 170 are open to rifle hunting. There are no biological or safety reasons for the current restriction. Eau Claire County, which is adjacent to Dunn County, allows the use of rifles for their deer gun seasons.

This proposal would allow the use of rifles during the gun deer season for all of Dunn County.



➤ Do you support allowing the use of rifles in all of Dunn County during the gun deer season?

45. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**BIG GAME STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 46: Use of Archery Equipment with a Gun Deer License**

Currently, the Gun Deer License only allows you to use a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or pistol during the firearm deer seasons.

- Do you support legislation that would modify the Gun Deer License to allow the use of Archery Equipment during the regular firearm deer seasons?

46. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 47: Either-Sex Carcass Tag for Youth Deer Hunters**

Currently, the Junior Gun Deer License includes one Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag valid in any unit statewide and one Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag valid in Earn-A-Buck and Herd Control Units. In an effort to provide youth hunters with added opportunities to harvest a deer, their Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag could be made to be an Either Sex Carcass Tag valid statewide.

Junior Gun Deer License holders would still receive one Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag valid in Earn-A-Buck and Herd Control Units. Junior Gun Deer License holders would still be required to shoot an Antlerless Deer first in Earn-A-Buck Units.

- Do you support the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by changing the Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag that is currently issued with a Junior Gun Deer License to an Either Sex Deer Carcass Tag valid in any unit state wide?

47. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 48: Use of Crossbows for Non-Residents 65 Years of Age or Older**

Currently, state statues allow resident and non-resident disabled hunters issued a Class A, B or C Disabled Permit or a Crossbow Permit, and resident hunters 65 years of age or older are allowed to use a crossbow during the archery hunting season provided they have an archery license. Non-Residents 65 years of age or older cannot legally use a crossbow unless they possess a disabled or special crossbow permit. In order to make the law the same for both resident and non-resident seniors, legislation would have to be passed to allow non-residents 65 years of age or older to use a crossbow.

- Do you support legislation that would allow non-residents hunters 65 years of age or older to use a crossbow during the archery season provided they have an Archery License?

48. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 49: Transfer of Earn-a-Buck Stickers to a Youth**

Currently, a person who has earned a buck authorization sticker cannot transfer this approval to another hunter. Being able to transfer an Earn-a-Buck sticker from an adult to a youth may help young people get into or stay with the deer hunting tradition. Some youth, because of school activities don't have the time to qualify for an Earn-a-Buck sticker. Transferring of an Earn-a-Buck sticker wouldn't affect the buck harvest, but it could help the antlerless harvest, because the adult would have to re-qualify for an Earn-a-Buck sticker if they wanted to harvest a buck during the deer season.

- Would you support legislation that would allow an adult to transfer an Earn-a-Buck sticker to a youth ages 12 to 15 years of age?

49. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 50: Quartering of Deer before Removal from the Field**

Deer taken in remote areas such as swamps are difficult to remove whole, especially if you are hunting alone and lacking in physical strength. Allowing deer to be quartered and packed out would help some hunters to more easily remove their deer from the field. Current law allows the quartering of bears.

- Do you support the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by allowing hunters to quarter their deer, after it is tagged, to remove it from the field?

50. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 51: Deer Stamp for Deer Research**

One of the findings reported by the 2006 SAK Audit Team showed that there was a definite need to do research regarding the Buck Recovery Rate (BRR). The BRR is a vital factor in the SAK formula which the Wisconsin DNR uses to project deer population estimates. The Audit Team's suggested radio telemetry study would be expensive but would provide much needed data regarding hunting mortality, wounding loss, and etc. Although deer hunting license sales account for a considerable amount of DNR income, relatively little money in their budget is available to do this or any other deer research.

It has been suggested that a system similar to Wisconsin's Turkey Stamp might help fill the need. The Turkey Stamp provides for research, educational expenses, and management of Wisconsin's wild turkeys. With the sheer number of deer licenses sold yearly in Wisconsin, a \$1 Deer Stamp, earmarked for research only, could generate much needed funding for our State's number one big game animal. Deer hunting has a huge economic impact in Wisconsin.

- Would you support legislation that would create a \$1 Deer Stamp to fund deer research, which would be required to be purchased with each deer hunting license?

51. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 52: Statewide Deer Feeding & Baiting Ban**

The practice of feeding and baiting deer in Wisconsin has been controversial for decades. However, as far back as 1991, a group of wildlife biologists working for Midwest states identified baiting and feeding deer as problematic threats to deer hunting. The science is clear on this issue: baiting and feeding deer leads to increased risks of disease transmission, adds unnecessary amounts of energy to the landscape which supports artificially high deer populations, and complicates effective deer population management.

As time went on, the use of feed and bait grew and spread throughout the state. With the discovery of CWD in 2002, the Natural Resources Board banned all deer feeding and baiting statewide. The State Legislature over rode the statewide ban in 2003 by passing a law that explicitly authorized baiting and feeding deer. The ban remains in place for counties where CWD or bovine tuberculosis have been confirmed or in counties adjacent to counties where positive deer have been confirmed. Currently, deer baiting and feeding is prohibited in 26 counties.

When the Legislature stepped into the fray in 2003, they effectively took control of the issue. Well meaning legislation was put in place to restrict the use to 2 gallons per 40 acres. Illegal baiting has topped the list of violations during the 9-day gun deer season for four years in a row, with 2007 citations increasing thirty percent (30%) from the previous year.

In 2007, for a wide variety of reasons, the Executive Council of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, on the advice of its Big Game Study Committee, took a position in favor of a statewide deer feeding and baiting ban. The Conservation Congress believes in proactive, science based conservation. In March 2007 the Natural Resources Board voted unanimously to support a statewide prohibition on baiting and feeding deer and to encourage the Legislature to take action. Since that time, the State Legislature has failed to take up the issue.

- Do you favor action by the Wisconsin State Legislature to ban deer feeding and baiting statewide?

52. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

<p align="center"><b>CWD AD-HOC STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION</b></p>
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**QUESTION 53: Volunteer Sharpshooter Program**

Current Department of Natural Resources policy only allows current DNR employees to be sharpshooters in the Chronic Wasting Disease zones. Agency shooters conduct shooting duties as part of their normal work duties and are paid their normal salary and hourly wage. With the significant reduction in the DNR's CWD operating budget in 2007, having a pool of volunteer non-agency shooters would save money and allow staff to perform their normal duties.

Under a new system, Wisconsin citizens would be allowed to volunteer as sharpshooters and undergo training to become certified to sharpshoot deer. This would be similar to the corps of Hunter's Education Instructors and volunteers who are required to undergo a background check, become certified and perform their duties without pay.

- Do you support the establishment of a volunteer sharpshooter program if the use of sharpshooters is deemed necessary?

53. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDANGERED RESOURCES AND  
LAW ENFORCEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 54: Prohibition on Shining from Public Roads**

Shining and poaching violations and complaints continue to be a problem in the state. Poachers continue to take a limited, valuable resource from everyone in the state. Eliminating shining would make poaching more difficult and would make enforcement easier, because shining would be in violation of the law. A light would still be allowed at the point of kill for species legally hunted at night (raccoons, coyotes, fox and unprotected species).

- Do you support eliminating shining from public roads statewide?

54. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 55: Use of Pistol Cartridges in Rifles for Deer in Shotgun Only Areas**

Pistols in a wide range of cartridges are currently allowed to be used during the deer gun season in shotgun only areas. Some of the pistol cartridges are also available in rifles that could be used in shotgun only areas without compromising safety. Use of a rifle chambered in 357 magnum, 41 magnum or 44 magnum would be no different than a pistol chambered in a 30-30 in shotgun only areas.

- Do you support allowing rifles chambered in 357 magnum, 41 magnum and 44 magnum to be used during the deer gun season in shotgun only areas?

55. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**FUR HARVEST STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 56: Legalize Colony Traps**

Colony traps have been used in Canada and many other states with great success. Colony traps, as the term suggest, allow the capture of multiple muskrats in one day. Otters and raptors cannot gain access to trapped muskrats, yet muskrats are quickly dispatched through drowning.

The trap should be constructed so that it is no longer than 36 inches, and have openings no larger than 8 inches by 8 inches. The drowning portion of the trap must be completely submerged. As this is an open water set, a 4-day trap check would be required.

- Do you support legalizing the use of colony traps for muskrats as described?

56. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 57: Bobcat Season Structure**

The following modifications have been suggested for the bobcat harvest seasons in Wisconsin.

Season Length: Currently the bobcat harvest season runs from the third Saturday in October to December 31. With an early start of the harvest season it is difficult to pursue bobcats with hounds, due to the lack of snow. Also, with the extension of the deer hunting seasons, many bobcat hunters choose to not hunt during these extended deer seasons to avoid potential conflicts with the late season deer hunter. A later ending date would decrease the chance of conflict with deer hunters, increase the chance of snow for better tracking and potentially allow more time for the fur to become prime if the pelt is sold. Under this proposal the bobcat hunting and trapping season would end on **January 31**.

Permits and Zones: Permits would be available for the entire state, currently no bobcat harvest is permitted south of Hwy. 64. Under this proposal new bobcat harvest zones would be established. The new zones would be the same as the current fisher management zones (Figure 1). This would allow existing data, north of Hwy. 64 to continue to be used.

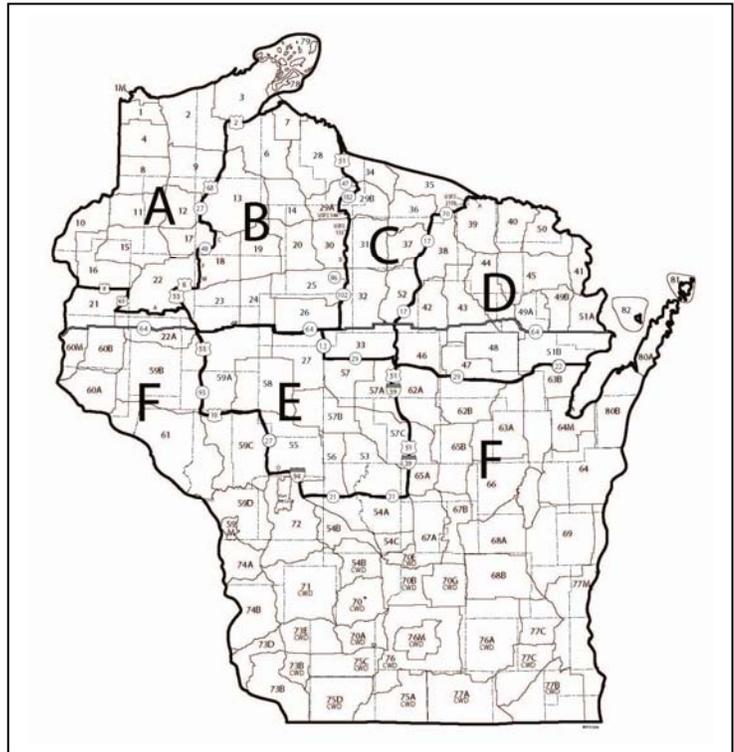


Figure 1. Current Fisher Management Zones and Proposed Bobcat Management Zones.

Quotas and Reporting: Quotas would be established for each of the new management zones, as well as an overall statewide quota. Once a tag has been filled, a hunter or trapper would have 48 hours to report their harvest. Once a quota is reached in a zone or in the state, the season would be closed. Once a season is declared closed, there would be a 48 hour grace period for permit holders who had harvested a bobcat during the 48 hour period.

Fees: To support this system an additional \$15 harvest permit fee is recommended.

- Do you support the changes to the bobcat season, permitting, zones, quotas, reporting and fees as described in this question?

57. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**GREAT LAKES STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTION**

**QUESTION 58: Commercial Harvest of Yellow Perch on Lake Michigan**

The yellow perch population in Lake Michigan has declined significantly since the late 1980's and early 1990's. While not all factors for the decline are known, biologists contribute much of this decline to poor recruitment and liberal harvest regulations. As a result, the Department of Natural Resources enacted special regulations on the sport harvest of perch (5 per day and closed season during spawning) on Lake Michigan. Additionally, the DNR closed the commercial harvest of yellow perch on Lake Michigan in 1996. Over the past few years the perch appear to be responding. The regulations are allowing for increased reproduction and recruitment, and as a result the yellow perch in Lake Michigan appear to be rebounding. Commercial fishing for yellow perch is considered temporarily closed on Lake Michigan, and with rebounding populations there may be interest in resuming commercial harvest of yellow perch on Lake Michigan. Sport anglers are concerned that reopening the commercial harvest would negatively impact recovery efforts.

- Do you support a permanent closure of commercial fishing for yellow perch on Lake Michigan waters?

58. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**HUNTING WITH DOGS STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTION**

**QUESTION 59: Protection of Private Property on Public Land**

Currently, a landowner, lessee or occupant of private property may shoot and kill any gray wolf that is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal. All shootings must be reported to the department within 24 hours and the carcass must be turned over to the department.

However, a person on public land does not currently have the ability to protect their personal property if a wolf is attacking their domestic animal whether it be a dog, or in the case of livestock in central Wisconsin, cattle that maybe grazing on public lands.

- Do you support the department introducing administrative rule changes that would allow a person to protect their personal property on public land as they are currently allowed to do on private land?

59. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTION**

**QUESTION 60: Proposed Mississippi River Corridor 345 KV Power Line Study**

A proposed new 345 KV power line study includes potential routes from Rochester, MN to Alma, WI, to La Crosse, WI, or Rochester, MN to La Crosse, WI. A consortium of utilities, CapX2020, is seeking public comment on the study. The proposed routes would require crossing the Mississippi River as well as a potential Alma to La Crosse line in either the Mississippi River valley or river bluffs. Using an existing power line corridor should minimize the effective impact on migrating birds, habitat and aesthetic values.

- Do you favor the power companies utilizing an existing power line corridor for any proposed new power line crossing or power line transecting the Mississippi River valley or bluffs?

60. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND USE STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTION**

**QUESTION 61: Discontinue Closing of Managed Forest Law (MFL) Lands**

Managed Forest Law (MFL) encourages sustainable forestry on private lands by providing property tax incentives to landowners. This is accomplished with a binding agreement between the state Department of Natural Resources and private landowners.

Lands entered under MFL are required to have written management plans that landowners must follow. The management plans can address harvesting and thinning timber, tree planting, erosion control, and wildlife measures. These plans must be prepared either by a certified plan writer or a DNR Forester. Under the Managed Forest Law, the landowner agrees to a management plan for a period of 25 or 50 years.

Under the current MFL, the landowner has the choice to enroll the land as either open to the public or closed (at a higher property tax rate). Closed MFL lands may be posted as such. On open MFL land, public access for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sight-seeing, and hiking is allowed.

To address the need for providing land for nature based activities such as hunting and fishing, it has been suggested that all future MFL contracts should require access for nature based activities in return for lower taxes to the woodland owner.

- Do you support legislation that would require all future Managed Forest Law (MFL) contracts to allow public access as currently defined in state statute?

61. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 62: Review Urban Deer Shooting Permit Procedures**

Currently, municipalities can petition the Department of Natural Resources for shooting permits to control rising deer populations within the city, town or village. The municipality is allowed to put certain conditions on these permits including timing of the hunt, permit levels and weapon restrictions.

However, in certain instances, some hunters have reported that municipalities have unreasonably restricted participation in these hunts. A review of current policies and procedures may help to standardize the administration of these permits and provide equitable use of the resource.

- Do you support a review, by the Natural Resources Board, of the Department of Natural Resources urban deer shooting permit process statewide, where permits are issued to municipalities that unreasonably deny the public access to a public resource?

62. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TROUT STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION</b></p>
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**QUESTION 63: Eliminate the Barbless Hook Requirement during the Early Catch and Release Trout Season**

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted that show that the use of barbed vs. barbless hooks has little effect on trout mortality following release. In a 1997 study published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, for flies and lures combined, the average hook related mortality was 4.5% for barbed hooks and 4.2% for barbless hooks. Because natural mortality rates for wild trout range from 30-65% annually, the 0.3% difference in the two hook types is irrelevant in the population level, even when fish are subjected to repeat capture. According to department biologists, where a fish is hooked, has more to do with mortality than what type of hook is used. Restricting barbed hooks appear to be a social issue and the elimination of that restriction would simplify trout fishing regulations and eliminate law enforcement issues.

- Do you support the elimination of the barbless hook requirement for the early catch and release trout season in Wisconsin?

63. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**TURKEY STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 64: Non-Resident Student Turkey License**

Currently, non-resident students may not purchase a resident turkey license in Wisconsin. However, non-resident students attending school in Wisconsin may purchase deer gun, archery, small game, fishing and sports licenses at resident prices.

Considering the turkey population in Wisconsin is healthy, with zones now established across the state, full time undergraduate students in residence at a public or private Wisconsin college or university offering a bachelor's or associate's degree or foreign citizens residing in the state and attending a Wisconsin high school or a university agricultural short course or post graduate students could be allowed to purchase a resident turkey license without negatively impacting the ability for resident hunters to obtain a turkey license or negatively impacting the turkey population.

- Do you support legislation that would allow eligible non-resident students to obtain a turkey license at resident prices?

64. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 65: Phone in Turkey Registration**

Currently, when a turkey is harvested, it must be taken to a registration station to be registered similar to how a deer or a bear is registered. However, other species, such as geese, are registered via phone, through what is known as call-in registration. With the recent extension of hunting hours for spring turkey, some hunters have had difficulty finding an open registration station in the evenings.

Considering the health of the states current turkey population and the difficulties encountered by some hunters to find registration stations, having a call-in registration system for turkeys could be considered.

- Do you support the establishment of a call-in system to register turkeys through the use of a telephone?

65. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**WARM WATER STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 66: Panfish Limit on Loon Lake, Ashland County**

Loon Lake is a 33-acre lake that is nearly surrounded by the Copper Falls State Park. There are six private cabins on the lake and they comprise the Loon Lake Protective Association. The lake receives heavy year round fishing pressure. The local DNR fisheries biologist conducted a lake survey in 2005. The results of that study determined a very modest population of fish that were slow growing.

The panfish population is small because of fishing pressure. Largemouth bass in the lake do not reach maturity until they pass the 12" length, this combined with the slow growth allows very few bass to reach reproductive maturity and often fisherman take those mature fish. The lake association, the park manager and the DNR fish manger support a fisheries regulation change for this lake.

- Do you support reducing the panfish bag limit from 25 to 10 and change the bass regulation from statewide limits to a one fish per day no less than 18" on Loon Lake in Ashland County?

66. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 67: Transportation of Invasive Species**

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is spreading to Wisconsin's water bodies, primarily by boat trailers. It degrades the fishery, and eliminates recreation. Once introduced, it is virtually impossible to eliminate. Temporary treatment costs about \$1000.00 per acre.

Although Wisconsin prohibits trailers carrying EWM from launching, a warden must witness the launch. It is not possible to have a warden watching every landing. This proposal would help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, by allowing a citation to be issued to the owner of any boat trailer carrying EWM or aquatic vegetation on public roads.

EWM is rapidly infesting Wisconsin water bodies, impacting recreational use of our waters, the fishery, and water quality. Similar regulations in Minnesota have been very successful.

- Do you support giving the DNR the authority to issue citations to anyone transporting Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic vegetation visible on boat trailers traveling roadways in Wisconsin?

67. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 68: Fishing Regulations Between Kings and Grandfather Dams**

Currently, the Wisconsin River and its flowages between the Kings and Grandfather dams do not have closed fishing seasons for bass, walleye, or northern pike like other lakes and rivers do in this area (Lincoln County). This concentrates fishing pressure on the Wisconsin River and its flowages before and during the spawning periods for walleye, northern pike, and bass when they are more vulnerable to harvest and before they have had a chance to spawn or guard their nest (bass). Other lakes and streams in this area have closed seasons for these species to protect them from harvest until after they have spawned, and in the case of bass are on their own.

The fishing season structure on the Wisconsin River and its flowages between the Kings and Grandfather dams should be consistent with the other lakes and rivers in this area and have closed fishing seasons for walleye, northern pike, and bass. These species should be offered the same protection that they have in other lakes and rivers in this area.

- Do you support changing the current regulation of no closed season on game fish on the Wisconsin River between the Kings and Grandfather dams to the statewide seasons on bass, walleye, and northern pike on these flowages?

68. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 69: Bass Size Limit on Big Sissabagama Lake, Sawyer County**

An explosive population of largemouth bass on Big Sissabagama Lake is in direct proportion to a sharp decline in walleye populations.

The DNR has documented a lower walleye population, and a drastic increase of largemouth bass on Big Sissabagama Lake.

Largemouth bass populations have steadily grown on the lake. Numbers have reached a disproportionate level to other fish. Current populations of bass are bottle necked as sizes are below the 14" minimum. Removing the size limit on bass would provide for a quality bass fishery by reducing the number of undersize fish.

The largemouth bass feed on walleye fingerlings, thus undercutting that population. The lake owners association solicited donations and paid for private walleye restocking of the lake. The Lac Du Flambeau tribal fisheries donated additional extended growth walleyes to help in the attempt to encourage rebuilding of the dwindling walleye population. The DNR is scheduled to stock fingerlings walleye in Big Sissabagama Lake. Reducing the number of undersized bass will assist in the walleye stocking effort.

- Do you support removing the bass size limit on Big Sissabagama Lake in Sawyer County, to help promote the walleye population on the lake?

69. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 70: Walleye Bag Limit on Milwaukee River**

The walleye fishery in the Milwaukee River Basin was all but wiped out as the city became industrialized. This historic fishery is now being restored but is extremely fragile at this point. It makes no sense to allow anglers to harvest multiple walleye per day from such an unstable adult population (estimated in the hundreds). Furthermore, health concerns make it unwise for anyone to eat these fish more than occasionally- adding to the argument that the current, five walleye daily bag limit is unwise. Given its location- in the middle of Wisconsin's largest population center-this fishery is clearly of statewide importance.

The solution to this problem would be to introduce a rule change reducing the daily bag limit for walleye from five fish to one fish in the Milwaukee River and its tributaries where current Lake Michigan regulations apply. Specifically, these rule changes would apply to: the Milwaukee River upstream to the HWY 60 Grafton Dam in the village of Grafton, and tributaries of the Milwaukee River upstream to the Lepper Dam in the village of Menomonee Falls and the tributaries of the Menomonee River upstream to the first dam or lake.

- Do you support a lower daily bag limit from five walleye to one walleye on the Milwaukee River upstream to the HWY 60 Grafton Dam in the village of Grafton, and tributaries of the Milwaukee River upstream to the Lepper Dam in the village of Menomonee Falls and the tributaries of the Menomonee River upstream to the first dam or lake?

70. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS</b></p>
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**QUESTION 71: Wolf Management**

The gray wolf has made a dramatic come back in Wisconsin. Wolves in Wisconsin have recently been taken off the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List. The wolf population is predicted to continue to increase if no control methods are implemented. Currently there is no public harvest system set up to have sportsman assist in maintaining the population of wolves at the population goals established in the wolf management plan.

- Do you favor the Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and the Wisconsin Legislature develop a season framework and harvest goals to maintain the wolf population within management objectives?

71. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Write a Resolution

### Resolution Content

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

**NOTE:** If the resolution defines an unresolved concern at the local county level, or district level within your Congress district (see District Map, page 38). Please make sure to indicate whether or not you have already spoken with local department staff and your local county congress delegates.

### Resolution Format

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

### Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative of the organization may present the resolution within the county.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the Spring Hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with two copies of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

### Sample Resolution

Title: Spring Dinosaur Hunting Season

The Problem:

Dinosaurs are a threat to agriculture across the state, especially in April and May, because they make deep footprints in newly planted farm fields, damaging the emerging crops. The problem is aggravated in southern Wisconsin, because dinosaurs are migrating across the state line to avoid hunting pressure in Illinois.

There is already an overpopulation of dinosaurs in Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit dinosaur hunting at any time during the year. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent with Illinois, which permits dinosaur hunting in the spring.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering significant crop damage because of dinosaur incursions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo 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 allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season.

Name of Author: Fred Flintstone

Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen

Address: W12345 State Road 3

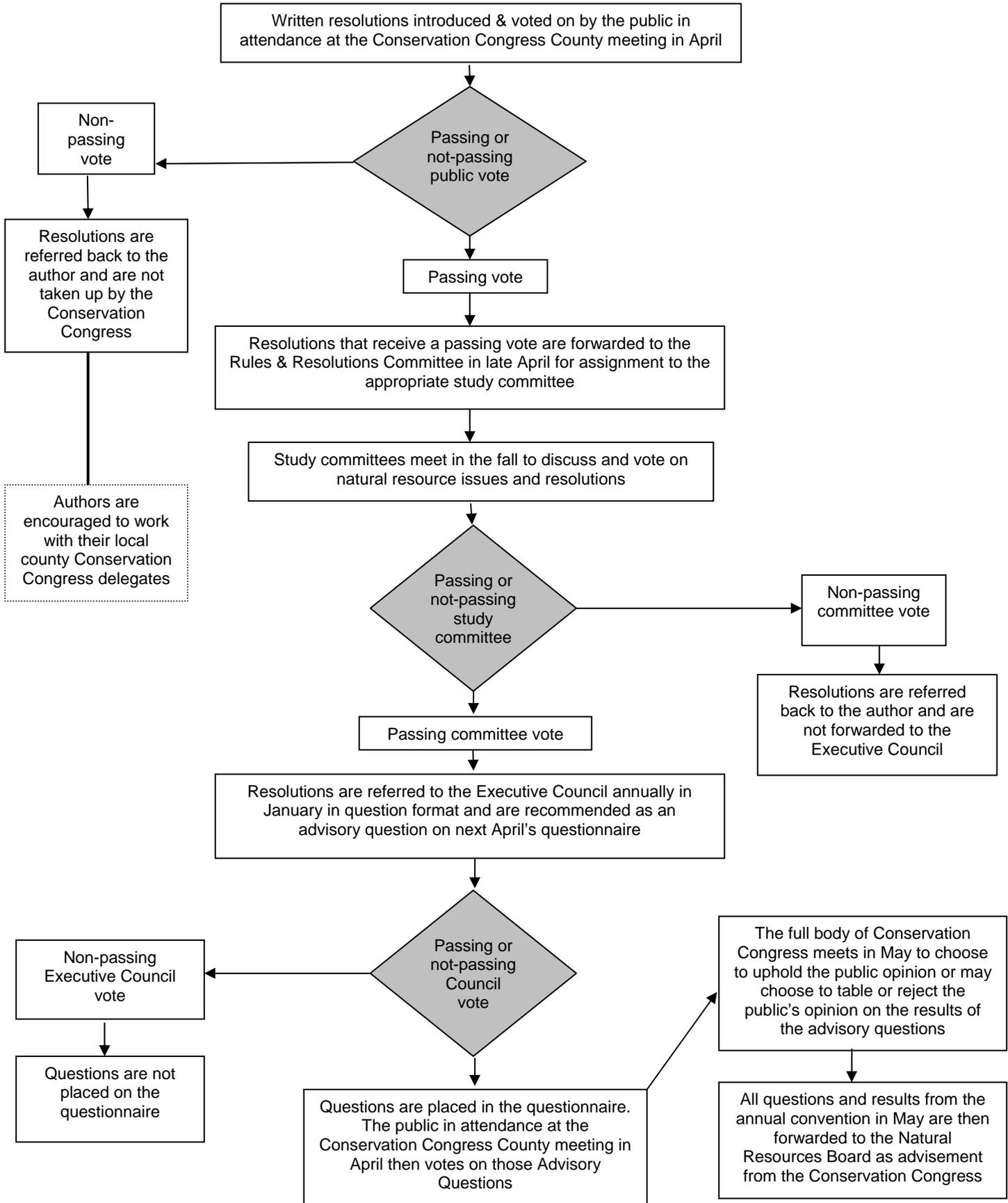
City, State, Zip Code: Bedrock, Wisconsin 54231

Name of the County Introducing In: Buffalo

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

See DNR  
Rules  
Process

# The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD  
RENUMBERING, AMENDING, AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes and order to renumber s. NR 10.001(3t); to amend ss. NR 10.01(3)(b) and (bm), 10.13(1)(b)6., 10.145(2)(b), 10.25(4)(c), 11.10(title) and intro., 17.04(2)(b), 17.08(2)(b), 45.09(5); and to create ss. NR 10.001(3u) and(5j) and 45.04(3)(u) relating to hunting and trapping regulations and the use of department managed lands.

WM-01-08

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

**Statutes Interpreted and Explanation of Agency Authority:** The department has interpreted the following statutes as providing the authority to promulgate rules regarding hunting, trapping, game refuges, dog training, and the use of department managed lands: 23.09(2)(b), 23.11, 27.01(2)(j), 29.014, 29.192(3), 29.563(12)(c)3, 169.20 and 169.21 Stats.

**Statutory Authority and Explanation of Agency Authority:** Statutes that authorize the promulgation of these rules include, ss. 23.09(2)(b), 23.11, 27.01(2)(j), 29.014, 29.041, 29.192(3), 29.563(12)(c)3 and 169.20 and 169.21 Stats. These statutes specifically provide the department with authority to establish conditions regarding the use of state land such as state parks, public recreation areas and hunting grounds, to establish game refuges, and direct the department to manage, supervise, and police lands under its protection. These statutes authorize the department to establish hunting and trapping seasons, management zones, regulations regarding the techniques by which game animals and game birds may be harvested and other measures to ensure the citizens continued opportunities for good hunting and trapping. Finally, these statutes authorize the department to establish regulations on the possession and use of captive wild animals for purposes which include dog training and field trials. All rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under ch. 227, Stats.

**Related Rule or Statute:** There are no state rules or statutes currently under promulgation that directly relate to the provisions that are proposed in this administrative order.

**Plain Language Analysis:** The department has recommended modifications to chapter NR 10, 11, 17 and 45, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to hunting, trapping, closed areas, dog training and the use of public lands. These rule changes are proposed for inclusion in the 2008 Spring Hearing Questionnaire. Specifically, these proposals:

- Extend the raccoon trapping and hunting seasons by 15 days to coincide with the closing of the coyote trapping and fox trapping and hunting seasons.
- Establish definitions for live trap and body gripping type trap.
- Establish a new population goal for bobcat of 2,500 animals, plus-or-minus 20%.
- Add an additional year to the experimental fall season for hunting wild turkeys with the aid of dogs in nine counties in Southwest Wisconsin.
- Eliminate one fisher trapping closed area in Vilas, Forest and Oneida counties, another in Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland counties, and establish unique trapping regulations to protect pine marten in those areas.
- Allow dog training with captive wild animals by license during the period when dog training is otherwise prohibited in the northern restricted zone.
- Prohibit paintball activity on department managed lands except when approved by the department.
- Establish a fee of \$2.75 for a duplicate copy of the trapper education course certificate of accomplishment and make them available from any DNR license vendor.

**Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations:** Federal regulations allow states to manage the wildlife resources located within their boundaries provided they do not conflict with regulations established in the Federal Register. None of these rule changes violate or conflict with the provisions established in the Federal Code of Regulations.

**Comparison with rules in Adjacent States:** These rule change proposals do not represent significant policy changes and do not differ significantly from surrounding states. All surrounding states have regulations and rules in place for the management and recreational use of wild game and furbearer species that are established based on needs that are unique to that state's resources and public desires.

All surrounding states have long raccoon hunting and trapping seasons and that species is common throughout the Upper Midwest. Trappers pursue raccoon and other species with a variety of trap types that are similar or identical to those used in Wisconsin. Michigan and Minnesota harvest bobcat during hunting and trapping seasons and have management plans in place to ensure sustainable use of that species.

Surrounding states all have fall turkey hunting seasons and the use of dogs is allowed in Iowa and Michigan.

All of Wisconsin's surrounding states allow dog training with the use of captive wild animals but regulate the practice, limiting where it may occur and the times of year.

Paintball games are expressly prohibited in state parks in Michigan and some other public properties in Michigan. Iowa prohibits the use of paintball guns on state parks, recreation areas and state preserves. Minnesota does not have specific regulations on paintball guns or games on state property. The Illinois DNR does not have specific paintball regulations however the possession and discharge of paintball guns are strictly regulated by many local units of government.

**Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies:** The rule changes included in this order do not deviate from current department policy on the management of wildlife and the regulation of hunting and trapping. By making those seasons run concurrently, the proposal to lengthen the raccoon trapping and hunting season will eliminate problems with the incidental catch of raccoons by fox and coyote trappers. Raccoon are an abundant wildlife species and the added 15 days of trapping and hunting will have no effect their overall population.

There are currently no definitions of “cage or box type (live trap)” or “body gripping” trap in administrative code. Establishing definitions will make current administrative rules easier to explain and enforce. Creating a definition of cage or box trap makes practical another proposal in this rule order to eliminate the fisher trapping closed area. This area will still be closed to marten trapping and only live traps and certain other types will be allowed in order to prevent the incidental catch or killing of marten.

This rule order would increase the population goal for bobcat in the area north of State Highway 64. The current goal is approximately 1,800 animals but department staff people believe that the population has exceeded that goal. The public has been supportive of the increased population of approximately 3,000 animals and there have been few complaints or problems. There appears to be no reason to reduce the bobcat population to the current goal other than that Administrative Code requires it. Additionally, this proposal would create a range of plus-or-minus 20%. Establishing a target range is more practical for a species which has small over-all numbers and for which harvest success can vary greatly based on weather conditions.

Wisconsin is involved in a two-year experiment that allows hunting wild turkeys with the aid of dogs during the fall season. Extending the experiment to run through 2009 is necessary to ensure that there are actually two complete fall seasons of hunting. In 2007 hunting was not legal during the September portion of the season because the administrative rule process was not completed in time. Additionally, the rule went into effect after regulations pamphlets were printed meaning there was limited notice of this opportunity during the first year of the trial. There have been no complaints related to hunting activity during the October and November portions of the first year of the pilot season. Hunting wild turkeys with dogs in autumn is a traditional activity in other states where the dogs are used to scatter flocks of turkeys so that individual birds can then be called back to the hunter.

Currently there are two fisher and marten trapping closed areas which were established in order to aid with the reintroduction of those species. Dryland trapping is not allowed in the Clam Lake closed area which includes portions of Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland counties or in the Forest County closed area which includes portions of Forest, Vilas and Oneida counties. Fisher are now well established in available habitat throughout northern Wisconsin but marten have not expanded beyond the original reintroduction areas after nearly 50 years. The abundant fisher population may be suppressing pine marten. The prohibition on dryland trapping also reduces opportunities for trappers. This proposal will allow the use of trap types on dryland that are not likely to catch or kill pine marten but which will be effective for species like fisher, raccoon, bobcat, coyote and fox. Allowable trap types would include enclosed trigger type traps, live or box type traps, and cable restraints.

Dog training utilizing captive wild animals such as pheasants, gray partridge, quail, raccoon and rabbit is currently allowed by the department by license. A license that allows training year-round on private land may be issued except that no dog training is allowed in the northern restricted zone from May 1 to June 30. The northern restricted zone is an area of Wisconsin that is generally north of highways 8, 64, 29 and 22. The prohibition is intended to protect free roaming ground nesting birds during the time of year when they are most likely to be nesting. The current prohibition is in conflict, however, with new rules that allow the use of captive wild animals year-round in hound dog training enclosures. That conflict would be resolved by this proposal. Additionally, the general prohibition on the use of captive wild animals for dog training may not be necessary because the use of captive wild animals is already controlled by license. All use of captive wild animals under this proposal would continue to be controlled by license and the prohibition on training dogs on free-roaming wild animals during the closed period would remain in effect.

Duplicate trapper education course certificates of completion are currently available by request through the department’s Madison office and are delivered by mail. This proposal would make those duplicates available over-the-counter through any license vendor and establishes a fee that would cover the costs of providing this service.

Paintball guns utilize compressed air or springs to fire a ball of paint which breaks upon impact and marks the intended target with water-soluble paint. This proposal would prohibit the use of paintball guns on department properties unless prior authorization is obtained from the department. Department staff have expressed concern with litter, user conflict, and firearm identification challenges for law enforcement and these concerns would be addressed by prohibiting the indiscriminate use of paintball guns. The discharge of firearms and airguns is prohibited on department properties in 17 counties meaning that most paintball guns are illegal in those counties under current rule. To assure that the same rule applies statewide regarding paintball games and legitimate forestry practices for marking trees, this rule would exempt paintball guns from the existing blanket prohibition on the discharge of firearms and airguns in those counties. While paintball activities would generally not be allowed on department property, they could be allowed if it were determined that it is a legitimate outdoor activity that does not conflict with the intended property use. Requiring department permission to use paintball guns will better assure that the public, department staff and law enforcement officers can anticipate encountering people who possess and are using paintball guns.

**Analysis and Supporting Documents Used to Determine Effect on Small Business or in Preparation of Economic Impact Report:** These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses.

**Effects on Small Businesses:** These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and paintball game enthusiasts and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

**Agency Contact Person:** Scott Loomans, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. (608) 267-2452.  
[scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov](mailto:scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov)

**Deadline for Written Comments:** The deadline for written comments is April 15, 2008. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>

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**Section 1. NR 10.001(3t) is renumbered to be NR 10.001(3x).**

**Section 2. NR 10.001(3u) is created to read:**

NR 10.001(3u) “Body gripping trap” means a steel trap designed to allow the animal’s head, neck or torso to enter the trap opening and be held by compression of the jaws around the head, neck or torso when the trap is sprung. It may not be used as a cage trap, enclosed trigger trap, snare, cable restraint or steel jawed trap.

**Section 3. NR 10.001(5j) is created to read:**

NR 10.001(5j) “Cage or box trap” means a trap that is designed to allow an animal to enter the trap enclosure, be captured and remain alive inside the cage or box type enclosure until it can be released unharmed or reduced to possession by the operator of the trap. It may not be used as a water set or in conjunction with a steel jawed trap, an enclosed trigger trap or body gripping trap.

**Section 4. NR 10.01(3)(b) and (bm) are amended to read:**

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(b) <i>Raccoon (resident hunting and trapping)</i> In all counties of the state	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through <del>January 31</del> <u>February 15</u> .	None
(bm) <i>Raccoon (non-resident hunting and trapping)</i> In all counties of the state	Beginning on the Saturday nearest November 1 and continuing through <del>January 31</del> <u>February 15</u> .	None

**Section 5. NR 10.13(1)(b)6. is amended to read:**

NR 10.13(1)(b)6. ‘Trap, snare, and cable restraint use.’ Set, place, operate or possess while ~~on or adjacent to waters of this state trapping, any trap other than a steel jawed trap, live enclosed trigger trap, cage or box trap, body gripping trap, snare or cable restraint as defined in s. NR 10.001(5g) for the purpose of taking, capturing, or killing furbearing animals. Live Cage traps shall be constructed so that not more than one animal can be taken or captured in any single trap setting~~ after an animal has been captured, no additional animals may enter the trap until the captured animal is removed and the trap is reset.

**Section 6. NR 10.145(2)(b) is amended to read:**

NR 10.145(2)(b) *Bobcat*. The preharvest population goal north of the state highway 64 is ~~one bobcat per 10 square miles of bobcat range~~ 2,500 animals plus-or-minus 20%.

**Section 7. NR 10.25(4)(c) is amended to read:**

NR 10.25(4)(c) With the aid of dogs, except during the open season for hunting turkeys described in s. NR 10.01(2)(f)2. in Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Wood counties in 2007, ~~and 2008 and 2009.~~

**Section 8. NR 11.10(title) and intro. are amended to read:**

NR 11.10 (title) ~~Fisher/marten-~~ Marten protection areas. (intro.) A closed season is established in the following ~~area~~ areas posted with department signs. No person may trap any species of wild animal thereon at any time, ~~except beaver, otter, raccoon, muskrat and mink may be trapped unless using cage traps or cable restraints in compliance with s. NR 10.13, except that steel jawed traps, enclosed trigger traps, snares, or body-gripping traps of the conibear type as authorized under s. NR 10.13 may be used as with wet water sets during the open seasons established in s. NR 10.01(4).~~

**Section 9. NR 17.04(2)(b) is amended to read:**

NR 17.04(2)(b) *Northern restricted zone*. Dog training on any ~~captive or~~ free roaming wild animal is prohibited May 1 to June 30 on all lands within the northern restricted zone except as described in sub. (3) (a).

**Section 10. NR 17.08(2)(b) is amended to read:**

NR 17.08(2)(b) *Northern restricted zone*. Dog trialing on any ~~captive or~~ free roaming wild animal is prohibited May 1 to June 30 on all lands north of the highway described in s. NR 10.07 (1) (i) except as described in sub. (3) (a).

**Section 11. NR 19.51 is amended to read:**

**NR 19.51 Wisconsin cooperative trapper education program fee.** The fee for the course of instruction under the Wisconsin cooperative trapper education program shall be \$12.00 per student. The fee for correspondence trapper education certification program shall be \$12.00 per student for correspondence programs that require in-state mailing of course materials and shall be \$28.00 per student for correspondence programs that require out-of-state mailing of course materials. In addition to the fees established in this section, for correspondence courses, each student shall pay a \$17.00 deposit that shall be refunded when the course materials are returned. The fee for a duplicate copy of a trapper education course certificate of accomplishment is \$2.75. The fee for advanced trapper education courses shall be that amount needed to pay for the cost of the course, but not to exceed \$50.00 per student. Only instructors who are certified by the department to teach trapper education courses under s. 29.597, Stats., may charge a fee for a trapper education course established under s. 29.597, Stats.

**Section 12. NR 45.04(3)(u) is created to read:**

NR 45.04(3)(u) *Paintball*. Except when authorized by the department, no person may engage in an activity involving the use of paintball guns, paint markers or discharge of similar devices on any lands subject to this chapter.

**Section 13. NR 45.09(5) is amended to read:**

NR 45.09(5) No person may possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun, other than a paintball or paintmarker gun, while within the exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties or on state forest lands in the Kettle Moraine or Point Beach state forests, state recreation areas, state natural areas or on state trails established on abandoned railroad grades, except as follows:

- (a) While engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons established in s. NR 10.01 on properties where hunting is authorized.
- (b) At target ranges designated by the department.
- (c) While engaged in dog trials under department permit.
- (d) While training dogs in designated areas under department permit.

Note: Paintball guns and similar devices are subject to s. NR 45.04(3)(u).

**Section 14. Effective dates.** These rules shall take effect on February 1, 2009.

**Section 15. Board adoption.** This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD  
REPEALING, REPEALING AND RECREATING, AMENDING AND CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal NR 20.03(31)(c), 20.20(2)(g)2., (26)(g)2., (35)(d), and (44)(d); to repeal and recreate NR 20.20(5); to amend NR 20.20(1)(cm), (3), (10)(b), (11)(f), (13)(d), (24)(d), (25)(d), (29)(cm), (33)(c), 33(am)1., (34)(a) and (e), (35)(a), (b), (f) and (g), (44)(b) and (g)1., (49)(b), (50)(cm), (57)(e) and (i), (62)(am), (64)(c), (d)2m. and (h)9., (70)(f)4., (73)(b)3m., (g)4. and (o), 21.06(1)(b) and (d), 22.06(1)(b) and (d), 23.01, and 23.06(1); and to create NR 20.03(19m), 20.13(9), 20.165, 20.175, 20.20(27)(d), (32)(cm), (34)(bg),(35)(c)2., (42)(bm),(56)(e) and (72)(cm), and 23.05(1m) relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

**FH-02-08**

**Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources**

**1. Statutes Interpreted:** In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053, 29.531 and, 29.533, Stats., which authorize fishing, have been interpreted as giving the department the authority to make changes to fishing regulations on inland and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

**2. Statutory Authority:** Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041, 29.053 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.

**3. Explanation of Agency Authority to Promulgate the Proposed Rules Under the Statutory Authority:** Sections 29.014(1), 29.039, 29.041 and 29.053, Stats., grant rule making authority to the department to establish and maintain open and closed seasons for fish and game and any bag limits, size limits, rest days and conditions governing the taking of fish and game that will conserve the fish and game supply and ensure the citizens of this state continued opportunities for good fishing, hunting and trapping; grant that the department may establish limitations relating to taking, possession, transportation, processing, and sale or offer for sale, of nongame species; and provide that the department may regulate hunting and fishing on and in all interstate boundary waters, and outlying waters. Section 227.11(2)(a), Stats., expressly confers rulemaking authority on the department to promulgate rules interpreting any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

**4. Related Rule or Statute:** None.

**5. Plain Language Rule Analysis:** Section by section details of this rule order are outlined:

Sections 1 and 45 reduce daily bag limits from 2 fish to 1 fish and possession limits from 10 fish to 2 fish for flathead catfish taken from Winnebago system waters and implement a 30-inch minimum size restriction for flathead catfish taken from these waters, with an additional provision prohibiting harvest of flathead catfish between 36 and 42 inches in length.

Sections 2, 3, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 clarify the difference between landing nets and dip nets and how landing nets may be used for fishing in inland, outlying, and boundary waters of the state.

Section 4 requires that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for bass during a catch-and-release season for bass.

Section 5 establishes a special catch-and-release season for muskellunge in inland waters north of US highway 10 and requires that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for muskellunge during a catch-and-release season for muskellunge.

Sections 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 35, 36, 44, and 46 extend the end of the open season for muskellunge in waters south of US highway 10 from November 30 to December 31.

Section 7 removes special regulations for walleye in English lake, Ashland county.

Section 8 implements a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Big Dummy and Little Dummy lakes, Barron county, with no minimum size limit but no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept and only one fish larger than 18 inches may be kept.

Section 8 also implements a 2 fish daily bag limit for northern pike, with a 26 inch minimum size restriction.

Section 9 establishes Manger lagoon, Brown county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implements a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.

Section 15 removes special regulations for walleye in Boot, Long, and McDermott lakes, Iron county.

Section 19 increases the maximum allowable size for catfish in Yellowstone lake, Lafayette county, from 18 to 24 inches.

Sections 20, 30, and 39 simplify muskellunge regulations on the Black river in LaCrosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau counties by increasing the minimum length restriction to 40 inches.

Section 21 establishes Remington lake, Langlade county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implements a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.

Sections 22 and 25 increase the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 34 to 50 inches in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties.

Sections 23 and 29 change walleye regulations in Enterprise lake, Langlade and Lincoln counties, replacing a restriction that only 1 fish larger than 14 inches may be kept with a restriction that no fish between 14 and 18 inches may be kept but that 1 larger than 18 inches may be kept. These sections also reduce the daily bag limit from 5 walleye to 3 walleye in this lake.

Section 24 establishes Mirror lake, Lincoln county, as an urban fishing water, in which only children younger than 16 years of age or disabled persons may fish, and implements a 1 fish aggregate daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid, a 10 fish aggregate daily bag limit for panfish, and a 3 fish aggregate daily bag limit for trout.

Sections 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 33 remove the continuous open season for bass, northern pike, and walleye, sauger and their hybrids in the Wisconsin River in Lincoln and Oneida counties, downstream from the St. Regis dam in Oneida county, and places those waters under the department's standard fishing seasons for those species.

Section 28 increases the minimum size restriction for brook trout in the Prairie river, Lincoln county, from R & H road downstream to STH 17, from 8 to 12 inches, increases the minimum size restriction for brown trout from 12 to 18 inches, and reduces the daily bag limit from 3 trout to 1 trout, until April 1, 2011.

Section 34 increases the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 40 to 50 inches in Bone lake, Polk county.

Section 37 increases the minimum size restriction for muskellunge harvest from 45 to 50 inches in the Chippewa flowage, Sawyer county.

Section 38 reduces the minimum size restriction for walleye in Sand lake, Sawyer county, from 28 inches to 18 inches and increases the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish.

Section 40 increases the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 14 inches to 18 inches on Big Portage, Presque Isle, Van Vliet, Averill, and Star lakes, Vilas county, and reduces the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 1 fish.

Sections 41 and 42 extend the sunset clause on special regulations for muskellunge and walleye in Sparkling lake, Vilas county from 2008-09 to 2013-14.

Section 43 removes special regulations for trout in Long lake (Town of Saxeville), Waushara county.

Section 47 clarifies regulations on Green Bay tributaries by increasing the daily bag limit for walleye, sauger and hybrids from 3 fish to 5 fish and increasing the minimum size restriction from no minimum to 15 inches.

Section 47 also increases the daily bag limit for sauger in Lake Winnebago system waters from 0 fish to 1 fish.

**6. Summary of and Comparison with Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations:** None known.

**7. Comparison of Similar Rules in Adjacent States:** Fisheries management is generally quite similar in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Each bordering state regulates fishing by the use of seasons, bag limits and size limits. Specific seasons, bag and size limits may differ for species across the surrounding states; however, the general principles are similar. Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois all have statewide seasons, bag and size limits for fish species, along with special or experimental regulations on individual waters.

**8. Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies Used in Support of the Rule:** Rule proposals were developed by fisheries and law enforcement staff to address management and enforcement concerns. Proposals were reviewed for need and adequacy, and approved by a fish team or law enforcement team supervisor and forwarded to regional director for approval. Proposals approved by the regions were forwarded to the Fisheries Management Bureau Director, who conducted a review with the Fisheries Management Board, law enforcement, legal services, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Only proposals approved by the Fisheries Management Bureau Director are included.

**9. Analysis and Documentation Used in Support of the Agency's Determination Under s. 227.114, Stats., (Small Business Impact):** The proposed rules do not apply directly to businesses, but to sport anglers.

**10. Effect on Small Business, Including How the Rule Will Be Enforced:** The proposed rules do not impose any compliance or reporting requirements on small businesses nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule. The rules will be enforced by Conservation Wardens who have arrest powers and may use citations.

**11. Agency contact person:** Joseph Hennessy, FM/4 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707-7921; email: Joseph.Hennessy@wisconsin.gov; phone: 608.267.9427.

**12. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:** The deadline for written comments is April 15, 2008. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>

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SECTION 1. NR 20.03 (19m) is created to read:

**NR 20.03 (19m)** "Landing net" means a net suspended on a frame with an attached handle and used to land a fish that has been caught using hook and line or to net fish as authorized with the use of dip nets under this chapter or chs. NR 21 to 23.

SECTION 2. NR 20.03(31)(c) is repealed.

SECTION 3. NR 20.13 (9) is created to read:

**NR 20.13(9)** Set, use or operate a landing net other than for landing a fish that is legally hooked or to net fish as authorized with the use of dip nets under this chapter or chs. NR 21 - 23.

SECTION 4. NR 20.165 is created to read:

**NR 20.165 Bait restrictions during catch-and-release seasons for bass.** No person may use any hook, bait or lure, other than an artificial lure that has a barbless hook, while fishing for bass during a catch-and-release bass fishing season established by the department.

*[Drafter's note: Other options for rules related to the special catch and release season for bass will be presented and considered at public hearing.]*

SECTION 5. NR 20.175 is created to read:

**NR 20.175 Special catch and release season for muskellunge.** (1) OPEN SEASON . There is an open season for muskellunge on inland waters north of USH 10 other than the boundary waters between this state and the state of Michigan.

(2) DAILY BAG LIMIT, POSSESSION LIMIT AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS. The following restrictions apply to waters specified in [sub.](#) (1) during the open season specified in [this](#) subsection:

(a) The daily bag limit and possession limit for muskellunge is 0.

(b) No person may use any hook, bait, or lure, other than an artificial lure that has a barbless hook, while fishing for muskellunge during a catch and release muskellunge fishing season established by the department.

[Drafter's note: Other options for rules related to the special catch and release season for muskellunge will be presented and considered at public hearing.]

SECTION 6. NR 20.20(1)(cm) is amended to read:

(1) **ADAMS** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(cm) Muskellunge	1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream from the Castle Rock dam	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	45
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SECTION 7. NR 20.20(2)(g)2. is repealed.

SECTION 8. NR 20.20(3)(am) and (c) are amended to read:

(3) **BARRON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Big Dummy lake, Little Dummy lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18	None except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 is prohibited
(c) Northern pike	1. Prairie lake, Chetek lake, Pokegama lake, Mud lake, Ten Mile lake, Staples lake, Bass lake (T33N R10W S34), Horseshoe lake (T34N R14W S7), <u>Big Dummy lake, Little Dummy lake</u>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2	26

SECTION 9. NR 20.20(5) is repealed and recreated to read:

(5) **BROWN** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. The following posted urban waters: Manger lagoon, city of Green Bay	a. Hook and line.	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; None for rough fish	None
(b) Catfish	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	25	None
		b. Set or bank pole and setline.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None
	2. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	25	None
(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total	14
(d) Muskellunge	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	50

(e) Northern pike	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5	None
(f) Rough fish	1. Trout streams	a. Hook and line.	During the open season for trout	None	None
		b. By hand.	Continuous	None	None
	2. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line, dip netting, by hand.	Continuous	None	None
		b. Spearing.	April 21 to the first Sunday in March	None	None
3. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	c. Set or bank pole and setline.	Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30	None	None	
	a. Hook and line, by hand, dip netting.	Continuous	None	None	
(g) Trout and salmon	1. Haller creek, Bay Beach lagoons	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	None
		2. All other waters except Green Bay and its tributaries	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total
(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Fox river upstream from DePere dam	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total	15

SECTION 10. NR 20.20(10)(b)2. is amended to read:

**(10) CLARK** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(b) Muskellunge	2. Black river, East fork Black river	a. Hook and line	South of U.S. hwy. 10, First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 11. NR 20.20(11)(f) is amended to read:

**(11) COLUMBIA** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(f) Muskellunge	1. Park, Silver, Spring and Swan lakes	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 12. NR 20.20(13)(d) is amended to read:

**(13) DANE** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1. Wingra lake, Monona lake, Waubesa lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	45
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SECTION 13. NR 20.20(24)(d) is amended to read:

(24) **GREEN LAKE** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1. Big Green lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 14. NR 20.20(25)(d) is amended to read:

(25) **IOWA** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1. Twin Valley lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 15. NR 20.20(26)(g)2. is repealed.

SECTION 16. NR 20.20(27)(d) is amended to read:

(27) **JACKSON** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge	1. Arbutus Canal, Black River flowage, Potter flowage, Black river, East Fork Black river, Morrison creek and Arbutus lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 17. NR 20.20(29)(cm) is amended to read:

(29) **JUNEAU** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Muskellunge	1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages upstream from the Castle Rock dam	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	45
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SECTION 18. NR 20.20(32)(cm) is created to read:

(32) **LACROSSE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Muskellunge	1. Black river	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to December 31	1	40
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SECTION 19. NR 20.20(33)(am)1. is amended to read:

(33) **LAFAYETTE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Catfish	1. Yellow-stone lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	2 in total with largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger and hybrids	Minimum length limit 15; maximum length limit <del>18</del> <u>24</u>
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SECTION 20. NR 20.20(33)(c) is amended to read:

(33) **LAFAYETTE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Muskellunge	1. Yellowstone lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	0	--
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SECTION 21. NR 20.20(34)(a) is amended to read:

(34) **LANGLADE** (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	1. Lower Post lake, Rolling Stone lake, Upper Post lake	a. Motor trolling is permitted		As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)	As specified in this subsection or sub. (73)
	2. <u>The following posted urban waters: Remington</u>	a. <u>Hook and line.</u>		<u>Continuous but only persons under 16 years</u>	<u>1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass.</u>	<u>None</u>

lake

of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish

northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; None for rough fish

SECTION 22. NR 20.20(34)(bg) is created to read:

(34) LANGLADE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(bg) Muskellunge	1. Enterprise lake	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	50
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SECTION 23. NR 20.20(34)(e) is amended to read:

(34) LANGLADE (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Pickerel lake, Rolling Stone lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total	18
	2. Enterprise lake, Jesse lake, Rose lake, Sawyer lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14"	None
	3. Enterprise lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18"	None but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited

SECTION 24. NR 20.20(35)(a)2. is created to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, including Lake Superior, see sub. (73))

(a) All species	2. The following posted urban waters: Mirror lake	a. Hook and line.	Continuous but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish	1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total; None for rough fish	None
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SECTION 25. NR 20.20(35)(c)2. is created to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Muskellunge	2. Enterprise lake	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	50
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SECTION 26. NR 20.20(35)(b) is amended to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	<del>1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous, flowages</del>	<del>a. Hook and line.</del>	<del>Continuous</del>	<del>5 in total</del>	<del>14</del>
	2. Muskellunge lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1	18

SECTION 27. NR 20.20(35)(d) is repealed.

SECTION 28. NR 20.20(35)(f), as affected by CHR 07-014, is amended to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout and salmon	1. Big Rib river	a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	0	-
	<u>2. Prairie river downstream from R &amp; H road to STH 17</u>	<u>a. Hook and line, only artificial lures may be used</u>	<u>First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30</u>	<u>1 in total</u>	<u>Brown trout 18, brook and rainbow trout 12 until April 1, 2011</u>
	<del>3.</del> Henson lake, Horgen lake, Larson lake, Moraine lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	None
	<del>4.</del> King Spring, Pays (Alta) springs (S12 T33N R7E), Prairie river excluding R & H road downstream to STH 17, Prairie river (north branch), Spring lake (springs; S16 T32N R7E)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	Brown and rainbow trout 12, brook trout 8
	<del>5.</del> Big Hay Meadow creek, New Wood river upstream from Whisky Bill road (S19 T33N R5E), New Wood river (center fork), New Wood river (east fork)	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	3 in total	9
	<del>6.</del> Ament lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30 in even numbered years only	5 in total	7
	<del>7.</del> Tahoe lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30 in odd numbered years only	5 in total	7
	<del>8.</del> All other waters not listed	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to September 30	5 in total	7

SECTION 29. NR 20.20(35)(g) is amended to read:

(35) LINCOLN (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Wisconsin river upstream from Grandfather dam <del>to Kings dam</del> including sloughs, bayous and flowages	a. Hook and line	Continuous	5 in total	15
	<u>1g. Wisconsin river upstream from Kings dam including sloughs, bayous and flowages</u>	<u>a. Hook and line</u>	<u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u>	<u>5 in total</u>	<u>15</u>
	1m. Wisconsin river downstream from Grandfather dam including sloughs, bayous and flowages	a. Hook and line.	Continuous	5 in total but until March 31, 2014 none may be from 20" to 28" and only 1 may be > 28"	15
	2. Pesobic lakes	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14"	None
	<u>3. Enterprise lake</u>	<u>a. Hook and line.</u>	<u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u>	<u>3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18"</u>	<u>None but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited</u>

SECTION 30. NR 20.20(42)(bm) is created to read:

(42) **MONROE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(bm) Muskellunge	1. Black river	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to December 31	1	40
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SECTION 31. NR 20.20(44)(b) is amended to read:

(44) **ONEIDA** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Largemouth and smallmouth bass	<del>1. Wisconsin river and sloughs, bayous and flowages downstream from the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander</del>	<del>a. Hook and line.</del>	<del>Continuous</del>	<del>5 in total</del>	<del>14</del>
	21. Bearskin lake, Crescent lake, Pelican lake, Stella lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	18
	32. Little Bass lake	a. Hook and line. Only artificial lures may be used.	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding the third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to November 15	5 in total	14
	43. Oneida lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June	0	--
			Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March	3 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18"	None except the possession of fish from 14" through 18" is prohibited

SECTION 32. NR 20.20(44)(d) is repealed.

SECTION 33. NR 20.20(44)(g)1. is amended to read:

(44) **ONEIDA** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(g) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Wisconsin river and sloughs, bayous and flowages downstream from the St. Regis dam in Rhinelander	a. Hook and line.	<del>Continuous</del> <u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u>	5 in total	None, pursuant to s. NR 20.35
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SECTION 34. NR 20.20(49)(b) is amended to read:

(49) **POLK** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(b) Muskellunge	1. All waters <u>not listed</u>	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30	1	40
	2. <u>Bone lake</u>	<u>a. Hook and line</u>	<u>Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>50</u>

SECTION 35. NR 20.20(50)(cm)2. is amended to read:

(50) **PORTAGE** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Muskellunge	2. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December</u>	1	45
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south of U.S. hwy. 10.

31

SECTION 36. NR 20.20(56)(e) is amended to read:

**(56) SAUK** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Muskellunge	1. Redstone Lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to <del>November 30</del> <u>December 31</u>	1	40
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SECTION 37. NR 20.20(57)(e) is amended to read:

**(57) SAWYER** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(e) Muskellunge	1. <u>Chippewa flowage</u> , Grindstone lake, Lac Courte Oreilles lake	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	50
	2. Brunet river from state hwy. 70 downstream to the Chippewa river including Winter flowage, Big Sissabagama lake, Moose lake	a. Hook and line.	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	40
	3. Black lake, Mud and Callahan lakes, Tiger Cat flowage and chain of lakes (T41N R7W), north fork Chief river downstream to Mud lake (T41N R7W)	a. Hook and line	Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30	1	28
	4. <del>Chippewa flowage</del> , Chippewa river from the Chippewa flowage dam (Winter dam) downstream to and including the Raddison flowage and all tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line	First Saturday in May to November 30	1	45

SECTION 38. NR 20.20(57)(i) is amended to read:

**(57) SAWYER** (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(i) Walleye, sauger and hybrids	1. Grindstone lake, Chippewa river downstream from Radisson flowage including all tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake, Winter lake and Brunet river upstream from Winter lake to the Lake Loretta dam	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 18	None but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited
	2. Flambeau river, north fork Flambeau river and south fork Flambeau river including their tributaries upstream to the first dam or lake	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	5 in total but only 1 may be longer than 14	None
	3. Black Dan lake, Clear lake, Island lake (T39N R5W S2), <del>Sand lake</del>	a. Hook and line.	First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March	1 in total	28
	4. <u>Sand lake</u>	<u>a. Hook and line.</u>	<u>First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>

SECTION 39. NR 20.20(62)(am) is created to read:

(62) TREMPEALEAU (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(am) Muskellunge 1. Black river a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May to December 31 1 40

SECTION 40. NR 20.20(64)(c)2, is amended to read:

(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(c) Largemouth and smallmouth bass 2. Averill lake, Big Portage lake, Big Muskellunge lake, East Ellerson lake, Forest lake, Gunlock lake, Little Bass lake (T40N, R8E, S15), Kentuck lake, Middle Ellerson lake, Papoose lake, Plum lake, Presque Isle lake, Salsich lake, Star lake, Trout lake, Van Vliet lake, Wabasso lake, West Plum lake, White Sand lake (T42N, R7E, S27), Whitney lake a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May to Friday preceding third Saturday in June 0 -- Third Saturday in June to the first Sunday in March 1 in total 18

SECTION 41. NR 20.20(64)(d)2m. is amended to read:

(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(d) Muskellunge 2m. Sparkling lake a. Hook and line. Saturday nearest Memorial day to November 30 1 40 until November 30, 2008 2013 when it becomes 34

SECTION 42. NR 20.20(64)(h)9. is amended to read:

(64) VILAS (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(h) Walleye, sauger and hybrids 9. Sparkling lake a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March 1 until March 4, 2009 3, 2014 when it becomes 5 28 until March 4, 2009 3, 2014 when it becomes 15

SECTION 43. NR 20.20(70)(f)4. is amended to read:

(70) WAUSHARA (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(f) Trout and salmon 4. Gilbert lake, Johns lake, Long lake (Town of Saxeville), Pearl lake, Pine lake, Spring lake, White River pond (west branch), Wild Rose millpond a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May at 5:00 a.m. to the first Sunday in March 5 in total 7

SECTION 44. NR 20.20(72)(cm) is amended to read:

(72) WOOD (for species or waters not listed, see sub. (73))

(cm) Muskellunge 1. Wisconsin river including sloughs, bayous and flowages a. Hook and line. First Saturday in May to ~~November 30~~ December 31 1 45

SECTION 45. NR 20.20(73)(b)3m. is amended to read:

(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)

(b) Catfish 3m. Lake Winnebago system waters a. Hook and line. ~~Continuous~~ First Saturday in May to September 30 25 in total but ~~until March 31, 2012~~ only 21 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited

hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline

b. Set or bank pole and setline 500 feet or more from any dam      Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30      None but ~~until March 31, 2012~~ only 2 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline      None except for flathead catfish, which is 30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited

SECTION 46. NR 20.20(73)(g)3. is amended to read:

**(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)**

(g)                    3. All other waters south of U.S. hwy. 10 not listed in subs. (1) to (72) or this paragraph      a. Hook and line.      First Saturday in May 1 to ~~November 30~~ December 31      34

SECTION 47. NR 20.20(73)(o)4. and 5. are amended to read:

**(73) SPECIES OR WATERS NOT LISTED IN SUBS. (1) TO (72)**

(o) Walleye, sauger and hybrids      4. All other tributary streams and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake      a. Hook and line.      First Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March      3 5 in total      ~~None~~ 15

6. Lake Winnebago system waters      a. Hook and line      Continuous      5 walleye, 0 1 sauger and hybrids      None

SECTION 48. NR 21.06 (1)(b) and (d) are amended to read:

**NR 21.06(1)(b)** May use dip landing nets ~~3 feet or less in diameter~~ and a gaff only for the purpose of landing a fish that is legally hooked. However, ~~such dip landing~~ nets may be used to remove winterkilled fish in those areas and at those times designated by the department by posting, and to net fish as authorized with the use of dip nets under this chapter or ch. NR 20.

(d) Except in Lake Superior, its bays and tributaries, may take rough fish by means of spear, bow and arrow or dip nets and landing nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square only from sunrise to sunset from the Saturday nearest April 21 to March 1, except that the use of dip nets and landing nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square for the taking of rough fish in the St. Croix river downstream to the St. Croix Falls dam is permitted from the Saturday nearest May 15 to June 30 each year.

SECTION 49. NR 22.06 (1)(b) and (d) are amended to read:

**NR 22.06(1)(b)** Use dip landing nets ~~3 feet or less in diameter~~ and a gaff only for the purpose of landing a fish that is legally hooked. However, ~~such dip landing~~ nets may be used to remove distressed fish in winterkill waters in those areas and at those times designated by the department by posting, and to net fish as authorized with the use of dip nets under this chapter or ch. NR 20.

(d) Take rough fish by means of a spear, bow and arrow, or landing net or dip nets not to exceed 24 inches in diameter or square from sunrise to sunset only.

SECTION 50. NR 23.01 is amended to read:

**NR 23.01 Purpose.** The provisions of this chapter, along with other applicable rules and statutes, regulate fishing in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

SECTION 51. NR 23.05(1m) is created to read:

**NR 23.05(1m)** No person may set, use or operate a landing net for any purpose other than for the purpose of landing fish legally hooked or to take fish as authorized with the use of dip nets under this chapter or ch. NR 20.

SECTION 52. NR 23.06(1) is amended to read:

**NR 23.06 (1)** Dip nets and landing nets may be used for taking suckers, redborse, carp, smelt and lawyers or burbot from April 1 to May 14, in the Menominee river except in that portion from the upstream side of the Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette-Menominee upstream to the next dam and within 200 feet below dams on the river.

SECTION 53. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on April 1, 2009, except Sections 37 and 47, which shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Administrative Register, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 54. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew J. Frank, Secretary**

(SEAL)

## Notes

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