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Title: Muskellunge Fishing Regulation Change on the Lower Wisconsin River

The Problem:

Lakes and rivers managed for muskellunge in Wisconsin are numerous, however relatively few waters are managed for a quality size structure that includes large fish. Anglers in southern Wisconsin desiring to fish waters with a quality size structure for muskellunge must travel great distances north to waters where high size limits have been put in place to manage for quality fishing.

Whereas the possibility for a high quality muskellunge fishery presents itself in the tailrace waters below the Prairie du Sac dam on the Wisconsin River. Unfortunately it is limited by a high annual harvest of muskellunge just over the size limit with most fish being non-target incidental catches.

High harvest decreases the ability to allow the fish to grow to a high quality size.

At present the lower Wisconsin River follows the general fishing regulations for muskellunge; a minimum size limit of 34"inches. We feel that the minimum size limit for muskellunge should change to 50" inches in order to protect as well as create a higher quality fishery.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sauk County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change that would increase the minimum size limit on muskellunge and their hybrids from 34"inches to 50" inches on the Wisconsin River from the Prairie du Sac dam downstream to the railroad bridge in Sauk City.

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