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Resolution to Allow Underwater Spearfishing of Game Fish on Outlying Waters

The Problem:

Current underwater spearfishing regulations in Wisconsin allow for the taking of rough fish, pan fish and bullhead in waters where permitted. In other states underwater (skin or scuba diving) spearfishing for game fish species is allowed. Underwater spearfishermen in Wisconsin are denied the opportunity to take game fish. Opening the waters of Lake Michigan (including Green Bay) and Lake Superior to the limited taking of game fish by underwater spearfishing will give spearfishermen the opportunity to harvest a wider range of palatable and desired species.

Implementation Recommendations:

- 1) Season dates would be from June 1 to August 31. (92 Days)
- 2) Underwater spearfishing tags would be purchased from ALIS vendors.
- 3) Upon taking a game fish, the tag would be validate and fastened to the fishes tail.
- 4) Only one tag could be used per day.
- 5) No size restriction would be enforced due to the inability to release a speared fish and the inability to accurately measure the fish while underwater.
- 6) Underwater spear fishing would be closed on muskellunge and sturgeon.

Be it Resolved: The Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Door county on April 13, 2009, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources allow the underwater spearfishing of game fish, with the exception of muskellunge and sturgeon, in the waters of Lake Michigan (including Green Bay) and Lake Superior.

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