

24-02-10 / 24-03-10

The problem: The walleye population of the Chippewa Flowage has been sustained by natural reproduction but reproduction has declined significantly since 2002. Abundance of bass has increased significantly in the Chippewa. There is evidence in the scientific literature that moderate- to high-density populations of largemouth bass can inhibit natural reproduction of walleye via predation on juvenile walleyes and competition with walleyes for food. Implementation of the 14-inch minimum length limit for bass since 1998 has facilitated expansion of bass populations.

The bass population of the Chippewa Flowage must be reduced significantly in order to minimize predation on and competition with walleyes. This is an adaptive management program. Therefore, we are not proposing a sunset provision, and instead call upon local DNR Fisheries Management personnel to regularly monitor changes in the fish community and modify the regulatory approach as necessary.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 12, 2010 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this problem by introducing rule changes most likely to achieve management objectives.

Sawyer County: Chippewa Flowage

Q43 Do you favor a package of rule changes that would;

24/02/10 Eliminate the 14" minimum length limit for bass on the Chippewa Flowage? YES ___ NO ___

24/03/10 Eliminate the current no minimum length limit and change to a no minimum length on walleye, but only one fish over 14" is allowed? YES ___ NO ___

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Name of county introducing in: Sawyer

Submitted by: _____ County of _____

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