



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

**&**

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Annual County Meetings**



**Monday, April 11, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

1. **Registration**  
Voting Instructions **page 2**  
Notice of Public Hearing **page 5**
  
2. **WCC – Delegate Elections** WCC Delegate(s)  
Conservation Congress Delegate Election Process **page 4**
  
3. **DNR – Fisheries Rules Hearing** DNR Hearing Officer  
Proposed Fisheries Rule Changes **page 9**  
Department Advisory Questions **page 23**
  
4. **DNR – Wildlife Rules Hearing** DNR Hearing Officer  
Proposed Wildlife Rule Changes **page 25**  
Department Advisory Questions **page 29**
  
5. **Natural Resources Board Advisory Questions** **page 31**
  
6. **Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting** WCC Delegate(s)  
Conservation Congress Advisory Questions **page 34**
  
7. **Citizen Resolutions** WCC Delegate(s)  
Conservation Congress Resolution Process **page 47**  
How to Write a Resolution & Sample Resolution **page 48**

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 April 11, 2011.

**The results of the 2011 Spring Hearings will be available online beginning  
Wednesday, April 13, 2011.**

**The results can be found at  
[dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring\\_hearings/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/)**

# Statewide Electronic Balloting

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

- Are registered
- Received this questionnaire
- Received a white ballot
- Received a blue ballot
- Have a pencil

Please read the instructions below before voting.

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 and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 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:

- 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
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the white ballot and blue ballots.

**Sample white ballot:** The white ballot is for proposed questions contained within the questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

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.

**IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.**

<p><b>Question 1:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>	<p><b>Question 18:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>	<p><b>Question 35:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>
<p><b>Question 2:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>	<p><b>Question 19:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>	<p><b>Question 36:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO </p>
<p><b>Question 3:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p>	<p><b>Question 20:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p>	<p><b>Question 37:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES </p>

**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**.

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

**CONSERVATION CONGRESS  
SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS**

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.

**IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.**

<p><b>Resolution 1:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 18:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 35:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p><b>Resolution 2:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 19:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 36:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p><b>Resolution 3:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 20:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p><b>Resolution 37:</b></p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>

**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**.

**Results of Citizen Resolutions introduced at the 2011 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website ([dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/)) on June 1, 2011. OR, you can find out the results of the resolutions by contacting your Conservation Congress County Chairman after May 14, 2011.**

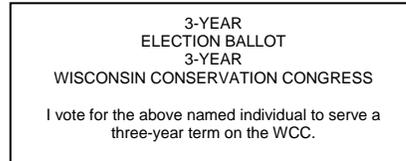
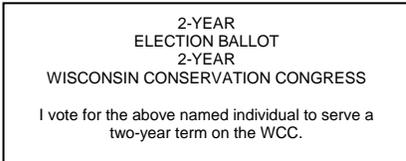
**PLEASE NOTE:** In an effort to conserve both money and resources, the proposed changes to the rule language for the DNR's fish and wildlife questions will not be printed in the back of these spring hearing questionnaires. The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and is available online at **[dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring\\_hearings/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/)**

# WCC Delegate Elections

Delegate election takes place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR Spring Fisheries and Wildlife Rules Hearings.

**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 delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:**

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



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 serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

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 with the annual spring hearings 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.

BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
WM-01-11  
FH-03-11

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to 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, 23 and 26, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The proposed rules will:

1. Establish a continuous hook and line fishing season for cisco (lake herring), whitefish, and hybrids in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters with a possession and daily bag limit of 10 in total and no size limit.
2. Require using a quick-strike rig when fishing with a 10-inch or longer minnow as bait.
3. Increase the statewide minimum size restriction to 40 inches for muskellunge on all waters currently at a 34-inch minimum size restriction and decrease the minimum size restriction to 28 inches for muskellunge on ten waters: English and Mineral lakes (Ashland county), Bearskin, Booth, Julia, and Squaw lakes (Oneida county), Bitternut and Solberg lakes (Price county), Spider lake (Sawyer county), and Upper Gresham lake (Vilas county).
4. Increase the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches and decrease the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and hybrids for all waters in 19 southern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties), and Lake Michigan tributaries and waters south of a line due east from the eastern terminus of Waldo boulevard in the City of Manitowoc. The minimum size restriction for walleye in the Kickapoo river downstream of the Gays Mills dam (Crawford county) will also change to 18 inches with a 15-inch minimum size restriction on sauger and hybrids in order to be consistent with Lower Wisconsin river regulations. The Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers (including Lake Wisconsin), Madison lakes including the Yahara River downstream to Dunkirk Dam, and Yellowstone Lake would not be affected by this proposal.
5. Increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge in Rice and Stump lakes (Barron county).
6. Establish a protected slot for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lilly lake (Brown county) that allows hook and line fishing from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, a daily bag limit of 3 in total, and no minimum length, except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited and only 1 may be longer than 18 inches.
7. Reduce the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 fish in aggregate for panfish in Lilly lake (Brown county).
8. Eliminate the 15-inch minimum size restriction on walleye, sauger and hybrids in the Lower Fox river (Brown county) to make regulations consistent with the adjacent waters of the Lower Fox river (Outagamie and Winnebago counties).
9. Eliminate the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Burnett County except Namekagon, St. Croix, and Totogatic rivers which would retain a minimum size restriction of 14 inches, and all waters of Washburn County except Balsam, Birch, Red Cedar and Shell lakes, Trego Flowage, and Namekagon and Totogatic rivers which would retain a minimum size restriction of 14 inches. The minimum size restriction is eliminated for all Burnett and Washburn county border boundary lakes and flowages and the dates of the open seasons do not change.
10. Modify hook and line fishing for catfish in all waters of Green Lake and Marquette counties, which includes a continuous open season for channel catfish and an open season from the first Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish; a daily bag limit of 25 in total but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline; and no minimum size restriction except 30 inches for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited.
11. Re-establish a closed area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish within Lake Winnebago system waters from Lake Butte des Morts upstream to Eureka dam.
12. Re-establish an open area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish on the Fox river 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive (Green Lake and Marquette counties) from the Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30. There will be no bag limit, but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline, and no minimum size restriction except 30 inches for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited.

13. Alter the boundaries of an existing fish refuge on the Peshtigo river (Marinette county) because the existing privately-owned foot bridge boundary marker will be removed, and extend the end date of the fish refuge from May 15 to May 31.
14. Increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for three spotted muskellunge brood stock lakes: Archibald and Anderson lakes (Oconto county), and Big Elkhart lake (Sheboygan county).
15. Eliminate the current 14-inch minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass, and increase the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches and decreases the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in the Minocqua Chain (Oneida county).
16. Add the Appleton Memorial pond (Outagamie county), the Kohler-Andrae State Park pond (Sheboygan county), and the Delafield Rearing pond (Waukesha county) to the State's urban fishing program.
17. Establish a year-round fish refuge in the Milwaukee river within the fishway at the Thiensville-Mequon dam, located at river mile 20 (Ozaukee county).
18. Increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge in Redstone lake (Sauk county).
19. Decrease the minimum size restriction from 28 to 18 inches and increase the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Black Dan and Island lakes (Sawyer county).
20. Establish a protected slot size for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Glen and Squaw lakes (St. Croix county) that allows hook and line fishing from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March with a bag limit of 3 fish in total and no minimum length, but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited, and only one may be longer than 18 inches.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 23.09(2)(p), 23.11, 29.011, 29.014, 29.059 and 29.089 Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on revisions to chs. NR 10 and 45, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to hunting, trapping, and the management of department lands. The proposed rules will:

21. Repeal the sunset of a two year trial period for the extended fall turkey hunting season so that this December hunt will become permanent.
22. Extend each of the six consecutive five day spring turkey hunting seasons by two days. New seasons would run from Wednesday through the following Tuesday.
23. Eliminate the archery deer hunting season closure during the traditional November nine day gun deer season.
24. Repeal the requirement that elk hunters must wear blaze orange except when a firearm deer season is open.
25. Establish a September firearm and archery hunting season for elk. The season would run concurrently with the first 30 days of the archery deer hunting season.
26. Allow a landowner, lessees or occupant of private land, or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant, to shoot a cougar that is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal and require that the carcass of the cougar be turned over to the department. Department rules already allow landowners, lessees or occupants to shoot a wolf in the same situation, although the authority is currently pre-empted by federal rule. These sections clarify that, in addition to the landowner, lessee or occupant, the authority to shoot a wolf also applies to any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant, should wolves be delisted at the federal level.
27. Allow normal hunting hours for pheasants on weekends at stocked properties that otherwise close at 2:00 p.m.
28. Require that, if asked, bear hunters must provide carcass samples to the department at the time of harvest registration for purposes of research.
29. Allow the use of rifles, in addition to shotguns, for firearm deer hunting in all of Waupaca County.
30. Allow firearm deer hunting at Copper Falls State Park during the traditional nine day and muzzleloader only seasons.
31. Include Manitowoc, Pierce and St. Croix in the list of counties where the discharge of firearms on department lands is prohibited except while hunting, dog training, or at established ranges.

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 11, 2011, 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 and department and Conservation Congress advisory questions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the hearings will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room A230, 402 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland Senior High School, 1900 Beaser, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Old Barron County Courthouse, Lower Level Auditorium, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Drummond High School Auditorium, 52440 Eastern Ave., Drummond, WI 54832
Brown	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (SC132), 2740 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI 54313
Buffalo	Alma High School Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Rm. B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School Auditorium, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School Cafeteria, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Crawford Co. Courthouse, Room 200, 220 N. Beaumont Rd., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Schwan Performing Arts Center, Monona Grove High School, 4400 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake St., Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School Auditorium, 1230 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Solon Springs High School, 8993 E. Baldwin Ave., Solon Springs, WI 54873
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	South Middle School Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resource Center, 5631 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
Forest	Crandon High School Auditorium, 9750 US HWY 8 West, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 East Elm St., Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite Street, Hurley, WI 54534
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI 52549
Juneau	Olson Middle School Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol Elementary School, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington High School Auditorium, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10th Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East King Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc Theatre/Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476
Marinette	Crivitz High School Auditorium, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz, WI 54114
Marquette	Montello High School Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Tomah Senior High School, Cafeteria, 901 Lincoln Ave., Tomah, WI 54660

Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School Auditorium, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna, WI 54130
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School, 1908 150th St. Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School Performance Center, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr., Janesville, WI 53545
Rusk	Ladysmith High School Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	St Croix Central High School Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo Sauk County, Lecture Hall A4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Hayward High School Auditorium, 10320 Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI 54843
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls High School Auditorium, 220 Amherst Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Taylor	Fair Grounds, Multi purpose building, Hwy 64/ Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, 36245 Park St., Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Cty Hwy PV, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Ed. Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School Auditorium, E 2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Court House, 2nd Floor Old Court Rm., 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville High School Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI 54466

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) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 4, 2011.

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 Ms. Kate Strom-Hiorns, Bureau of Fisheries Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Written comments shall be postmarked not later than April 11, 2011. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the responses received at the county hearings.

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

## PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

*(If approved, these proposed rule changes would take effect on April 1, 2012, unless otherwise indicated.)*

### **Question 1 – Require anglers to use quick-strike rigs when using minnows larger than 10 inches in length**

This proposal would require the use of “quick-strike” rigs when fishing with minnows 10 inches or longer as bait. A quick-strike rig means a bait rig with one or more treble hooks (three evenly spaced hooks joined by a common shaft to form one hook) attached to the body of a minnow, behind the head. This rig may include a jig or other single hook in the snout of a minnow along with one or more treble hooks attached to the body of a minnow. All minnows (live or dead) in excess of 10 inches in total length must be fished with a quick strike rig, and the hook must be immediately set by the angler upon indication of a strike. This proposal would not apply to any fish other than minnows when used as bait. In Wisconsin, minnows are legally defined to include suckers, mud minnows, madtoms, stonecat, killifish, stickleback, trout perch, darters, sculpins, and all species in the minnow family except goldfish and carp.



The use of minnows as bait for muskellunge is popular in Wisconsin. One traditional method utilizes a large single hook through the minnow’s snout, which requires the angler to wait for a muskellunge to swallow the bait prior to setting the hook. During a recent study conducted and published by DNR researchers, adult muskellunge were held in lined hatchery ponds and were caught using live minnows on single hooks. For each muskellunge landed, the leader was cut and the muskellunge was released. Survival was monitored for one year. No mortality occurred in less than 24 hours. However, 22% of hooked muskellunge died within 50 days and 83% died within one year. Necropsies revealed extensive trauma to the stomach and other organs from hook wounds, along with systemic bacterial infections. Mortality rates observed in this study are considered unacceptable for adequate management of muskellunge. Although the use of live bait for muskellunge is a traditional activity in Wisconsin, tackle such as quick-strike rigs that hook fish in the mouth will improve the chances that a released muskellunge will survive.

A version of this proposal for 8-inch and larger minnows was supported as an advisory question on the 2007 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings questionnaire by a vote of 2,224 Yes, 803 No, with 67 counties approving and 3 rejecting; 2 counties had tie votes. The minimum size of minnows covered by this proposal was increased from 8 inches to 10 inches to address concerns raised by some catfish anglers who use live fish as bait.

- Do you favor requiring the use of “quick-strike” rigs with one or more treble hooks attached to the body of a minnow when fishing with minnows 10 inches or longer as bait?

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

**Question 2 – Muskellunge 40-inch minimum size limit on most waters statewide**

This proposal would increase the minimum size limit from 34 to 40 inches for muskellunge on approximately 600 waters. It would decrease the minimum size limit to 28 inches for muskellunge on ten slow-growth waters: English and Mineral lakes (Ashland County), Bearskin, Booth, and Squaw lakes (Oneida County), Julia Lake (on the border of Oneida and Forest counties), Butternut and Solberg lakes (Price County), Spider Lake (Sawyer County), and Upper Gresham Lake (Vilas County).

The current 34-inch minimum size limit, which applies to the majority of muskellunge waters in the state, generally does not allow muskellunge populations to reach their full biological growth potential, does not allow muskellunge populations to meet the expectations of anglers in Wisconsin, and does not adequately protect female muskellunge to full maturity.

The growth potential of muskellunge easily exceeds 40 inches on the vast majority of muskellunge waters in the state. Even lakes down to about 50 acres are biologically capable of producing 40-inch or larger fish, except in a few high density, slow-growing populations. However, the average length of harvested muskellunge from 2000-2008 was 38.7 inches; 62% of fish were less than 40 inches.

A 40-inch minimum size limit will protect fish from harvest until they reach a size that is minimally acceptable to most musky anglers. Mail surveys, conducted in both 1989 and 1999, indicated that only 2% of muskellunge anglers and 11% of non-muskellunge anglers consider some size less than 40 inches to be a “trophy,” and a majority of responses from both angler groups considered 50-inch muskellunge to be a “trophy.” In the 1999 survey, 70% of musky anglers favored a 40-inch statewide minimum size limit. States surrounding Wisconsin all have higher statewide minimum size limits (Minnesota – 48 inches, Michigan – 42 inches, Iowa – 40 inches, Missouri – 36 inches, Illinois – 36 inches).

The average length at which 95% of female muskellunge in a population reach sexual maturity is 40.8 inches. Researchers believe that muskellunge have increased reproductive success after their second or third year of spawning, and that reproductive success in a population varies from year to year. Therefore, the existence of several age groups of mature females in a population may improve reproductive success.

An evaluation of the 40-inch minimum size limit on 24 lakes over a 15-year period revealed a significant increase in the percentage of 34-inch and larger fish, as well as a significant increase in the percentage of 40-inch and larger fish, relative to lakes that remained under the 34-inch minimum size limit. No significant changes in the abundance of muskellunge were found, so an increase in muskellunge abundance (number per acre) with this regulation is not expected.

Finally, this proposal would greatly simplify regulations by reducing the number of regulation categories from 5 to 3. If approved, the uniform 40-inch minimum size limit regulation would apply to approximately 750, or 95%, of muskellunge waters. Approximately 20 waters would have a 28-inch minimum size limit and approximately 20 waters would continue to have a 45- or 50-inch minimum size limit.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum size limit to 40 inches for muskellunge on all waters that currently have a 34-inch minimum size limit, and decreasing the minimum size limit to 28 inches for muskellunge on ten slow-growth waters: English and Mineral lakes (Ashland County), Bearskin, Booth, and Squaw lakes (Oneida County), Julia Lake (on the border of Oneida and Forest counties), Butternut and Solberg lakes (Price County), Spider Lake (Sawyer County), and Upper Gresham Lake (Vilas County)?

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

**Question 3 – Cisco, whitefish, and hybrids daily bag limit in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters**

This proposal would create a continuous hook and line fishing season for cisco (lake herring), whitefish, and hybrids in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters with a possession and daily bag limit of 10 in total and no size limit. It is expected to protect the spawning population of cisco, whitefish, and hybrids and protect these species from over harvest.

Currently there is no bag limit and a continuous open season for cisco, whitefish, and their hybrids in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters. A significant and growing spawning population of lake whitefish has re-established in the stretch of the lower Menominee River below the Hattie Street Dam and populations of cisco, whitefish, and their hybrids are present in the boundary waters of Smoky Lake, Norwood Lake, Cisco Chain of Lakes (Big, East Bay, West Bay, Mamie), and Stateline Lake in Vilas County. During a recent joint meeting of Wisconsin and Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries and law enforcement staff, each state agreed to pursue a cisco, whitefish, and hybrids daily bag limit of 10 fish in all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

A daily bag limit of 10 fish in aggregate will provide protection from over harvest in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters and will make regulations consistent with Green Bay bag limits. Because the spawning run in the Menominee River was depleted in the past and now is re-established, it is important to provide protection for this population during a period of time when they are very susceptible to harvest. In addition, the cisco, whitefish, and hybrids contribute to the overall whitefish population in Green Bay, which provides a popular winter recreational ice fishery. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor establishing a continuous hook and line fishing season for cisco, whitefish, and hybrids in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters with a possession and daily bag limit of 10 in total and no size limit?

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

**Question 4 – Walleye, sauger, and hybrid 18-inch minimum size limit and 3 in aggregate bag limit in 19 southern Wisconsin counties**

This proposal would increase the minimum size limit from 15 to 18 inches and decrease the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and hybrids for all waters in 19 southern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties) and Lake Michigan and its tributaries south of a line due east from the eastern terminus of Waldo boulevard in the City of Manitowoc. The minimum size limit for walleye in the Kickapoo River downstream of the Gays Mills Dam (Crawford County) will also change to 18 inches with a 15-inch size limit on sauger and hybrids in order to be consistent with adjacent Lower Wisconsin River regulations.

Walleye and sauger regulations would not change in the following waters: Wisconsin River and its tributaries upstream to the first dam or bridge, including Lake Wisconsin (Columbia, Dane, Grant, Iowa, and Sauk counties); Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa (Dane County); the Yahara River upstream from Dunkirk Dam to the Lake Mendota locks (Dane County); and Yellowstone Lake (Lafayette County). Current walleye regulations will remain in place regardless of the outcome of this proposal in these waters and all waters in the named counties which currently have an 18-inch minimum for walleye.

Currently, there are nine walleye lakes in the 19-county area with minimum size limits greater than 15 inches. In general, these lakes have more adult fish (2.9 adult walleye/acre vs. 0.9/acre) and larger sizes (44% are larger than 15 inches vs. 30% larger than 15 inches) than lakes in the area with a 15-inch limit. An 18-inch minimum size limit is expected to increase walleye populations in southern Wisconsin waters and, in turn, increase angler catch rates. The decreased daily bag limit and increased minimum size limit will reduce the number of walleye that anglers harvest, but because the average size of fish harvested will increase, the total pounds of walleye harvested by anglers is expected to increase over time. Walleye in southern Wisconsin tend to have faster growth rates than their counterparts in northern Wisconsin, reaching 15 inches between 3 to 5 years old, well before female walleye achieve sexual maturity. In northern waters, a 15-inch walleye is typically more than 5 years old.

Another benefit of this proposal in some southern Wisconsin lakes may be successful natural reproduction of walleye populations. Current 15-inch regulations and angler harvest have limited that capability. Walleye natural reproduction is highly variable, and low numbers of sexually mature female fish, along with above average harvest pressure, pose a challenge in maintaining high quality, fishable stocks in southern Wisconsin. The current 15-inch minimum size limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish does not adequately protect adult walleye to their first years of sexual maturity. An 18-inch minimum size limit will not only increase angler catch rates, but will give walleye a chance to naturally reproduce before becoming vulnerable to angler harvest. In southern Wisconsin lakes that currently have more protective regulations, catch of juvenile walleye has been 61% greater than in waters with a 15-inch minimum.

In 2009 and 2010, presentations to various angler groups by department staff revealed support for the proposed 18-inch minimum size limit and daily bag limit of 3 fish.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum size limit from 15 to 18 inches and decreasing the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and hybrids for all waters in 19 southern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties) and Lake Michigan and its tributaries south of a line due east from the eastern terminus of Waldo boulevard in the City of Manitowoc, as well as increasing the minimum size limit from 15 to 18 inches for walleye in the Kickapoo River downstream of the Gays Mills Dam (Crawford County)? Note that the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers (including Lake Wisconsin), Madison lakes including the Yahara River downstream to Dunkirk Dam, and Yellowstone Lake would not be affected by this proposal.

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

**PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES**

**BARRON COUNTY**

**Question 5 – Rice and Stump lakes muskellunge 50-inch minimum size limit**

In 1987, muskellunge stocking was initiated in Rice and Stump lakes. The two lakes are connected by a navigable channel, and fish movement between the two lakes is unrestricted. Over the past several years, Rice Lake has been known by anglers as a good quality muskellunge water in northwest Wisconsin. A recent 2007 fish survey indicated that Rice Lake has a very low density muskellunge population, but harbors a high quality muskellunge fishery. More specifically, 50% of fish captured for the survey measured more than 40 inches and 16% of the fish captured measured more than 45 inches. Three fish were near 50 inches in length.

With the recent increase in popularity of the new muskellunge fishery and the low densities of fish present in Rice Lake, the department and muskellunge anglers are concerned that the existing 40-inch size limit will not preserve and maintain this unique fishery as its popularity continues to spread.

Considering the existing low density fishery, the ability for Rice Lake to produce muskellunge that approach 50 inches in length, and that fish movement and angler travel between Rice and Stump lakes are unrestricted, it is recommended that the minimum size limit be increased from 40 to 50 inches to preserve and maintain this rather new, but unique, muskellunge fishery.

- Do you support increasing the muskellunge minimum size limit from 40 to 50 inches with a daily bag of 1 muskellunge on Rice and Stump Lakes, Barron County?

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

**Please see questions 9 and 24 regarding largemouth and smallmouth bass regulation changes in Burnett and Washburn counties.**

## **BROWN COUNTY**

### **Question 6 – Lilly Lake largemouth and smallmouth bass protected slot size limit**

Because Lilly Lake is the only publicly accessible inland lake in Brown County and because of its proximity to the metropolitan area of Green Bay, the fishing pressure there is very heavy. One management goal for the lake is to improve largemouth bass size structure, while at the same time reducing largemouth bass abundance. A second goal is to improve the abundance and size of bluegill.

The combination of an abundance of small largemouth bass that eat bluegill and high harvest of bluegill by humans has reduced the bluegill population in Lilly Lake below management objectives. Results of a survey on the lake in 2008 showed there are very few bluegills larger than 6 inches and the average bluegill is 3.8 inches. Survey results also showed that there were more bass in 2008 (72 fish/acre) than in 1998 (46 fish/acre), but there were fewer large bass and their average length was 11.1 inches.

Implementing a 14- to 18-inch protected slot size limit for bass would include a daily bag limit of 3 fish in total and no minimum size limit, except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18 inches. This proposal will offer more opportunity to harvest bass smaller than 14 inches. In addition, increased harvest of bass should result in a greater number of bluegills. (See Question 7 for additional Lilly Lake information.)

- Do you favor implementing a daily bag limit of 3 in total and no minimum size limit, except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited and only one may be longer than 18 inches, for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lilly Lake, Brown County?

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

### **Question 7 – Lilly Lake panfish daily bag limit reduction to 10 in total**

Because Lilly Lake is the only publicly accessible inland lake in Brown County and because of its proximity to the metropolitan area of Green Bay, the fishing pressure there is very heavy. One management goal for the lake is to improve largemouth bass size structure, while at the same time reducing largemouth bass abundance. A second goal is to improve the abundance and size of bluegill.

In addition to the proposal to implement no minimum size limit and a protected slot size for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Lilly Lake, a reduced bag limit on panfish is expected to reduce the number of fish harvested, improving bluegill abundance and size. Results of a survey on the lake in 2008 showed there are very few bluegills larger than 6 inches and the average bluegill is 3.8 inches. (See Question 6 for additional Lilly Lake information.) This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 fish in total for panfish in Lilly Lake, Brown County?

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

**Question 8 – Lower Fox River walleye, sauger, and hybrid minimum size limit elimination**

The Lower Fox River is a large river that flows through the urbanized Fox River Valley from the Neenah and Menasha dams to Green Bay. The river has been contaminated by PCB compounds from wastewater effluent during the mid 1900's.

Currently the Brown County waters of the Lower Fox River have a 15-inch minimum size limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids, whereas the rest of the Lower Fox River has no minimum size limit for those species. This proposal would eliminate the minimum size limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids and bring the entire Lower Fox River under the same regulation. Outagamie and Winnebago county waters of the Lower Fox River already have no minimum size limit. It will also make fish available for harvest before they become overly contaminated.

- Do you favor eliminating the 15-inch minimum size limit on walleye, sauger, and hybrids in the Lower Fox River upstream from the DePere Dam, Brown County, to make regulations consistent with the adjacent waters of the Lower Fox River, Outagamie and Winnebago counties?

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

**BURNETT COUNTY**

**Question 9 – Burnett County largemouth and smallmouth bass minimum size limit elimination**

The 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in most waters of Burnett County has resulted in large numbers of largemouth bass, but growth rates have declined. Few Burnett County lakes provide the size quality or harvest opportunities that were envisioned when those minimum size limits were created. In a department study comparing lakes in 2004 with 2009, 89% of lakes managed primarily for largemouth bass in Burnett and Washburn counties did not meet management goals for fish size. This proposal would help to meet management goals of greater than or equal to 30% of bass, in at least 51% of lakes, measuring 14 inches or greater, as well as bass reaching 14 inches in length by age 6 in at least 70% of lakes.

The primary benefit of eliminating the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Burnett County, except Namekagon, St. Croix, and Totagatic rivers, will be to increase harvest opportunities of bass less than 14 inches, which are very abundant and because of slow growth rates have limited potential to grow to the correct legal size. In some lakes, population reduction may improve growth rates and allow for a more diverse size structure. Similar regulation changes would be made in Washburn County, and the minimum size limit would also be eliminated for a small number of lakes and flowages that straddle the county borders with Barron, Douglas, and Polk counties. Removing the bass minimum size limit originated as a local resolution.

- Do you favor eliminating the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Burnett County, including lakes and flowages that straddle the county borders, except in Namekagon, St. Croix, and Totagatic rivers, which would retain a minimum size limit of 14 inches?

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

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

**Please see questions 9 and 24 regarding largemouth and smallmouth bass regulation changes in Burnett and Washburn counties.**

## GREEN LAKE COUNTY

### Questions 10 - 12 – Green Lake and Marquette counties catfish regulations

Current hook and line regulations for catfish on all waters of Green Lake and Marquette counties outside of the Lake Winnebago system waters allow for a year-round open season, a daily bag limit of 25, and no size limit. When Lake Winnebago system water regulations were put in place, they inadvertently excluded a large portion of the Fox River and its tributaries in Green Lake and Marquette counties. However, catfish move freely throughout Lake Winnebago system waters in these two counties and regulations should be made consistent throughout the system in order to meet management objectives for the protection of flathead catfish populations.

This regulation proposal would make all waters of Green Lake and Marquette counties consistent with the Lake Winnebago system water regulations, which allows for a year-round open season for channel catfish and an open season from the first Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish; a daily bag limit of 25 in total but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline; and no minimum size limit except 30 inches for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited. This regulation would give added protection to flathead catfish, while the regulations for channel catfish would remain the same.

Hook and Line	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Length (inches)
Channel Catfish	Continuous	25 in total	None
Flathead Catfish	First Saturday in May to September 30	Only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline	30 but the possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 is prohibited

- Do you favor extending the hook and line catfish rules currently present on Lake Winnebago system waters to include all waters of Green Lake and Marquette Counties? This would allow:
- a continuous open season for channel catfish and an open season from the first Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish;
  - a daily bag limit of 25 in total, but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline; and
  - no minimum size limit, except a 30-inch minimum size limit for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited.

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

Current regulations also define the area that allows set or bank pole and setline fishing as all Lake Winnebago system waters. This proposal would re-establish a closed area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish within Lake Winnebago system waters from Lake Butte des Morts upstream to Eureka Dam. This area was historically closed to set or bank pole and setline fishing, but was inadvertently opened when previous Lake Winnebago system catfish regulations were put in place.

- Do you favor re-establishing a closed area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish within Lake Winnebago system waters from Lake Butte des Morts upstream to Eureka Dam (Winnebago County)?

11. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

This proposal would also re-establish an open area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish on the Fox River 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive (Green Lake and Marquette counties) from the Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30. Regulations would allow no bag limit, but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline, and no minimum size limit except 30 inches for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited. This area was historically open to set or bank pole and setline fishing, but was inadvertently closed when previous Lake Winnebago system catfish regulations were put in place.

- Do you favor re-establishing an open area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish on the Fox River 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive (Green Lake and Marquette counties)? This would allow:
  - an open season from the Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30;
  - no bag limit, but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline; and
  - no minimum size limit, except a 30-inch minimum size limit for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited.

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

## MARINETTE COUNTY

### Question 13 – Peshtigo River fish refuge

An existing fish refuge on the Peshtigo River that extends from the Badger Paper Mill Dam in the City of Peshtigo to the downstream side of the Mill’s wooden covered foot bridge has been in effect since 1987. The refuge currently prevents anyone from taking, disturbing, catching, capturing, killing, or fishing for fish in any manner from March 1 to May 15 each year, both dates inclusive, in, on or along the area. It protects a recovering sturgeon population spawning area and an expanding walleye population spawning area.

Badger Paper Mill is planning to remove the wooden covered foot bridge that currently serves as a refuge boundary. This proposal would designate the boundaries of the refuge from the Badger Paper Mill Dam in the City of Peshtigo downstream for a total distance of 300 feet. This distance lines up with a row of pillars at the Mill that can be posted with refuge boundary signs. The refuge would be expanded to encompass more spawning habitat.

This proposal would also extend the refuge ending date from May 15 to May 31 each year in order to better protect spawning fish populations. The beginning date of March 1 would not change. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor designating the boundaries of the fish refuge on the Peshtigo River from the Badger Paper Mill Dam in the City of Peshtigo downstream for a total distance of 300 feet, and extending the refuge ending date from May 15 to May 31 each year?

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

## MARQUETTE COUNTY

Please see questions 10 - 12 regarding catfish regulation changes in Green Lake and Marquette counties.

## OCONTO COUNTY

### Question 14 – Anderson and Archibald lakes muskellunge 50-inch minimum size limit

The department has been working to restore Great Lakes spotted muskellunge in Green Bay since 1989. In order to establish inland brood populations that will help improve genetic diversity of these muskellunge, three inland lakes have been stocked with Great Lakes muskellunge: Anderson Lake and Archibald Lake in Oconto County and Big Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County. These populations will provide a disease-free source of eggs to the Green Bay restoration project, thereby increasing the genetic diversity. To ensure that the department has adequate opportunities to harvest eggs from these inland brood populations, it is necessary to establish size limits that protect these fish from harvest for many years after they become sexually mature. Current data shows that Great Lakes muskellunge become mature around 40 inches in length and after six years of growth. A 50-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge would protect an average female fish until she was 13 or 14 years of age, providing ample opportunities for egg collection before the fish are legal to harvest. Local muskellunge angling clubs and lake associations have been in support of this regulation change.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum size limit from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge on Anderson Lake and Archibald Lake, Oconto County?

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

## ONEIDA COUNTY

### Question 15 – Minocqua Chain largemouth and smallmouth bass and walleye regulations

The population of walleye in the Minocqua Chain, which includes Mud, Little Tomahawk, Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua and Kawaguesaga lakes, has declined to about one-half of its historic level, from an estimated 3.4 adult walleye per acre in 1998 to 1.7 adult walleye per acre in 2009. Although growth rates are good in the Minocqua Chain, with potential to produce quality- and trophy-size walleye, the current daily bag limit of 5 fish and the 15-inch minimum size limit are not adequate to maintain desired walleye numbers. In addition, abundance of largemouth and smallmouth bass has increased in the Minocqua Chain in recent years. Abundant bass populations have shown to inhibit recovery of natural walleye reproduction through resource competition and predation on juvenile walleye. By allowing increased harvest of largemouth and smallmouth bass and changing regulations for walleye, sauger, and hybrid harvest, this proposal would help increase the number of walleye in the Minocqua Chain. The management goal of these waters is to increase walleye abundance (2 to 3 adults per acre in Lake Tomahawk and 3 to 6 per acre in Lake Minocqua and Lake Kawaguesaga) and spawning potential while supporting a more balanced walleye size structure.

- Do you favor:
  - increasing the minimum size limit from 15 to 18 inches and decreasing the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids; and
  - eliminating the current 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass on the Minocqua Chain, Oneida County?

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

## OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

### **Question 16 – Designate Appleton Memorial Park Pond as an urban fishing water**

The department and the City of Appleton desire to enroll Appleton Memorial Park Pond in the DNR Urban Fishing Program to create a quality fishing experience for children and disabled anglers in the City of Appleton. Appleton Memorial Park Pond is located within the City of Appleton Memorial Park. It is an artificial pond created in 1982 with 3.5 surface acres. The pond currently supports a modest fishery for largemouth bass and panfish. The City of Appleton allows public access around the pond and there is one fishing pier. The city posts signs asking for voluntary catch and release fishing because of the high amount of fishing pressure.

Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) make the pond open to fishing year-round with no minimum size limits; b) create a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April; and c) adopt daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor adding Appleton Memorial Park Pond to the DNR Urban Fishing Program? This would allow:
  - daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish;
  - no minimum size limits; and
  - an open season year-round with a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April.

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

## OZAUKEE COUNTY

### **Question 17 – Create fish refuge at the Thiensville-Mequon Dam**

The department and the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville worked together to obtain funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Coastal Management, and the Great Lakes Protection Fund to construct a fishway around the Thiensville-Mequon Dam located at river mile 20 on the Milwaukee River. This fishway is about 750 feet in length with a series of pools and riffles that allow fish to migrate around the dam.

The Milwaukee River in the vicinity of the proposed fish refuge supports a diverse and abundant population of fish. Since 1973, 49 species of fish indigenous to Wisconsin have been collected in the lower reaches of the river. In addition, The department has active management projects for restoring sustainable populations of lake sturgeon and walleye through stocking efforts. In order to restore a native walleye population, and to enhance near shore fishing opportunities, the department with the support of local fishing clubs initiated limited stocking of walleye in the Lower Milwaukee River in 1995. About 10,000 walleye fingerlings have been stocked annually from 1995 to 2007. Since 2003, approximately 6,400 lake sturgeon fingerlings have been stocked in the Milwaukee River.

Because the fishway around the Thiensville-Mequon Dam is narrow and relatively shallow, this regulation is necessary to protect vulnerable fish within the fishway. A permanent fish refuge for the fishway would benefit all the species that would use the fishway to navigate upstream. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor establishing a year-round fish refuge in the Milwaukee River within the 750 foot long fishway at the Thiensville-Mequon Dam, located at river mile 20, Ozaukee County?

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

## **POLK COUNTY**

Please see question 9 regarding largemouth and smallmouth bass regulation changes in Burnett County.

## **SAUK COUNTY**

### **Question 18 – Redstone Lake muskellunge 50-inch minimum size limit**

Redstone Lake has developed a popular muskellunge fishery. The lake was first stocked with muskellunge in 1987. Redstone Lake is currently regulated with a 40-inch minimum length limit for muskellunge. The lake has a forage base consisting primarily of gizzard shad which has resulted in an above average growth rate, and muskies are achieving lengths of over 40 inches by age 6. Redstone Lake was surveyed in 2010, and has developed a good population of 30-inch fish and a fair number of 40-inch fish. Musky densities were estimated at less than half a fish per acre. The length frequency indicates that harvest may be limiting the proportion of fish greater than 40 inches.

Muskellunge populations in Wisconsin that are managed for high size structure are also managed to be low density. Redstone Lake's musky population is an excellent candidate to manage for a higher size structure because of its fast growth. This proposal to a minimum size limit of 50 inches is expected to increase the number of 40- and 50-inch fish while not significantly increasing the overall number of muskellunge. This proposal began as a local resolution and was favored as a statewide hearing advisory question in 2010 by a vote of 1,412 Yes to 866 No, and supported in Sauk County by a vote of 29 Yes and 7 No.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum size limit from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge in Redstone Lake, Sauk County?

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

## **SAWYER COUNTY**

Please see question 24 regarding largemouth and smallmouth bass regulation changes in Washburn County.

### **Question 19 – Black Dan and Island lakes walleye, sauger, and hybrid 18-inch minimum size limit and 3 fish daily bag limit**

Black Dan and Island lakes are small, connected, clear-water drainage lakes that are managed for improved bluegill size structure. Management strategies include stocking and protection of walleye fingerlings. The lakes' current walleye, sauger, and hybrids minimum size limit of 28 inches was created to protect the stocked fish, which are bluegill predators. Predation helps to improve the size range of bluegill. This strategy was also coupled with the removal and transfer of significant numbers of bluegill to other waters. As a result, bluegill size structure improved. However, with the concern over Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), a deadly fish virus, the transfer of bluegill to other waters was halted on these lakes. In addition, stocking of large fingerling walleye is now currently done by local lake associations and they would like an opportunity to harvest some of these fish. This proposal would decrease the minimum size limit from 28 to 18 inches for walleye, sauger, and hybrids and meet management goals of increased numbers and size of bluegill by increasing walleye harvest opportunities without compromising walleye value as a predator in these fish communities.

- Do you favor decreasing the minimum size limit from 28 to 18 inches and increasing the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Black Dan Lake and Island Lake, Sawyer County?

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

## **SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

### **Question 20 – Big Elkhart Lake muskellunge 50-inch minimum size limit**

The department has been working to restore Great Lakes spotted muskellunge in Green Bay since 1989. In order to establish inland brood populations that will help improve genetic diversity of these muskellunge, three inland lakes have been stocked with Great Lakes muskellunge: Anderson Lake and Archibald Lake in Oconto County and Big Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County. These populations will provide a disease-free source of eggs to the Green Bay restoration project, thereby increasing the genetic diversity. To ensure that the department has adequate opportunities to harvest eggs from these inland brood populations, it is necessary to establish size limits that protect these fish from harvest for many years after they become sexually mature. Current data shows that Great Lakes muskellunge become mature around 40 inches in length and after six years of growth. A 50-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge would protect an average female fish until she was 13 or 14 years of age, providing ample opportunities for egg collection before the fish are legal to harvest. Local muskellunge angling clubs and lake associations have been in support of this regulation change.

- Do you favor increasing the minimum size limit from 34 inches to 50 inches for muskellunge on Big Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County?

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

### **Question 21 – Designate Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond as an urban fishing water**

The department and Kohler-Andrae State Park staff wish to enroll Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond in the DNR Urban Fishing Program. The pond is a newly constructed 2-acre pond on the Kohler-Andrae State Park property and was built with the intention of enrolling it into the program. It was designed to accommodate handicapped anglers and other shore anglers, and its purpose is to provide shore fishing opportunities for state park visitors and other local anglers. The pond would be stocked each spring with yearling rainbow trout, as well as other fish to provide year-round angling opportunities.

Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) make the pond open to fishing year-round with no minimum size limits; b) create a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April; and c) adopt daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor adding Kohler-Andrae State Park Pond to the DNR Urban Fishing Program? This would allow:
  - daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish;
  - no minimum size limits; and
  - an open season year-round with a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April.

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

## ST. CROIX COUNTY

### Question 22-23 – Glen and Squaw lakes largemouth and smallmouth bass protected slot size

Bass are abundant in Glen and Squaw lakes in St. Croix County, but fish greater than the 14-inch minimum size limit are scarce. Based on department surveys, populations of small bass on these lakes have been increasing since the implementation of the 14-inch minimum size limit in 1989, but larger bass populations have declined. To increase the harvest of small bass and improve population size structure and angler satisfaction, this regulation would establish a protected slot size for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Glen and Squaw lakes that allows a bag limit of 3 fish in total and no minimum size limit, but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches would be prohibited, and only one may be longer than 18 inches.

The primary objective of this proposal is to decrease the number of bass that are less than 14 inches in length (to an electrofishing catch per effort of less than 50 per mile), which would reduce competition and improve growth of remaining bass. The secondary objective is to increase the number of bass that are greater than 14 inches in length and improve the size structure of the population (relative stock density of bass over 15 inches to 5 or more, and a catch per effort of more than 5 per mile). A similar resolution for Glen Lake was submitted at the 2009 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearing and was supported 57 Yes to 10 No. This proposal is also supported by members of the St. Croix County Alliance of Sportsmen Clubs and the Conservation Congress.

- Do you favor replacing the current largemouth and smallmouth bass 14-inch minimum size limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish in Glen Lake, St. Croix County, with a protected slot size for largemouth and smallmouth bass? This would allow:
  - a bag limit of 3 fish in total; and
  - no minimum size limit, but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited, and only one may be longer than 18 inches.

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

- Do you favor replacing the current largemouth and smallmouth bass 14-inch minimum size limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish in Squaw Lake, St. Croix County, with a protected slot size for largemouth and smallmouth bass? This would allow:
  - a bag limit of 3 fish in total; and
  - no minimum size limit, but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited, and only one may be longer than 18 inches?

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

## WASHBURN COUNTY

### **Question 24 – Washburn County largemouth and smallmouth bass minimum size limit elimination**

The 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in most waters of Washburn County has resulted in large numbers of largemouth bass, but growth rates have declined. Few Washburn County lakes provide the size quality or harvest opportunities that were envisioned when those minimum size limits were created. In a department study comparing lakes in 2004 with 2009, 89% of lakes managed primarily for largemouth bass in Burnett and Washburn counties did not meet management goals for fish size. This proposal would help to meet management goals of greater than or equal to 30% of bass, in at least 51% of lakes, measuring 14 inches or greater during spring surveys, as well as bass reaching 14 inches in length by age 6 in at least 70% of lakes.

The primary benefit of eliminating the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Washburn County, except Balsam, Birch, Red Cedar, and Shell lakes, Trego Flowage, and Namekagon and Totagatic rivers, will be to increase harvest opportunities of bass less than 14 inches, which are very abundant and because of slow growth rates have limited potential to grow to the correct legal size. In some lakes, population reduction may improve growth rates and allow for a more diverse size structure. Similar regulation changes would be made in Burnett County, and the minimum size limit would also be eliminated for a small number of lakes and flowages that straddle the county borders with Barron, Douglas, and Sawyer counties, unless otherwise specified. Removing the bass minimum size limit originated as a local resolution.

- Do you favor eliminating the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Washburn County, including lakes and flowages that straddle the county borders, except in Balsam, Birch, Red Cedar, and Shell lakes, Trego Flowage, and Namekagon and Totagatic rivers, which would retain a minimum size limit of 14 inches?

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

## WAUKESHA COUNTY

### **Question 25 – Designate Delafield Rearing Pond as an urban fishing water**

The department, the City of Delafield, and Muskies, Inc., desire to enroll the shallow, one-acre pond on the site of the former Delafield State Fish Hatchery (421 Main Street, Delafield) in the Urban Fishing Program. The City of Delafield allows public access around the pond for fishing. Designation of the Delafield Rearing Pond as an urban fishing pond is expected to increase fish abundance, provide better accessibility to children and disabled anglers, and improve habitat and water quality.

Enrollment in the Urban Fishing Program would: a) make the pond open to fishing year-round with no minimum size limits; b) create a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April; and c) adopt daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish. This proposal would become effective in 2011.

- Do you favor adding Delafield Rearing Pond to the DNR Urban Fishing Program? This would allow:
  - daily bag limits of 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, and an unlimited number of rough fish;
  - no minimum size limits; and
  - an open season year-round with a special season only for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April.

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

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Please see questions 10-12 regarding catfish regulation changes in Green Lake and Marquette counties and Lake Winnebago System waters.

### DEPARTMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS-FISHERIES

#### **Question 26 – Minnow harvest regulations to control the spread of fish diseases and invasive species on the Mississippi River**

Since 2008, it has been illegal for anyone to use nets or traps to collect minnows in any waters known to be infected with the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), or in any connected waters not separated by a barrier that is impassable to fish. VHS has been positively identified in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and Lake Winnebago, and the Mississippi River is connected to Lake Michigan via the Chicago Ship Canal which does not have a barrier that is impassable to fish.

The current rules are a compromise that came out of nearly a year of debate and negotiation among the Natural Resources Board, Legislature and public on the best way to deal with the discovery of VHS in Wisconsin. The goal was to find reasonable ways to minimize the primary risks of spreading VHS - which are movement of infected fish and significant quantities of water containing the virus. The rules first proposed were simple - live fish could not be taken away from the water, and all water had to be drained from boating and fishing equipment when leaving the waterbody. These proposed rules were simple and enforceable at the landing by wardens.

To address concerns from some anglers who wanted to take home “unused” minnows for later use, provisions were later added that allow anglers to take home minnows if they were originally bought at a WI bait dealer and either were not exposed to any external water or would only be used again on the same water body. These new provisions, however, are very difficult to enforce, so the compromise also included a prohibition on the collection of any minnows from any VHS affected water. This provision allows wardens to make sure that no potentially infected minnows are moved to other waters where they could spread VHS.

At the 2010 Spring Hearings, the Conservation Congress requested that the department revisit this rule with the intent of allowing personal, day-use minnow collections on the Mississippi River. The department agrees that a rule allowing trapping, using, and disposing of bait minnows before leaving the water on the Mississippi River and its tributaries is an option – but only if the rule allowing taking home “unused” minnows under certain conditions be rescinded. Changing this rule at this time may also be a good idea to protect against the spread of invasive species. Asian Carp have now been observed at several locations in Wisconsin’s waters of the Mississippi River, and small Asian Carp are very difficult to distinguish from golden shiners and several other native minnow species. The best way to protect against the spread of VHS, Asian Carp and other diseases and invasive species from the Mississippi River may be to simply prohibit the movement of any live fish (including all minnows) away from the water. NOTE: This will create an inconsistency on the Wisconsin-Minnesota border waters where on the Minnesota side, minnow harvest is not allowed due to the presence of zebra mussels.

This rule change would allow personal collection and use of minnows on the Mississippi River, but no live minnows could be transported away from the Mississippi River.

- Do you favor changing the rules regarding minnow harvest on the Mississippi River and all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish so that:
  - Minnows may be collected for use as bait using seines, dip nets and traps or other legal methods;
  - No fish including minnows may be taken away from the water alive;
  - Commercial harvest is not allowed?

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

**Question 27 – Change date of general fishing opener**

State statute requires all fishing seasons to begin on a Saturday. Since 1974, Wisconsin has had its general fishing opener on the first Saturday in May. For a few years prior to that, the general fishing opener was the second Saturday in May, and for many years prior to that, the opening day of fishing was May 1, regardless of the day of the week on which that date fell. Mother's Day is always the second Sunday in May. One reason for the change from the "second Saturday in May" to the current "first Saturday in May" opener was to avoid the opening of fishing season always occurring on Mother's Day weekend.

Under the current system, the opening day of fishing occurs on Mother's Day weekend approximately once every seven years- those years in which the first Saturday in May is May 7, as it will in 2011. The Governor's office and some tourism interests have asked the Department to explore the possibility of moving the general fishing opening day in years when the first Saturday in May occurs on Mother's Day weekend. In those years the opener would be Saturday, April 30. This change would not be implemented for 2011.

- Would you favor changing the opening day of the general fishing season from "the first Saturday in May" to "Saturday, April 30," in years when the first Saturday in May is May 7 and falls on Mother's Day weekend?

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

**PROPOSED STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES**

*(Parenthesis indicate the year the proposal would become effective)*

**Question 28 – Eliminate the archery deer hunting season closure during the traditional November firearm season (2012)**

The archery deer hunting season currently closes on the Thursday before the traditional November firearm season and reopens on the day after the firearm season closes. The archery season closure is a long standing tradition, the purpose of which may have been to prevent people from filling archery season carcass tags with deer that were shot with firearms.

Today, firearm and archery deer seasons run concurrently in metro units, the CWD Management Zone, and statewide during the ten day muzzleloader-only, four day December antlerless-only, and four day October herd control seasons. Few, if any, problems have been identified. Extending the archery deer season by the nine days that are concurrent with the traditional November firearm deer season would increase archery hunting opportunity for people who prefer to hunt with a bow, have filled their firearm carcass tags, or who hunt in areas where firearms discharge is prohibited. Archers would still be required to wear blaze orange statewide during firearm deer seasons.

- Do you favor extending the archery deer hunting season to include the nine days that are concurrent with the traditional November firearm season?

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

**Question 29 – Allow normal hunting hours for pheasants on weekends at stocked properties that otherwise close at 2:00 p.m. (2012)**

Pheasant hunting hours close at 2:00 p.m. daily at ten DNR managed properties beginning on the third day of the season and continuing through November 3. The closure allows better distribution of pheasants and provides the birds with time to adjust to surroundings while not subject to hunting pressure. Stocking does not occur on weekends. This proposal would allow hunting on the two weekends between opening day and November 3 until 20 minutes after sunset. These afternoons will provide additional hunting opportunity early in the season when birds are still being stocked and when interest in pheasant hunting is high.

The 2:00 p.m. closure applies to the following properties; Allenton (Washington county), Brooklyn (Dane and Green counties), C.D. "Buzz" Besadny (Kewaunee county), Dunnville (Dunn county), Eldorado Marsh (Fond du Lac county), Goose Lake (Dane county), Grand River (Green Lake and Marquette counties), Holland (Brown county), Horicon (Dodge county), Jackson Marsh (Washington county), Killsnake (Calumet and Manitowoc counties), Mazomanie (Dane county), Mud Lake (Columbia county), Mud Lake (Dodge county), New Munster (Kenosha county), Nichols Creek (Sheboygan county), Pine Island (Columbia and Sauk counties), Scuppernong (Waukesha county), Theresa (Dodge and Washington counties), Tichigan (Racine county), Vernon (Waukesha county), and White River (Green Lake and Marquette counties)

- Do you support allowing pheasant hunting until twenty minutes after sunset on weekends, when pheasant stocking does not occur, at stocked properties where pheasant hunting hours currently close at 2:00 p.m.?

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

**Question 30 – Repeal the requirement that all hunters must wear blaze orange during the elk season in an elk zone except when a firearm deer season is open (2012)**

Currently all hunters, except waterfowl hunters, are required to wear blaze orange in an elk management zone when the elk season is open. When the elk population reaches 200 animals, a season will be held beginning on the second Thursday in December and continuing for 9 consecutive days. The department estimates that the herd will reach that level in 2012 or 2013. Five tags will be available for state hunters through a random drawing. Each hunter must take an elk hunter education course.

This proposal would eliminate the blaze orange requirement for elk and other hunters during an elk season. Blaze orange would still be required of all hunters, except waterfowl hunters, if a firearm deer season is also open. Because there will be very few elk hunters and all of them will have taken an elk hunter education course that would cover safe hunting techniques, the blaze orange requirement for all hunters is not believed to be needed. Blaze orange is not required of any other hunters (bear, coyote, fox or small game) except when a firearm deer season is open.

- Do you support eliminating the blaze orange clothing requirement for all hunters who are hunting in an elk zone at times when the elk hunting season is open and there is not an open deer firearm season?

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

**Question 31 – Establish a September firearm and archery hunting season for elk. The season would run concurrently with the first 30 days of the archery deer hunting season (2012)**

Under current rules, when the elk population reaches 200 animals a season would be held that begins on the second Thursday in December and continues for 9 consecutive days. Five tags will be available for state hunters through a random drawing. When the elk population reaches 600 animals, there would also be 7 days of September hunting in addition to the December season. Tribal hunting seasons (50% of the available quota) will likely begin in September.

This proposal would establish a season that begins on the Saturday nearest September 15 and runs for 30 days when the elk population reaches 200 animals. The December season would also be available to someone who does not fill their tag during the early season. Elk hunters will be allowed to use firearms or archery gear. By law, the elk hunt will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will be available to very few people. The department is proposing allowing hunting closer to the elk rut and for more days so that those who are fortunate enough to draw a tag are able to more fully enjoy a very high quality hunt. Initially, all tags will be for bull elk. During the rut, male elk frequently bugle which makes locating them in Wisconsin's thick woods possible. A season during the rut will provide hunters with the opportunity to witness elk and enhance their chances of locating and harvesting a bull.

- Do you support establishing an early, September elk season that begins on the Saturday nearest the 15th day of the month and continues for 30 days, in addition to the current 9 day December season?

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

**Question 32 – Allow landowners, lessees or occupants of private land, or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant to shoot a cougar that is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal and require that the carcass of the cougar be turned over to the department (2011)**

Currently, cougars are listed as a protected species and it is illegal to shoot or trap one that is attacking a domestic animal unless permission is first obtained from the department. Cougars were native to Wisconsin but were eliminated from the state in the early 1900s. Cougars are not known to have breeding populations here. Recently, however, we have confirmed the presence of four different cougars during the last three years. All four were young males which are known to travel hundreds of miles in search of territory and a mate. The closest known, established population of cougars is in western South Dakota.

This proposal gives landowners greater ability to protect livestock and pets in the event of an attack. If a cougar is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal on private land, then the landowner, lessee or occupant of that land, or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant could shoot the cougar. Advance permission from the department would not be needed. If a cougar is shot, the shooter must notify the department and the entire carcass would have to be turned over to the department.

Department rules already allow a landowner, lessee or occupant to shoot a wolf in the same situation, although that authority is currently pre-empted by federal rule. This proposal clarifies that, in addition to the landowner, lessee or occupant, the authority to shoot a wolf would also extend to any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant, should wolves be delisted at the federal level.

- Do you favor allowing landowners, lessees or occupants, or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant of private land to shoot a cougar that is in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal and requiring that the carcass of the cougar be turned over to the department?

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

**Question 33 – Require that, when requested by the department, hunters must provide bear carcass samples for research purposes at the time of harvest registration (2011)**

The department currently collects teeth from hunter harvested bears at registration stations. Pieces of bear rib have been collected in the past and will be collected in certain years in the future. Teeth provide age information and rib sections show the proportion of bears harvested that have been marked in population studies. This information has been critical to population modeling that is used to establish harvest levels and manage bear populations. Submission of these samples is currently voluntary.

This proposal would require that, when requested, bear hunters must provide tissue samples to the department. Making submission of samples a requirement will make it easier for registration stations and the department to obtain tissue samples. These samples are important because they improve the quality and consistency of data collected and increase the return on investments made in tetracycline mark-recapture research. This research has allowed us to improve population estimates and increase the number of bear permits and bear hunting opportunity.

- Do you favor requiring that, when requested by the department, hunters must allow bear carcass parts to be taken for research purposes as part of the registration process?

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

**Question 34 – Extend each of the spring turkey hunting periods by two days (2012)**

Currently, the spring turkey hunting seasons begin on the Wednesday nearest April 13 and continue for six consecutive five day hunting periods. Hunting is not allowed on Monday and Tuesday. The two days that separate each season were originally intended to allow time for scouting when hunters are not in the woods, to rest birds between seasons, or to give landowners a break from hunters.

Turkey hunting is now a familiar and accepted spring activity and many people believe that extending each spring hunting period by two days will provide additional hunting opportunity without causing conflicts. Under this proposal, spring turkey hunting periods would continue to open on Wednesdays but would continue through the Tuesday of the following week for seven days.

- Do you favor extending each of the spring turkey hunting periods by two days so that there will be six consecutive, seven day hunting periods that begin on Wednesday and continue through Tuesday of the following week?

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

**Question 35 – Renew the fall turkey hunting season extension in management zones 1 through 5 (2011)**

Historically, the fall turkey season has opened on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continues through the Thursday prior to the beginning of the 9-day November deer gun season (in 2010, September 18 – November 19). In turkey management zones 1 through 5, on a two year trial basis, the fall turkey season has reopened on the day after the firearm deer season and continued through December (In 2010, November 29 – December 31). This two year trial period was established to assess what, if any, impact the longer season would have on turkey harvest and turkey hunting.

The primary result of this change is that harvest has been spread out over the duration of the longer season but has not increased. The turkey population continues to be healthy and well established across the state and more hunting opportunity has been provided in the fall season. This proposal would eliminate the sunset of this extended season and make it permanent.

- Do you support permanently extending the fall turkey hunting season to include the Monday following the 9-day gun deer season through December 31 in turkey management zones 1 – 5?

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

**PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES**

**Question 36 – Allow the use of rifles for firearm deer hunting in Waupaca County (2011)**

Currently, rifles are not allowed for deer hunting in Waupaca County (except that they are allowed at Hartman Creek State Park) and firearm season deer hunters are restricted to shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloaders. The department does not view the current prohibition as necessary for biological or safety reasons. As a Conservation Congress advisory question at 2010 spring hearings, this proposal was supported in Waupaca County and statewide by a vote of Ayes, 2,397; Noes, 660.

This proposal would allow the use of rifles in all of Waupaca County during the gun deer season.

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

36. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 37 – Establish firearm and muzzleloader-only deer hunting seasons at Copper Falls State Park, Ashland County (2011)**

Hunting in state parks is prohibited by state law unless the department establishes a hunting season by rule. Allowing hunting during the traditional 9-day firearm and muzzleloader-only deer seasons will provide hunting opportunity and keep deer populations at a level similar to the surrounding unit. Allowing hunting in parks also limits the problem of the park providing refuge to deer from neighboring properties and helps to keep deer moving during the season.

Copper Falls State Park will not become its own deer management unit and access permits will not be required.

- Do you favor allowing deer hunting during the traditional 9-day firearm and muzzleloader-only deer seasons at Copper Falls State Park?

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

**Questions 38, 39, and 40 – Include Manitowoc, Pierce and St. Croix in the list of counties where the discharge of firearms on department lands is prohibited except while hunting, dog training/trialing by permit, or at established ranges (2012)**

Currently it is illegal to discharge a firearm or air gun on state-owned lands in 17 counties except while hunting, dog training/trialing under department permit, or at an established shooting range. This rule is intended to prevent littering, damage to property, and addresses safety concerns on department managed properties primarily in Southern Wisconsin and at the Kettle Moraine and Point Beach State Forests as well as on recreation areas, natural areas, and state trails.

This proposal would extend the prohibition of target shooting and other firearms discharge on DNR lands, except for legal hunting, authorized dog training/trialing activities or at designated ranges, to Manitowoc, Pierce and St. Croix counties.

- Do you favor prohibiting the discharge of firearms and air guns on department lands in Manitowoc County, except while engaged in a legal hunting, authorized dog training/trialing activity, or at a designated shooting range?

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

- Do you favor prohibiting the discharge of firearms and air guns on department lands in Pierce County, except while engaged in a legal hunting, authorized dog training/trialing activity, or at a designated shooting range?

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

- Do you favor prohibiting the discharge of firearms and air guns on department lands in St. Croix County, except while engaged in a legal hunting, authorized dog training/trialing activity, or at a designated shooting range?

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

**DEPARTMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS-WILDLIFE**

**Question 41 – Lower the age at which anyone can use a crossbow from 65 to 55**

Under current law, residents and non-residents who have reached the age of 65 can hunt with a crossbow in any situation where hunting with archery gear is legal. In addition, any person who is old enough to buy a hunting license and has certain upper extremity or mobility related disabilities, and who has obtained a permit to hunt with a crossbow can also hunt with a crossbow.

Under this advisory proposal the department is asking, in order to gauge public opinion, if the age at which any archery hunter could use a crossbow should be lowered to 55. This proposal would have to be enacted by statute and could not be done by the department by rule. As a Conservation Congress advisory question at 2010 spring hearings, this proposal was supported by a vote of Ayes, 2,014; Noes, 1,767.

- Do you favor lowering the age at which anyone can use a crossbow from 65 to 55?

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

**Questions 42, 43, and 44 – Alternatives for duck hunting zones and possible season dates**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is considering expanding the options for duck hunting zones in Wisconsin for 2011. A committee of duck hunters and waterfowl managers from around the state developed options for a new duck zone configuration. The goal of the new zones is to provide additional late season duck hunting days in areas of later freeze-up while minimizing the loss of mid-fall hunting opportunities elsewhere.

The committee has recommended a north, a central, and a U-shaped southern “big water” duck zone. This south/big water zone is intended to target those areas that would have ducks later in the season. The south/big water zone would include: the Mississippi River west of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and south of Hwy 10 (identical to the current Mississippi goose subzone); the area of the state south of Hwy 11; and the waters of Lake Michigan more than 500 feet from shore not including Green Bay. The USFWS requires that zones be contiguous which is why the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan are connected by the area south of Hwy 11.

We are seeking your feedback on three options. They are:

- 42. No change; or
- 43. Three zone option using the current mid-state dividing line of Hwy’s 10 and 41; or
- 44. Three zone option using Hwy 64 as the mid-state dividing line.

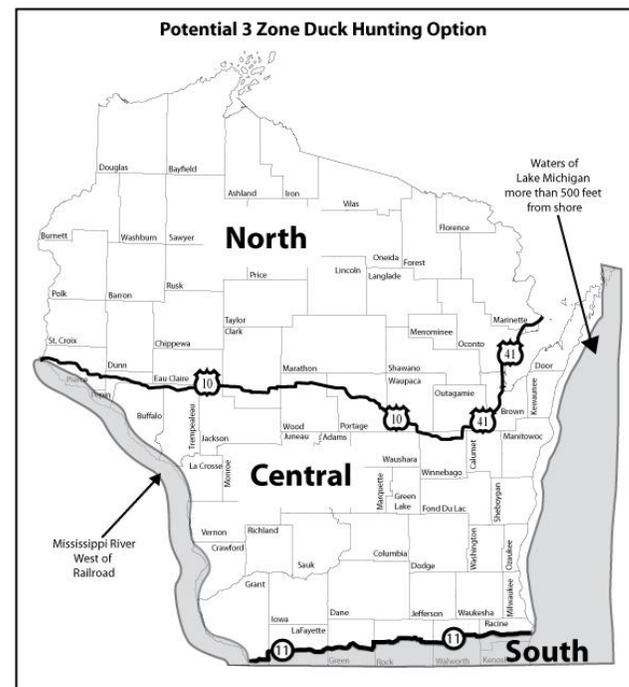
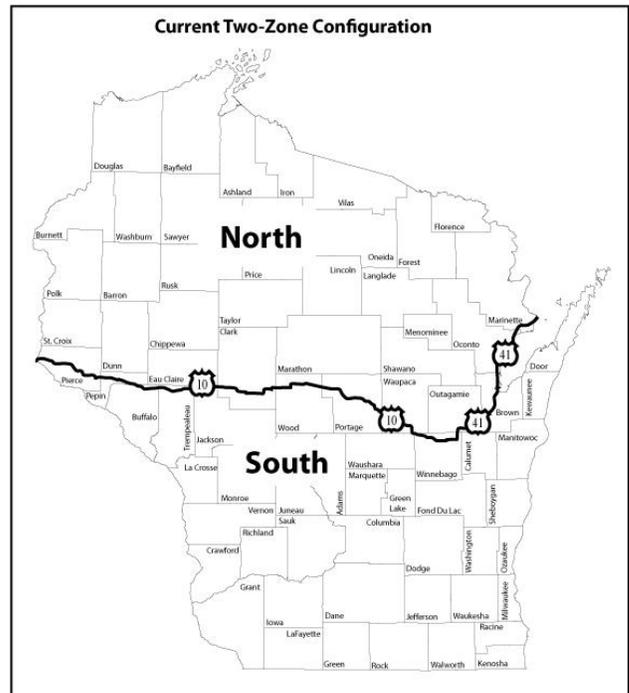
Exact duck hunting season dates and options for split seasons (closures) will be decided annually but the zone lines must remain for five years (2011 – 2015). We expect that, under a 60-day season, the north zone would open first and the central and south zones would open a week later. To meet the goal stated above, the north zone would likely not have a split, the central zone could have a short split (~ 5 days), and the south, “big water zone” could have a longer split (7 – 12 days) so that season would run into mid December.

- No change option: Do you favor maintaining the current north and south, two-zone configuration and not creating a third duck hunting zone?

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

- Three zone option with current mid-state boundary: Do you favor creating a south, “big water zone” that would include: the Mississippi River west of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and south of Hwy 10 (identical to the current Mississippi goose subzone); the area of the state south of Hwy 11; and the waters of Lake Michigan more than 500 feet from shore not including Green Bay? If you prefer three hunting zones, would you prefer the north and the central zones be separated along Hwy 10/41?

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





Championed by members of the Conservation Congress, Wisconsin adopted non-toxic shot regulations for waterfowl hunting in 1986 – well ahead of the 1991 nationwide ban. The state again demonstrated leadership by implementing non-toxic shot regulations for dove hunting on DNR properties in **2008**. Non-toxic shot is required for all upland bird hunting on Federal Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Protection Areas. Twenty-six states, including all of Wisconsin’s neighboring states, have non-toxic requirements more restrictive than the federal rules. Lead shot is still allowed, however, for upland bird hunting on DNR-managed properties. Significant amounts of lead shot are deposited each year in wetland and uplands alike; lead continues to pose a risk to numerous species of Wisconsin wildlife.

- Because of concerns about the continuing effects of lead shot on wild game and non-game birds in Wisconsin, do you favor requiring the use of non-toxic shotgun ammunition for all hunting/shooting activities, with the exception of department approved shooting ranges, on department-managed lands? This proposal would not apply to any form of hunting with rifles or slugs and would not be implemented until 2015 to allow a transition period for retailers and hunters.

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

**Question 46 – Restrict deer baiting and feeding ten days before and during the traditional 9-day firearm season**

We have heard hunters talk at many meeting and hearings in recent years and they say that feeding and baiting affects deer distribution and natural daytime movement. When deer need to move less to find food, and are concentrated in areas where access and/or hunting are restricted, the quality of the hunt is reduced. For the department, this makes managing the herd difficult and it contributes to the debate about the accuracy of deer numbers.

In 2006 and 2008, Conservation Congress spring meeting attendees voted in favor of banning baiting for deer hunting by 56% and 54%. Another question in 2006, which proposed banning both baiting and feeding just 10 days prior to and during the traditional 9-day firearm season, had a greater level of support with 62% voting in favor. These votes have not led to any changes. The Natural Resources Board feels baiting and feeding in counties where it is currently allowed will encourage deer movement during shooting hours and result in a more even distribution of deer available to hunters on both public and private lands.

Baiting and feeding would still be allowed at other times of the year. This compromise would still allow those who believe they need to hunt with bait to do so during most of the archery and some firearm seasons. This compromise is not ideal for reducing disease transmission risks associated with baiting and feeding, however, it would result in less deer feed being placed on the landscape at a time of the year when much food is currently placed.

The DNR is not able to modify baiting and feeding regulations by administrative rule. Changes to baiting and feeding regulations must be made in state statute by the legislature.

- Would you support legislation to authorize banning deer baiting and feeding statewide 10 days before and during the 9-day gun deer season?

46. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



## **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, WCC DNR Liaison, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 266-0580 for more information.

## BEAR STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

**Question 47- Division of Bear Management Zone C (# 110710):** The northern area of Bear Management Zone C has more suitable habitat than the southern area of Zone C and is in closer proximity to northern Wisconsin's prime bear habitat, resulting in a higher density of black bears than the southern area of Zone C. The northern area of Zone C is experiencing more agricultural and property damage complaints than the southern area of Zone C. Dividing Zone C could provide a mechanism to concentrate harvest pressure on a smaller area, the northern portion of Zone C, which could reduce nuisance and damage complaints there.

- Would you be in favor of dividing Bear Management Zone C into two separate units, each having its own quotas and harvest goals?

47. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## BIG GAME STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

**Question 48- Legalize Crossbows for Archery Season:** In the recent past, the use of crossbows as legal archery equipment for all hunters possessing a valid archery license without age or disability restrictions has been controversial. The 2009 survey conducted by the DNR of licensed archery hunters indicated that 58.8% opposed and 41.2% approved legalization. Eleven percent of the archers surveyed were already using crossbows under the age and disability restrictions. The survey was sent to 10,000 licensed archers with 4,883 responding. Concerns have been expressed that legalization of crossbows would lead to the overharvest of bucks and does and the eventual shortening of the archery season as it exists today. In many states where crossbows have been approved, the hunter success rates using the crossbow are comparable to hunters using vertical bows. Deer populations and seasons have not been significantly altered as a result of crossbow utilization in those states.

- Do you support the legalization of crossbows statewide for deer hunting during Wisconsin's archery season for hunters who possess a valid archery license with no additional age or disability restrictions?

48. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 49- Use of Archery Equipment with a Gun Deer License (# 520310):** Currently, the regular gun deer license only allows hunting deer with a firearm during the firearm deer seasons. Some hunters would like the option which is available under the authority of the turkey hunting license and the bear hunting license, which is to be able to choose if they want to hunt with a firearm or with a bow and arrow under that one license.

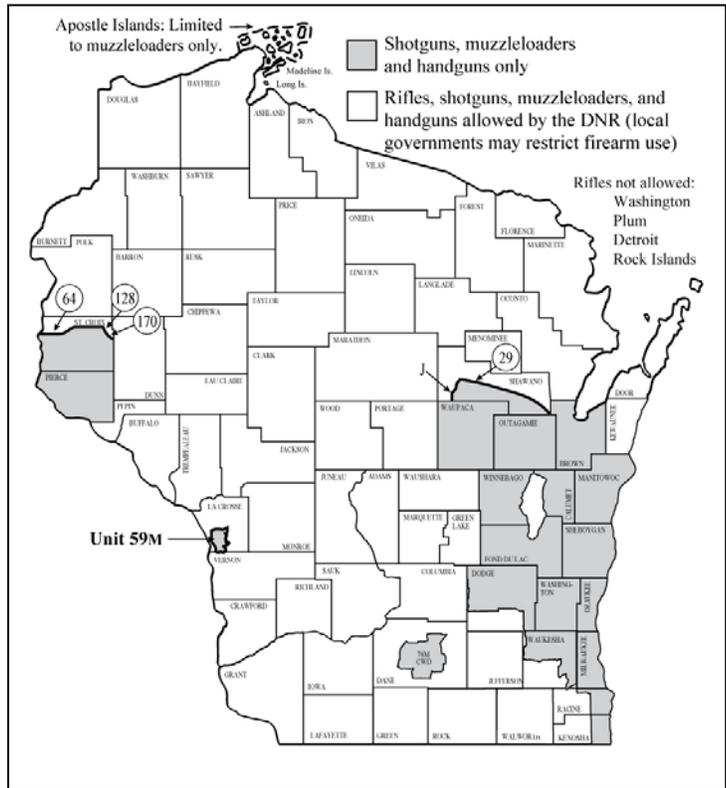
- Do you support legislation that would modify the regular gun deer license to allow the use of archery equipment when hunting under the authority of this license during the any firearm deer seasons?

49. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 50- Legalize Rifles for Hunting Deer Statewide (# 130110):** The restriction on the use of rifles for deer hunting has been largely based on safety concerns. DNR statistics have shown that the rate of shooting incidents is disproportionately higher among hunters that most often use shotguns, than among those who most often use rifles. A 2003 survey of hunters indicated that 23% of hunters use shotguns most often, while 76% of hunters most often use rifles. However, shotguns were involved in 42% of all shooting incidents from 1998 through 2008 and rifles were involved in 58% of those shooting incidents during that same time period. In the last several years the DNR has expanded the use of rifles in the CWD Zone shotgun counties and several other counties have voted to remove the rifle restriction with no safety issues reported.

Currently the use of rifle cartridges in handguns and the use of muzzle-loading rifles is legal in shotgun counties. Rifles can also be used to hunt predators and small game in every county of the state (unless there is a more restrictive local county or town ordinance which prohibits the discharge of a firearm or of a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire).

- Do you favor allowing the use of rifles for hunting deer statewide?



50. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDANGERED RESOURCES & LAW ENFORCEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTION**

**Question 51- Use of a Crossbow for Rough Fish (# 230110):** Current state law does not allow any person to use a crossbow for spearing rough fish, not even a person with a permit to hunt with a crossbow. Therefore, even a disabled person with a crossbow hunting permit could only spear rough fish with a hand spear or a bow and arrow. Persons who are eligible for a crossbow hunting permit generally have some type of disability that prevents the permit holder from being able to easily or effectively operate a regular bow.

- Would you support legislation and associated rule changes that would allow any person who holds a valid crossbow hunting permit to be allowed to harvest rough fish with a crossbow? All other laws regarding the harvesting of rough fish with a bow would be applicable.

51. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**FORESTRY, PARKS, & RECREATION STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 52-53- Allow Trapping and Hunting on State Park Lands (# 540210):** Wisconsin State Statute s. 29.089 does not allow any trapping or hunting on Wisconsin state park land, except for deer, elk, wild turkeys or small game in a state park or portion of a state park if the department has authorized by rule the hunting of that type of game in a state park or portion of a state park. This means that state park lands are closed to hunting unless specifically opened by an administrative rule. Once lands are designated as part of the state park system, there are no provisions to allow trapping of any kind and no opportunity for bear hunting. Currently Wisconsin operates 46 state parks totaling 84,000 acres (32 of the 46 parks are more than 600 acres in size). The DNR continues to purchase private land and put it into the state park system. In private ownership, many of these areas may have been open to hunting and trapping. Trapping techniques have changed in recent years and the use of dog-proof traps, cable restraints, and the late seasons that allow the trapping of some furbearers under the ice have made possible the opportunity for multiple land uses with minimal user conflicts. In addition, safe hunting techniques, education, and hunter awareness efforts have made hunting an extremely safe activity, even on lands that are simultaneously open to other uses and activities.

- Would you support legislation that would require lands purchased as state parks to be open to hunting and give the authority to the DNR to regulate hunting on these state park lands according to the wise use of the natural resource?

52. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you support legislation that would require lands purchased as state parks to be open to trapping and give the authority to the DNR to regulate trapping on these state park lands according to the wise use of the natural resource?

53. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**FUR HARVEST STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

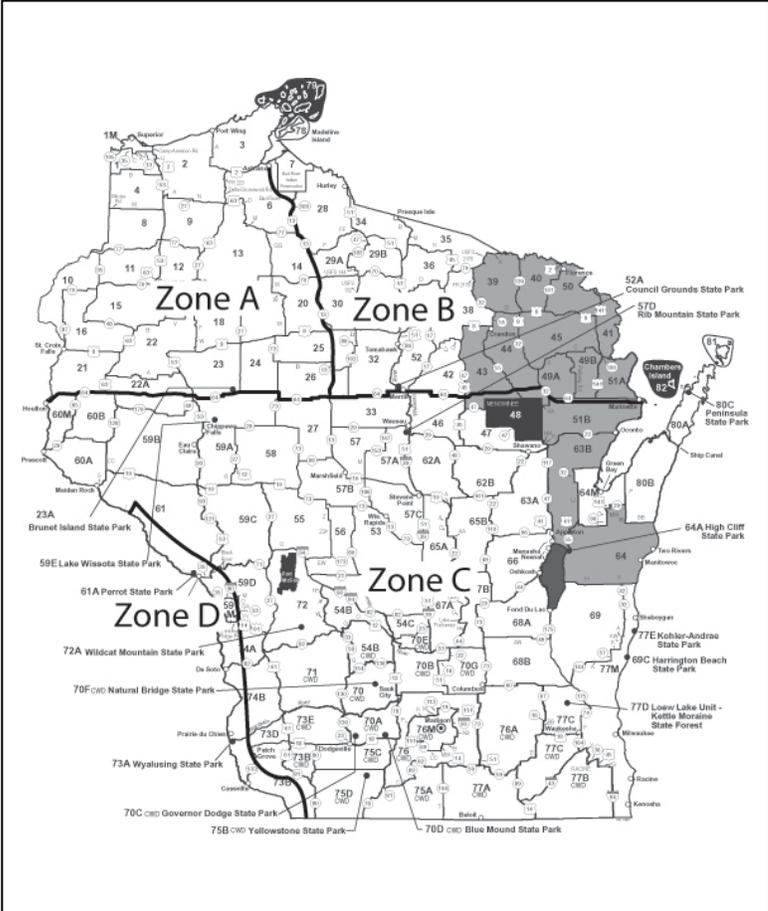
**Question 54- Cable Restraints on Private Lands (# 510210):** On private lands, a land owner (or occupant of any lands and members of their immediate family living with them) can hunt (if at least 10 years of age) or trap seven species of wild animals (coyote, fox, raccoon, squirrels, opossum, woodchuck, rabbits) on the land they own or occupy year round without the need for a license. There is no biological reason for prohibiting a landowner from using cable restraints on their own land year round. Cable restraints are much easier to set on trails and travel corridors than foot hold traps and this would provide more opportunity to use cable restraints. Cable restraints could be utilized on private lands by the land owners, especially during the months of October, November, and December when pelts are prime. In some areas of the state coyotes, fox and other furbearers are very plentiful and this would give land owners another tool to manage these animal populations.

- Would you support allowing private land owners/occupants to use cable restraints year round on lands owned or occupied by them for the species they now can hunt or trap year round without a license?

54. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 55- Shorten Fall Beaver Trapping Season (# 050210):** The population of beaver in Wisconsin has decreased in recent years and is trending downward with a steady, gradual decline in northwest Wisconsin Beaver Management Zone A and a significant decline in northeast Wisconsin Beaver Management Zone B (Beaver Population Analysis, 2008). Beaver populations are stable in southern Wisconsin, Zone C, and increasing in the Mississippi River Zone D. The statewide population is estimated at 66,800 beaver. At present, the open season south of highway 64 is from the first Saturday in November until the end of March for Zone C, and the day after the duck season through March 15 for Zone D. North of highway 64 (Zones A and B) the open season is from the first Saturday in November until the end of April. Spring trapping tends to target dispersing animals while fall and winter trapping targets established colonies. Shortening the season in fall would protect established beaver colonies and allow trappers to take advantage of the spring season when dispersing 2 year old animals will make up a larger proportion of the harvest. USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services to protect approximately 1,500 miles of high priority trout streams, primarily in northeastern Wisconsin. The majority of beavers are removed in early spring, which is normally late March through early May. This has caused some confusion and conflict between citizen trappers and agency trappers. Better understanding, reduced problems, and additional protection may occur if agency trapping on high priority trout streams would commence after the close of the respective season.

- Would you support shortening the beaver trapping season by one month at the beginning of the season (from starting the first Saturday in November to starting the first Saturday in December) in Deer Management Units (DMU) 39, 40, 50, 44, 41, 45, 43, 49A, 49B, 51A, 51B, 63B, and 64?



55. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## HUNTING WITH DOGS STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

**Question 56- Initiate study to Define Effects of Dog Training on Nesting Birds (# 670310):** Hunting continues to be a major component of the professional management and conservation of wildlife in the United States. For centuries, various hunting dog breeds have been developed for the pursuit of game including upland and waterfowl bird species and the trailing of mammals by hounds. The breeding, training and use of dogs to locate, pursue and retrieve game in this country has been a long standing tradition passed down through families for many generations. The training and use of hunting dogs has come under opposition in some areas of the country. NR 1.11(12) and NR 1.18(11) allow for dog training and trialing, however, some dog training and trialing licenses are occasionally denied or rescinded based on supposition of harming nesting birds, including song birds, game birds, and raptors. However, nationally, there is no study available to define the impacts on most species of birds from dog training or trialing during the time that birds are nesting.

- Would you support the DNR taking action to initiate a scientific study to study the impact of dog training and trialing on nesting birds?

56. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 57- Night Hunting of Raccoons During the 9-Day Gun Deer Season (# 670410):** Currently night hunting of raccoon is prohibited during the traditional 9-day gun deer season (outside of the CWD management zone). However, night hunting of raccoon is allowed during all other gun deer seasons including CWD zone seasons, October and December antlerless deer hunts, the youth deer hunt, and the muzzleloader season. All other small game hunting is allowed during the legal hunting hours of the traditional gun deer season. In some parts of the state, the peak of raccoon hunting often occurs during the 9-day gun deer season.

- Would you support the elimination of the restrictions on night hunting hours for raccoons during any gun deer season except for the Friday before opening day of the traditional 9 day gun deer season and the first two nights of the traditional 9 day gun deer season?

57. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 58- Bear Hunting with Dogs Statewide:** Currently, on odd numbered years, the bear season for hunters using dogs starts on the first Wednesday in September. The season for hunters not using hounds starts a week later. On even numbered years, the season for bear hunters not using dogs starts on the first Wednesday in September. The season for bear hunters using dogs then starts a week later. Regardless of which season starts first, each season lasts a total of 28 days in Zones A, B, and D. The season runs the full 35 days in Zone C and hunting bears with the aid of dogs is not currently permitted in bear management Zone C at anytime. In July and August, bear hound training is allowed statewide. During the training period, dogs can be used to run bears for training purposes in all bear management zones, including Zone C.

- Would you support bear hunting without the use of dogs starting the first Wednesday of September for 35 days statewide and bear hunting with the use of dogs starting the second Wednesday of September and continuing for 28 days statewide (including Zone C where it is currently prohibited)?

58. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions 59-62- Wolf Control:** The Wisconsin DNR established a wolf population goal of 350 animals in 1999 based on prey availability and human population density, and in the intervening years nothing has happened to increase prey availability or decrease human density.

As the wolf population continues to increase, there has been a correlating increase in depredations and threatening incidents involving wolves. These threats have curtailed livestock and pleasure horse activities, and increased concerns over the welfare of pets and people. It is likely that the increased predator population, including wolves, has contributed to the reduction of the deer population in some areas of Northern Wisconsin.

- Would you support Wisconsin continuing the wolf population goal of 350 or less in the next revision of the Wisconsin Wolf Plan?

59. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you support Wisconsin DNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the next Wisconsin Wolf Plan to bring the wolf population to goal levels?

60. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you support that the US Department of the Interior, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and WI DNR move ahead to delist the gray wolf in Wisconsin, as petitioned by WI DNR, transferring management of the wolf population in Wisconsin to the State of Wisconsin?

61. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you support that the WI DNR not relocate wolves that have caused problems in Wisconsin or other areas into any county in Wisconsin?

62. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**GREAT LAKES STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION**

**Question 63- Fish and Wildlife Fund Money for Commercial Fishing (# 410110):** Although commercial fishing license fees provide some funding to support the DNR management of Great Lakes commercial fishing, additional funding from the Fish and Wildlife Account sport license fees has been needed. On the 2010 spring hearing questionnaire (question 81), the sportsmen and women of Wisconsin overwhelmingly supported that funds to maintain commercial fishing should be taken from GPR funds and that the management and enforcement costs should not be paid for by the Fish and Wildlife Account.

- Would you support the state legislature appropriating funds from a source other than the Fish and Wildlife Account or close commercial fishing in Wisconsin until such a time that the commercial fishing industry is self funded?

63. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 64- WCC Process before Legislative Action (# 150210):** Every year members of Wisconsin’s legislature introduce specific special interest legislation that circumvents or by-passes the grassroots ideals of the Conservation Congress (CC). In doing so, they deliberately and effectively keep the people of Wisconsin out of the debate on those issues. Wisconsin is currently the only state to have such a grassroots organization to advise the Natural Resources Board and the department on Natural Resources issues. The DNR and the NRB have shown great respect for this process and have demonstrated their willingness to work through the CC.

- Would you support legislation requiring the procedure of allowing the Conservation Congress process of public input on all matters concerning conservation, hunting, fishing, trapping, habitat, wildlife, land and water issues to take place before a law on these matters can be acted on by the legislature?

64. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 65- Change Definition of Vehicle for Transportation of Weapons (# 230210):** Current hunting regulations do not allow a wheeled implement to be used as a platform or shelter while hunting because a firearm must be unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case to be in or on a vehicle.

**CURRENT LAW**

Wis. Statute, s. 167.31

(2) Prohibitions; motorboats and vehicles; highways and roadways.

(b) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may place, possess or transport a firearm, bow or crossbow in or on a vehicle, unless the firearm is unloaded and encased or unless the bow or crossbow is unstrung or is enclosed in a carrying case.

(c) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may load or discharge a firearm or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow in or from a vehicle.

- Would you support the DNR working with the legislature to create a new exemption under s.167.31(4) Wis. Stats. to allow a person who is otherwise lawfully hunting, to hunt from a non-motorized stationary vehicle which is not attached to any animal, motorized vehicle or other source of propulsion?

65. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**MIGRATORY STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 66- Open Water Rule Modification For Disabled Hunters (# 440110):** Many Class A and B Disabled Hunters cannot participate in waterfowl hunting because a watercraft or blind that is functional for the handicap hunter may not allow them to meet the concealment requirements of NR10.001(20) "Open Water." Many of these disabled hunters are not physically able to get into a canoe, flat bottom boat, duck skiff, boat or blind and/or maneuver a watercraft or blind into or within 3 feet of sufficient height and density emergent vegetation that will meet the 50% concealment required by law.

- Would you be in favor of allowing a disabled hunter and up to two hunter companions, to hunt from a watercraft (pontoon boat) and/ or a specially designed blind that may not meet the natural vegetation concealment requirement of NR 10.001(20) "Open Water"?

66. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 67- Unattended Decoys on Private Lands (# 110110):** It has been proposed that water set decoys be allowed to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under one ownership with no public access at any time during the year. This would free private land waterfowl hunters from having to set, and then pick up their water set decoys at the end of each hunt. It is presently legal to leave unattended decoys on dry land. This proposal is currently legal in other flyway states, and there is no biological detriment occurring from this practice.

- Do you favor a rule change that would allow water set decoys to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under the same ownership with no public access at any time during the year?

67. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 68- Conservation Congress Curriculum Added to Hunter's Education (# 460110):** The Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Congress is unique to Wisconsin and plays an important role in natural resources policy making. Many citizens of Wisconsin lack knowledge and understanding of the Conservation Congress, the organization's history and function, their purpose and mission, and the role the Congress plays, and how to become involved in this grass roots democratic process.

- Do you support the addition of material relating to the history, unique process and role of the Conservation Congress in Wisconsin's natural resources management to the Wisconsin Hunters, Trappers, Angler and Archery Education, and ATV, Boating, and Snowmobile Safety curriculums?

68. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 69- Remove 15 Day Requirement for Permit Transfers (# 510110):** At present, the ability to transfer some permits and licenses is hindered by a statutory requirement that those permits/licenses must have already been transferred to a youth 15 days before the start of a season. The reason for this 15 day requirement is to allow the DNR’s licensing section to process the transfer request and reissue the new license or permit to the youth before the applicable season begins. However, sometimes the applicant does not purchase their license until or is not in possession of the permit until a few days before the season starts, making it impossible to transfer that permit to a youth. This is particularly a problem when trying to transfer a bobcat, fisher or otter permit. With an ongoing effort to recruit and retain youth into hunting, trapping and other outdoor activities, it is important to clear any unnecessary obstacles and afford them as many opportunities to participate as possible.

- Do you favor legislation removing the 15 day time period before a season starts to have already transferred a harvest permit or license to a youth to allow permit holders the ability to transfer a harvest permit or license to a youth anytime before the season starts?

69. YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 70- Disabled Veteran’s Recreational Card (# 650210):** Wisconsin’s veterans have provided a great service to their state and country and should be afforded the chance to have access to Wisconsin’s recreational opportunities. Many of Wisconsin’s veterans who have service connected disabling injuries are on a limited income.

- Do you favor the department work with the legislature to introduce legislation to create a Disabled Veteran’s Recreational Card, at no or reduced cost, for Wisconsin residents who are veterans with a 50% or greater service connected disability which would include fishing and small game hunting approvals and access to state parks and trails?

70. YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 71- Increase Archery License by \$1 for Youth Archery & Bowhunting Training:** In 2005, Wisconsin piloted the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), joining 44 other states. Currently, over 270 schools across Wisconsin offer NASP programs. NASP has been officially adopted by the Badger State Games. Nearly 1,000 student archers in grades 4-12 will participate in the 2011 State Tournament. Wisconsin’s strong bow hunting heritage will benefit by having equally strong NASP, community archery education and Learn to Bowhunt programs.

Archery clubs, industry, conservation groups and the DNR have supported the growth of NASP in Wisconsin, but secure, long-term funding support is needed for the future. New participating schools cannot afford to purchase of classroom archery kits. Communities also need help offering archery programs with shrinking park & recreation budgets. Funding is also needed to offer Learn to Bowhunt programs to youth who have taken NASP or community archery programs and want to move to the next level.

- Would you support adding \$1 to the current resident archery license to establish a dedicated account for youth & community archery training, including Learn to Bowhunt programs?

71. YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND USE STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 72- Dog Access Regulations at Badger Ordinance Site (# 110410):** The Badger Ordinance Works in Sauk County will soon be a large site under DNR management. Many DNR controlled trails and recreation sites currently restrict activities for dogs and their owners, primarily due the large number of Wisconsin residents already using those properties who may not wish to compete with large numbers of dogs for limited space. The new Badger site provides an opportunity to explore new regulations to allow wider access to recreational and competitive opportunities for a diverse dog owner population. Local dog clubs support a large variety of seasonal functions and competitions which could benefit from having an outdoor recreation area available, with long trails for training and racing, as well as large open fields and parking for an ever increasing number of outside activities. Local businesses would likely also profit from dog clubs and owner groups being drawn to this site for access for recreational activities.

- Would you support the DNR implementing regulations specific to the Badger Ordinance site so that dogs can be accommodated there for numerous functions including a) trail access for dogsleds in winter and wheeled rigs the rest of the year, b) herding, tracking, terrier trials, and other individual or group centered activities, c) year round training for such activities, d) dog shows and obedience trials and matches, e) field trials, and f) recreational use and fitness training for individual dog owners and their pets?

72. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 73- Exempt All Buildings From 100 Yard Firearm Discharge Prohibition While On Public Lands:**

Currently it is unlawful, while on the lands of another, to discharge a firearm within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy situated on and attached to the lands of another without the express permission of the owner or occupant of the building.

- Would you support an amendment to s.941.20 (1) (d), Wis. Stats., that would exempt persons otherwise lawfully hunting on public lands or waters open to hunting from the 100 yard firearm discharge prohibition?

73. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 74- Metal Detecting on State Lands (# 700110):**

It is currently not legal to use metal detectors on state owned lands unless authorized for the purpose of retrieving personal property. The current rule was enacted over concerns about people using metal detectors to locate artifacts and possibly taking the artifacts or destroying the site so that it could not be recorded and preserved properly to reconstruct historical events. Under this suggested permitting system, participants would be required to have some type of educational instruction or certification before being issued a permit. Persons would not be allowed to disturb or retrieve historical artifacts and doing so would result in the loss of the permit to use a metal detector on state owned lands.

- Do you support the DNR establishing a permit system whereby participants may purchase an annual metal detecting permit for the sum of \$20 and be allowed to operate metal detectors on all state owned or managed property and properties purchased with Stewardship money?

74. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**TURKEY STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION**

**Question 75- Turkey Permit Preference for Wisconsin State Residents (# 650310):** The cumulative preference system for turkey permits gives preference to Wisconsin resident landowners with the most preference points, then to other residents based on preference points, then to non-resident landowners and finally all other non-residents are considered. Once the available turkey permits have been distributed based on this preference system and the periods hunters have requested, any remaining turkey permits are sold over the counter on a first come first served basis for each zone and time period.

- Would you support legislation to allow the DNR to give residents first chance to obtain leftover turkey permits by making the first day of sale for each zone's leftover tags available to residents only?

75. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**UPLAND GAME STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION**

**Question 76- Open Fall Crow Season Earlier (# 240510):** The first half of the crow season runs concurrent with the archery deer season, and hunting crow in some public hunting areas may disturb some archery hunters. However, the first half of the crow season is also coincides with many other upland game bird seasons (pheasant, grouse, mourning dove, quail, etc) and many hunters like to opportunity to harvest crow while out hunting other upland game species. The second half of the crow season is from January 25 to March 20. Federal regulations for crow (federally regulated as a migratory species) only allow a state to have a crow season for 124 days, so changing the dates of the first half of the crow season may also change the dates of the second half due to the 124 day season limit.

- Do you favor changing the first half of the fall crow season dates to open on August 1 and close on October 1?

76. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**WARM WATER STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**Question 77- Manage Largemouth and Smallmouth as Separate Species (# 040610):** For years, the DNR has managed largemouth bass and smallmouth bass jointly, as is done for most species of panfish. With some exceptions, the bag limits, size restrictions, and season dates have been the same, though they are two separate species. Combining these two species for purposes of season, bag and size limits means that an angler is not required to know for sure if the fish is a largemouth or smallmouth bass. Establishing separate seasons, size, and bag limits for these two species on the same water body may allow for increased fishing opportunity as it would allow each species to be managed differently. However, requiring anglers to be able to clearly identify the slight differences between a largemouth and smallmouth may deter some anglers from participating in this activity; particularly novice anglers who fear misidentification may result in enforcement action.

- Do you support the management of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass as separate species and the establishment of separate bag and size limits for each species as needed?

77. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 78- Northern Pike Size Limit on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County (# 040810):** In 1995 the current size limit of 32 inches and daily bag limit of 1 fish for Northern Pike was established for Diamond Lake in southern Bayfield County. However, since that time, fish studies conducted on this lake have shown a gradual decline in the size and number of Northern Pike. In the most recent study in 2009, there were 62 captures with a length range of 16 inches-29 inches.

- Do you favor changing the Northern Pike size and bag limit from 32 inches to 26 inches and changing the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 2 fish on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County?

78. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 79- Walleye Restoration or the Chippewa Flowage (# 580110):** The walleye population on the Chippewa Flowage has been sustained by natural reproduction, but reproduction has been declining significantly since 2002. There is some evidence indicate that competition with moderate to high densities of largemouth bass can inhibit the natural reproduction of walleye because of predation on juvenile walleyes and competition for food. Eliminating the no minimum size restriction on walleye may increase the size structure of the walleye population, better enabling them to compete with largemouth bass for resources.

- Do you favor changing the current no minimum size limit on walleye in the Chippewa Flowage to a no minimum size limit on walleye, but only one fish over 14” is allowed?

79. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 80- Reduce Panfish Bag Limit on Eau Galle Lake Dunn County (# 170110):** Panfish bag limits of 10 fish per day on other lakes in Dunn County have resulted in increased fishing pressure on Lake Eau Galle, where the bag limit is 25 fish per day. This increased pressure could remove too many spawning size panfish and decrease the natural reproduction of panfish in this lake.

- Do you support reducing the bag limit for panfish on Lake Eau Galle, Dunn County, from 25 panfish per day to 10?

80. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 81- Free Winter Fishing Weekend (# 580510):** Wisconsin currently sponsors a free open water fishing weekend every June to promote outdoor recreation and introduce individuals to fishing. Winter fishing is different than summer fishing and establishing a free winter fishing weekend may encourage citizens to participate in outdoor recreation during the winter months and give individuals an additional opportunity to try a different type of fishing.

- Would you support the legislature establishing a free winter fishing weekend?

81. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 82- Northern Wisconsin Gamefish Season Extension (# 680110):** The first Sunday in March is currently the end of the gamefish season statewide for all regular inland waters. There is no general differentiation between northern or southern management zones for the close of the gamefish season. Extending the northern Wisconsin gamefish season (north of Highway 10) would increase angling opportunity with no biological drawbacks to the fishery. It may also have a positive impact on tourism and would not require any license changes.

- Would you support a rule change that would extend the northern Wisconsin gamefish season (north of Highway 10), to the second Sunday in March of each year?

82. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 83- Musky Survey Using the Automated License Issuance System (ALIS) (# 200110):** Muskellunge size limits are implemented often on a lake by lake basis. Requests for larger or smaller size limits are often reflections of social desires for trophy fish and add to the complexity of muskellunge regulations. However, the number of anglers that catch and keep musky and the number of musky that are actually harvested for consumption are unknown. Having this information may assist the DNR in the management of muskellunge populations.

- Do you favor the department asking the following survey questions using the ALIS system? This survey would be ongoing and questions would be asked each year, beginning in 2011.
  - Did you fish exclusively for muskellunge in Wisconsin at any time in 2010?
  - Did you catch muskellunge at any time while fishing in Wisconsin in 2010?
  - Did you keep a muskellunge that you caught in Wisconsin in 2010?
  - How many muskellunge did you keep in 2010?

83. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

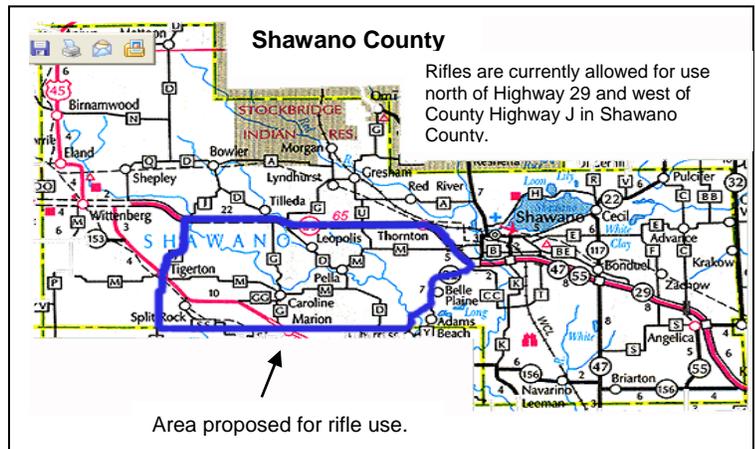
**Question 84- Reduce Largemouth Size Limit on Trump Lake in Forest County (# 210210):** The size limit on large mouth bass on Trump Lake in Forest County has been 18 inches since 1990. This was done in an effort to increase the size structure of large mouth bass to reduce a large population of bluegills in this lake. However, DNR fish surveys in 1998 and 2005 showed no substantial size increase in largemouth bass. Both surveys indicate a healthy population of largemouth bass in Trump Lake, however the average size is lower than other North Central Wisconsin averages. Local anglers on this lake feel that the 18 inch minimum size limit is not having the intended effect on increasing the largemouth bass size structure.

- Do you favor changing the largemouth bass size limit from 18 inch to 14 inch on Trump Lake, Forest County?

84. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTION**

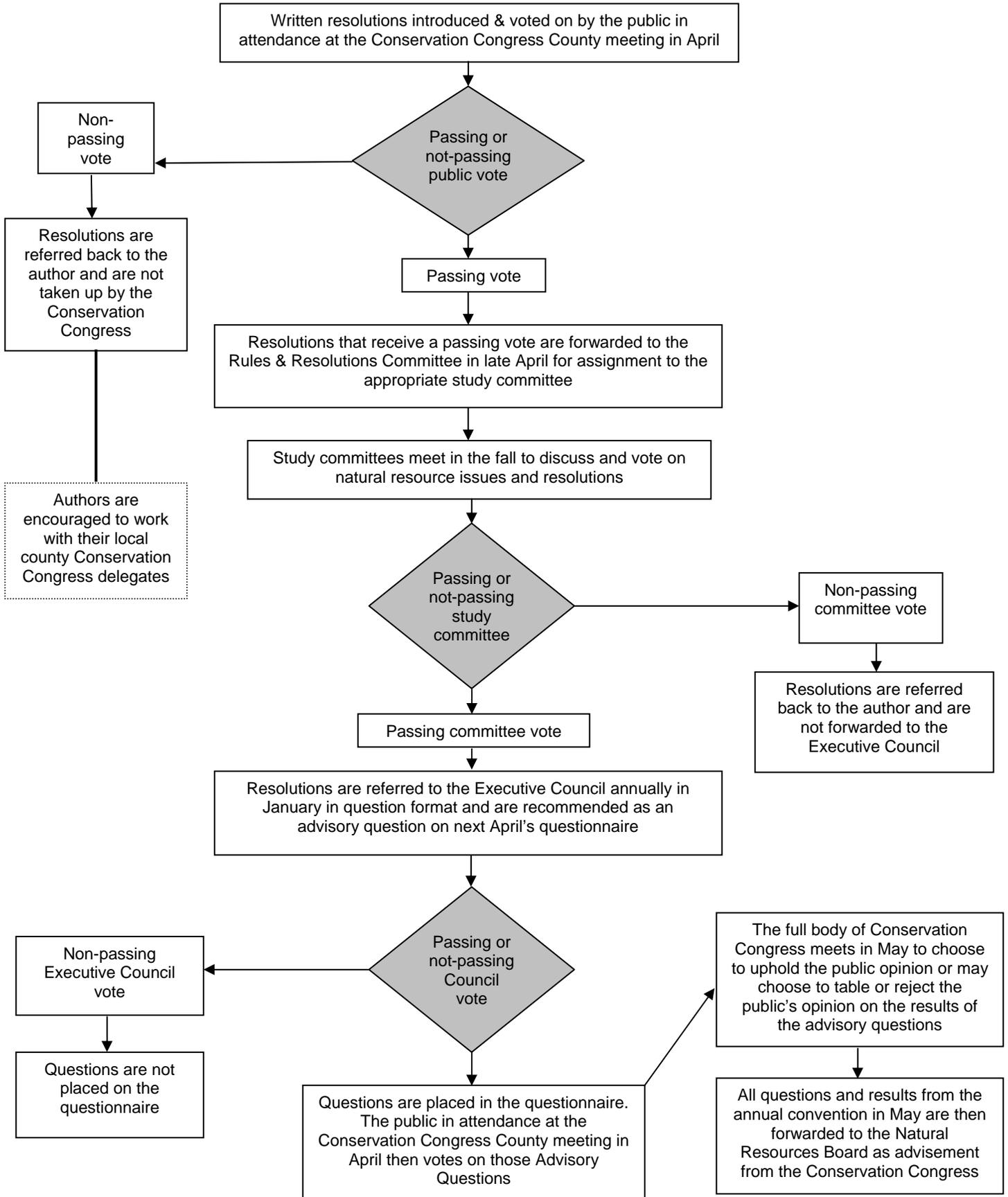
**Question 85- Increase rifle hunting area in Shawano County (# 590310):** The restriction on the use of rifles for deer hunting has been largely based on safety concerns. DNR statistics have shown that the rate of shooting incidents is disproportionately higher among hunters that most often use shotguns, than among those who most often use rifles. A 2003 survey of hunters indicated that 23% of hunters use shotguns most often, while 76% of hunters most often use rifles. However, shotguns were involved in 42% of all shooting incidents from 1998 through 2008 and rifles were involved in 58% of those shooting incidents during that same time period. In the last several years the DNR has expanded the use of rifles in the CWD zone shotgun counties and several other counties have voted to remove the rifle restriction with no safety issues reported. Rifles are currently allowed for use north of Highway 29 and west of County Highway J in Shawano County.



- Do you favor allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in the area of Shawano County bounded by Highway 29 on the north, County Highway J on the west, the Waupaca County boundary on the south, and Highway 22 on the east?

85. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

# The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



## 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 may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- 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 11, 2011 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 WCC Resolution Process (page 47)