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04-10-11

FISHING SEASON; PROHIBITION OF GROUP BAGGING

LICENSED CITIZENS ARE PROHIBITED FROM KEEPING MORE THAN A DAILY BAG LIMIT OF FISH EVEN WHEN FISHING FROM THE SAME BOAT, WITH OTHERS FROM SHORE AND WHILE ICE FISHING WITH FRIENDS. MOST BOATS HAVE ONLY ONE LIVE WELL MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP TRACK OF THE FISH CAUGHT BY AN INDIVIDUAL PERSON. THIS RESTRICTION HAS CAUSED CITIZENS AGGRAVATION, STRESS AND FEAR OF BEING CITED FOR VIOLATION. GROUP BAGGING OF WHITETAIL DEER IS NOW ALLOWED WITH RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO PROXIMITY. CITIZENS INVOLVED IN FISHING ARE NORMALLY MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER THAN DEER HUNTERS. KEEPING THE DAILY BAG LIMITS OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CITIZENS FISHING TOGETHER, ALONG WITH THE TOTAL POSSESSION LIMITS COULD STILL BE EASILY FOLLOWED.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT MANY CITIZENS ALREADY PRACTICE GROUP BAGGING, EVEN THOUGH PROHIBITED. FISHING IS TO BE A RELAXING AND FUN. IT'S PRACTICE WOULD BE MORE SO WITH THE CHANGE IN THIS PROHIBITION.

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN DRUMMOND, COUNTY OF BAYFIELD, ON APRIL 11TH, 2011, RECOMMENDS THAT THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE ACTION TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION BY INTRODUCING THE RULE CHANGE ALLOWING GROUP BAGGING OF FISH.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.
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