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Title: **Elimination of the late Bass season in Northwest Wisconsin**

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

Bass size structure between the North and South Bass seasons has not changed and in some instances show evidence of destruction of the large Bass size structure which the late season was set-up to protect and enhance. Bass in some lakes show evidence of stagnation. The historical data of numbers of large bass has declined with the new protected length limit creating a large middle class of 8-12 inch bass which are a prime predator of YOY walleye.

This bass season proposal is needed to minimize predation on and competition with walleyes and improve bass management. This is an adaptive management program. Therefore, we are not proposing a sunset provision, and instead call upon local DNR Fisheries Management personnel to regularly monitor changes in the fish community and modify the regulatory approach as necessary.

Largemouth and Smallmouth are two separate species, they target prey and feed differently, with different impacts on their bodies of water.

We fully realize that Smallmouth Bass should be managed differently and that there needs to be new bass regulations to manage walleye lakes and bass lakes differently, but we feel we must start here and now!

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this problem by introducing rule change.

Question: Do you favor the elimination of the Northwest Bass season for Largemouth Bass by changing the boundary from Hwy. 8 up Hwy.13 then directly North to the Chequamegon Bay returning to the May opener?

Yes _____ No _____

Rick Olson

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