

④

680411

TITLE: Northern Zone Muskellunge Season Extension

PROPOSAL: To extend the Muskellunge Season for inland waters within the Northern Zone (north of Hwy 10) by one month, to December 31st.

PRESENT: November 30th of each year is currently the end of the Northern Zone Muskellunge Season irregardless of ice conditions.

- Anglers reported favorable responses to this similar rule change enacted in the Southern Zone in 2009. Currently the Southern Zone Muskellunge Season is open until December 31st. During this extended season there is typically ice for 2 weeks.
- The Muskellunge Season in the Northern Zone is closed for 6 of the 12 months of each year. Extending the season would still result in 5 months of a closed season.
- No interference with the natural reproduction (spawning) of this species which takes place in the spring.
- Adding one month to the season would allow Anglers to legally fish for Muskies throughout December, and have the opportunity to pursue, catch, or harvest a trophy fish whether it is through the ice or open water. It should be noted that fishing for Northern Pike (biologically closely related to Muskies) is permitted all winter.
- Will provide an economic boost from inter/intrastate tourism to the region. It is a fact that a significant part of Wisconsin's Musky Fishing Tourism has migrated to the state of Minnesota over recent years. This would be a step in the right direction toward recovering this tourism. Minnesota's Muskellunge Season closes November 30th.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waukesha County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action, by introducing a rule change extending the Northern Zone Muskellunge Season to December 31st of each year.



4-11-11

Author: Jeremy Zahnaw

Organization: Private Citizen

Address: 34130 Davies Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Introducing County: Waukesha

Telephone: (262) 893-4264

248 words