



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Informational Hearing
&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 9, 2012

7:00 PM

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Conservation Congress Delegate Election Process **page 4**
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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 questions. Written comments on all DNR advisory questions will be accepted until April 9, 2012.

**The results of the 2012 Spring Hearings will be available online beginning
Wednesday, April 11, 2012.**

**The results can be found at
dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**

Statewide Electronic Balloting

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are registered | <input type="checkbox"/> Received a blue ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received this questionnaire | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a pencil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received a white ballot | |

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 advisory questions 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>Question 1:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 18:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 35:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p>Question 2:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 19:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 36:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>
<p>Question 3:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 20:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </p>	<p>Question 37:</p> <p>YES </p> <p>NO </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**.

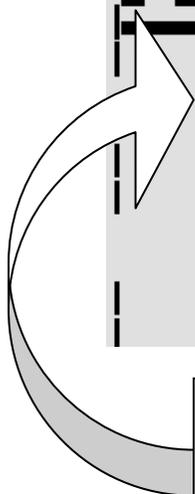
Sample BLUE BALLOT:
 The blue ballot is for citizen introduced resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**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.

Resolution 1: YES  NO 	Resolution 18: YES  NO 	Resolution 35: YES  NO 
Resolution 2: YES  NO 	Resolution 19: YES  NO 	Resolution 36: YES  NO 
Resolution 3: YES  NO 	Resolution 20: YES  NO 	Resolution 37: YES  NO 



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 2012 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) on June 1, 2012, or you can find out the results of the resolutions by contacting your Conservation Congress County Chairman after May 12, 2012.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, the DNR’s fish and wildlife questions are **advisory only**. There are no proposed rule changes. However, citizen input from these advisory questions may provide the department guidance on future proposed rule changes.

WCC Delegate Elections

Delegate election takes place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting/Hearing.

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:

- 2-Year Term ballot
- 2-Year Term run-off ballot

- 3-Year Term ballot
- 3-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
2-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
two-year term on the WCC.

3-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
3-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a
three-year term on the WCC.

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 of ideas 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 INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2012, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Informational Hearing and Conservation Congress Meeting will convene to take comments on the department and Conservation Congress advisory questions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on advisory questions relating to hunting, trapping, and the management of department lands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on advisory questions relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that following the completion of the advisory questions from the department and the Conservation Congress, the Conservation Congress will hold town hall meetings to get input from citizens on ways to simplify regulations and identify barriers to hunting and fishing participation.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the informational hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 9, 2012 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 County Court House, Main Court Room, 201 Main Street West, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron Government Center, Auditorium, 303 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, Upstairs, 117 E. 5 th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
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, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, Gymnasium, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E. Crawford St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Middleton Cross Plains Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol St., Middleton, WI 53562
Dodge	Horicon International Education Center, Lower Level Auditorium, N7725 STH 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Crossroads at Big Creek, 2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Brule Town Hall, 5820 S. Maple St., Brule, WI 54820
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, Basement Conference Rm., 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	Youth and Agriculture Building Main Auditorium, 916 East Elm Street, 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, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Auditorium, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, 11630 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, Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, 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, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School, Auditorium, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Meadowview School, Cafeteria A103, 1225 N Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	Nicolet College, LRC Theatre, 5355 Campus Road, Rhineland, WI 54501
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School Auditorium, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna, WI 54130
Ozaukee	Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Avenue, 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/Unity Community Ed., Auditorium, 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 Arts Center, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Upstairs 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 Campus, Lecture Hall A-4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Winter High School, 6585W Grove Street, Winter, WI 54896
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, 18620 Hobson St., Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons Room, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School, Gymnasium, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, 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, PAC-Auditorium, E 2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, County Board Rm. 265, 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, 5407 1st Ave, 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 2, 2012.

Written comments on the department wildlife advisory questions 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 department fisheries advisory questions 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 9, 2012. 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



Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Informational Hearing

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 questions. Written comments on all DNR advisory questions will be accepted until April 9, 2012.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, the DNR's fish and wildlife questions are *advisory only*.

There are no proposed rule changes. However, citizen input from these advisory questions may provide the department guidance on future proposed rule changes.

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.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

QUESTION 1. Eliminate the sunset of the current split season framework for bobcat hunting and trapping.

In 2009 and earlier, the hunting and trapping season for bobcat began on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continued through December 31. Beginning in 2010, for a two year trial period, the season has been lengthened and split into an early time period which runs from the Saturday nearest October 17 to December 25 and a late time period which runs from December 26 to January 31. Hunting and trapping are legal during both periods. Permit applicants must select either the early or the late season.

The later time period, when snow cover is likely, provides hunting conditions that hunters using trained dogs have said they prefer. The early time period maintains dry-land trapping opportunities that some trappers prefer as well as providing some hunting opportunities with snow cover in December.

Following the two year trial, the department's opinion is that the new split season framework provides harvest management tools that allow for sound use, management and protection of the bobcat resource. The previous single season format also provided the necessary harvest management tools. We are interested in assessing which season structure is preferred by hunters and trappers before recommending a permanent season framework.

-
1. Do you favor permanently establishing two bobcat permit periods (third Sat. in Oct--Dec. 25 and Dec. 26--Jan. 31) and limiting hunters and trappers to one period or the other? 1. YES ____ NO ____
-

QUESTION 2. Modernizing license requirements for hunting guides.

Under current Wisconsin law, a \$40 annual guide license is required of individuals who are employed or receive compensation or reward for assisting another person with hunting, fishing or trapping. There are currently no requirements or qualifications to become a licensed hunting, fishing or trapping guide in this state except that a person must be 18 and, if guiding for the purposes of hunting or trapping, must be a Wisconsin resident. In 2010 there were over 1,400 guides licensed in WI for hunting, fishing or trapping. The license application does not collect information in regards to the species that will be guided for or locations that guiding activity will occur. There are no record keeping and reporting requirements even though other commercial activities such as commercial fishing and sport trolling do require record keeping and reporting.

Guiding for hunting and fishing is an established commercial activity in Wisconsin. Modernizing guide license requirements would help ensure that natural resources are protected by providing information that assures good decision making and preserving equal opportunities to participate in outdoor recreational activities. Updating license requirements may also increase the standing of the guiding industry in the public's eye and create a fair playing field for those involved.

Guiding regulations could be modernized by establishing a new definition of a guide. A more precise definition of a guide could include a person who subleases private lands and conducts activities associated with subleases. Many times the activities associated with subleasing appear to constitute guiding (setting up stands, providing maps and lodging), but the vague definition in current law precludes requiring a guide's license for performing many related activities for compensation.

Reporting requirements for guiding activities could provide information that is valuable to fish and wildlife biologists, law enforcement, and to the public when deciding how to manage fish and game. Information such as the number of privately owned acres leased, publicly owned areas used by guides, number of animals harvested, and client information would be valuable.

Some within the guide community have suggested that a guide license with more comprehensive minimum standards would be good for guides as a whole to help legitimize their industry to the general public. Minimum standards would also ensure protection of the public from guides that lack adequate knowledge, training and insurance.

-
2. Do you favor updating Wisconsin's guide license requirements by establishing a new definition of a guide, require reporting of harvest, acres owned/leased for guiding and client information, and by establishing minimum standards for insurance and training? 2. YES ____ NO ____
-

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL WILDLIFE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 3- 15. Expanding open water hunting opportunities for waterfowl.

Wisconsin has a long tradition of restricting waterfowl hunting to the near shore and marsh areas of lakes and flowages. This provides safe open water resting areas for migrating waterfowl and may help ducks remain in an area for a longer period during the hunting season. However, “open water” hunting is allowed on some large lakes and the Great Lakes where it is believed that open water hunting does not eliminate safe resting areas. This type of hunting may involve specialized boats and other equipment and primarily targets diving species of ducks. All open water blinds must be removed at the close of hunting hours each day.

The waters where open water hunting is currently allowed are:

- Grant County and the Lake Pepin portions of the Mississippi river (non-refuge areas) regardless of the distance from shore provided the blinds are securely anchored.
- Big Green Lake, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay provided if beyond 500 feet of any lake or bay shoreline. Blinds do not have to be anchored in these areas.
- Lake Winnebago and Petenwell flowage if more than 1,000 feet from any shoreline including islands provided blinds are securely anchored.

Following a citizen request to increase hunting opportunities by expanding the number of lakes available for open water duck hunting, an ad hoc committee of citizens conducted a statewide review of 130 of the state’s largest lakes. Nine local meetings were held around the state. The committee recommended that 13 lakes, which are included in Questions 3-15 below (Poygan and Winneconne are considered one lake), be considered for open water duck hunting.

In order to increase areas available to waterfowl hunters and to provide more opportunities for a unique type of waterfowl hunting, do you favor allowing hunting from open water areas if the hunter is more than 1,000 feet from shoreline including islands on the following waters or portions of waters?

3. Beaver Dam Lake in DODGE COUNTY (excluding Rakes and Trestle Works Bays).	3. YES ___ NO ___
4. Lake Butte des Morts in WINNEBAGO COUNTY .	4. YES ___ NO ___
5. Lakes Poygan and Winneconne in WAUSHARA and WINNEBAGO COUNTIES .	5. YES ___ NO ___
6. Castle Rock Lake in ADAMS and JUNEAU COUNTIES (south of railroad bridge and county road G).	6. YES ___ NO ___
7. Grindstone Lake in SAWYER COUNTY .	7. YES ___ NO ___
8. Fence Lake in VILAS COUNTY .	8. YES ___ NO ___
9. North Twin Lake in VILAS COUNTY .	9. YES ___ NO ___
10. Trout Lake in VILAS COUNTY .	10. YES ___ NO ___
11. Lake Koshkonong in DANE, ROCK and JEFFERSON COUNTIES .	11. YES ___ NO ___
12. Lake Puckaway in MARQUETTE and GREEN LAKE COUNTIES (the waters west of the west end of the dredge bank, excluding the waters east of the west end of the dredge bank).	12. YES ___ NO ___
13. Shawano Lake in SHAWANO COUNTY .	13. YES ___ NO ___
14. Lake Wisconsin in SAUK and COLUMBIA COUNTIES (north of railroad bridge near Merrimac).	14. YES ___ NO ___
15. Lake Wissota in CHIPPEWA COUNTY (south of county road S and north of county road X).	15. YES ___ NO ___

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISHERIES ADVISORY QUESTIONS

Fishing regulations are used as a tool to ensure good fishing exists into the future. The Department has used different types of fishing regulations in order to:

- control angler impacts on fish populations;
- maintain numbers and size of fish in a lake or stream;
- provide different types of fishing experiences, such as fishing for dinner or for a trophy fish; and
- make access to fishing as fair as possible.

In 2011, the governor’s office sent a letter to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress asking for recommendations to reduce hunting, fishing, and trapping regulation complexity. The Department is currently working on a review of fishing regulations and input from the Congress and spring meeting attendants is valuable. Answers to the following questions will help us determine some ways to provide better access to information, increase opportunities to fish, and improve the overall fishing experience.

QUESTION 16: Fishing Seasons

Fishing season closures are generally implemented to protect fish populations from angling during periods of high vulnerability, during spawning times, or when large numbers of fish are congregated in relatively small areas and vulnerable to illegal methods. If populations are overharvested when they are vulnerable, there may be poor fishing during the rest of the year and long-term impacts on the fish population. Closed seasons can function to defer harvest, maintaining good numbers of adult fish to a time period when they are less vulnerable and more anglers have an opportunity to participate in the fishery. Having a traditional “opening day” may also be a benefit of closed seasons. Anticipation for the opener stimulates interest and enthusiasm of anglers and “opening day” events can result in local economic benefits.

However, season closures are not as effective as bag or length limits to manage a fish population because harvest is often only deferred until the open season. It has also proven difficult to set effective season dates at a state or regional level because spawning dates vary greatly for different species, parts of the state, and from year to year. In addition, data have not recently been analyzed to determine whether catch rates differ for species with year round open seasons at spawning or other times of the year.

16. If the Department finds that closed seasons are not biologically necessary to protect certain fish populations, would you support rule changes that would open fishing seasons year round? **16.** YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 17: Management Zones

Wisconsin fishing regulations are currently applied to waters statewide, by county, by individual waterbody, portions of waterbodies or by northern and southern management zones. Currently there are northern and southern bass management zones divided by State Trunk Highways 77, 27, and 64 and by State Trunk Highway 29 east of the Fox River. In addition, there are northern and southern muskellunge and northern pike management zones divided by U.S. Highway 10. These zones were put in place because spawning and growing seasons may differ from northern to southern Wisconsin. However, they may not be effective because of variation in spawning and growing seasons within the zones and from year to year. Using a statewide regulation would reduce complexity of regulations.

17. If the Department finds that management zones are not biologically necessary to protect or improve certain fish populations, would you prefer removing northern and southern zones and instead using statewide regulations? **17.** YES ____ NO ____

QUESTIONS 18-20: Motor Trolling (Please also see Question 75 on the WCC side of the questionnaire, simply asking “would you support trolling statewide, YES or NO?”)

“Motor trolling” is trailing a lure, bait, or similar device used to attract or catch fish from a boat while being propelled (forwards or backwards) by a motor or a sail, or while being towed by a boat being propelled by a motor or sail. Casting and immediate retrieval of a bait or lure while being propelled by a motor or a sail is not motor trolling. Where trolling is allowed, anglers may use up to 3 lines (effectively 3 hooks, baits, or lures).

Currently, rules governing motor trolling differ across the inland waters of Wisconsin, and no substantive biological justification can be provided for the current situation. In 18 counties throughout the state, motor trolling is specifically allowed on all waters; in 45 counties, one or more specifically named waters are open to motor trolling; and in 9 counties, all waters are specifically closed to motor trolling. Wisconsin is the only state that maintains any statewide or regional restrictions on trolling.

Motor trolling has been controversial because trolling may take up more acreage per angler than casting and could result in higher user conflicts among anglers. However, allowing trolling may not result in any change in the level of user conflicts, given the number of other recreational boaters and jet skiers currently using lakes and large rivers. A 2010-11 statewide mail survey of musky anglers found that conflicts with speed boats, jet skis, etc., was the 4th highest ranking problem in musky fishing; and conflicts with other anglers ranked 16th out of 18 identified problems. In addition, if motor trolling were legalized statewide, 91% of musky anglers indicated that they would engage in some amount of trolling.

In 1998, the Department proposed a rule change at the spring hearings to allow motor trolling with one hook, bait, or lure in all areas closed to trolling. The result was 1,322 YES to 1,969 NO, with 34 counties in favor and 35 against. Since then, two region-wide proposals have passed to open entire counties to trolling, including several counties in south central and northwest Wisconsin.

-
- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 18. Would you support rule changes that would allow motor trolling statewide with the current allowable <u>3 lines per angler</u> ? | 18. YES ____ NO ____ |
| 19. Would you support rule changes that would allow motor trolling statewide with up to <u>2 lines per angler</u> ? | 19. YES ____ NO ____ |
| 20. Would you support rule changes that would allow motor trolling statewide with <u>only 1 line per angler</u> ? | 20. YES ____ NO ____ |
-



QUESTIONS 21-26: Access to Fishing Regulations

The hook and line fishing regulations booklets for game fish and trout are written to include the majority of information in one place that an angler would need to know when fishing with hook and line in Wisconsin. Regulation booklets are made available wherever licenses are sold. In addition, regulations can be found at the Department website and by checking signs posted at waters. The Department would like to know more about what sources anglers use to access regulation information. **Please indicate all sources you have used to access fishing regulations.**

21. Do you use the printed regulation booklet to find out what regulations apply?	21. YES _____ NO _____
22. Do you use online regulations to find out what regulations apply?	22. YES _____ NO _____
23. Do you use posted signs at the water to find out what regulations apply?	23. YES _____ NO _____
24. Do you use other anglers to find out what regulations apply?	24. YES _____ NO _____
25. Do you typically not check what regulations apply?	25. YES _____ NO _____
26. If one were made available, would you use a DNR Fishing Wisconsin App on a smart phone to find out waterbody and regulation information?	26. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTIONS 27-31: Regulation Development

Fisheries management goals may be statewide or regional or designed for specific waterbodies or portions of waterbodies. There may be more than one regulation option to help meet a management goal, and the same regulation on different waters may not have the same result. They can affect anglers and fish populations very differently because of location, the mix of species, habitat condition, and several other factors. Fewer and more uniform regulations throughout the state may be less complex, but may not manage some waters to meet their needs. The following questions will help advise the Department when initiating and developing new fishing regulations. It may also help determine what fishing regulation changes could be made with little to no impact to a fishery, but that may reduce complexity for staff and anglers.

27. Is it important to you to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased?	27. YES _____ NO _____
28. Is it important to you to have identical length limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased?	28. YES _____ NO _____
29. Is it important to you to have identical seasons for a fish species statewide, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential?	29. YES _____ NO _____

Border waters shared with neighboring states may differ from inland waters because the border waters, such as the Mississippi and Menominee rivers, span many miles and include varying habitats and species. Although attempts are made to keep regulations the same on those waters between neighboring states, they may differ because natural resource departments and the public from each state have preferences for different regulations.

30. Is it important to you to have border water regulations that are consistent with inland/statewide regulations?	30. YES _____ NO _____
31. Is it important to you to have border water regulations that are consistent with neighboring states' border water regulations?	31. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTIONS 32-34: Fishing Licenses

Wisconsin’s fisheries management programs – stocking, habitat restoration and improvement, fish population surveys, access development, and aquatic education – are all primarily funded by revenues from fishing license sales. To make sure these costs are fairly distributed to all users, most resident and nonresident anglers over the age of 16 need some kind of fishing license. Wisconsin is unusual among other states in that it offers a great number of license types: annual, senior, junior, disabled, armed forces, 1-day, 2-day, 4-day, 15-day, husband and wife, family, trout and salmon stamps, sturgeon tags, and hunting combinations. Some people think having many options better serves anglers needs, some people think the large number of choices is overly confusing.

32. Would you prefer that Wisconsin simplify its fishing license structure by eliminating less popular license types? 32. YES _____ NO _____

33. Would you prefer that Wisconsin eliminate separate stamps and tags, and instead roll those costs into the annual or short term license options? 33. YES _____ NO _____

As in most states, fishing license options differ for Wisconsin residents and nonresidents. Nonresidents have more short term license options, but are charged significantly higher fees than residents for comparable licenses. A resident annual fishing license, for example, is \$20 while the comparable nonresident annual license is \$50. Although higher license fees for nonresidents are a long standing tradition, the reason why this is done is unclear. Fisheries management programs receive very little additional revenue from resident taxes, such as income taxes, and higher license fees likely discourage nonresidents from buying fishing licenses. In addition, we spend considerable resources verifying residency and issuing separate licenses. A simplified alternative may be to have general license types for all anglers, regardless of residence, that are set at an intermediate price that maintains current revenue levels.

34. Should Wisconsin simplify its fishing license structure by issuing the same types of licenses to anglers at an intermediate price regardless of their residency? 34. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 35: Rough Fish Spearing

Spearing includes the use of spears, bow and arrow, spear guns, and other similar devices to catch fish. Spearing is only allowed sunrise to sunset when there is an open season, except bow and arrow may be used day or night. There are no size or bag limits statewide for spearing rough fish, which are considered undesirable species. Those rules are fairly consistent throughout the state, but spearing season dates vary greatly. Some counties allow spearing year-round in all waters, while others are closed year-round. Some seasons run April through March, and others are open May to November. Spearing may be closed because of harvest concerns for non-rough fish species, but it is already illegal to spear those fish unless there is a designated season, such as the sturgeon spearing season. Spearing season rules were put in place at different times and a statewide review of spearing seasons is currently being conducted.

35. Would you support efforts to simplify and, where applicable, make spearing season dates the same? 35. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 36: Lead Tackle on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette Lakes in VILAS COUNTY

The Natural Resources Board asked the Department in March 2011 to move forward with a pilot project to evaluate angler acceptance of non-toxic fishing tackle. The proposed project would require anglers fishing Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in the Northern Highlands Fishing Research Area in Vilas County to use non-lead sinkers, jigs, and weights if they weigh less than 1 ounce or are smaller than 1-inch in any dimension. The purpose of the project is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest smaller sizes of tackle and to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to water birds.

36. Would you support requiring anglers to use non-lead sinkers, weights, jigs, and hooks if they are less than 1-inch length in any dimension and less than 1-ounce in weight on Escanaba, Nebish, and Palette lakes in Vilas County? 36. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTIONS 37-38: Fish Refuges

Fish refuges are established to prevent the harvest or disturbance of fish in, on, or along certain waters. Similar to closed seasons, refuges are often created to protect fish populations from angling or illegal harvest methods during periods of high vulnerability where large numbers of fish congregate. Most fish populations are already protected by appropriate bag or size limits. Refuges are usually established to address enforcement concerns, such as snagging spawning fish or anglers catching fish in a closed season and claiming they are fishing for fish that have an open season. Refuges are easy to enforce and can be effective, but do restrict good fishing opportunities. All refuges must be posted and anglers must look for signs before fishing. Posting of all refuges requires considerable time and money and can create confusion for anglers.

37. If the Department finds that fish populations can be adequately protected by other regulations such as season, bag, or size limits in certain refuge areas, would you prefer removing those fish refuges? 37. YES _____ NO _____

38. Would you prefer that the Department publish a comprehensive list of refuges instead of posting signs at all refuges? 38. YES _____ NO _____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 39. Use of trail cameras on DNR managed public hunting lands.

A prohibition on the storage of personal property on department managed lands is established by the department by administrative rule. Based on this provision, the department has explained that it is illegal to leave an unattended trail camera overnight on DNR lands unless first authorized by the department.

Trail cameras are popular and very commonly used by hunters on private land for scouting wildlife. Department staff and board members have received requests from individuals who would like to use trail cameras on department lands. Placing cameras and checking them for images of wildlife may be a form of outdoor recreation that will engage people to utilize public lands. Their use may help hunters be more aware and more excited about the opportunities available on department managed lands. Additionally, their use may result in people providing information that is valuable to the department about species observed on those lands.

A concern about trail camera use is that their presence will give the impression that an area is already “claimed” or “staked out” and could lead to conflict in the field. Trail camera theft, abandonment, personal privacy, and damage to cameras through land management practices such as prescribed burning or timber harvest are other concerns.

Some concerns about the use of trail cameras on DNR managed lands could be addressed by establishing the following conditions on their use:

- Placement only occurs in areas where hunting is allowed and outside of designated special use zones such as campgrounds and improved trails.
- Trail cameras bear the name and address or department issued customer identification number of the owner or operator permanently attached or engraved to the outside of the camera so that it is clearly visible without the need to move or adjust the camera.
- The placement of trail cameras on department managed lands is done at your own risk. The department will not be responsible for theft or damage to trail cameras on department managed lands

39. Do you favor allowing the overnight placement and use of trail cameras on lands open to public hunting that are managed by the department, but not in special use zones such as campgrounds and improved trails? 39. 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 informational hearing/meeting process only
may be made directly to:

Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC DNR Liaison, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

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

AIR, WASTE, & WATER STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 40: Phase-Out Felt Sole Wading Products (# 130311)

Felt soles wading boots have been identified as a means of transferring sediment and aquatic invasive species such as Whirling Disease, Didymo (algae also known as rock snot), New Zealand Mud Snails, and Zebra Mussels that have devastated fisheries elsewhere across the US. Felt sole products are a contributor to transferring aquatic invasive species because the felt soles are porous and retain sediment, are difficult to sanitize between uses and may take several days to dry. The industry has developed comparable alternatives to felt sole wading products and some manufacturers have begun to phase out felt products or already stopped making them.

Recently, Alaska, Maryland, Missouri, and Vermont have banned felt sole wading products and a number of other states are considering the phasing out of felt sole products. At present there is no restriction on felt sole wading products in Wisconsin and public awareness of felt sole waders as a transport device is believed to be low. NR 40 (Wisconsin Administrative Code) does make it illegal to transport invasive species, however it is not applicable if the department determines the transportation, transfer or introduction was incidental, unknowing, or not due to a person's failure to take reasonable precautions.

Currently Zebra mussels are a known aquatic invasive species in some waters of Wisconsin and Whirling Disease has been reported in nearby states. Mud Snails and Didymo have not yet been reported in Wisconsin. A regulation to phase out the use of felt sole wading products in Wisconsin may increase public awareness of this issue and decrease the possible spread of aquatic invasive species.

40. Do you favor phasing out the use of felt sole wading products in Wisconsin waters? 40. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 41. Wisconsin Recycling Program (# 040711) (requires legislation)

The 2011-2013 state budget passed in June cut the funding for the recycling program that provides grants to local governments and responsible units from \$32 million dollars to \$20 million dollars. There is concern that the reduction in funding to these local recycling programs has resulted in an increase in cost to residents though special assessments and fees, a significant decrease in services, and may increase the improper disposal of recyclables (littering or landfilling).

41. Would you support legislation returning the recycling program to its former funding of \$32 million? 41. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 42. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Wetland Management Regulations (requires legislation)

Currently, the state of Wisconsin, most of its counties, and many incorporated municipalities in Wisconsin have independent wetland protection rules. All or most local wetland ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear who, even within the agencies, is responsible for a particular wetland. Applications often need to be made to the federal government, state, each of the affected counties, and all incorporated municipalities. In most cases, and permits are often issued by more than one agency.

42. To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor legislation transferring all shore land and isolated wetland protection responsibilities to the State of Wisconsin? 42. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 43. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Storm Water Management Regulations

Currently, the state, many counties and many municipalities within those counties in Wisconsin have independent storm water management rules. All or most county and local ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear, even within the agencies, who is responsible for a particular construction site.

43. To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor a consolidation of permit issuance responsibilities so that both the state and county permits are issued by the counties, with the state paying part of the necessary county employee's salary and costs, and with local municipalities having the option for county permit issuance? 43. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 44. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Erosion Control Management Regulations

Currently, the state, many counties and many municipalities within those counties in Wisconsin have independent construction site erosion control rules. All or most county and local ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear, even within the agencies, who is responsible for a particular construction site. Duplicate applications, and permits from both the state and the county are almost always required.

44. To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor a consolidation of permit issuance responsibilities so that both the state and county permits are issued by the counties, with the state paying part of the necessary county employee's salary and costs, and with local municipalities having the option for county permit issuance? 44. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 45. Open Burning Citation Authority (requires legislation)

The DNR does not have the authority to issue citations to individuals or businesses for the illegal open burning of prohibited materials. Each year the Department responds to intentionally set fires which contain significant quantities of illegal materials such as tires, plastic coated wiring, shingles, household appliances, mattresses and other items. Under current law, the DNR must refer illegal burning violations to the Department of Justice for legal action, which makes enforcement practical for only the most egregious cases. The general public perception is that, since illegal burning relates to the protection of air quality, proper waste management, and controlling the emission of pollutants to the environment, the DNR enforces those rules and the public often reports violations to Conservation Wardens, or to other department officials.

45. To better protect public health by simplifying the process, and to conform to the generally accepted public perception of government responsibilities, do you favor a statutory change which provides DNR or local law enforcement agencies with the authority to issue citations for the illegal open burning of prohibited materials such as plastic, oily substances, shingles or other solid wastes? 45. YES _____ NO _____
-

BIG GAME STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 46. Archers in Quota Units Must Apply for Antlerless Permits (# 640211)

The ability of archery hunters to take any deer under the archery license was established in the 1930's. Recently, the archery license was changed to include a buck-only permit plus an antlerless-only tag valid in all units statewide. There has been a significant increase in the number of archery hunters in Wisconsin as well as advancements in archery equipment that have increased their success rate. Some DMU's (deer management units) now have deer populations at or below goal and are experiencing less liberal antlerless harvests to maintain or increase the deer herd in those units. In these antlerless quota units (often referred to as "buck plus quota" units), gun deer license holders must apply for an antlerless permit to limit the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested. However, archery hunters continue to receive a free antlerless only deer carcass tag automatically when they purchase their archery license, thus allowing for the harvest both an antlered and antlerless deer under the archery license, even in antlerless quota units.

-
46. In antlerless quota units, would you support making the archery license valid only for a buck and requiring archery license holders to apply for an antlerless permit, similar to gun deer license holders? Archery license holders could continue to receive a free antlerless permit with their license valid in any herd control unit, just as gun deer license holders currently do. 46. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 47. Creation of Public/ Private Antlerless Deer System

Many Wisconsin deer hunters have the perception that because publicly accessible hunting areas in our state often have increased hunting pressure compared to most private lands, deer populations in those areas have been overharvested in an attempt to manage broader deer populations that have been sheltered on private land. Data collected from hunters' registration stubs for several years indicates that in many units the percentage of deer harvested on public land in the unit is disproportionately high when compared to the percentage of public land within the unit. This suggests that more of the available antlerless permits within each Deer Management Unit (DMU) are being filled on lands easily accessible by the public and not necessarily to the areas of greatest deer density.

One idea that is being considered is having separate public and private land antlerless permits in all DMUs with antlerless quotas. Each permit would be available to hunters through separated quota systems with the intention of avoiding overharvest of antlerless deer on public lands while targeting higher populations on private lands in the same DMU with an appropriate number of antlerless tags. Having more antlerless permits available for private land does not guarantee that any more deer will be harvested on private land than are currently being harvested. However, having fewer antlerless permits available for publicly accessible land would likely decrease the harvest on those areas that have increased hunting pressure, but lower deer numbers.

One concern with this option is that it differentiates between those hunters who own or have access to private land and those hunters who do not and some would say it divides the two "classes" of hunters and "privatizes" a portion of the deer herd. However, those portions of the deer herd that stay on private land, although a public resource, are effectively inaccessible to most hunters until they move on to huntable land open to public hunting.

-
47. Would you support the concept of separate (DMU specific) antlerless deer permits for private and public lands in any DMU with an antlerless quota? 47. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 48. Allow the Use of Rifles in All of Shawano County (# 590511)

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. Citizens at the 2011 Spring Hearing supported 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 (2,305 yea, 801 nay). This proposal would allow rifles for use during firearm deer season in all of Shawano County. Currently the areas of Shawano County with higher population density already allow the use of rifles.

48. Do you favor allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in all of Shawano County? 48. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 49. Use of Rifles for Deer Hunting North of Hwy 54 in Outagamie County (# 450511)

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.

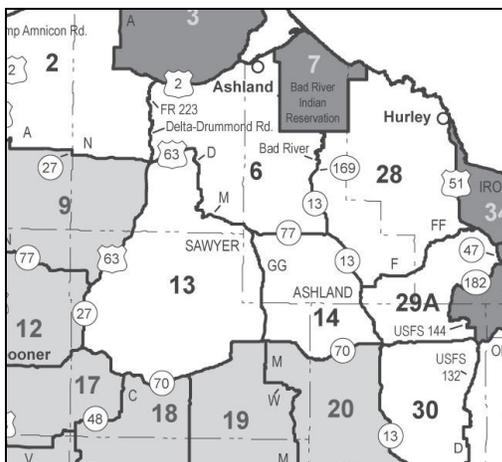
Currently the use of rifle cartridges in handguns and the use of muzzle-loading rifles is legal in shotgun counties. Rifles can also be used to hunt predators and small game in Outagamie County. It is currently legal to use rifles for deer hunting in Waupaca County and most of Shawano County which have similar terrain and population densities as northern Outagamie County.

49. Do you favor allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in the area north of Highway 54 in Outagamie County? 49. YES _____ NO _____

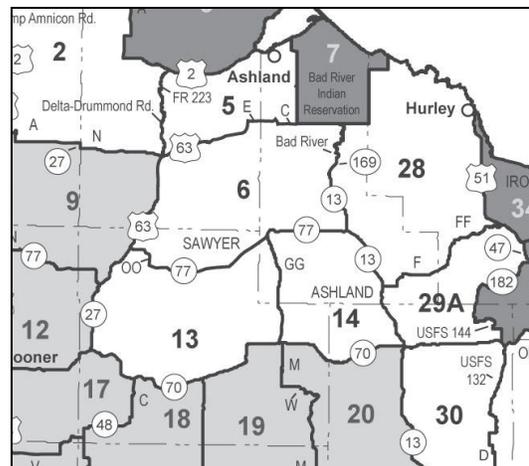
QUESTION 50. Northern Deer Management Unit (DMU) Boundaries

The deer herd in Northwest Wisconsin is disproportionately dispersed across the landscape with lower deer numbers in the forested portions while population levels remaining at or above goal in agricultural areas. This is possibly due in part to higher predator numbers and poorer habitat in the forested areas coupled with higher quality and increased food availability in agricultural areas. In addition, the forested areas tend to be those areas with increased public access and higher hunter density, while the agricultural lands are privately owned and generally have lower hunter densities. Deer Management Units 6 and 13 contain both forested and agricultural land. Some feel that a reconfiguration of the boundaries of these units may create DMU's with more consistent habitat structure and deer population goals that are more reflective of what hunters are seeing. Others are concerned that decreasing the size of DMU's creates less consistent and effective data for the DNR to use to determine population density and goals.

50. Would you support a reconfiguration of the DMU boundaries of Units 6 and 13 in a way that Unit 6 includes that portion of Unit 13 from Highway 77 north to County OO west to Highway 63 and that portion of Unit 6 north of Highway 63, Highway E and Highway C becomes the old Unit 5? **51. YES** ____ **NO** ____



Current DMU Configuration.



Proposed DMU Configuration.

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

QUESTION 51. Allow Trolling While Positioning when Fishing (# 440411)

Motor trolling is trailing a bait or lure from a boat while being propelled by a motor or sail and is currently illegal (except in certain counties or waters with special exceptions and certain disabled anglers). Positional fishing is fishing from a boat where the fishing line extends vertically into the water while the boat is maneuvered by a motor used to position or maintain a position over an underwater structure. Position fishing is allowed statewide in all waters. Some anglers would like to be able to fish for muskies by trailing a line off the back of a boat while simultaneously position fishing with electronic trolling motors. This would allow the angler to cast and retrieve artificial baits, while having a rigged sucker off the boat. Fishing would be done in accordance with the fishing regulations of Wisconsin.

51. Would you support a rule change to allow the trolling of a sucker or other fish as bait while position fishing with the aid of a motor statewide? **51. YES** ____ **NO** ____

QUESTION 52. Allow Sale of Turkey Bones and Feathers (# 180411) (requires legislation)

Currently state law prohibits the sale of legally harvested wild game birds. The prohibition on the sale, purchase, or bartering of most wild animals and their parts is primarily aimed at protecting certain species from illegal harvest by not creating a market for the sale of wild animals and/or their parts. Some people would like to use the bones of legally harvested wild turkeys to make calls and the feathers for decorative uses in various crafts that they could then sell. It is legal to possess and make such items from wild game birds for personal use or to give them away, but they may not be sold for a profit. Turkey bones and feathers from captive or farm raised birds may be used to make such items which would then be legal to sell.

52. Would you support legislation legalizing the sale of turkey bones and feathers from legally harvested wild turkeys? 52. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 53. Legalize Cage Type Traps for Turtles (# 330111)

Cage traps were legal in Wisconsin until 1997. Currently the only turtle traps legal in Wisconsin are the hoop style funnel type trap constructed of mesh net with a six inch stretch. There is currently no restriction on the size of the trap or the number of hoops used.

53. Would you support legalizing a cage type trap, rectangular in shape, approximately 48 inches long by 24 inches wide by 14 inches high (48" long x 24" wide x 14" high) with a hinged door at both ends. The trap would be made of 4" x 2" heavy gauge mesh fence wire and would have four 6" openings for smaller fish and turtles to escape. The same rules would apply for the cage trap as they do for the hoop trap including staking the trap to prevent it from moving and setting the trap so that the top of the trap is at least 2" above the water level. 53. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 54. Use of Handheld Artificial Lights to Scan While Predator Hunting (# 320311) (requires legislation)

Coyotes, foxes, and raccoons are predator species with strong populations that have considerable impacts on other species. They are generally nocturnal and as such, one of the most effective times to hunt predators is at night. Current Wisconsin law allows the use of an artificial light while hunting predators (coyote, fox, raccoon and unprotected species) to identify the target, but does not allow "scanning" with an artificial light to locate and identify the target. With the increasing population of wolves, when hunting coyotes, it is particularly important to accurately identify the target. Some feel that allowing scanning is an efficient tool and would help hunters locate and accurately identify their target.

54. Do you favor legislation allowing an individual engaged in hunting coyotes, foxes, and raccoons to use handheld artificial lights to "scan" under the following stipulations: 54. YES _____ NO _____

1. The hunter must be a minimum of 200 feet from their vehicle and in compliance with state firearms discharge laws and/or local ordinances regarding firearms discharge or use of lights.
2. The hunter must be stationary and not changing their location while scanning.
3. The hunter must be using a predator call and clearly engaged in predator hunting.
4. "Scanning" may only be used during times and areas where there are no gun deer seasons in effect?

FORESTRY, PARKS, & RECREATION STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 55. Allow Bowhunting on the Closed Area of Grand River Wildlife Area (# 240211)

The Grand River Marsh (GRM) State Wildlife Area is a 7,000 acre property located in southwest Green Lake County and southeast Marquette County. There is a Waterfowl Closed Area located on the west end of the wildlife area which is managed to be a rest area for migrating waterfowl. As such the west end is closed to all hunting, trapping, and boat access during all waterfowl seasons (except it is open for regular deer gun and muzzleloader deer hunting). Local bowhunters believe that deer hunting and the closed area's waterfowl refuge intent can co-exist on this public property.

The waterfowl mainly rely on the open water habitat during the migration as resting areas. Of the 7,300 acres, there are over 2,800 acres of land in the closed area and nearly 1,300 acres of open water habitat for waterfowl refuge. Some feel there is more than enough area for both bowhunters (on the wooded and upland portions of the closed area), and migrating waterfowl (in open water) within the closed area. The fact is that the GRM closed area's intent and bowhunting are amicable uses of the property due to the following:

1. Bowhunting for deer is a quiet non-intrusive sport. Bowhunting on this property would not substantially affect waterfowl in a negative way, certainly not anymore than other currently lawful activities such as hiking.
2. There are many wooded upland areas within the GRM closed area that archery deer hunters could utilize without disturbing waterfowl on the open water refuge.
3. Also, the entire property is much more wooded than it previously was when the refuge was formed, creating a visual and sound buffer to the open water areas.
4. Gun deer hunting is currently allowed during the November firearm season. While the gun deer season is generally too late to affect a majority of migrating waterfowl, during some years, there is migration that occurs during late November. Some feel that allowing gun deer hunting on this property, but not bowhunting is not an equitable treatment of the hunting public on a property that can support a waterfowl refuge and also be open to bowhunting simultaneously.

55. Do you support the closed area of the Grand River Wildlife Area be opened to archery hunting during all archery deer seasons? 55. YES _____ NO _____

FUR HARVEST STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 56. 4-Day Check for Weasel Traps (# 720211)

Trappers in Wisconsin use enclosures to trap weasels in winter. These enclosures are generally a shoebox size structure with an opening on one end, the trap positioned near the front of the enclosure by the opening, and the bait placed in the rear of the enclosure. These types of trap sets have been studied and the trap types recommended for use were found to meet humane standards with weasels usually expiring soon after entering the enclosure. In Wisconsin as a dry land set, it currently needs to be checked daily, but weasels in these enclosure traps in winter expire quickly, are chilled and preserved, are out of sight from the public, and are unavailable to scavengers. And if the trap and enclosure are securely fastened to an immovable object, the recommended size of the opening and the trap are small enough that if a non-target species put a front paw in the enclosure it would be able to pull it out from a securely fastened trap without harm to the animal.

56. Would you support allowing trappers four days to check weasel enclosures if the enclosure meets the following requirements:

- The opening is not larger than 1 3/8 inches diameter (this size restriction would specifically target weasels and effectively eliminate the accidental take of the American marten)
- The enclosure set uses a bodygrip trap
- The enclosure is secured to an immovable object
- And the bodygrip trap is fastened down securely to allow non-target furbearers to self-release without harm?

56. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 57. Combine Muskrat & Mink Zone into One (# 500111)

The northern muskrat and mink management zone begins two weeks earlier than the southern and Winnebago zones. The Winnebago zone ends 15 days later than either the northern or southern muskrat and mink zones. The staggered openings result in “opening day” waves of harvest pressure on the resource localized in the respective zones. Some dislike the early localized harvest pressure in the northern zone during the first two weeks and feel the late ending date of the Winnebago zone adds additional unnecessary complexity to the season structure and is not widely utilized. Others feel that the staggered opening and closing dates provide additional opportunity in different areas for trappers. This is largely a social issue and changes to the opening and closing dates for the zones would have minimal impact on the resource, the fur quality, and the fur market. As a way to simplify regulations and reduce staggered “opening day” pressure, this proposal is to delay the northern zone one week and open the southern and Winnebago Zones one week earlier, and close the northern and southern zones one week later and the Winnebago zone one week earlier.

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57. Would you support the combining of the northern, southern, and Winnebago muskrat and mink management zones into one zone, with an opening date the Saturday nearest October 22nd and closing the Saturday nearest March 7th? 57. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 58. Increase Trapping License by \$2.00 to Fund Permanent Position to Administer Trapper Education (requires legislation)

Presently, the DNR is only able to fund a Limited Term Employee (LTE) Furbearer Specialist to administer the DNR trapper education responsibilities and the average turnover rate for this non-permanent position is about two years which makes it difficult for the program to expand. The Wisconsin Trappers Association and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation are proposing a \$2.00 fee increase on all trapping licenses. This revenue would be earmarked specifically for funding this trapper education specialist position.

-
58. Would you support a \$2.00 fee increase for resident and non-resident trapping licenses, and conservation patrons who trap, to fund the Furbearer Specialist position to administer the trapper education program in a permanent capacity? 58. YES _____ NO _____
-

GREAT LAKES STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 59. Spring Closure for Northern Pike on Green Bay and Tributaries (# 380111)

Green Bay and the surrounding tributaries provide one of the limiting factors in northern pike reproduction—suitable spawning habitat. During spring spawning northern pike are vulnerable and more concentrated when they congregate in the shallows prior to ice out. There is anecdotal evidence, from wardens and anglers observations, to suggest there has been an increase in fishing pressure on northern pike through the ice as they gather in their spawning habitat.

-
59. Would you support a change to the northern pike regulation to close the waters of Green Bay and its tributaries from after the first Sunday in March to before the first Saturday in May to protect pre-spawning and spawning northern pike? 59. YES _____ NO _____
-

LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 60. Allow Use of Crossbows during Bear Season (# 520411) (requires legislation)

Currently, the weapons that are legal to use for bear hunting with a class A bear permit include a rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader, or archery equipment. Hunters 65 years of age or older or a disabled hunter with a Class A, B, or C disabled permit may use a crossbow to harvest a black bear. Adding crossbows to the list of legal hunting equipment for any holder of a class A bear permit, regardless of age or disability, would increase hunting opportunity and flexibility by allowing hunters another weapon option they could use to hunt bear during the bear season.

-
60. Would you favor legislation legalizing the use of crossbows during the bear season for anyone with a class A bear permit? 60. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 61. Allow Use of Crossbows during Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons (# 520311) (requires legislation)

Currently, the weapons that are legal to use for turkey hunting during the spring and fall seasons include a shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader shotgun, or archery equipment. Hunters 65 years of age or older or a disabled hunter with a Class A, B, or C disabled permit may use a crossbow to harvest a turkey. Adding crossbows to the list of legal hunting equipment for any holder of a spring or fall turkey permit, regardless of age or disability, would increase hunting opportunity and flexibility by allowing hunters another weapon option they could use to hunt turkey during the spring or fall turkey season.

-
61. Would you favor legislation legalizing the use of crossbows during the spring and fall turkey season for anyone with a turkey permit? 61. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 62. Weapon Option for Deer, Bear, and Turkey (# 520711) (requires legislation)

There is increased interest in simplifying hunting rules and providing additional hunting opportunity by allowing hunters of the flexibility to choose the weapon with which to hunt deer, bear and turkey.

-
62. Would you support a legislative change that would allow anyone the use of a rifle, shotgun, handgun, muzzleloader, bow or crossbow under the authority of the Gun Deer License and Class A Bear License; allow anyone the use of a shotgun, bow or crossbow under the authority of a Turkey License; allow the use of a crossbow under the authority of an Archery License if the person is 55 years of age or older (currently 65) or has a class A, B, or C disabled permit? 62. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 63. Transfer of License/Permit to Senior or Disabled Person (# 440111) (requires legislation)

Some Wisconsin senior and/or disabled residents may not have the opportunity to harvest a bear, bobcat, turkey, fisher, otter, or sturgeon that requires individuals to obtain a harvest permit using the cumulative point preference system. The length of time it takes to secure a permit varies, but can be a number of years. This extended period of time required to acquire a permit may prevent some senior and/or disabled residents with deteriorating health from participating in one of these hunting opportunities.

-
63. Would you support legislation to allow the transfer of a valid permit from a successful permit holder to a senior (65 years of age or older) or disabled resident? 63. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 64. Make Land Owner Preference Turkey Tags Property Specific (# 650611) (requires legislation)

Landowners who obtain turkey tags through the landowner preference system can currently use those tags anywhere in the zone for which it is issued, including public hunting lands. Some areas of the state have limited public hunting access available.

-
64. Would you support legislation to make licenses obtained through the landowner turkey preference permit system valid only on private property? 64. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 65. Create a maximum of 25 mph on Frozen Water (# 180311) (requires legislation)

Winter outdoor recreation activities are increasing in popularity and there are a growing number of users on the frozen waters of the state. Anglers, snowmobilers, ATVers, cross-country skiers, ice skaters, and Wisconsinites of all ages are often found simultaneously enjoying the frozen waters of the state. Cars, trucks, snowmobiles, and ATV's driving and riding on the frozen surface, can create safety hazards and issues for other users. Sometimes these vehicles are moving at high speeds and within close proximity to persons, other vehicles, or structures. Vehicles moving at high speeds also contribute to some degree to the deterioration of ice conditions due to the energy wave created under the surface of the ice. ATV's and snowmobiles are currently required to slow to 10 mph on the ice when within 100 feet of a person not on a motorized vehicle or within 100 feet of an ice shanty. Speed limits for licensed motor vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) on the frozen waters of the state are not regulated on a statewide basis by state law and only some municipalities have local regulations. This proposal would create consistent regulations for all licensed motorized vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) on the frozen waters of the state.

-
65. Would you support legislation creating a maximum speed limit of 25 mph for all licensed motorized vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) travelling on frozen waters of the state unless on a designated state or club marked trail? 65. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 66. Sturgeon Spearing Preference Point (#130211) (requires legislation)

When a person applies for an upriver sturgeon spearing tag there is no option to apply for a preference point only. Most other programs administered by the DNR that require numerous preference points to draw a harvest tag allow the applicant to apply either for a preference point only or a harvest tag. It currently takes on average about four to five years to draw an upriver sturgeon spearing tag and many times a person will know in advance that they will not be able to use a harvest tag in a given year. By not applying the person will lose that year in preference status and by applying for the tag, the person runs the risk of getting a tag they cannot use and losing all their preference points.

-
66. Would you support legislation requiring the DNR change the application process for upriver sturgeon spearing tags to allow the option to apply for a preference point only? 66. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 67. Use of Crossbows for Rough Fish with Valid Fishing License (# 200111) (requires legislation)

Current state law does not allow for the use of a crossbow as a means of taking rough fish. Legal means are listed as spears, bow and arrow, spear guns, and other similar devices with crossbows specifically listed as unlawful (even for persons with a permit to hunt with a crossbow). Allowing the use of a crossbow would allow the bowfisher to be in the ready position longer, would expand fishing opportunity and add another tool for the harvest of rough fish.

-
67. Would you support legislation legalizing the use of crossbows for spearing/bowfishing rough fish with a valid fishing license? All other spearing/bowfishing laws would apply. 67. YES _____ NO _____
-

MIGRATORY STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 68. 50% Concealment Rule for Waterfowl Hunting (# 350211)

Currently, in areas where open water hunting is not allowed, waterfowl hunters hunting in boats are required to be 50% or more concealed, when viewed from at least one direction horizontally, with shoreline vegetation at a minimum height as high as the sides of the boat used (~ 3 feet above and parallel to the water surface). This rule may be unique to Wisconsin. This rule was established to more clearly define where open water hunting is not allowed.

A problem with the rule arises on flowages, or other water areas subject to draw downs. This rule prevents hunting from boats as there is no water to float a boat near enough to vegetation to meet the concealment regulation.

-
68. Do you favor a rule change that while hunting from a boat, that the boat must be stationary, and pulled as close as possible to the existing natural shoreline, so that the boat becomes part of, and rests on the natural shoreline, or emergent vegetation, or on the lake bottom, on the day that the hunt is taking place? 68. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 69. Sandhill Crane Season (# 550111) (requires legislation)

The Sandhill Crane population in Wisconsin has grown in size and a population has been established. Some farmers in Wisconsin are reporting high levels of crop damage by Sandhill Cranes. Other Mississippi Flyway states are currently petitioning the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a hunting season on the eastern Sandhill Crane.

-
69. Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress asking the Wisconsin Legislature to give the DNR authority to develop a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes? 69. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 70. Exterior Canada Goose Season Dates (# 490111)

Beginning in 2008 the DNR began experimenting with the opening date of the exterior Canada goose season. It was thought that if the start of the exterior goose season was delayed after the early season closure, an increase in Canada goose harvest would result. While more geese were harvested on opening day, the total season Canada geese harvest did not increase. The geese taken in September are primarily local nesting geese, not Mississippi Valley Population geese from Canada. In 2011, the exterior season in both the north and south exterior zones opened the day after the early goose season closed.

-
70. Do you favor having the exterior Canada goose season start date in the north and south exterior zones, start on the day after the early season closes, unless compelling biological reasons develop to do otherwise? 70. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 71. Delay Start to Spring Crow Season (# 060311)

Wisconsin's spring crow season generally begins in January and closes in mid-March. Some other northern states open their spring crow seasons later so as to continue the season through the last weekend of March and occasionally through the first days of April. This season shift of approximately two weeks is favored by some crow hunters as it would extend crow hunting opportunities into more favorable temperatures experienced in early spring. Likewise to other migratory species, crow season length is regulated by federal law, but states have some flexibility in setting the timing of the season.

71. Do you support a delayed start to the spring crow season so as to allow the spring season to continue through the last weekend of March? 71. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 72. Canada Goose Tagging – Horicon Zone (# 520811)

Current regulations require that Canada geese be immediately tagged with a validated carcass tag before being moved or carried from the spot where they fell in the Horicon Zone. The intent of the rule is to insure proper and legal validation and placement of the harvest tag. This regulation may put the hunter in a potentially dangerous situation if the goose falls on a road or waterway. This regulation may also disrupt the hunt of others in the vicinity.

72. Do you favor a regulation change for the Horicon Zone that says the goose must be legally tagged at the location of kill? 72. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 73. Mekan Springs Area – Waushara County (# 700211)

Boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities are prohibited at Mekan Springs after September 1st. This was done many years ago to create a refuge at the Greenwood Wildlife Area to protect a flock of non-migratory Canada geese. Giant Canada geese are very prevalent now to the point that they have overpopulated some areas and the formally unique nature of the Mekan Springs flock has been eliminated. Closing Mekan Springs to all outdoor activities no longer serves its original purpose and no other species exists at Mekan Springs that warrants protection and a September 1st closure. This issue has been discussed with DNR staff and they concur that a closed area is no longer needed.

73. Do you favor the elimination of the Mekan Springs September 1st closure area and opening the area to all outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, and trapping that are deemed compatible with this area? 73. YES _____ NO _____

TROUT STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 74. Continuous Open Season for Trout in “Put and Take” Lakes (# 660411)

“Put and take trout lakes” are lakes where legal size trout are stocked to provide anglers a fishery, but for a variety of reasons, there is little or no survival of these stocked fish from year to year and no natural reproduction. Currently, the inland trout harvest season closes in September. However, some inland lakes with trout are open from January to September, while others are open from May to March. Consequently, any trout that carryover past March will likely not survive until the May opening of the trout season, and the opportunity to harvest and maximize the utilization of this resource is lost. In addition, opening the season year around would simplify the trout regulations for all put and take lakes. These “put and take trout lakes” can be easily identified by the DNR.

-
74. Would you support the Department of Natural Resources identify “put and take trout lakes” and allow a year around season for the harvest of trout on these lakes? 74. YES _____ NO _____
-

WARM WATER STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 75. Allow Motor Trolling Statewide

Motor trolling is trailing a lure, bait, or similar device used to attract or catch fish from a boat while being propelled (forward or backward) by a motor or a sail. Currently, motor trolling is illegal except in some counties, specified waters, and for certain disabled anglers.

Some anglers feel that allowing motor trolling statewide would reduce complexity, simplify fishing regulations, increase angling opportunity, reduce unnecessary confusion and citations, and remove any confusion about dragging suckers while musky fishing. Motor trolling is allowed in all waters of surrounding states and Ontario, without any adverse effects. If trolling were allowed statewide it would remove confusion on where you can and cannot legally motor troll, and would eliminate the need for “position fishing” rules and disabled motor trolling permits.

-
75. Do you favor allowing motor trolling statewide? 75. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 76. Prohibit the Spearing of Panfish by Divers (# 500211)

Presently, skin and scuba divers can spear panfish in the State of Wisconsin waters. Panfish daily bag limits have been reduced on 40 individual water bodies statewide and in St. Croix County over the past several years to protect panfish species. There are some who feel that it is relatively easy to spear panfish while diving and their ability to remove the largest of each panfish species has had a negative effect on panfish populations and size structure.

-
76. Do you support modifying the fishing regulations to include “panfish” as a fish that cannot be taken by spearing in all Wisconsin waters? 76. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 77. Spearing Rough Fish Within 200 ft. of a Dam (# 540411)

Rough fish, mainly carp, are abundant in Wisconsin waterways. These fish can damage the spawning sites of native species, destroy plant life and forage base, and disrupt the natural ecosystem. Congregation of these fish near dams offers an opportunity to efficiently and effectively target these populations without depleting game fish species.

77. Do you support a rule change to allow the use of hand held spears within 200 ft. of a dam for the purpose of taking rough fish? 77. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 78. Eliminate the Late Opening of the Largemouth Bass Season in Northwest Wisconsin (# 580111)

Some feel that the later opening of the harvest season for largemouth bass (LMB) in northwest Wisconsin has facilitated their expansion, to the point where LMB may affect already depressed walleye populations through predation on young walleyes.

78. Do you favor returning the largemouth bass harvest season north of Hwy. 8 and west of Hwy. 13 to the regular May opener? 78. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 79. Walleye Restoration on Lake Chetac, SAWYER COUNTY (# 580211)

The walleye population in Lake Chetac, Sawyer County, has declined in recent years, while the largemouth bass (LMB) has increased. Often, when walleye populations decline, LMB populations tend to increase. Some people would like to attempt to reduce the LMB population, in order to help the walleye population recover. It is thought by some that abundant LMB may be inhibiting walleye natural reproduction by preying on juvenile walleyes. Therefore, they are asking to eliminate the 14" size limit for LMB on Lake Chetac, Sawyer County.

79. Do you favor eliminating the 14" size limit for largemouth bass on **Lake Chetac, Sawyer County**? 79. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 80. 40" Minimum Size Limit for Musky on Spider Lake, SAWYER COUNTY (# 580511)

The rule proposing a 40" minimum statewide musky size limit singles out 10 lakes that would become "slow growth" waters with a size limit of 28". DNR surveys in 2006 and 2008 supported an argument that Spider Lake in Sawyer County was a slow growth lake with a large number of small fish. However, some area guides as well as other fisherman have noticed an increase in the numbers of large fish in this lake. Biologists have also recently expressed that more information needs to be gathered on Spider Lake regarding its "large fish" potential.

80. Do you support allowing **Spider Lake** to remain in the statewide 40" musky size limit designated lakes? 80. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 81. Reduce the Largemouth Bass (LMB) Size Limit to 12", Shawano Lake, SHAWANO COUNTY (#590611)

The largemouth bass (LMB) population on Shawano Lake is healthy and increasing. It is felt by some that there is a large population of LMB under 14" that could be utilized without damaging reproduction or the overall population of LMB and would provide increased angling opportunity of this resource.

81. Do you favor reducing the largemouth bass size limit on **Shawano Lake & the Wolf River to the first dam north of the city of Shawano from 14" to 12"?** **81. YES** _____ **NO** _____

QUESTION 82. Reduced Bag and Increased Size for Northern Pike Caroline Pond, SHAWANO COUNTY (# 590711, 590811)

Because of increased fishing pressure and loss of habitat from sedimentation, the Caroline Conservation Club recommends reducing the daily bag from 2 to 5, and establishing a minimum length limit of 26" on northern pike in Caroline Pond, Shawano County. The boundaries for this regulation would be from the dam upstream on the South Branch of the Embarrass River to County Highway M and from the dam upstream on the Middle Branch of the Embarrass River to the ATC-PAR transmission lines. The downstream boundary would be the Caroline Dam.

82. Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit to 2 and establishing a 26" size limit for northern pike on **Caroline Pond, Shawano County?** **82. YES** _____ **NO** _____

QUESTION 83. Reduced Daily Bag Limit for Panfish, Little Hills Lake, WAUSHARA COUNTY (# 700311)

There is local concern about over-harvest of panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County. It is 83 acres in size and, at one time, had a reputation as a good bluegill lake. A recent lake survey showed few bluegills. The Lake District is asking to reduce the daily limit of panfish from 25 to 10, in hopes of rebuilding the bluegill population.

83. Do you favor reducing the panfish daily bag limit from 25 to 10 on **Little Hills Lake, Waushara County?** **83. YES** _____ **NO** _____

QUESTION 84. Largemouth Bass Size Limit on Winnebago System (# 200411)

The current 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass restricts harvest of this fish on the Winnebago system. The Largemouth Bass population on the Winnebago system is healthy and increasing. There is no documented evidence that a 14" size limit is necessary to support a healthy population of Largemouth Bass on the Winnebago system. Eliminating the 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass will provide increased angling harvest opportunity of this resource.

84. Do you support removing the 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass on **Lake Winnebago, Poygan, Buttes des Mortes, and the Fox and Wolf Rivers upstream to the first dam on each river?** **84. YES** _____ **NO** _____

QUESTION 85. Largemouth Bass Size Limit Reduction on Pickerel and Crane Lake, FOREST COUNTY (# 210511)

The largemouth bass size limit on Pickerel and Crane Lakes in Forest County was changed about ten years ago to 18” to provide a “trophy bass opportunity.” It is the unanimous feeling of the Commissioners and members of the Pickerel and Crane Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District of Forest and Langlade Counties that walleye, perch and other panfish populations are greatly threatened by bass size and numbers and would like to return these waters to the statewide largemouth bass bag (5) and size limits (14”).

85. Do you support returning the largemouth bass size and bag limits on **Pickerel and Crane Lakes in Forest County to the statewide limits of a 5 bag and 14” size limit?** **85. YES _____ NO _____**

QUESTION 86. Lower Daily Bag of Crappies to Five on Oneida Lake, ONEIDA COUNTY (# 440311)

Crappies are the number two targeted fish during the winter ice fishing season. Some are concerned that the size structure and populations of crappies have declined on some small lakes as a result of the current bag limits on panfish.

86. Do you support a rule change that would reduce the daily bag limit of crappies to 5 with a possession limit of 10 on **Oneida Lake in Oneida County?** **86. YES _____ NO _____**

WOLF STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 87. Notification of Wolf Depredations or Attacks to Livestock (# 350111)

Currently the Wisconsin DNR advises dog owners when wolf attacks or depredations occur through timely warnings on the DNR website (maps and summaries of incident), e-mail advisories to subscribers, setting up warning areas of pack involvement, and occasionally by issuing press releases.

Currently the Wisconsin DNR advises the public on a monthly basis of proven or probable depredation sites to livestock, threats to livestock, or threats to human health and safety (incidents where wolves have displayed a lesser degree of fear of humans than expected).

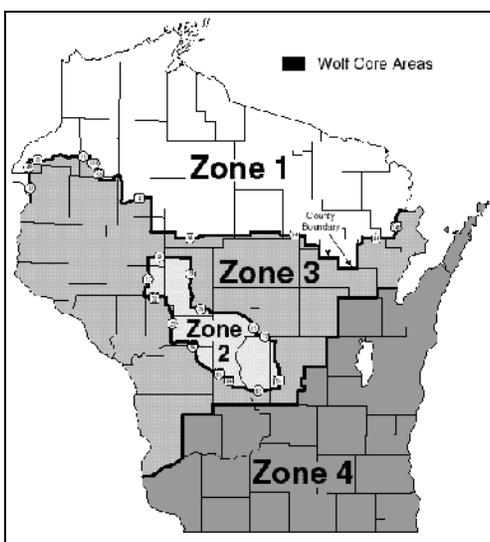
Some Wisconsin residents feel the public needs to know when and where wolves are causing problems and need to learn about wolf incidents in a timelier manner in order to take precautions.

-
- 87.** Would you support the Wisconsin DNR advising the public in a timely manner of all verified and probable wolf attacks, depredations, and threats to livestock and human health and safety (incidents where wolves have displayed a lesser degree of fear of humans than expected), through use of their web site, e-mail alerts to subscribers, setting up pack warning areas, and through use of press releases when appropriate? 87. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 88. Allow Statewide Coyote Harvest During Deer Firearm Season (# 440211)

The coyote season in Wolf Management Zone 1 is currently closed during the deer gun seasons. Coyote season in this area has been closed during the deer gun season since 2000 as recommended in the 1999 Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan to avoid the accidental harvest of wolves. However, wolves currently exist in the zones outside of Zone 1 where the coyote season is open during the deer gun season.

-
- 88.** Would you support eliminating the closure of the coyote season in Wolf Management Zone 1 in northern Wisconsin during the deer firearm season? 88. YES _____ NO _____
-



Current Wolf Management Zone Configuration.

SHOOTING RANGE AD HOC COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 89. Pittman-Robertson Money for Shooting Ranges (# 040211)

The Pittman-Robertson act is an excise tax money fund from firearm, ammunition and archery sales. It is money that is returned to the state from the federal government and has not been utilized in recent years to help improve the ranges, build new ranges, increase safety, expand education or help purchase new shooting equipment. The Congress is currently working to restore and get these funds back to the public for range improvements.

-
89. Do you support the Secretary of the DNR allocating these existing funds for the improvement of shooting ranges? 89. YES _____ NO _____
-

QUESTION 90. Shooting Range Initiative

There are over 900 shooting ranges in the state of Wisconsin and at present, no unified single group to work with these ranges, shooting groups, and the user factions to unite them and promote and protect the shooting sports.

-
90. Do you support a move by the Conservation Congress to work with the WDNR to bring these ranges, shooting groups, and factions together working to further promote and educate the public on the shooting sports? 90. YES _____ NO _____
-

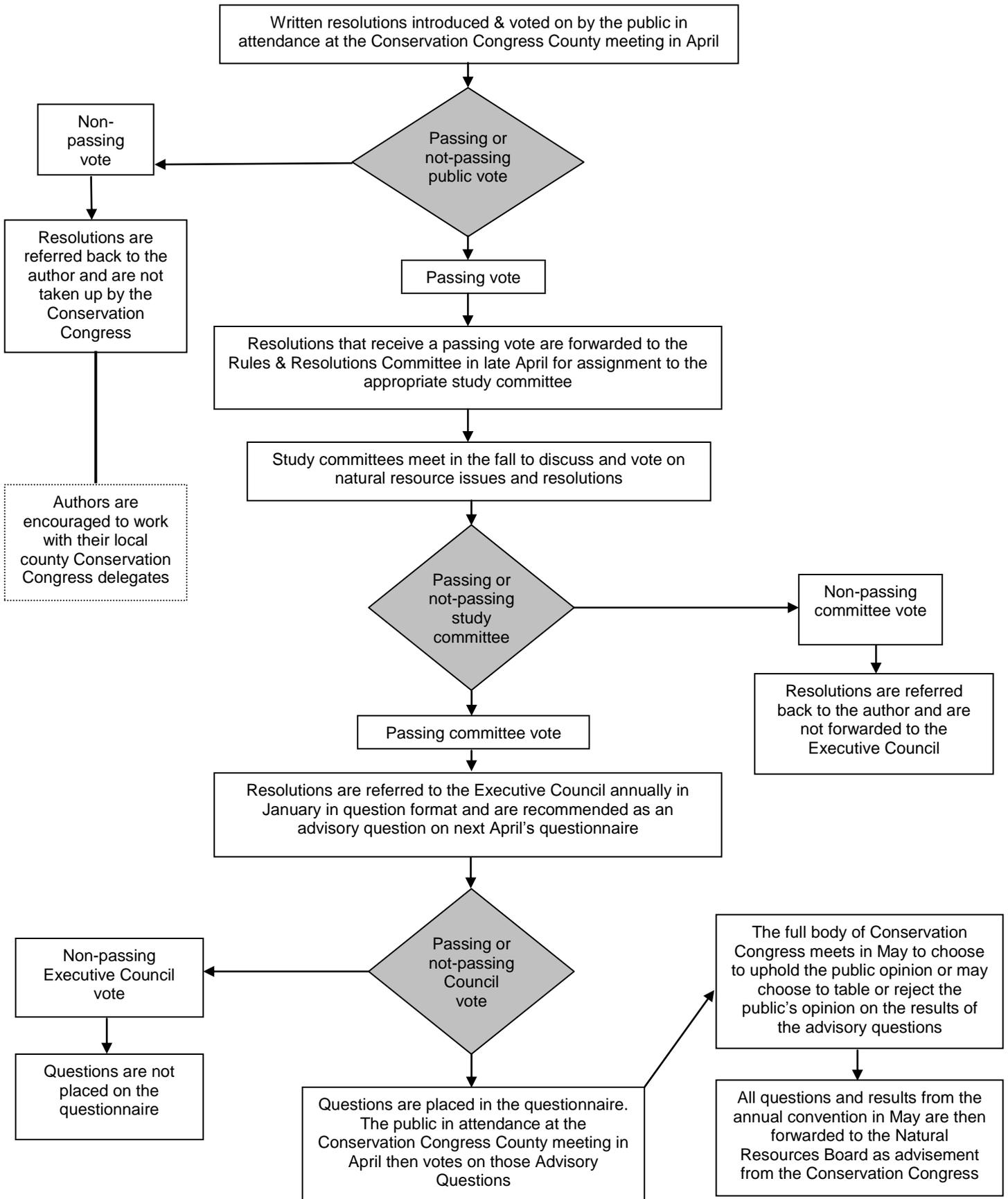
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 91. Panfish limit

Presently, the Conservation Congress Warm Water Committee entertains many resolutions each year dealing with concerns of panfish exploitation in numerous lakes throughout Wisconsin. Crappies seem to be the desired species in need of protection along with the need to prevent overharvest of "big" bluegills, especially during the spawning period as well as "late ice" conditions in the winter. Finally, the smaller inland lakes seem to be affected the most with concerns of overharvest preventing a quality fishery to exist. In keeping with the Governor's charge to the Congress to find ways to simplify regulations:

-
91. Do you support a regulation change addressing panfish overharvest allowing an aggregate bag limit statewide of 30 panfish, which would include no more than 10 crappies, 10 bluegills, and 20 yellow perch? This would affect only inland lakes in the state. 91. 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.

Resolution Format

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 Presentation

- ✓ 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.

Sample Resolution

- 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.

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 33)



2012 TOWN HALL MEETING

Following the completion of the advisory questions from the department and the Conservation Congress, the Conservation Congress will hold town hall meetings to get input from citizens on ways to simplify regulations and eliminating barriers to hunting and fishing participation.

If you are not able to stay for the entire duration of tonight's meeting, but would like to submit your input, please fill out the following two forms to the best of your abilities or interest and then tear off and turn in to your Conservation Congress delegate(s) in attendance at the meeting. Those who are able to stay may also submit their form at the end of the meeting tonight.

As part of a directive from the Governor's Office to the Conservation Congress Chair, we have been asked to assist in developing recommendations for **regulation simplification** and **eliminating barriers to participation** in hunting, fishing and trapping. Please keep in mind that tonight's discussion must focus on the two topics as outlined in the Governor's Letter. The goal is to generate specific ideas for ways we can simplify hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, and ways we can eliminate barriers to participation in these activities.

Please note that this is NOT a venue for additional Citizen Resolutions and the Conservation Congress will not be accepting additional resolution-type submissions based on the Town Hall Meeting discussion.

To submit written comments, please fill out the following two forms to the best of your abilities or interest and then tear off and turn in to your Conservation Congress delegate(s) in attendance at the meeting. While verbal comments and discussion will be allowed during the Town Hall meeting, only those comments which are submitted in writing on the following forms will be recorded. In other words, if you make a verbal statement during tonight's meeting, please be sure to write it out on the following forms and turn in to your Conservation Congress delegate(s) before leaving. All completed Town Hall Meeting forms submitted at tonight's meeting will be collected by the Conservation Congress delegates present and then compiled by the Conservation Congress delegation for that county.



**2012 TOWN HALL MEETING
REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION**

For demographic purposes, please provide the following information: **AGE:** _____ **GENDER:** M / F

REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION

In this questionnaire, the DNR’s Fisheries Management Bureau asked several questions about access to and development and simplification of regulations. **Please provide any comments related to questions 16-38 below.**

In addition to these questions, **what are some other ways in which the Department could simplify fishing rules and regulations?** Examples may include things like: standardizing seasons across fish species, elimination of slot limits, consolidating zones, etc.

Please list your ideas for FISHING rule or regulation simplification in the space below.

What are some ways in which the department could simplify hunting rules & regulations? Examples may include things like: aligning season dates to reduce confusion, reducing the number seasons, issuing regulations on a biannual basis, consolidating/reducing the number of zones, eliminating permit drawings or preference points, etc.

Please list your ideas for HUNTING rule or regulation simplification in the space below.

Can we contact you if we need to follow up with you on your comments?	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____
Phone Number:	_(_____)_____
E-mail:	_____



2012 TOWN HALL MEETING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

For demographic purposes, please provide the following information: AGE: _____ GENDER: M / F

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

The following have been identified in previous studies as some of the potential barriers to participation in hunting, fishing, or trapping:

- Money / Cost of equipment
- Amount of free time
- No access to land/water
- No one to go with/Don't know anyone to introduce them to the sport
- Cost of license(s)
- Family obligations
- Work obligations
- Age / Gender / Race
- Loss of interest
- Personal health
- Having to travel too far to hunt/trap/fish
- Mandatory hunter/trapper/angler education
- Complex regulations
- Not enough game/fish
- **OTHERS...**

Additional barriers exist beyond those listed above. Please use the space below to write in additional items you feel are barriers to participation in hunting, fishing, or trapping.

What are some ways the department, the Conservation Congress and partner groups could help to reduce/eliminate these and other barriers to participation? Please list your ideas in the space below.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
COMMENTS!!

Can we contact you if we need to follow up with you on your comments?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Thank You for attending this year's meeting!



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Informational Hearing
&**

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Interested in making a difference
by becoming part of the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress??

Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the
Conservation Congress website at:
dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress”