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Crappie Population Size and Bag Limit Change on Lake Wausau

The problem:

The Crappie is one of the most favorite and sought after fish of Central Wisconsin. With increased fishing pressure and anglers lowering their standards the crappie population and size of crappies has decreased. With the increase popularity and the advancement of technology in techniques there has been a decline in the quality of Crappies in Lake Wausau. The fish of Lake Wausau have decreased in length and age. Which leads me to believe that there is over fishing occurring, I have witnessed, on many occasions, anglers keeping their limit and returning soon there after to keep another limit of small crappies that the person next to them is throwing back because they realize they are quite small to keep. If this quantity of fish is continually kept then this depletes the valuable fish that are needed to spawn and strengthen the population.

Currently the pan fish bag limit 25 fish with no specific limit on crappies.

I feel that a size limit of 10 inches should be made with all smaller fish having to be released. I feel the daily bag limit on crappies should be reduced to 10 to protect the crappie population. These changes have proven to be very effective on bodies of water such as the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. By keeping less but larger fish anglers will still be able to keep a nice pile of fillets. To restore this great crappie fishery regulations need to change.

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