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Rule Change for Northern Pike on the Winnebago System

The Problem:

Currently the Winnebago system has a daily bag limit of 2 and a 26" minimum length limit for northern pike that went into effect in 1996. Since the change, many anglers have lost interest in fishing this species since they rarely catch one greater than 26". Results of spring fyke netting surveys on Lake Butte des Morts and Poygan from 1998-2003, by Robert Olynyk, DNR Fisheries Technician in Oshkosh have shown:

1. Abundant northern pike but only a small proportion of females over 26" and virtually all males under 26".
2. In years of low forage abundance there is a potential to over-harvest adult female pike.
3. If allowed, anglers would be more than willing to harvest abundant northern pike under 26".
4. The 2 fish bag limit has been very effective in helping the northern pike population grow in numbers and size and should be retained.
5. Local fisheries personnel, wardens and the public are in favor of the change to a 2 bag limit of which one may be 26" or larger.

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Conservation Congress at it's annual meeting held in Outagamie County on April 9, 2012 recommend to the DNR a rule change be made from the current regulation of a daily bag limit of 2 and a 26" minimum length limit for northern pike on the Winnebago system to a new regulation of a daily bag limit of 2 of which one may be 26" or larger.

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