

Citizen Resolution # 24-02-15

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Providing for better use and management of Wisconsin's trout fisheries through alternate bag limits



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 Hearings in April.

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.

Currently, the Wisconsin State Legislature provides the Department of Natural Resources the authority via NR 20.35 to set alternate, temporary size and bag limits for warm water fish species such as walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, and panfish. No such option for temporary size and bag limits currently exists for trout species (brook, brown, rainbow) in NR 20.35.

Alternate bag limits are a vital tool in providing for the best use and management of Wisconsin's fisheries, especially in the case of catastrophic events (natural or man-made).

Extending the alternate bag limit provision to trout species of the state is a common-sense step to ensuring quality trout fisheries.

BE IT RESOLVED, that NR 20.35 is amended to include—by name—the three trout species of our state (brook, brown, rainbow) and an alternate, temporary size limit and bag limit for each that would apply under certain circumstances alongside the warm water species already protected via listing in the administrative code.

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