

Citizen Resolution # 270415

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reopening the Year Round Walleye Fishing Season on the Lower Black River

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.

Years ago, the year round walleye season was closed on the lower Black River (downstream of the Black River Falls Dam). Currently, anglers are catching decent numbers of walleyes, but are not allowed to keep walleyes or even fish for them during the closed part of the season. For example, this year the season is only open from May 2, 2015 to March 6, 2016.

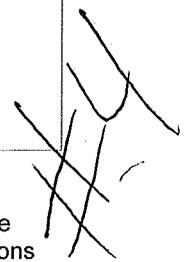
More consistent and regulated water releases at the dam, watershed improvements and other factors may have contributed to making the lower Black River the walleye fishery that it is today. By allowing the walleye season to be reopened year round, only a relatively small amount of time would be added to actual angler effort. Ice break up and high flows from snow melt and precipitation events would limit the amount of time anglers can actually pursue walleye in the springtime on the lower Black River. The walleye population would further be protected by current statewide minimum length limits or slot length limits and bag limits.

By reopening the walleye season year round on the lower Black River, anglers would be able to utilize this fishery during more months of the year, thus providing additional recreational opportunities. This proposal would also possibly help increase tourism and stimulate the local economy for a longer period of time. This proposal would also simplify regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the attendees of the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress meeting held in Jackson County on April 13, 2015 recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to change this situation by introducing a rule change to reopen the year round walleye fishing season on the lower Black River.

Name: *TRAVIS R. JOHNSON*
 Address: *103595 ROARING CREEK RD*
 City, State, Zip Code: *BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615*
 Phone Number: *715-299-5577*
 County Introduced: Jackson County

Signature: 



Please print your resolution on 8 1/2 X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. 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.