

64-07-15

yes - 47
no - 15

Trout Lake Muskellunge Size Limit Increase

The state of Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy Muskellunge waters. Big Sand and Long Lake are currently the only two lakes in Vilas County that employ a 50" size limit as a management tool. Vilas County is within the historical natural range of muskellunge and at one time was the premier destination for anglers seeking a trophy musky fishing experience. A number of factors in the modern era including increased angler fishing pressure, modern techniques, sport angler and tribal harvest, and habitat degradation have seriously impacted the ability to maintain a fishery with trophy potential.

Trout Lake has the size, population density and forage base consistent with development of fish to a trophy size of fifty inches and more. Management of Trout Lake to "trophy" designation would give anglers an opportunity to pursue musky with a potential of reaching the maximum size possible. This proposal will further benefit local economies due to increased tourism visits that are currently being diverted to neighboring states and Canadian provinces.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Vilas County on April 13, 2015 recommends a rule change to the DNR to raise the minimum size limit for muskellunge on Trout Lake to fifty inches and a daily bag limit of one fish.

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