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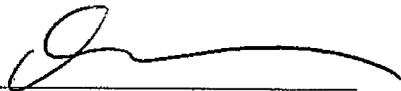
Resolution Title: Salmon bag limits on Green Bay and Lake Michigan

The Problem: Salmon and trout are very abundant in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Currently, around 50% of the salmon in Lake Michigan are the result of natural reproduction. Due to the high numbers of salmon, there are serious concerns over the depleted forage populations that sustain these fish. In fact, a cooperative effort has been made between Great Lake States to reduce the numbers of trout and salmon that have been stocked in the waters of our Great Lakes, in an attempt to maintain forage populations at a healthy level. In spite of these efforts, salmon populations in Lake Huron have collapsed after the decline of their forage base. Sport fishermen and fisheries biologists continue to take note that there has been a reduction in the weight to length ratio and reduction in fat content of salmon, indicating that there is a deficiency in their food supply. The daily bag limit for trout and salmon has remained at 5 trout and salmon for many years. An increase in the daily bag limit could help to maintain a more balanced predator-prey relationship and may facilitate healthier trout and salmon populations in Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Door County on April 11th, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to increase the bag limit from 5 in total to a number determined by the collective efforts of fisheries biologists, WCC study committee, and public input, allowing greater numbers of trout and salmon to be taken by sport fishermen in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Submitted by:

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Submitted in Door County: Vote Results: _____ Yes _____ No