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Title: Cisco Daily Bag Limits

The Problem:

From 2011 through 2014 the WDNR Fisheries Research staff conducted gill net surveys on 133 inland lake systems likely to have once had cisco, and nine whitefish lake systems. Statewide, 29% of the systems that once had cisco, and 33% of the whitefish lakes did not yield any fish during the surveys.

Some populations still thrive, but overall their distribution appears to have shrunk, especially in southern Wisconsin.

Total Daily Bag Limits for cisco, whitefish, and hybrids in "inland waters" are 25 pounds and one fish in total.

Total Daily Bag Limits for "outlying waters" are 10 in total.

The "25 pounds and one fish..." is the only bag limit in Wisconsin that is not determined by the *number* of fish caught. In addition, since determining an accurate weight is difficult, a *full* five gallon bucket has become the common measure of a daily bag limit.

A five gallon bucket full of cisco weighs substantially more than 25 pounds.

With the "bucket" in common use instead of the required "weight" limit, enforcement is difficult and inconsistent, and often leads to over harvesting of cisco.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Green Lake County on April 11, 2016, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the WDNR to resolve the situation by changing the Total Daily Bag Limit for cisco to "10 in total" for all Wisconsin waters.

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