

**SUBJECT:** Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2010 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

**FOR:** JANUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Ed Harvey, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chair

**SUMMARY:**

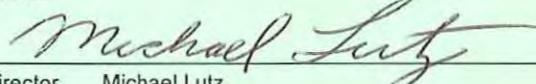
The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will present their 2010 Advisory Questions to the Natural Resources Board. The questions have been approved by the Congress Executive Council for inclusion on the statewide Spring Hearing questionnaire and will be presented to the public at the joint DNR Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress County Meetings on Monday, April 12, 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Informational

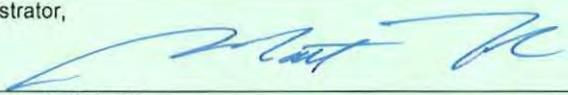
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

  
Bureau Director, Michael Lutz

1-13-10  
Date

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Administrator,  
  
Secretary, Matt Frank

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Date  
1/13/10  
Date

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8 | Tom Hauge - WM/6         | Tom Van Haren - LE/8       |
| Kurt Thiede - LS/8        | Tim Andryk - LS/8        | Laurel Steffes - AD/8      |
| Scott Loomans - WM/6      | Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8 | Kari Lee-Zimmermann - LS/8 |
| Joe Hennessy - FH/4       | Todd Ambs - AD/8         | JD Smith - CE/2            |
| Mike Staggs - FH/4        | Randy Stark - LE/8       |                            |

## 2010 WCC Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

### **Air, Waste and Water Study Committee**

#### 1. Lead reduction in fishing tackle

Lead in the environment is poisonous to wildlife. This proposal is designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning (Lead Toxicosis) in waterbirds, shorebirds and secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys by reducing the amount of lead added to Wisconsin waters due to lost fishing tackle. Studies have shown wildlife is most likely to ingest fishing tackle measuring: less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) length and 25g (1 ounce) in weight, removing lead in fishing tackle of this size would be the most effective way of protecting wildlife.

The Federal lead shot ban for waterfowl hunting, and state restrictions on lead use in fishing tackle in MA, VT, NH, NY and ME have reduced toxicosis in waterfowl. A follow up study on the effectiveness of lead free fishing tackle in New England has shown a reduction in bird mortality. A similar ban in Wisconsin will protect our wildlife resources and migrating populations moving through our state.

Since inexpensive non-lead alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs are currently being manufactured and are available to retailers at a reasonable cost, transition to non-lead alternatives will not put an undue hardship on Wisconsin anglers.

- Would you support efforts by the State phasing out the use of lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters?

### **Bear Study Committee**

Legislation was introduced in 2009 that included a number of proposals that are meant to make some regulations that pertain to bear hound training and bear hunting less restrictive, or are intended to create more opportunity to be able to get involved in bear hunting or training of hounds on bear. Each of the following questions is a stand alone question and each represents one of the five major components of this legislation.

#### 2. Create a free weekend to be able to train hounds on bear without a Class B bear license

This first component of the bill would set aside one weekend during the month of August when a person would be allowed to train hounds on bear without having purchased a Class B Bear Training License. This would be similar to other license-free weekend events already established, such as the free fishing weekend in June. State law requires that anyone participating in bear hound dog training, placement of bait for bear dog training or bear hunting purposes and or assisting a Class A bear license holder in locating a bear to possess a Class B bear license. A Class B bear license provides all the same privileges of a Class A bear license except that it does not allow the holder to shoot, shoot at or kill a bear. This free weekend could create an opportunity for non-bear hunting persons to participate in and experience (but would not be able to harvest a bear without a Class A bear harvest license) the sport of bear hunting without having to purchase a Class B license.

- Would you support establishing one weekend in August when a Class B license would not be required to participate in bear hunting or hound training?

### 3. Elimination of the Class B bear license back tag

State law currently requires that all persons involved in the pursuit of bear (i.e. assisting a Class A permit holder locate a bear, including the handling of hounds) must wear either a Class A or a Class B back tag displayed in the middle of their back on their outermost garment. The wearing of a back tag DOES NOT apply to hunters who are simply placing out bait for bears, or to persons under the age of 12 who may assist a Class A bear license holder without the need for a Class B bear license. Some bear hunters feel that the requirement that a Class B permit holder must wear a bag tag is unnecessary. Temperatures during the training season which starts on July 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through the last day of August can change drastically from early morning to later in the day let alone from the beginning of July to the end of August. This also is true during the harvest season. It makes it very inconvenient to continually change the back tag from one garment to another during the day or from day to day to stay legal.

According to law enforcement officials, the purpose of the back tags was and remains to help satisfy the concerns of landowners about hunters who trespass on their lands by providing the landowners with a means of identifying who is trespassing and allowing sheriff's deputies to track down such trespassers.

Note: Class A back tags would still be required for those bear hunters who hold a valid class A bear harvest license.

- Would you support a legislative change to remove the requirement that all Class B permit holders wear a back tag during the bear training and or harvest seasons?

### 4. Backup shooter

Currently, only the holder of a Class A bear harvest license can legally shoot at a bear. The proposed legislation would expand the current privileges provided to those who hold a Class B bear license to allow them to shoot and kill a bear that was first shot, but not killed, by the holder of a Class A bear license, if it was necessary to protect public safety. Proponents of the proposed legislation site two primary reasons for allowing the concept of a backup shooter. Having a backup shooter would assure that the bear is harvested in the quickest and most humane manner possible. The second reason is safety. A wounded bear could have the ability to injure hounds and hunters. The safety of all involved in the hunt and the human dispatch of the animal are the biggest and are the most important reasons for wanting a back up shooter.

The DNR has several concerns about the effect such a change in the law would have. From a law enforcement perspective, wardens have concerns about the ability to determine if the bear was legally harvested. The department feels that current common law already allows a person to protect themselves or others from a potentially dangerous wounded wild animal.

- Would you be in favor of allowing the use of a backup shooter while bear hunting?

## 5. Training of hounds during the harvest season

During the bear harvest season a group of hound hunters must have at least one person with a valid Class A bear harvest license to run their hounds. Some hound hunters simply wish to run their hounds and are not interested in harvesting a bear. Houndsmen have many hours invested in training and many dollars invested in care for their hounds through out the year. This would not allow hounds to be run during the period of time when only bait hunting is allowed. This proposal would likely result in more hounds in the woods during the open bear hunting season simply for the purpose of pursuing bears and not harvesting a bear. The department and many non-dog bear hunters are concerned that this might have the unintended consequence of increasing conflicts between the individual who uses dogs for training purposes, and those bear hunters who are out trying to hunt a bear without the use of dogs.

- Would you be in favor of allowing the training of hounds on bear during the portion of the bear season that allows the use of hounds to harvest bear with out being in possession of a Class A harvest permit?

## 6. Raising the age requirement for Class B permits

Currently, anyone age 12 or older must possess a Class B bear license to place bait for bear, handle bear dogs during bear dog training or bear hunting activities or otherwise assist a holder of a Class A bear license in locating a bear. In this day and age as we are trying to recruit and retain youth into the outdoor sports we need every opportunity and ability to be able to accomplish this. This proposal would increase the age at which a Class B bear license is required from age 12 to age 16. Allowing youth under age 16 to participate without a license, just as youth under 12 are currently allowed to do would be consistent with other initiatives the department has supported to facilitate getting more youth into the sport of hunting. Proponents of this proposal feel that any loss in license revenue would pale in comparison the benefits of introducing young hunters to bear hunting. They see this as a good investment in the future of hunting.

- Would you be in favor of allowing youth under the age of 16 to have the ability to participate in the training and the hunting of bear without having to purchase a Class B permit?

## **Big Game Study Committee**

### 7. Increase statewide overwinter goal by 25%

The current overwinter goal for deer is 737,000 statewide. Hunters have stated that the DNR efforts to manage deer populations to the current goal have greatly reduced deer sightings as well as deer harvested. An increase of 25% would add approximately 175,000 deer to the statewide overwinter goal.

- Would you support a change in the statewide overwinter goal to 25% over the current goal?

## 8. No change to deer management units (DMUs)

The DNR has considered some changes to the deer management units (DMUs) such as consolidating units to create fewer but larger DMUs. Some hunters have stated that the current DMUs were established by negotiating with the DNR based upon deer populations and habitat.

- Would you support leaving DMUs at the current (2009) configuration?

## 9. Allow group bowhunting for antlerless deer in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) zone

Group hunting for deer is currently limited to gun hunting seasons. The CWD zone is under Earn-a-Buck regulations which require an antlerless deer to be harvested before a buck authorization sticker is earned by the hunter. Allowing group bow hunting for antlerless deer may provide an incentive to have archers harvest more antlerless deer knowing that a youth or hunting partner could register the deer to obtain a buck sticker.

- Would you favor allowing group bow hunting for antlerless deer in the CWD zone?

## 10. Captive cervid farm owners to reimburse DNR for expenses

Currently, cervid (deer and elk) farms in Wisconsin are under control of the USDA. However, the DNR is responsible for inspection of cervid farm fences and dealing with animal escapes outside of those fences. Expenses incurred by the department are funded by the public.

- Would you support statutory changes to require captive cervid farm owners to reimburse the Wisconsin DNR for the cost of fence inspections and animal escapes?

*Pull if advanced by the DNR as a question: Quartering of Harvested Deer*

*Deer taken in remote areas such as swamps are difficult to remove whole, especially if you are hunting alone and lacking in physical strength. Allowing deer to be quartered and packed out would help some hunters to more easily remove their deer from the field. Current law allows the quartering of bears.*

- *Would you support the Department of Natural Resources taking action to correct this situation by allowing hunters to quarter their deer after it is tagged to remove it from the field?*

## 11. Concept to support antler restrictions

With the increase in hunter's desire to see & harvest larger antler bucks the idea of developing a trial antler restrictive deer season in a specific County has been suggested.

- Would you support the concept of implementing an antler restriction during all deer seasons, in your County, on a trial basis?

**Chronic Wasting Disease Ad-hoc Study Committee**

12. Requiring Secondary Gates on Cervid Farms.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources and the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are jointly responsible for regulating various aspects of the captive white-tailed deer farm industry. The DATCP is primarily responsible for the regulation of activities within the fence (animal health, testing, commerce, etc.). The DNR is responsible for inspecting and issuing white-tailed deer fence inspection certificates, as well as removing escaped captive cervids (elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, etc.) from the wild.

Escapes are a concern due to the potential risks with spreading diseases such as CWD, they are also costly to both farm owner and the DNR. The farmers have invested sometimes thousands of dollars in health testing, feed and genetics into their animals, and the DNR invests significant resources in staff time and equipment into dispatching the escaped animals.

While escapes can happen inadvertently due to acts of nature such as a down tree or damage caused by storms, year after year, escapes through open or malfunctioning gates continues to be one of the more preventable, yet very significant method for captive cervids to get into the wild. According to the DNR, since August 2008, there have been 45 incidents (escapes or captive cervid reported sightings). Of those 45 incidents, 27% of the time an escape occurred as a result of a gate being left open. A little over a 1/4 of the escapes during that period could have possibly been prevented by having a secondary gate system, making an unsecured gate a significant cause worthy of attention and easily remedied by mandating a secondary gate system. Such a system could be constructed apart to allow vehicles, trailers and equipment to enter the outer gate without needing to open the inner gate and to allow for the closure of the outer gate before needing to open the inner gate. All gates would then remain closed and secured to prevent unauthorized access and opening of the gates, except when except when authorized persons or equipment are traveling through the gates.

- Would you support a change to state statute that would require a double gate mechanism on all captive cervid farms in Wisconsin?

**Endangered Resources and Law Enforcement Committee**

13. Allow identification of ownership of ice fishing shelters using DNR Customer Numbers.

Current rules require an ice shelter's owner's name and address be legibly painted or otherwise affixed on the outside of the fishing shelter. For many reasons, individuals may not want the owner's name on the shelter. A DNR Customer number is another way to identify ownership and the corresponding name could be easily found by law enforcement officials if needed. Currently, DNR Customer numbers may be used to identify traps, and to identify tree stands on state lands.

- Would you support allowing the owner of an ice fishing shelter the choice of name and address or DNR Customer Number to comply with the identification requirement?

14. Legalize .41 caliber, .44 caliber and .357 caliber pistol rounds in long guns in deer hunting shotgun zones.

Handguns are allowed for deer hunting in shotgun hunting zones. This includes .41 caliber, .44 caliber and .357 caliber pistol rounds. These two rounds can also be fired in the appropriate caliber rifle (long gun). The ballistic difference between the two calibers in handguns and long guns is negligible. Allowing the two pistol calibers in long guns would increase hunting opportunities in shotgun zones.

- Would you support allowing the use of .41 caliber, .44 caliber and .357 caliber pistol rounds in long guns in deer hunting shotgun zones?

### **Fur Harvest Committee**

15. Applications for Fisher, Otter and bobcat Harvest Permits

Currently a person can apply for and receive a fisher, otter and /or bobcat harvest permit if they have a DNR customer identification number. A person is not required to hold a hunting or trapping license for that license year to apply. Any individual applying for or purchasing a DNR permit or license is assigned a customer identification number. Some trappers are concerned that individuals that have no intention of using the permit are applying for, and are being issued permits, effectively taking those permits out of the hands of trappers that would utilize those permits.

- Would you support a change to state statute that would require anyone who applies for a fisher, otter or bobcat harvest to also have a valid hunting or trapping license for the same license year for which they are applying for the permit?

16. Allow the Hunting of Predators over Bait

Hunting predators (fox and coyote) with a firearm takes considerable skill, time and travel to be effective. Hunting under current regulations does not limit state predator populations. Currently, predator hunters are prohibited from using bait to attract predators. It is felt that allowing the use of bait would increase success rates of predator hunters, and would increase hunter's ability to manage growing predator populations.

- Would you support a rule change to allow the hunting of predators over bait from December 1 until the close of fox harvest season (February 15)?

## 17. Preseason Marking of Trap Sites

Currently, preseason marking of trap sites on some public lands, but not all public lands. This action leads to a sense of ownership of public lands and implies ownership. This often leads to conflict between trappers and leads to placing traps on another trapper's stakes. Additional conflicts occur when a trapper removes another trapper's preseason stakes. To avoid these conflicts and promote better sportsmanlike behavior it has been suggested that the preseason staking of trap sites be prohibited.

- Would you support a statute change to prohibit the placing of preseason marking trap sites on all public land controlled by the county or state?

## 18. Closing the Spring Beaver Season

Fewer beaver ponds are being observed on public land. The loss of beaver ponds directly and negatively impacts habitat and waterfowl and wildlife populations. Therefore, trappers have suggested that until beaver populations rebound, spring beaver trapping should be prohibited.

- Would you support closing the spring beaver season by ending the trapping season for beaver on March 31 in the north (zones A & B) and on March 15 in the south (zones C & D)?

## **Great Lakes Study Committee**

## 19. Funds for Great Lakes Fisheries

Annually, the Strawberry Creek, Kewaunee River, and Root River Anadromous Fisheries Facilities collectively generate between \$10,000 and \$30,000 from the sale of salmon eggs to bait companies. Currently, all of those funds are placed into the Fish and Wildlife Account where little or none of those funds are returned to support Great Lakes fisheries management programs. In other states, their DNR is allowed to use the sale of fish eggs to help support their fisheries programs. Since our Great Lakes salmon fisheries program supports the generation of this significant revenue, it makes sense that the funds generated by the sale of salmon eggs should be returned to the Great Lakes fisheries program.

- Would you support correcting this situation by allowing all the funds generated by the sale of salmon eggs to be returned to the Great Lakes Fisheries program?

## 20. General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to fund our Commercial Fishing industry

Currently, funding for management and enforcement to oversee compliance by the commercial fishing industry comes primarily from the Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Account within the Conservation Fund. The funding sources for the Fish and Wildlife Account are primarily hunter and angler license dollars, but also include commercial fishing license fees. The commercial license fees do not cover all management costs. General Purpose Revenue, or GPR, on the other hand consist of general taxes, miscellaneous receipts and revenues collected by state agencies which are paid into a specific fund, lose their identity, and are then available for appropriation by the legislature.

The Great Lakes Commercial Fishing Task Force has come to the following conclusion: "Commercial Fishing benefits all residents of the state of Wisconsin, and we recognize that it will never be self supporting. Therefore, we should pursue with the Legislature, allocations of General Revenues to support Law Enforcement and Fisheries Management efforts related to the protection of the commercial fishery. As with other small businesses, GPR should be used to support the viability of this industry."

- Would you support a legislative change to provide GPR as the funding source for the management and law enforcement efforts required to maintain a commercial fishery on the Great Lakes?

### Legislative Study Committee

## 21. Appointment of the DNR Secretary

The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and its predecessor the Conservation Department were appointed by the Natural Resources Board from 1928 until 1995, when the position became a political appointee of the Governor.

The Conservation Congress has long supported the restoration of the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board. Historically there has been less political interference in natural resource management decisions under a Board appointed Secretary. Since the position has become a political appointee there has been far faster turnover in agency leadership and the position has been filled with people without a significant background in natural resource management.

Assembly Bill 138 and Senate Bill 113 have been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature this session restoring the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board.

- Would you support legislation during this legislative session restoring the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board and that the Governor sign the legislation into law?

## 22. Allow Sports License to be Issued for Gun or Bow Deer Hunting

If a person bow hunts for deer, small game hunts and fishes, but does not gun deer hunt, that hunter is penalized. The bow only deer hunter must purchase three separate licenses, where as the gun deer hunter need only purchase one reduced cost sportsman's License which allows gun deer hunting, small game hunting and fishing.

Considering the hunting community is experiencing a decline in hunters every year making it more difficult to maintain funding for programs. A simple change in the sportsman's license would make this license more appealing to sportsman, sportswomen and children. The change would allow a person, at the time of purchase, to select whether they wanted to purchase the sportsman's license to include a gun or a bow deer license.

- Would you support legislation that would allow a person the choice of whether they wanted to receive a gun deer or bow deer approval when purchasing a Sportsman License?

### **Migratory Study Committee**

## 23. Legalize 8 gauge shotguns with 10 gauge chamber inserts for waterfowl hunting

Currently, Wisconsin law prohibits the use of shotguns with a bore larger than a 10 gauge. Collectors of vintage waterfowl guns would like the opportunity to use their 8 gauge shotguns for duck and goose hunting. To abide by Federal restrictions on using shotguns chambered with shells larger than 10 gauge, chamber inserts have been developed to slide into 8 gauge shotguns that allow a 10 gauge shell to be chambered in these vintage firearms. Under Wisconsin law an 8 gauge shotgun with a 10 gauge chamber insert with non-toxic shot can not be used to hunt migratory game birds. To make enforcement easier for law enforcement another regulation change that would prohibit a hunter from possessing shells larger than 10 gauge while hunting may be beneficial to deter someone from trying to use 8 gauge shells in a non-modified 8 gauge shotgun.

- Would you support a rule change to allow 12 or 10 gauge chamber inserts to be used with non-toxic shot in 8 gauge shotguns for harvesting migratory game birds in Wisconsin, and possession of shells larger than 10 gauge while waterfowl hunting would be illegal?

**Mississippi River Study Committee**

24. Allowed harvest and use of bait on Mississippi River and tributaries

*From Submitted Resolution, Wes Domine, Buffalo County*

Under current precautionary Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) regulations, it is now illegal for anglers to trap legal bait species (minnows, willow cats, etc.) from the Mississippi River or its tributaries. This is applicable even if anglers trap, use, and dispose of baits before leaving the river system. However, and to the contrary of minimizing opportunity to spread VHS, it is legal to bring minnows to the Mississippi River (if purchased from certified bait dealers), and then retain and take them to other water bodies later provided no lake or river water was added to the bait container. The harvest and use of bait from/on VHS suspect waters, such as the Mississippi River will not increase the likelihood of spreading VHS provided anglers dispose of such bait before leaving those waters.

- Would you support the allowed harvest and use of legal bait species from/on the Mississippi River or its tributaries up to first barrier, for personal angling use only, provided such bait is not transported away from the river or those tributaries?

**Outdoor Heritage Study Committee**

25. Lower Crossbow Eligibility at Age 55

Currently, the law allows senior hunters age 65 and older to use a crossbow for hunting without the need of special crossbow permit or disabled permit. However, hunters age 55 and older, due to issues such as arthritis, bursitis, injuries and other ailments may choose to give up bow hunting rather than go through the effort of going through the medical exam necessary to obtain a special permit. It is felt that by allowing crossbows to be used by those 55 years of age and older it would increase the number of hunters in this age group that would choose to continue to archery hunt. Those opposed to this proposal see lowering the age as detrimental to the sport of archery by increasing the number of these advanced weapons into the archery season.

- Would you support a statutory change that would allow hunters 55 years of age to use a crossbow for hunting without the need to obtain medical proof of a disability?

**Trout Study Committee**

26. Extension of the Inland Trout Season

The inland trout season in Wisconsin presently closes on September 30th. Some trout anglers feel that an extension of the season through the end of October would provide added fishing opportunity and allow sportspersons an added opportunity during the fall fishing and hunting seasons. Several other states have later closure dates or are open year around. It is anticipated that fishing pressure would be light at that time of the year and pose no threat to the trout population in our inland streams.

- Would you support the inland trout season to open the first Saturday closest to May 1st and continue though October 31st?

## 27. Open the Wisconsin Inland Trout Season One Week Prior to the Regular Fishing Season Opener

The inland trout season has opened for many years on the Saturday closest to May 1st concurrent with the regular fishing season opener. Participation in the total opening day fishing experience by the general public has decreased in recent years. Opening the regular trout fishing season one week prior to the regular fishing opener would increase participation by anglers for both trout and other species.

- Would you support the inland trout season to opening one week earlier than the general fishing opener?

### **Warm Water Study Committee**

## 28. Overharvest of walleye on silver lake

Silver Lake, located in Lakeland Township, Barron County, has been a producer of trophy-class walleyes with limited fishing pressure since flooding in 2002. Now that the water levels have lowered, water quality has improved, and the large fish have proven to be very susceptible to harvest. There is an estimated 15 times more fishing pressure on the 337 acre lake, than in the past. This level of harvest is not sustainable at the current level. Silver Lake has proven its ability to produce trophy class walleyes.

- Would you support a 28" size limit with the daily bag limit being reduced from 5 fish to 1?

## 29. Lower bag limit on Crappies north of Hwy. 8

According to northern anglers, the overall size of crappies being caught on many northern lakes appears to be dropping. The problem may be the over harvest of large crappies. Anecdotally, it has been suggested that most crappie fisherman at the current time do not practice catch and release, as is done in muskie, bass or walleye fishing. Currently, crappies are included in the category of pan fish and do not have separate bag limits on most waters in Wisconsin. According to popular data, more people fish for crappies in Wisconsin than any other fish except walleye.

- Would you support the WDNR managing crappies as separate species, so that lower bag limits could be set on lakes and rivers north of Hwy 8?

## 30. Patten Lake Walleye Regulations, Florence County

In 1997, special walleye size and bag limits were established on Patten Lake in Florence County to reduce the number of undersize walleye being lost through hooking mortality. Currently, there is no minimum size limit on walleye but you can only keep one fish over 14" in your daily bag limit of 5 fish.

Based on results of a fish survey taken on Patten Lake by the WDNR in August, 2000 the young of the year walleye count was above average, and now the lake has a balanced age structure. Local anglers feel that special regulations are no longer needed. Based on the lake survey data, the Patten Lake property owners association is requesting that Patten Lake be returned to the more liberal and more common walleye regulations.

- Would you support restoring Patten Lake walleye regulations to a daily bag limit of 5 fish with a size limit of 15"?

### 31. Muskie size limit on Lake Redstone, Sauk County

On Lake Redstone the current size limit for muskies is 40 inches. Local anglers are concerned that muskies are being harvested before they are at good spawning size on Redstone Lake. It is felt that Lake Redstone has great potential to produce trophy class muskies due to the fertility of the lake and a good forage base and extra protection is necessary to allow the muskies in the lake to reach their full growth potential.

- Would you support increasing the size limit for muskies on Redstone Lake in Sauk County from 40" to a 50" size limit?

### 32. Removal of trophy muskie designation for Pelican Lake, Oneida County

Local anglers and property owners around Pelican Lake, in Oneida County, consider the lake more of an "action" muskie fishery than a "trophy" muskie fishery. However, currently, there is a 50" size limit on the lake. The local lake association and town boards would like to see the lake returned to a 34" size limit for muskies. They believe that a trophy muskie is in the eyes of the beholder, and feel that anglers should be allowed to keep muskies over 34". Therefore the local residents wish to restore the 34" size limit on Pelican Lake.

- Would you support changing the 50" size limit for muskies on Pelican Lake in Oneida county to a 34" muskie size limit?

### 33. 50" minimum length size limit for muskies on Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County

The current size limit for muskie on Whitefish Lake in Sawyer County is 34". Local anglers feel that at this size they have not come close to their potential growth in this body of water. It is a costly venture to stock extended growth muskies to only have them harvested at their now legal size of 34". In addition, Whitefish Lake is connected to Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone Lakes each of which has a 50" size limit on muskies.

- Would you support changing the regulation on the minimum musky size limit on Whitefish Lake in Sawyer County from 34" to 50"?

### 34. & 35. Sawyer County Bass Regulations

Some local anglers believe that Sawyer County's waters are not well served by existing bass regulations. They feel the current bass regulations need to be changed to accommodate management plans and public desires.

- Would you support moving Sawyer County into the southern bass management zone?
- Would you support managing smallmouth and largemouth as separate species in Sawyer County?

*Pull if advanced by the DNR as a question: Fishing season expansion on the Chippewa Flowage, Sawyer County.*

*The Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County is the only inland water specifically closed to ice fishing in Wisconsin. The rule is primarily social in nature, as there is no biological rationale for the rule. Ice fishing will provide additional angling opportunity and will direct needed harvest of northern pike and largemouth bass and is a recommendation of the Chippewa Flowage Management Plan. This question is complimentary to the Department's question which proposes a continuous open pan fishing season.*

- *Would you support extending the fishing season on the Chippewa Flowage, for game fish (Other than panfish), from December 1, to the first Sunday in March, and a continuous year round panfish season, with a panfish daily bag of ten in aggregate?*

### 36. Managing panfish as separate species.

Currently, panfish (blue gills, sunfish, warmouth, pumpkinseed, crappies, and perch) for the purposes of inland waterbody bag limits are managed as one grouping or category of fish. In other states, such as Minnesota, perch and crappies are listed as separate species to achieve management results.

- Would you support separating panfish into species specific categories statewide for the purpose of species management?