

440516

11th

Conservation Congress Resolution

April , 2016

Bass Size and Bag Limit on Pelican Lake, Oneida County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources established an 18 inch minimum length and a daily fish harvest limit of one in 1995 because of a perceived problem with rustic crayfish. After twenty years of this regulation, bass are now plentiful and rustic crayfish are scarce. This is substantiated by the WDNR Creel Survey that reports SM bass catch of 891 in 1991 and 9066 in 2012 and LM bass catch of 1337 in 1991 and 8633 in 2012.

Whereas, a WDNR technical bulletin No. 148 noted that an 8 inch bass size limit (changed from the prior no size limit) resulted in a substantial reduction in the harvest, yield, and harvest rate of yellow perch. Per the Creel Survey Report, the 2012 perch harvest was only 41% of the 1991 harvest.

Whereas, the WDNR wants to encourage children to become fishermen, but to do this kids must be able to catch and keep good eating-sized fish to proudly take home to their parents, grandparents, relatives and friends.

Whereas, since the WDNR established the current regulations because of a perceived problem and this problem no longer exists, they should change to the general State regulation of 14 inch 5 fish daily limit, which is the best management for the ecology of the Lake. Let's make this change now before the fix becomes worse than the original problem.

Whereas, the Pelican Lake Property Owners Board of Directors supports this resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Oneida County recommends that the Bass size limit be changed to 14 inches, with a daily bag limit of 5 for Pelican Lake.

Respectfully,

Edward Rueckl
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2016 vote
55 yes
10 no