

Burnett Co. 07 #1

070108

RESOLUTION

Title: Great Northwest Bass Restoration Initiative

The Problem: The bass fishery in Burnett County and northwest Wisconsin is facing a significant challenge. Bass are growing at much slower rates compared to historical standards.

Based on the 1990 WI-DNR Fish Management Reference Book only 12% of lakes in NW Wisconsin did not meet minimum growth standards at the time size limits were adopted. Based on a random sample of 15% of the 215 lakes > 50 acres over the last three years, 61% of the largemouth bass lakes north of Highway 70 and 70% of the lakes south of Highway 70 in these counties do not meet the minimum growth standards. 19% of the sample populations could not reach preferred size (15 inches) within a normal 10 year life span while 97% reached or exceeded 15 inches by age 7 under pre-size limit conditions. Only 15% of present populations approach what was considered average in 1990.

Fishing pressure is less than state wide or northern averages.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Burnett County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change reducing the bass size limit from 14 inches to zero inches on all lakes located whole or in part in Burnett County. The proposal would not affect the bag limit or bass management zone boundaries.

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Local Issue
Consulted w/ DNR
DNR Agrees

P. Mant