

Sample Resolutions

Resolution #130108

Title: Proposed Green Bay Muskellunge Size Limit Increase

The Problem

The reintroduction of muskellunge into Green Bay has created a world class fishery, bringing significant financial benefit to the region. As natural reproduction has not yet been documented, the system is entirely dependent upon stocking. However a recent VHS-related halt in stocking has now cast uncertainty into the future of the fishery. Thus, the current 50" minimum size limit on muskellunge is no longer adequate to protect the tremendous value of the fishery.

Supporting Arguments

- 1) DNR studies indicate 50" muskellunge in Green Bay are typically 13-14 years old, young compared to 50" fish elsewhere. Thus these fish will likely continue to grow for several years
- 2) A 54" minimum size limit exists for similar strains of muskellunge in certain Great Lakes waters, established by Canada to protect their "Record Class Fisheries."
- 3) The continued harvest of 50" muskellunge from Green Bay, combined with emerging VHS-related factors, may have a pronounced impact on both local and statewide economies.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting in Dane County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources increase the minimum length limit on muskellunge in the Green Bay system from 50" to 54". The waters affected by this proposal are those of Lake Michigan north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc, Sturgeon Bay, the waters of Green Bay proper, the Fox River upstream of the DePere dam, and the tributary streams considered outlying waters.

Presenter: Gerard V Hellenbrand

Organization: Green Bay Muskellunge Coalition

Address: Madison, WI

County: Dane

Author's Name: Thomas C. Betka, MD, BS

Address: Green Bay, WI

County: Brown

County Vote: YES: 117 NO: 43

Action Taken: Sent to Warmwater Committee for review

Sample Resolutions

Resolution #180108

Title: Phase Out Lead Fishing Tackle

The Problem

Lead has been shown to have adverse health effects in waterfowl, raptors, and predator birds that consume it or consume animals that have been exposed to it. Some water birds mistake the sinkers and jigs for food or grit and ingest them. In eastern North America, lead poisoning from sinker or jig ingestion ranks as one of the leading causes of death for loons. However, the total number of loons or other wildlife that actually die of lead poisoning from sinker ingestion cannot be accurately estimated.

Each year Wisconsin anglers purchase, use, and lose hundreds of pounds of lead in fishing lures and terminal tackle in our lakes, streams and rivers.

Lead in fishing lures and tackle has been banned in other states, most notably California, many New England states, and some federal parks and jurisdictions. Other states, such as Minnesota, have increased educational efforts and initiated lead tackle buy-back and exchange programs.

There are acceptable ecologically and economically viable alternatives to using lead in sinkers and fishing lures.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Eau Claire County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation on the waters of Wisconsin by working with manufacturers, retailers, conservation organizations and sportsman's clubs to provide a phased-in program and possibly a replacement/buy-back system to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of lead in lures and terminal tackle in Wisconsin.

Name of Author: Dennis R. Vanden Bloomen

Name of Organization: Private Citizen

Address: Eau Claire, WI

Name of County Introducing: Eau Claire County

Signature:

County Vote: YES: 46 NO: 9

Action Taken: Sent to Air, Waste, and Water Committee for review.

Sample Resolutions

Resolution #340308

Title: Wolf River Trout Refuge

The Problem

The upper Wolf River in eastern Langlade County is one of the state's few remaining large, well-forested, free-ranging whitewater trout streams still remaining in a clean and wild state of nature. We often have low water levels which in warm weather results in high temperatures, causing the trout to lay in shallow spring seepage areas where they are vulnerable to predators.

The Solution

The river has many cold spring-fed feeder streams where deep pools could be so constructed to provide refuge during hot summer spells and would also provide the deep slow pools they need to winter in, set as "Trout Refuges" and properly signed as such with no fishing within 200 feet of the signs.

BE IT RESOLVED: At this Langlade County hearing that sportsmen and the Wolf River chapter of Trout Unlimited be permitted to plan such Trout Refuges with DNR approval and construct them.

Name of Author: Herbert Briettner

Address: White Lake, WI

County: Langlade County

Signature:

County Vote: YES: 47 NO: 19

Action Taken: Sent to the Trout Committee for review.

Sample Resolutions

Resolution #440108

Title: Maple Walleye Reproduction Initiative

The Problem

Wisconsin has lost natural walleye reproduction on dozens of quality lakes in recent years, which results in a loss of angling opportunity and the high costs associated with stocking efforts. Biologists say Maple Lake, located in Oneida County near downtown Three Lakes, stopped producing walleye because of the harmful impacts of both storm-drain runoff and winterkills.

In recent years, a local conservation group convinced the town to divert the storm sewers to improve water quality. With the help of the State, it installed an aeration system to prevent winterkill. Biologists have studied and mapped the lake and have found many suitable areas for walleyes to spawn.

But despite aggressive stocking efforts, local fishing guides and anglers have hit the 175-acre lake so hard that young walleye recruitment has been minimal. Even changing the minimum walleye size limit to 18 inches several years ago hasn't provided enough protection to the brood stock. More protection from harvest is needed until adequate natural reproduction is achieved, saving thousands of dollars in annual stocking costs.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Oneida County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to implement a 28-inch minimum size limit for walleyes, with a one-fish daily bag limit, to aid the recovery of natural walleye reproduction in Maple Lake.

Name of Author: Chris Blicharz

Name of Organization: Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association

Address: Three Lakes, WI

County: Oneida County

Signature:

County Vote: YES: 63 NO: 16

Action Taken: Returned to author, issue has not been discussed with local DNR.

Sample Resolutions

Resolution #48108

Title: Free Winter Fishing Weekend

The Problem

Fishing license sales are starting to decline. If we cannot stabilize or reverse this trend, we will soon be lacking the financial resources needed to manage our fisheries. Therefore, we simply need to help introduce more people to the great fishing opportunities we have in Wisconsin. We currently have a free fishing weekend every year in June. This has been very successful in introducing adults and youth alike to the sport of open water fishing. We could further enhance this program if we were to implement a free winter fishing weekend as well. This would be a great tool for visitors associations to use to encourage a winter vacation in Wisconsin. Winter ice fishing is very popular in Wisconsin. Many people become hooked on ice fishing after they try it for the first time. A no license required fishing weekend would help introduce folks to the sport of fishing on the ice. And may even help bring people to Wisconsin for a winter vacation.

Whereas: A no license required weekend will not affect overall license sales negatively and may even enhance license sales;

Whereas: Late February ice conditions are generally very safe throughout the whole state of Wisconsin;

Whereas: This free weekend would give those folks who do not fish an incentive to give it a try;

BE IT RESOLVED: The Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Pierce County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Department take action to implement a free winter fishing weekend in Wisconsin.

Name of Author: Dan White

Address: Spring Valley, WI

County: Pierce County

Signature:

County Vote: YES: 24 NO: 3

Action Taken: Sent to Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee for review.