Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing
&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2015 **7:00 PM**

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Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive, the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. No argument or rebuttal will be allowed and testimony must remain respectful. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 13, 2015.

The results of the 2015 Spring Hearings will be available online as soon as they are available.

The results can be found at
dnr.wi.gov – search for "Spring Hearings"

PUB-LS-003 2015

Think of the places that mean Wisconsin to you...

Our State Parks, State Natural Areas, State Wildlife Areas and State Fishery Areas. How much do these places matter? How much do you want them to thrive for the next generation, and the one after that?

The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund provides for habitat management and ensures the future care and enjoyment of our publicly owned lands and waters.

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CherishWisconsin.org

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Give now. Enjoy forever.

WCC Delegate Elections

Delegate election takes place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting/Hearing.

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age, you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. A photo ID is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- ☐ 2-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 2-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
2-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a two-year term on the WCC.

- ☐ 3-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 3-Year Term run-off ballot

3-YEAR
ELECTION BALLOT
3-YEAR
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

I vote for the above named individual to serve a three-year term on the WCC.

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

Nominees have the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how they could best represent their county, and serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

As a county delegate, you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected, they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of participating voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange of ideas concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening. To guard against possible conflict of interest or bias, no full or part-time employee(s) of the Department of Natural Resources or member of the Natural Resources Board shall be members of the WCC.

A delegate must:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county he or she wishes to represent. To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
    - Attending two district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
    - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
    - Possibly serving as chair or alternate chair of their County Deer Advisory Council.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

Statewide Electronic Balloting

To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you read the instructions below before voting.

After you have registered, you will be provided with

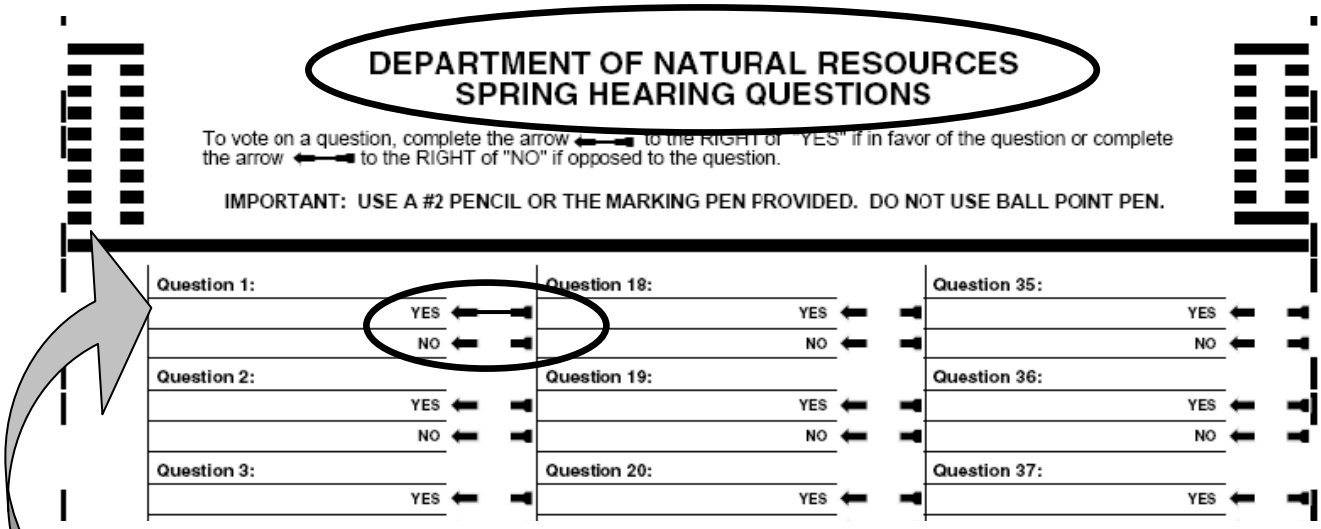
- ☑ a **white ballot** for the Department of Natural Resources proposed Wildlife & Fisheries rule change and Natural Resources Board advisory questions.
- ☑ a **green ballot** for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions.
- ☑ a **blue ballot** for any citizen introduced resolutions.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - **not pen**
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the ballots.

Sample WHITE BALLOT:
The white ballot is for Department of Natural Resources proposed rule changes and Natural Resources Board advisory questions in the questionnaire.

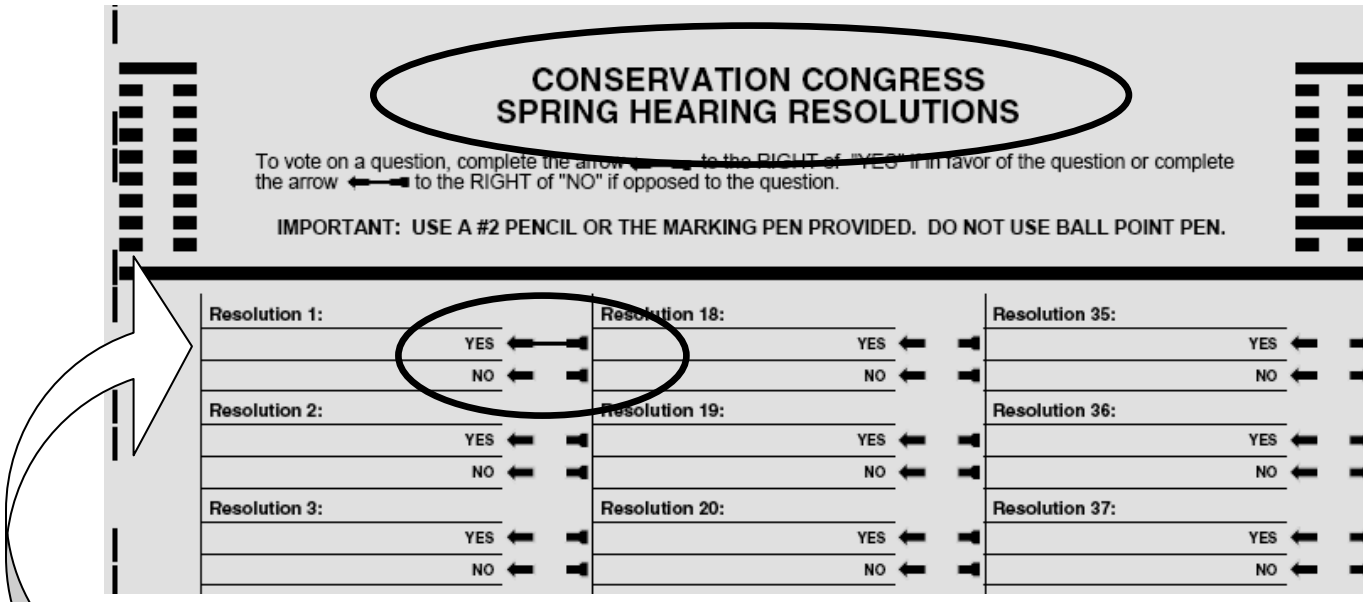


Question 1: Do you support changing the date of the ruffed grouse season?

1. YES _____ No ____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

Sample <u>BLUE BALLOT</u>:
The blue ballot is for <u>citizen resolutions</u> that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

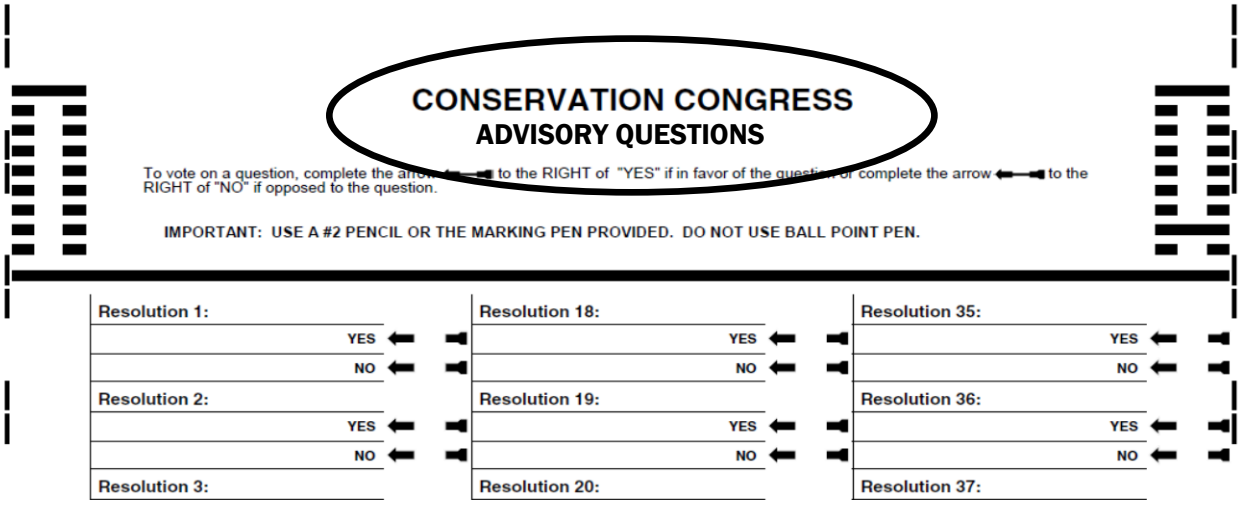


Resolution 1: BE IT RESOLVED**,** the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year**,** recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season?

1. YES _____ **No** ____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

Sample <u>GREEN BALLOT</u>:
The green ballot is for <u>Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions</u> contained within the questionnaire.

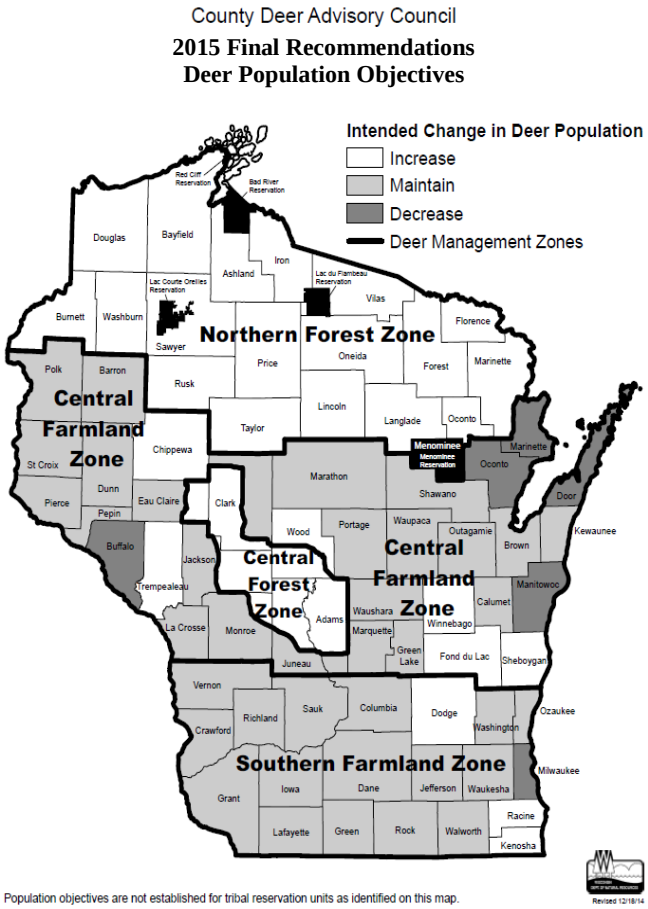


CDAC Spring Quota Recommendations

Your County Deer Advisory Council wants YOUR input on the proposed 2015 antlerless deer quotas

Visit http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdacsurvey.html to provide your comments.

- *CDACs are groups of public stakeholders that provide deer management recommendations for each county*
- *Fall of 2014: CDACs formed deer population objective recommendations (increase, decrease or maintain herd size)*
- *Spring of 2015: CDACs form antlerless harvest quota recommendations*
- *For more information on CDACs: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC"*



Population objectives are not established for tribal reservation units as identified on this map.

In an effort to bring deer management closer to the local level, the Department of Natural Resources established a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) for each county in Wisconsin in 2014. Each council provides deer population objectives and antlerless harvest quota recommendations to the DNR, and opportunities are being explored to increase their responsibilities. Council membership consists of members of the public who represent agriculture, forestry, transportation, tourism, urban issues, hunting and the Deer Management Assistance Program. Chairs and alternate chairs for the CDACs are selected from among each county's Conservation Congress delegates. Local DNR wildlife, forestry and law enforcement liaisons attend CDAC meetings to provide data and answer questions, but are not voting members. All CDAC meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities to provide public comments.

CDAC Charter

- Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.
- Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions.
- Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.

POPULATION OBJECTIVES The first official CDAC meetings took place during the fall of 2014, during which council members reviewed various aspects of deer herd measurements within their county and developed population objective recommendations. Population objectives describe a trend of increasing, decreasing or maintaining a county's deer herd over a three-year period. CDACs considered stakeholder group input, public comments and county-specific deer herd metrics when developing population objective recommendations.

ANTLERLESS HARVEST QUOTAS During the spring 2015 meetings, councils will begin implementing population objectives by developing antlerless harvest quota recommendations that will be used to achieve their population objectives. Quotas determine the number of antlerless permits available during the following deer season. Unlike three-year population objectives, quotas are reviewed and adjusted each year. In the past, the DNR has set antlerless quotas to achieve a numerical deer population goal. Now, CDACs will provide quota recommendations to the DNR to increase, decrease or maintain deer numbers within their county. CDACs will consider a variety of indicators including 2014 harvest data, winter mortality data and public input when forming quota recommendations for the 2015 deer seasons. The first round of meetings to discuss quota recommendations will occur in March 2015; schedules will be posted on the CDAC website at *dnr.wi.gov*, keyword "CDAC." As with the population objective recommendations, CDACs will release their preliminary quota recommendations for public review. Following a public comment period in early April, CDACs will vote on a final antlerless quota recommendation for their county. Once approved by the NRB in May, the final quota and subsequent permit levels will go into effect for the 2015 deer hunting seasons.

CDAC Resources

CDAC website: visit *dnr.wi.gov*, keyword "CDAC." The CDAC website is a portal to the meeting schedule, meeting minutes, CDAC recommendations, contact information, and other resources.

- CDAC members and contact information by county: click on the "Membership" link near the top of the page.
- Meeting schedule for spring 2015: click on the "Spring 2015" tab near the bottom of the page, then click on the "County Deer Advisory Council meetings" link for meeting dates, times and locations.
- Online public input opportunities: check the CDAC website frequently for updates. Public review of preliminary quota recommendations runs from April 1 – 15, 2015.
- Learn more: check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ tab), or email DNRCDACWebmail@Wisconsin.gov with any other questions.

Important dates: spring meetings will be devoted to quota recommendations.

Date	Event
Mar. 16-19, 23-26	Develop preliminary CDAC quota recommendation.
Apr. 1-15	Public comment period on preliminary CDAC recommendations.
Apr. 20-23	Provide final recommendation on 2015 quotas to department.
May 27	Natural Resources Board approval of 2015 quotas.

MEMBERSHIP Some councils still have open seats for qualified candidates. If you are interested in applying, first visit the CDAC website and click on the "Membership" link near the top of the page to determine if your county has seats available. When you are ready to apply, click on the application link under the "CDAC Application" heading. Paper applications may also be available; contact your CDAC chair for more information.

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Rule and Informational Hearing and Conservation Congress Meeting will convene.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on Board Order FH-14-14 a permanent rule that would affect NR 19-23 and 26 relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources will take public input on Board Order WM-01-15 a permanent rule that would **amend** NR 10.01 (2) (a), (c) 1., (d) to (g), 10.01 (3) (a) and (c) 2., 10.06 (5), 10.13 (3), 10.13 (1) (b) 13. and 15. (Intro.) and d.; to **repeal and recreate** NR 10.001 (20); and to **create** NR 10.13 (1) (b) 18. and 11.04 (3m), wildlife management rules relating to hunting, trapping, and closed areas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources and the Conservation Congress will take public input on advisory questions relating to fishing on the inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin as well as advisory questions relating to hunting, trapping, and management of Wisconsin's natural resources.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron County Government Center, 330 E LaSalle Avenue, Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Court House, 117 E 5th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
Brown	Green Bay Southwest H.S., Auditorium via north door, 1331 Packerland Drive, Green Bay, WI 54304
Buffalo	Alma High School, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Room B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, Cafeteria via Door #1,750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, West Gymnasium via Door #4, 306 W Central Avenue, Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Portage High School, Auditorium, 301 E Collins Street, Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium via front door, 800 E Crawford St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Sun Prairie High School, Performing Arts Center, 888 Grove Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Dodge	Horicon Marsh International Education Center, Lower Auditorium, N7725 STH 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Brule Town Hall, 5820 Maple Street, Brule, WI 54820
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1600 Pine Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	CVTC Business Education Center, Casper Room 103, 620 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, 9750 US Highway 8 West, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Multi-Purpose Room, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W Margaret Street, Mercer, WI 54547
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center, 503 N Jackson Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549
Juneau	Olson Middle School, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol School District #1, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Theater, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Langlade County Fair Grounds, Building B Clover Room, 1635 Neva Road, Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Tomahawk School District, 1048 E Kings Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc, Theatre, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Marathon	DC Everest Middle School, Auditorium via west side entrance, 9302 Schofield Ave., Weston, WI 54476
Marinette	Wausaukee High School, Auditorium, N11941 Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School, 11601 W Lincoln Avenue, West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Tomah High School, Cafeteria, 901 Lincoln Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James William Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Appleton North High School, Auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913
Ozaukee	Webster Transitional School, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School, Auditorium, 1908 State Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	North Central Technical College, Room P162, 1408 Pine Ridge Road, Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S Colony Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 W Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Milton High School, Auditorium, 114 W High Street, Milton, WI 53563
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Avenue East, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	St. Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway Street, Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo – Sauk County, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Hayward Middle School, Commons/Auditorium, 10408 N Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI 54843
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, Room LGI, 1050 S Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Plymouth High School, Auditorium, 125 Highland Avenue, Plymouth, WI 53073
Taylor	Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, Hwy 64/Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 18620 Hobson Street, Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	Saint Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings Street, Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School, Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Performing Arts Center, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Court House, Board Room 265, 209 S Saint Marie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville School District Admin. Building, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI 54466

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2015.

The rules may be reviewed and comments made at adminrules.wisconsin.gov or through the department's website at http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/proposedrules.html no later than April 13, 2015.

Comments on Board Order WM-01-15 may also be submitted to the agency contact person: Scott Loomans, 101 South Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; or phone (608) 267-2452, or email scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov.

Comments on Board Order FH-14-14 may also be submitted to the agency contact person: Kate Strom Hiorns, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; or fax (608) 266-2244; or email kathryn.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov.

Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the votes received at the county hearings.

PLEASE NOTE: The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and is available online at **dnr.wi.gov - search "Spring Hearings."**

GET INVOLVED

Enjoy spending time outdoors?

Want to make a contribution to your community?

Want your voice to be heard?

Want to kick-start a career in natural resources?

Join the WISCONSIN YOUTH CONSERVATION CONGRESS

For more info contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann at **608-266-0580**
email **Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov**

Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing

Please utilize the white ballot to provide your input.

PROPOSED STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

(Parenthesis indicate the year the proposal would become effective)

QUESTION 1. Expand the areas where waterfowl hunting is allowed by eliminating the requirement that hunters and blinds be "concealed" if they are within 3 feet of the shoreline (2016)

Hunting waterfowl from open water areas is prohibited in most of the state. Hunters who are on the water must remain concealed by emergent vegetation at all times while hunting, unless they are standing in the water without the aid of a boat or blind. Blinds in the water must also be concealed by naturally occurring emergent vegetation. Wisconsin's open water hunting rule dates back to early conservation statutes designed to keep hunters out of the middle of waters that are used as staging areas by migrating ducks or geese. Providing these areas where there is no hunting pressure encourages birds to remain in an area longer and provide more chance for birds to spend time feeding and resting during migration.

This proposal would expand the areas where waterfowl hunting is allowed by no longer requiring concealment by emergent vegetation as long as a hunter is within 3 feet of the shoreline. Hunters who are not within three feet of the shoreline would still need to be 50% concealed by emergent vegetation in order to maintain a prohibition of hunting in open water.

1. Do you favor expanding the areas where waterfowl hunting is allowed by eliminating the requirement that hunters and blinds be "concealed" if they are within 3 feet of the shoreline?	**1.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 2. Increasing the possession limit for small game (2016)

The possession limit for most small game species, other than migratory birds, is twice the daily bag limit. This restriction on the number of animals that a hunter may possess at any time at home or a hunting camp may be designed to distribute harvest fairly among hunters, to prevent what might be perceived as "hoarding" of game animals, and as an enforcement tool in cases where large amounts of game may have been taken illegally.

Two years ago, the USFWS increased the possession limit for migratory game birds from twice to three times the daily bag limit and Wisconsin adopted a consistent rule for migratory game birds only.

This proposal would establish a possession limit of three times the daily bag limit for the following small game species: pheasants, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, squirrels, and rabbits. This possession limit would simplify regulations by making them consistent with rules currently in place for migratory birds. This increase is small enough that it likely would not impact the distribution of harvest among hunters.

2. Do you favor increasing the possession limit for pheasants, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, squirrels, and rabbits from two times the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit?	**2.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 3. Establishing a 9:00 a.m. opening time on the first day of pheasant season (2016)

Hunting hours begin at 12:00 p.m. on the first day of the pheasant hunting season. Hunting also begins at noon for other seasons that open on the same day: bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, rabbits in the south, and ruffed grouse in southeast Wisconsin. Hunting hours begin 30 minutes before sunrise for the remainder of the seasons. The delayed opening time may have been established primarily so that pheasant hunters have time to spread out before beginning to hunt and so that people on heavily used public hunting grounds have excellent visibility immediately at the start of shooting hours.

An opening time of 9:00 a.m. may serve the same purpose of helping to ensure good visibility and awareness of where other hunting parties are during very busy hunting conditions on the first day of the season. This opening time would also be consistent with the beginning of shooting hours on the first day of duck hunting seasons. For consistency, this proposal would also establish a 9:00 a.m. shooting time for other seasons that open on the same day as pheasant hunting.

3. Do you favor establishing a 9:00 a.m. opening time on the first day of pheasant season as well as for Hungarian partridge, bobwhite quail, rabbits in the area south of Hwy. 10 to Waupaca and south of Hwy. 54 from Waupaca to Algoma, and ruffed grouse in Zone B which includes southeast Wisconsin?	**3.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 4. Establish a more consistent opening date for the spring turkey hunting season (2017)

The first spring turkey hunting season opens on the Wednesday nearest April 13 and continues for seven days. The five additional hunting periods all begin on subsequent Wednesdays and also continue for seven days. The current opening day can fall during the second or third week in April, sometimes resulting in a full week of variation from year-to-year. The youth turkey hunting season is always on the Saturday and Sunday before the regular season and the timing of that opener can also vary by a full week in some years.

This proposal would establish that the first spring turkey hunting season always begins on the third Wednesday in April. Some people have expressed an interest in having a more consistent opener for a variety of reasons including it may be easier to plan hunts, some think the later opener would provide more consistently better weather, and an opportunity to hunt over the Memorial Day weekend would always be available during the last hunting period. This variation in timing of the opening day is not important for any purpose related to the management of wild turkeys and is simply a matter of hunter preference.

4. Do you favor a consistent spring turkey season opening day which would be the third Wednesday in April each year?	**4.** YES____	NO_____

QUESTIONS 5-6. Simplify the fall turkey hunting season framework (2016)

Currently, the fall turkey hunting season closes statewide on the Thursday before the traditional nine-day firearm deer season. In recent years all other hunting seasons, with the single exception of the crow hunting season, have been updated so that hunting is allowed on the day before the firearm deer hunting season. In turkey management zones 1 to 5, the turkey season remains closed throughout the traditional 9-day firearm deer season and reopens on the day after. All other small game seasons remain open during the firearm deer season.

This proposal would simplify the turkey hunting season framework by allowing turkey hunting statewide on the day before the traditional nine-day firearm deer season and eliminating the closed period in zones 1 to 5. In addition to eliminating a season closure that may be unnecessary and establishing hunting dates that are consistent with seasons for other species, this change may provide additional hunting opportunity for a person who arrives at their deer hunting location before the season and has an opportunity to hunt turkeys.

5. Do you favor simplifying the fall turkey hunting season framework by allowing turkey hunting statewide on the day before the traditional nine-day firearm deer season?	**5.** YES____	NO_____

6. Do you favor simplifying the fall turkey hunting season framework by eliminating the turkey hunting closed period which occurs during the traditional 9-day firearm deer season in turkey management zones 1 to 5?	**6.** YES____	NO_____

QUESTION 7. Eliminate the trapping hours restriction (2016)

Trapping is currently allowed only during the hours beginning at 4:00 a.m. and continuing through 8:00 p.m. daily. No person may set or reset any trap or traps or attend any trap line from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. The current restriction may have been established at a time when competition for a more limited furbearer population was more significant. Some people speculate that the trapping hours restriction may have been intended to reduce trap or fur theft by focusing activity towards daylight hours.

This proposal would simplify rules by eliminating the trapping hours restriction. Some people desire the additional flexibility so they can tend a trap line and maintain work, school, or other schedules. Most trapping seasons begin late in October when days are short – some trappers are already accustomed to tending sets outside of daylight hours and may not see a benefit from the current restriction.

7. Do you favor eliminating the restriction that prohibits trapping between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.?	**7.** YES____	NO_____

QUESTION 8. Allow the use of spring activated foot cable restraints by trappers (2015)

A cable restraint is a device used for the live capture of furbearers. The device consists of a non-spring activated cable which includes a relaxing mechanical lock, stops, and swivel. International research on humane trap systems has documented the safe use of cable restraints on dry land, with much of the field research conducted here in Wisconsin from 2000 to 2002. Beginning in 2004 state law has allowed the statewide use of passive neck cable restraints for bobcat, coyote, fox and more recently, wolf. Use of this tool is during the latter portion of the trapping seasons beginning on December 1st, as a respectful, precautionary measure to minimize incidental contact with other wildlife and domestic dogs. This device has proven to be safe, humane and selective.

Additional trap research conducted following the same protocols has shown the spring activated foot cable restraint to pass all injury score systems for canines tested. Use of this tool could be allowed with the same start date as currently approved for passive neck cable restraints, December 1st. Use of this tool during the latter portion of harvest seasons will minimize contact with black bear, allow careful review, and provide an additional, versatile tool for early winter trappers.

8. Do you favor allowing the use of foot activated cable restraints by trappers during the latter potion of the furbearer harvest seasons, beginning on December 1st?	**8.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 9. Modify the standards for construction of cable restraint devices (2015)

A cable restraint is a device used for the live capture of furbearers. Beginning in 2004 state law has allowed the statewide use of passive neck cable restraints for bobcat, coyote and fox. The use of foot activated cable restraints has also been proposed (Question 7 above). A feature of the passive cable restraint device is a breakaway mechanism rated to break at 285 pounds or less. This allows larger non-target animals to be able to pull free of the device (self-release) if caught. The breakaway device is either a ferrule or a J-hook breakaway.

Ferrule breakaway J-hook breakaway

The current breakaway for passive cable restraints of 285 pounds or less allows some larger coyotes to self-release. In other states that allow cable restraints, a 350 pound rating is the standard. This proposal would establish a breakaway rating of 350 pounds less.

9. Do you favor modifying the standards for construction of passive cable restraint devices used by trappers to require a break-away strength of 350 pounds or less instead of 285 pounds or less?	**9.** YES____ NO_____

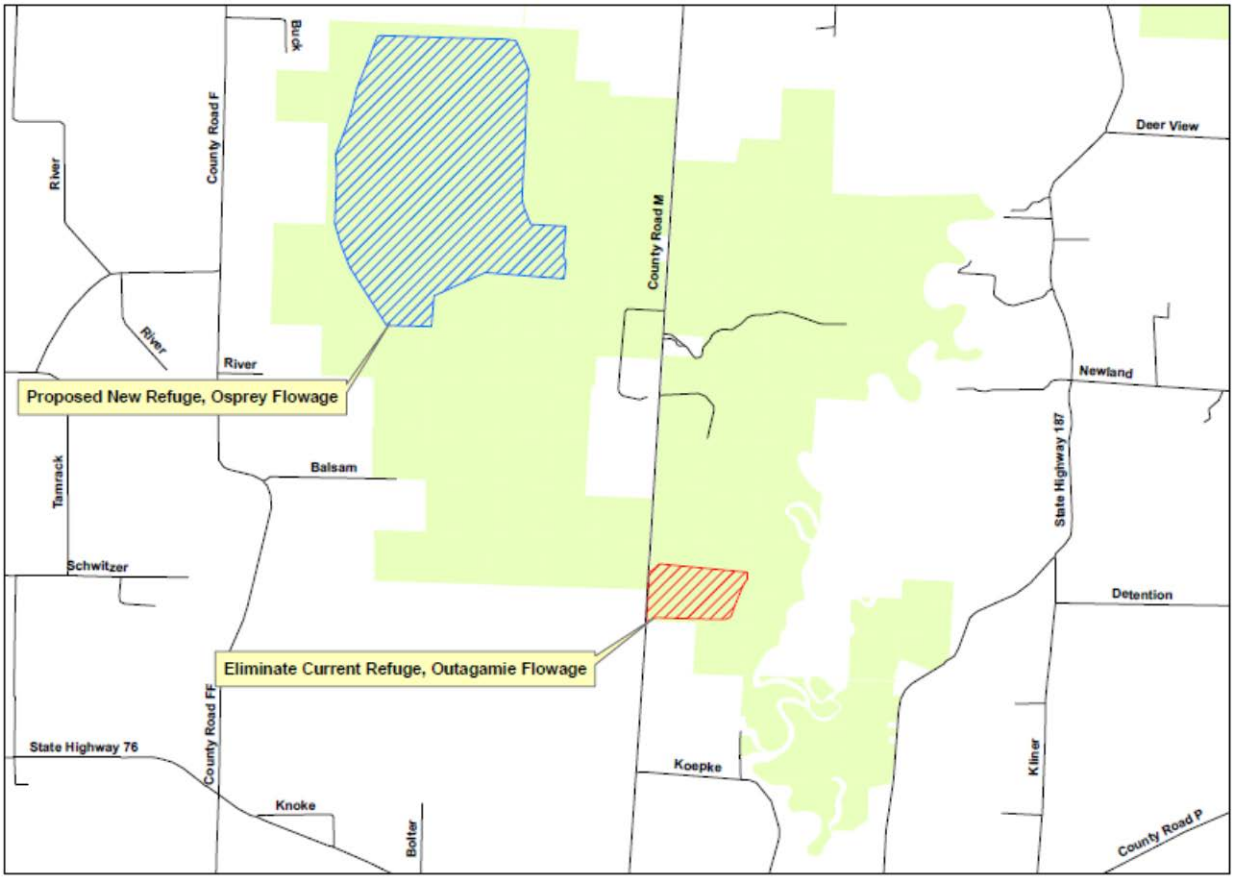
PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

QUESTION 10. Eliminate the waterfowl hunting closed area at the Outagamie Wildlife Area in the town of Bovina and establish a new waterfowl hunting closed area at the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area, Herb Behnke Unit, Town of Deer Creek and Maine (2016)

An existing 50 acre closed area at the Outagamie Wildlife Area may be of limited use for the purpose of providing refuge to waterfowl that will remain in the area and provide hunting opportunities throughout the hunting season. This proposal would eliminate the current closed area. A larger refuge would be created at the adjacent Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area, Herb Behnke Unit, Town of Deer Creek and Maine. The larger refuge of 740 acres should be a more functional area for waterfowl to rest, creating more opportunity for waterfowl hunters after the opening weekend and throughout the season.

This proposal is consistent with the recommendations of a master planning process for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area, which involved members of the public and has been adopted by the department in 2012. Legally killed waterfowl would be retrieved from the refuge by dog or by hand. Deer hunting would be allowed during the traditional nine-day firearm season and the muzzleloader-only season.



10. Do you favor eliminating the waterfowl hunting closed area at the Outagamie Wildlife Area in the town of Bovina and establishing a new waterfowl hunting closed area at the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area, Herb Behnke Unit, Town of Deer Creek and Maine?	**10.** YES____ NO_____

PROPOSED STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

The proposed regulation changes would take effect on April 1, 2016, unless otherwise indicated.

QUESTIONS 11-13. Trout regulation package

Please vote on your support for each overall trout proposal. If you have comments on individual streams or regulations, please give the department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

The department has conducted a review over the past four years of Wisconsin's inland trout fishing regulations using input from trout anglers and fisheries biologists. Through public stakeholder meetings and surveys, the department reached out to trout anglers and the broader community to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities in Wisconsin. The department has reviewed the public and scientific input to develop new regulation proposals that address the following goals: (1) retain or improve traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing, (2) expand seasonal fishing opportunities for all anglers, and (3) simplify regulations.

QUESTION 11. Inland lake and pond seasons, length limits, and daily bag limits

Wisconsin has "put-and-take" lakes and ponds in which trout are stocked but are not expected to live through the following winter. This does not include spring ponds which drain to streams. The put-and-take lakes are typically stocked annually with the majority of stocked trout being caught by anglers shortly after the season opens. Seasons on all lakes and ponds currently have various opening and closing dates. Length and bag limits also vary across the state. To simplify regulations for lakes, including stocked put-and-take lakes, the department proposes (1) an open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and (2) a daily bag limit and length limit that matches the base regulation of the lake's county. County base regulations will either allow 5 trout of any length to be kept per day or allow 3 trout to be kept per day if they are at least 8 inches. A small number of lakes will have special regulations that differ from their county base regulation.

11. For lakes and ponds, including put-and-take lakes and ponds stocked with trout, do you favor a statewide open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and a daily bag and size limit that matches the county base regulation?	**11.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 12. Inland stream seasons

The current general open season for trout fishing runs from the first Saturday in May to September 30th. Many trout streams also have an early catch and release season that runs from the first Saturday in March to the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May. To address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities and to reduce confusion about the 5-day closure between the early and general seasons, we propose expanding the early catch and release season on waters where it currently exists to begin on the first Saturday in January and extending to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May. This would eliminate the 5-day closure prior to the general open season for trout fishing.

In addition, to further address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities, we propose to extend the regular general trout fishing season to October 15th on all inland streams. Extending the season by two weeks to October 15th will provide more opportunities for catching or harvesting trout without

impacting spawning or generating user conflicts along streams. (*This proposal would be effective January 1, 2016.*)

12. Do you favor expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities on inland streams by: • beginning the early catch and release season (on streams where it currently exists) on the first Saturday in January and ending on the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May, and • extending the end of the trout open season by two weeks from September 30 to October 15?	**12.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 13. Inland stream length limits and daily bag limits

To address the goals of retaining or improving traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplifying regulations, the department reduced the number of regulation categories that will be applied to Wisconsin's trout streams (listed below). Management goals for the regulations vary, but include allowing additional harvest opportunities, improving the range of sizes of trout, protecting species from harvest in some waters, and expanding opportunities to catch trophy-sized trout in other waters. There are a few additional special regulations that are not listed below that were only recommended in unique situations (e.g. boundary waters, lake trout waters). *Please refer to the Fisheries Comment Card for changes made within counties or to specific waters.*

Category (green)	No Minimum Length Limit, Daily Bag Limit: 5
Category (yellow)	8-inch minimum Length Limit, Daily Bag Limit: 3
Category (red)	Special Regulations: Length, Bag and Possession Limits vary by water:
	10 trout of any size may be kept per day
	5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and brook trout must be less than 9 inches
	5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and all brook trout shall be immediately released
	5 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches
	3 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches
	3 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout must be at least 12 inches and brook trout must be at least 8 inches
	2 trout may be kept per day if they are at least 12 inches
	1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 14 inches
	1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 18 inches
	All trout caught shall be immediately released
	Total Daily Bag Limit (combined daily limit of all waters fished) of trout from inland waters: 5 in total but only 2 may be lake trout, except as listed in specific waters

13. Do you favor the proposed changes to inland trout regulations that pertain to size limits and bag limits as listed above in order to improve opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplify regulations?	**13.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 14. Panfish regulation package - 100 lakes

Please vote on your support for the overall proposal to apply panfish bag limit regulations to selected waters. If you have comments on individual lakes, please give the department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

The department is in the process of developing a panfish management plan. One recommendation is to pursue regulation changes that would attempt to improve the average size of panfish. The public weighed in on panfish regulations at the 2014 Conservation Congress advisory spring hearings. While attendees opposed regulation changes that would apply to panfish statewide, they did support a focused approach on lakes where panfish are currently overharvested and dominated by undersized fish. In response to this feedback and additional local outreach, the department identified lakes where bluegill and/or black crappie average size is poor, but growth is good, on which to apply new regulations.

To develop appropriate regulations that are restrictive enough to limit some harvest, but still be acceptable to anglers, the department considered feedback from public comments, an online survey, three public meetings, an online interactive chat, and presentations during the 2014 Conservation Congress Fall District Meetings. The department heard many productive suggestions such as using regulations that protect highly vulnerable spawning bluegills and black crappies. Based on those suggestions and recommendations of the local fish biologist of which regulation is most likely to improve panfish size on a particular lake, the department is proposing the following regulations on the selected lakes listed in Appendix A (page 56):

- **25/10 -** a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day but no more than 10 of any one species
- **Spawning season 15/5 –** a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day except during May and June when a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species
- **15/5 -** a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species year round

This proposal is presented as a package. By simultaneously implementing the three regulation options on the selected waters, the department can evaluate how best to improve average panfish length and which regulations are most accepted by anglers. A thorough evaluation will be completed by 2022 and the findings will be relayed to anglers and adjustments discussed before a 10-year sunset of the regulations in 2026.

14. In order to improve average size of panfish on selected lakes where bluegill and/or crappie are undersized, but growth potential is high, do you favor applying the above bag limit regulations? (Lakes are listed in Appendix A, page 56) The department will conduct a thorough evaluation of the three regulation options prior to the regulations sunset in 2026.	**14.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 15. Fish refuges

If you have comments on individual refuges, please give the department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

This proposal would remove or modify 51 of the 140 existing fish refuges throughout the State. Fish refuges are created to prevent people from disturbing, catching, taking, or killing fish in any manner from specified areas of water. Refuges protect game fish during times when they aggregate for spawning or when migrating through areas that make them easily susceptible for harvest. Refuges are also put in place to protect critical habitat areas, enhance public safety (for example, to create a buffer around a hydroelectric plant), and prevent illegal harvest in areas with unique enforcement concerns.

In fall 2013, fish biologists and wardens met to discuss regulations and refuges in their counties. Appendix B (page 58) is a list of the refuges they suggested to remove or modify. No new refuges are added. (*This proposal would be effective January 1, 2016.*)

15. Do you favor the changes to the refuges on waters listed in Appendix B (page 58)?	**15.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 16. Asian carp definition and transport requirements

This proposal would define "Asian carp" to mean grass carp, silver carp, bighead carp, black carp, and all other nonnative carp except the common carp, goldfish, and koi carp. It would also require that, except as authorized under certain department and federal permits, no person may transport or cause the transportation of Asian carp within or through the state unless the Asian carp have been eviscerated (disemboweled/gutted) or the gills plate completely severed so that the fish cannot be revived under any circumstances.

There have been incidents where "dead" Asian carp have been shipped on ice for long distances yet began to swim again when put in water upon arrival. The department has been actively working with other states and federal agencies to prevent Asian carp from becoming established in the Upper Mississippi River and in the Great Lakes. Individual adult fish have been found on occasion in Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi River and in the Lower Wisconsin River, but neither young fish nor any other signs of reproduction have been found in any Wisconsin waters to date. Asian carp species are a serious concern because they can aggressively compete with native commercial and sport fish for food and can potentially disrupt entire ecosystems. Also, silver carp can injure boaters when the fish leap out of the water. (*This proposal would be effective January 1, 2016.*)

16. Do you favor creating a definition of Asian carp and requiring that all Asian carp transported within or through Wisconsin must have been eviscerated (disemboweled/gutted) or the gills plate completely severed so that the fish cannot be revived under any circumstances?	**16.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 17. Muskellunge seasons and size limits on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters and Nemadji River, Douglas County

This proposal would establish uniform seasons and size limits for muskellunge on the WI-MN boundary waters as well as the Nemadji River, Douglas County. The open season would run from the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30 (rather than March 1), and would require kept muskellunge be at least 50 inches (rather than 40 inches) on the Mississippi River and St. Croix River boundary waters and the Nemadji River, Douglas County. The minimum length limit on the St. Louis River is already 50 inches.

This season change was requested by anglers in the Duluth/Superior area for the St. Louis River and the length limit change will ensure that regulations are consistent between the Wisconsin and Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

17. Do you favor establishing a uniform open season (from the Saturday nearest Memorial Day to November 30) and requiring that kept muskellunge be at least 50 inches on the WI-MN boundary waters (Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis rivers) and the Nemadji River in Douglas County?	**17.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 18. Lake sturgeon seasons on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters

This proposal would allow for:

- Catch and release angling for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin-Minnesota border waters of the Mississippi River upstream of the Red Wing dam and the St. Croix River from Prescott to the dam at the Gordon Flowage (in **Burnett and Douglas** counties) from June 16 through March 1, with a closed season from March 2 through June 15.
- Catch and release angling for lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream from Red Wing dam from June 16 through April 14, with a closed season from April 15 through June 15.

The current lake sturgeon harvest season from the first Saturday in September through September 30 on the St. Croix River downstream from St. Croix Falls dam requiring that kept fish be at least 60 inches would remain in place.

The management goal is to help restore lake sturgeon populations in these three rivers while still allowing angling opportunities and limited harvest. This regulation proposal will allow anglers an opportunity to catch (and release) a lake sturgeon while not affecting restoration objectives. Regulations will also be consistent with those in Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis Rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

18. Do you favor allowing catch and release angling for lake sturgeon in WI-MN boundary waters of the Mississippi River upstream of Red Wing dam and the St. Croix River from Prescott to the dam at the Gordon Flowage from June 16 through March 1; and allowing catch and release angling for lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River and Mississippi River downstream from Red Wing dam from June 16 through April 14?	**18.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 19. Shovelnose sturgeon season on Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters

This proposal would allow for:

- Opening a catch and release only season for shovelnose sturgeon from June 16 to March 1 on waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix, and St. Louis rivers upstream of Red Wing Dam, with a closed season March 2 to June 15.

The current year-round open season for shovelnose sturgeon in the Mississippi River downstream of Red Wing Dam allowing 10 of any size to be kept per day would remain in place.

This regulation proposal will allow anglers an opportunity to catch (and release) a shovelnose sturgeon on WI-MN boundary waters above the Red Wing Dam. Regulations will also be consistent with those in Minnesota waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Louis Rivers, reducing angler confusion and improving ease of enforcement.

19. Do you favor opening a catch and release only season for shovelnose sturgeon from June 16 to March 1 on waters of the Mississippi, St. Croix, and St. Louis rivers upstream of Red Wing Dam, with a closed season March 2 to June 15?	**19.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 20. Bass-walleye proposal on lakes in 7 counties

Under this proposal, only 3 walleye may be kept and they must be at least 18 inches, and 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any length may be kept in the following waters: Upper and Lower Eau Claire

lakes in **Bayfield and Douglas** counties; Sand Lake in **Chippewa** County; Squash Lake in **Oneida** County; Balsam Lake in **Polk** County; Pulaski Lake in **Rusk** County, and Durphee and Osprey lakes in **Sawyer** County.

The management goal is to eventually restore naturally reproducing walleye populations. The lakes included in this proposal are scattered across the Ceded Territory. All have a history of natural walleye reproduction, yet they recently experienced some marked decline in walleye recruitment and a concurrent increase in largemouth bass abundance.

This proposal is being presented as a package in order for the department to learn whether this combination of regulations is a tool capable of helping to restore naturally reproducing walleye.

20. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept and they must be at least 18 inches, and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any length to be kept in the following waters: Upper and Lower Eau Claire lakes in Bayfield and Douglas counties; Sand Lake in Chippewa County; Squash Lake in Oneida County; Balsam Lake in Polk County; Pulaski Lake in Rusk County, and Durphee and Osprey lakes in Sawyer County?	**20.** YES____ NO_____

PROPOSED LOCAL FISHERIES RULE CHANGES

ASHLAND COUNTY

QUESTION 21. Beaver Lake no minimum length limit for bass

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Beaver Lake in Ashland County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

21. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Beaver Lake in Ashland County?	**21.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 22. Spillerberg Lake walleye 1 > 14 inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on Spillerberg Lake in Ashland County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15 inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

22. Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day on Spillerberg Lake in Ashland County?	**22.** YES____ NO_____

BAYFIELD COUNTY

QUESTION 23. Jackson, Garden, and Namekagon lakes consistent regulations

This proposal would apply consistent regulations for Jackson and Namekagon lakes in Bayfield County and clarify that Garden Lake is treated as part of Namekagon Lake for fishing regulation purposes. The three lakes currently have the same regulations except for muskellunge and walleye limits. This proposal would apply a 1-fish daily bag limit and 50-inch minimum size limit for muskellunge and clarify that walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any length may be kept, but only one can be over 14 inches.

Garden Lake has historically been managed as part of Namekagon Lake, but there has been confusion in recent years because it is not listed that way in the regulations booklet. Jackson, Namekagon and Garden Lakes are interconnected and allow passage of fish and watercraft from one waterbody to the next. Applying consistent regulations for all of the lakes in the Namekagon chain would alleviate enforcement concerns and make regulations easier for anglers to interpret.

23. Do you favor making regulations consistent between the connected Jackson and Namekagon lakes (as noted above) and clarifying in Administrative Code and the regulations book that Garden Lake is part of Namekagon Lake in Bayfield County?	**23.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 24. Removing special regulations - Crooked and Lund lakes bass

24. In order to maintain largemouth bass as the dominant predator while allowing some angler harvest, do you favor removing the 18 inch minimum length limit and 1 bass per day bag limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined that are at least 14 inches to be kept per day on Crooked and Lund lakes in Bayfield County?	**24.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 25. Removing special regulations - Muskellunge, Sandbar, and Tomahawk lakes pike

25. In order to allow additional harvest of northern pike to reduce abundance and increase growth rates, do you favor removing the 2-fish per day bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 northern pike of any length to be kept per day on Muskellunge Lake, Sandbar Lake, and Tomahawk Lake in Bayfield County?	**25.** YES____ NO_____

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

QUESTION 26. Long Lake Chain consistent regulations

This proposal would allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass with a combined bag limit of 5 fish, but only 1 smallmouth bass, on Long Lake Chain (Long, Herde and Dark lakes) in Chippewa County. In addition, the proposal clarifies that regulations for all species on Long, Herde, and Dark lakes will now be applied to the lake chain as a whole, reflecting how the connected lakes are managed.

The primary management goal is to reduce largemouth bass abundance and maintain a high quality smallmouth bass fishery. Over 80% of the largemouth bass in Long Lake are less than 14 inches in length, whereas 78% of the smallmouth bass are larger than 14 inches. Smallmouth bass provide a high quality bass fishery and this regulation should maintain that fishery.

26. Do you favor amending regulations for all species on Long, Herde, and Dark lakes in Chippewa County so that they will be applied to the lake chain as a whole (Long Lake Chain), and also allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass with a combined bag limit of 5 fish, but only 1 may be smallmouth bass on Long Lake Chain?	**26.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 27. Round Lake bass protected slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Round Lake, Chippewa County. The primary management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure, providing a bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Round Lake. The goal is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14-inch) bass. The objective is to increase the proportion of bass over 15 inches from 1% to over 10% within the next 10 years and reduce overall bass densities by 50%.

27. Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Round Lake in Chippewa County?	**27.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 28. Hodge Lake panfish bag limit

This proposal would allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day in Hodge Lake, Chippewa County. The current regulation is a 25-fish bag limit and there is no minimum size limit.

The management goal is to protect a high quality pan fishery that is currently present in Hodge Lake. In 2012, the department purchased Hodge Lake which is a 38-acre undeveloped lake that was formally in private ownership. A 2013 fish survey documented that over 50% of the bluegill in Hodge Lake were larger than 8 inches. Considering the lake's small size as well as public access now being present, overharvest of panfish is likely. This regulation should help ensure a desirable and quality sized fishery is maintained, as well as provide a quality fishery in a wilderness setting, which is limited in Chippewa County.

28. Do you favor allowing only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Hodge Lake in Chippewa County?	**28.** YES____ NO_____

FLORENCE COUNTY

QUESTION 29. Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake bass protected slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake, Florence County. The management goal is to increase largemouth bass size structure by reducing abundance in these waters. This regulation will allow increased harvest opportunity on these high density bass populations, causing decreased abundance and increased growth rates while protecting desirable-sized fish.

29. Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Keyes Lake, and Halsey Lake, Florence County?	**29.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 30. Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes walleye 3-bag, 18 inch

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

30. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County?	**30.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 31. Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes panfish limit

This proposal would allow only 10 panfish to be kept per day in Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake, and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, Florence County. The current regulation is a 25-fish bag limit and there is no minimum size limit. *These waters are included in the panfish proposal package with different regulations. The department is gathering public hearing comments on this proposal as well.*

The management goal is to increase the range of panfish sizes on these three waters that currently have exceptionally poor size structure of panfish species. Angler harvest is so high that fish are not able to live to a larger, quality size. This regulation should reduce the amount of panfish removed from the lakes by anglers and allow fish to increase in size.

31. Do you favor allowing only 10 panfish to be kept per day on Halsey Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes in Florence County?	**31.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 32. Lake Ellwood northern pike 1 > 40 inches

This proposal would allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 40 inches in Lake Ellwood, Florence County.

The management goal is to create a one-of-a-kind trophy pike opportunity in northeastern Wisconsin. Without a 40-inch minimum size limit, the harvest of the faster growing females will not allow the lake to reach its potential for natural reproduction of pike in Lake Ellwood. Under current regulations, the northern pike population will continue to decline to very low numbers.

Under the new regulation, the female proportion of the population should increase to near 50%, which should result in more fish growing beyond trophy size. Without the 40-inch minimum size limit, the fishery will be dependent on expensive stocking to try to maintain a quality population. In addition to the new regulation, low level stocking at < 1 large fingerling pike per acre would occur to manage the pike population similar to a muskellunge population.

32. Do you favor allowing only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 40 inches on Lake Ellwood in Florence County?	**32.** YES____ NO_____

FOREST COUNTY

QUESTION 33. Removing special regulations - Windfall Lake bass

33. In order to simplify regulations and respond to local stakeholder desires, do you favor removing the 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 bass per day bag limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined that are at least 14 inches to be kept per day on Windfall Lake in Forest County?	**33.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 34. Removing special regulations - Franklin Lake walleye

The current liberal walleye size limit on Franklin Lake in Forest County has decreased the adult population to a point where it can no longer sustain itself.

34. In order to help reestablish an abundant walleye population (3-8 adults/acre), do you favor removing the current no minimum size limit with a 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 3 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18-inches) and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Franklin Lake in Forest County?	**34.** YES____ NO_____

IRON COUNTY

QUESTION 35. McDermott Lake bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on McDermott Lake in Iron County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

35. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on McDermott Lake in Iron County?	**35.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 36. Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake bass protected slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake in Iron County. The goal is to manage for a smallmouth bass population with a moderate proportion of memorable-sized fish (10-15% would be 17 inches or longer). There are very few largemouth bass in these lakes. Currently there are abundant numbers of smallmouth bass, but only 5% are memorable-sized fish. This proposal also creates a uniform regulation for the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake, which are connected via a navigable waterway.

36. Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake in Iron County?	**36.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 37. Removing special regulations - Iron County lakes walleye

37. In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current minimum length limit with only 1 fish over 14 inches allowed to be kept and allowing 5 walleye that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on the Turtle River system of lakes: Cedar Lake, Catherine Lake, Echo Lake, Little Oxbow Lake, Oxbow Lake, Spider Lake, and the Turtle River in Iron County?	**37.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 38. Removing special regulations - Wilson Lake walleye

Wilson Lake in Iron County is being managed for species other than walleye because conditions within the lake (habitat and fish community structure) are not favorable for walleyes to sustain a population.

38. In order to simplify regulations, do you favor removing the no-minimum length limit and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Wilson Lake in Iron County?	**38.** YES____ NO_____

LANGLADE COUNTY

QUESTION 39. Bass no minimum length limit on 10 lakes

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on ten waters in Langlade and Lincoln counties in order to encourage harvest of predatory bass in trout waters. The waters are Crooked Lake, Pence Lake, Rogers Lake, Saul Spring, and Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6) in Langlade County and Ament Lake, Henson Lake, Larson Lake, Moraine Lake, and Tahoe Lake in Lincoln County.

39. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Crooked Lake, Pence Lake, Rogers Lake, Saul Spring, and Townline Lake (T33N R10E S6) in Langlade County and Ament Lake, Henson Lake, Larson Lake, Moraine Lake, and Tahoe Lake in Lincoln County?	**39.** YES____ NO_____

LINCOLN COUNTY - See the "bass no minimum length limit" question in Langlade County

MARINETTE COUNTY

QUESTION 40. Removing special regulations - Peshtigo Flowage pike

40. In order to improve harvest opportunity for northern pike and simplify fishing regulations, do you favor removing the 2-fish per day bag limit and 26-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 northern pike of any length to be kept per day on the Peshtigo Flowage in Marinette County?	**40.** YES____ NO_____

MARQUETTE COUNTY - See the "northern pike" question in Waushara County section

OCONTO COUNTY

QUESTION 41. Archibald, Bass, Boot, Maiden, and Wheeler lakes walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Archibald, Bass, Boot, Wheeler and Maiden Lakes in Oconto County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

41. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Archibald, Bass, Boot, Maiden, and Wheeler Lakes in Oconto County?	**41.** YES____ NO_____

ONEIDA COUNTY

QUESTION 42. Sunfish limits

This proposal seeks to improve average size of panfish but focuses on sunfish (bluegills and pumpkinseed) using a modified length and bag limit restriction on Gunlock and Shishebogama lakes in Vilas and Oneida Counties and Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes (Round, Grass, and Pine lakes) in Shawano County. The goal of this proposal is to improve the size of sunfish by encouraging anglers to function like natural predators – taking small fish – while still maintaining substantial harvest opportunity. The regulations proposed for these lakes are supported by locally engaged anglers who will play a vital role in collecting data to evaluate the regulation.

42. Do you favor allowing 25 panfish of any size to be kept per day except only 5 or fewer sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) may be over 7 inches on Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Vilas and Oneida Counties and the Cloverleaf Chain of Lakes (Round, Grass, and Pine lakes) in Shawano County?	**42.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 43. Julia Lake bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Julia Lake (near Rhinelander) in Oneida County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

43. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Julia Lake (near Rhinelander) in Oneida County?	**43.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 44. Gunlock and Shishebogama lakes bass protected slot

Under this proposal, 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass of any size may be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Gunlock and Shishebogama lakes in Oneida and Vilas Counties. The management goals for these connected lakes are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Goals are not currently being met because an over-abundance of 10- to 13 inch bass is causing slow growth and poor size structure of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

44. Do you favor allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day except all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish may be greater than 18 inches on Gunlock Lake and Shishebogama Lake in Oneida and Vilas counties?	**44.** YES____ NO_____

PRICE COUNTY - Also see "removing special regulations - Taylor and Price County lakes walleye" question in the Taylor County section

QUESTION 45. Riley Lake and Twin Lake bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Riley Lake and Twin Lake in Price County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

45. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Riley Lake and Twin Lake in Price County?	**45.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 46. Price County lakes walleye 1 > 14 inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on the Pike Chain of Lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes) in Price and Vilas counties and Elk River from Musser Flowage Dam downstream to its confluence with South Fork Flambeau River, including the Phillips Chain of Lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes), Grassy Lake, Solberg Lake (including its tributaries upstream to the 1st dam and all of Squaw Creek), and Lac Sault Dore (a.k.a. Soo Lake) in Price County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15 inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

46. Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be kept per day on Pike Chain of Lakes (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner lakes) in Price and Vilas counties and Elk River from Musser Flowage Dam downstream to its confluence with South Fork Flambeau River - including the Phillips Chain of Lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long, and Wilson lakes), Grassy Lake, Solberg Lake (including its tributaries upstream to the 1st dam and all of Squaw Creek), and Lac Sault Dore (a.k.a. Soo Lake) in Price County?	**46.** YES____ NO_____

SAWYER COUNTY

QUESTION 47. Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, Spider Lake Chain bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider Lake, Little Spider Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Lake, and North Lake), and Windigo Lake in Sawyer County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

47. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Blueberry Lake, Smith Lake, and Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider Lake, Little Spider Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Lake, and North Lake) in Sawyer County?	**47.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 48. Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain bass

This proposal would maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined, allow largemouth of any length to be kept, and retain the 14-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass on Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain (Lost Land Lake, Teal Lake, and Teal River Flowage) in Sawyer County.

The management goal for all these waters is for largemouth bass to exist in low numbers, grow at a satisfactory rate, and reach lengths preferred by most bass anglers. Goals for largemouth bass are not being achieved because abundance of largemouth bass has increased and growth rates have slowed. However, similar goals for smallmouth bass are currently being reached. This regulation proposal will allow angler harvest of small, slow-growing largemouth bass, which should promote faster growth of remaining fish.

48. Do you favor allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept, retaining the 14 inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Chippewa Flowage and Quiet Lakes Chain (Lost Land Lake, Teal Lake, and Teal River Flowage) in Sawyer County?	**48.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 49. Lac Courte Oreilles Chain and Round Lake Chain bass

This proposal would allow largemouth bass of any length to be kept and establish an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass while maintaining the statewide daily bag limit of 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined, of which only one may be a smallmouth bass, on Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Lac Courte Oreilles, and Billy Boy Flowage) and Round Lake Chain (Round Lake and Little Round Lake at T41N-R8W-S36) in Sawyer County.

The management goal for these waters is to create and sustain a high quality fishery for smallmouth bass while maintaining largemouth bass in low numbers with acceptable growth rates. Stakeholder-influenced goals for smallmouth bass in the Round Lake Chain and Lac Courte Oreilles Chain are more likely to be met and sustained under these more restrictive harvest regulations. The proposed regulation will allow the

harvest of small, slow-growing largemouth bass, promote faster growth of remaining largemouth bass, and offer additional protection to sensitive, high-quality smallmouth bass populations.

49. Do you favor allowing largemouth bass of any length to be kept, establishing an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass, and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 bass, of which only 1 could be a smallmouth bass on Lac Courte Oreilles Chain (Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Lac Courte Oreilles, and Billy Boy Flowage) and Round Lake Chain (Round Lake and Little Round Lake at T41N-R8W-S36) in Sawyer County?	**49.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 50. Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River walleye 1 > 14 inches

Currently any size walleye may be harvested on Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River upstream to Forest Road 174 in Sawyer County. This proposal would continue to allow 5 walleye of any size to be kept daily, but only 1 may be over 14 inches. The management goal is to increase adult density and the percentage of walleye 15 inches or longer in these lakes where local stakeholders have helped develop management plans. Objectives are not currently being met because anglers often selectively harvest the largest walleyes from these populations, and slower-than-average growth cannot replace the adults fast enough to maintain the desired numbers of quality-size walleyes longer than 15 inches.

50. Do you favor allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) of any size to be kept, except only one walleye 14 inches or longer may be harvested per day on Moose Lake and West Fork Chippewa River upstream to Forest Road 174 in Sawyer County?	**50.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 51. Spider Lake Chain, Tiger Cat Chain, Mud/Callahan lakes, and the North Fork Chief River muskellunge

This proposal would require kept muskellunge be at least 40 inches (rather than 28 inches) on the Spider Lake Chain (includes Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes), the Tiger Cat Chain (includes McClaine, Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Tiger Cat Flowage, Burns, and Placid), Mud/Callahan lakes, and the North Fork Chief River from the Tiger Cat Dam downstream to Mud Lake in Sawyer County. The daily bag limit would remain at 1 fish.

The management goal for these waters is moderate- to high-density muskellunge populations that support high angler catch rates and provide occasional opportunities to encounter memorable-size fish. This regulation proposal will meet social desires (based on responses to a recent Conservation Congress advisory question) to protect these fish with a higher length limit rather than relying solely on voluntary release.

51. Do you favor requiring that kept muskellunge be at least 40 inches on the Spider Lake Chain (Big Spider, Little Spider, Clear, Fawn, and North lakes), the Tiger Cat Chain (McClaine, Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Tiger Cat Flowage, Burns, and Placid), Mud/Callahan lakes, and North Fork Chief River from the Tiger Cat Dam downstream to Mud Lake in Sawyer County?	**51.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 52. Removing special regulations - Winter Lake and Brunet River walleye

52. In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 5 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18-inches) and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Winter Lake and the Brunet River upstream to Lake Loretta Dam in Sawyer County?	**52.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 53. Removing special regulations - Chippewa Flowage walleye

53. In order to restore and maintain a walleye-dominated fish community and give stocked fish and natural recruits 2-3 years of additional protection needed to increase adult density and size structure, do you favor removing the no-minimum size limit and allowing 5 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County?	**53.** YES____ NO_____

SHAWANO COUNTY - Also see the "sunfish limits" question in Oneida County section

QUESTION 54. Shawano Lake walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Shawano Lake (including Washington Lake, Shawano Lake Outlet Channel, Wolf River Pond, and Wolf River upstream to Balsam Row Dam) in Shawano County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

54. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Shawano Lake (including Washington Lake, Shawano Lake Outlet Channel, Wolf River Pond, Wolf River to Balsam Row Dam) in Shawano County?	**54.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 55. Caroline Pond northern pike

This proposal would allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Caroline Pond, Shawano County. The current regulation allows 5 pike of any size to be kept. A Conservation Congress advisory question to change the northern pike regulations on Caroline Pond was supported by spring hearing attendees in 2012.

The management goal is to provide a northern pike fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in Caroline Pond. It is currently not being met because of suspected overharvest of northern pike. The objective is to increase density of northern pike from 5/acre to 8-10/acre within the next 8 years. This regulation has worked well on the Pella Pond (next downstream impoundment) with little if any angler dissatisfaction.

55. Do you favor allowing only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Caroline Pond in Shawano County?	**55.** YES____ NO_____

TAYLOR COUNTY

QUESTION 56. Taylor County lakes bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, and Spruce Lake in Taylor County. The management goals are to reduce over-abundant smaller bass, improve bass growth, and increase bass average length. Increased harvest of small bass can thin the population and allow the remaining fish to grow.

56. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, and Spruce Lake in Taylor County?	**56.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 57. Removing special regulations - Taylor and Price County lakes walleye

57. In order to help restore and maintain a moderate to high density of walleyes that will provide satisfactory angler catch rates and effective predatory control, do you favor removing the current 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and 5 fish daily bag limit (only 1 of which can be over 18 inches) and allowing 5 walleye that are at least 15 inches to be kept per day on Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake in Price and Taylor counties and North Harper Lake, South Harper Lake, Sackett Lake, and Diamond Lake in Taylor County?	**57.** YES____ NO_____

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

QUESTION 58. Osseo Club Pond bass no minimum length limit

This proposal would allow both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintain the statewide daily bag limit of 5 bass combined on Osseo Club Pond in Trempealeau County. The management goals are to provide a naturally reproducing harvest-oriented largemouth bass fishery. Osseo Rod and Gun Club originally submitted this regulation request, which passed 27-0, through a citizen resolution at the 2014 spring hearings.

58. Do you favor allowing both largemouth and smallmouth bass of any length to be kept and maintaining a combined daily bag limit of 5 on Osseo Club Pond in Trempealeau County?	**58.** YES____ NO_____

VILAS COUNTY - Also see "sunfish limits" and "bass protected slot proposal" questions in the Oneida County section; and "walleye 1 > 14 inches proposal" in the Price County section

QUESTION 59. Deerskin Lake walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Deerskin Lake in Vilas County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

59. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Deerskin Lake in Vilas County?	**59.** YES____ NO_____

WALWORTH COUNTY - See "northern pike 1 > 32 inches" question in Waukesha County

WASHBURN COUNTY

QUESTION 60. Removing special regulations - Shell Lake bass

Almost all waters in Washburn County allow harvest of any size largemouth and smallmouth bass.

60. In order to maximize bass harvest opportunities for anglers and possibly increase bass growth rates, do you favor removing the 14-inch minimum length limit and allowing 5 largemouth and smallmouth bass combined of any size to be kept per day on Shell Lake in Washburn County?	**60.** YES____ NO_____

WASHINGTON COUNTY

QUESTION 61. Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake in Washington County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

61. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake in Washington County?	**61.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 62. Urban Fishing Program: Wiedenbach Park Pond

This proposal would add Wiedenbach Park Pond in Washington County to the Urban Fishing Program with the following regulations:

- No closed season
- No length limits
- A special season from the second Saturday in March up to but not including the last Saturday in April for juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers

Urban Ponds also have a daily bag limit of three (3) trout, one (1) game fish (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, and northern pike), and ten (10) panfish (bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullhead). Designating Wiedenbach Park Pond as an Urban Fishing Pond will increase fish abundance and provide better accessibility to children and disabled anglers.

62. Do you favor adding Wiedenbach Park Pond in Washington County to the DNR Urban Fishing Program?	**62.** YES____ NO_____

WAUKESHA COUNTY

QUESTION 63. Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake, and Pewaukee Lake walleye 3 > 18 inches

This proposal would allow only 3 walleye to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake, and Pewaukee Lake in Waukesha County. The management goals include increasing the adult walleye population, protecting female walleye until maturity to improve potential for natural reproduction, and providing a variety of opportunities for the catch and harvest of walleye. This regulation should increase numbers of adults, thereby improving walleye catch rates, and the potential for female walleye to spawn.

63. Do you favor allowing only 3 walleyes (walleye, sauger or hybrids) to be kept per day and they must be at least 18 inches on Nagawicka Lake, Pine Lake and Pewaukee Lake in Waukesha County?	**63.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 64. Lac LaBelle walleye 1 > 28 inches

This proposal would allow only 1 walleye to be kept per day and it must be at least 28 inches on Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County. The primary goal for Lac LaBelle is to maximize predation on panfish and forage species. This should improve water quality and angler satisfaction with a quality catch and release angling opportunity. The 15 panfish daily bag limit and the closed season on flathead catfish will not be changed by this proposal.

64. Do you support allowing only 1 walleye (walleye, sauger or hybrid) to be kept per day and it must be at least 28 inches on Lac LaBelle in Waukesha County?	**64.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTIONS 65-67. Waukesha County lakes northern pike 1 > 32 inches

This proposal would allow only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 32 inches in Lac LaBelle, Pewaukee Lake, Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River in Waukesha and Walworth counties.

The management goal is to increase pike abundance and provide a northern pike fishery with a mix of ages and sizes in these lakes and to help establish a strong predator population. The fish community of each of these systems is not balanced; the panfish and bass populations are growing slowly and are overabundant. This is one tool that will help protect the northern pike population from too much angler harvest and provide additional predation on small panfish and bass.

Do you favor allowing only 1 northern pike to be kept per day and it must be at least 32 inches on the following lakes in Waukesha County?

65. Lac LaBelle	**65.** YES____ NO_____
66. Pewaukee Lake	**66.** YES____ NO_____
67. Eagle Spring Lake, Lulu Lake (Walworth County) and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River	**67.** YES____ NO_____

WAUPACA COUNTY

QUESTION 68. Marion Millpond northern pike

This proposal would continue to allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches in Marion Millpond, Waupaca County. If no action is taken, this regulation is due to sunset to the default statewide regulation of no size limit and 5 daily bag limit in April 2016.

The management goal is to restore a naturally reproducing northern pike population with a moderate proportion of quality size fish. The original intent of the regulation was to provide additional protection to northern pike in order to maximize fish population rehabilitation efforts from water level drawdown in 2010. At this time, it is felt that additional time is needed to protect northern pike. Recent surveys indicated that higher predator populations were needed to control abundant yellow perch and black bullhead populations. This proposal was supported by Marion Millpond Lake Association.

68. Do you favor removing the regulation sunset and continuing to allow only 2 northern pike to be kept per day and they must be at least 26 inches on Marion Millpond in Waupaca County?	**68.** YES____ NO_____

WAUSHARA COUNTY

QUESTION 69. Northern pike in Alpine Lake, Waushara County and Sharon Lake, Marquette County

This proposal would allow 5 northern pike of any size to be kept per day on Alpine Lake in Waushara County and Sharon Lake in Marquette County. The management goal is to allow harvest of small pike, reducing the density and improving growth for remaining pike. It is currently not being met because most pike do not reach the current 26-inch minimum size limit. The regulation should help reduce northern pike numbers to less than 1 adult per acre, which will improve growth rates of remaining fish.

69. Do you favor allowing 5 northern pike of any size to be kept per day on Alpine Lake in Waushara County and Sharon Lake in Marquette County?	**69.** YES____ NO_____

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 70. Establish a three year trial period during which the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds would be allowed on department owned and managed lands north of State Hwy. 64 during the traditional firearm and the muzzleloader seasons

Currently the overnight, unattended placement of tree stands and ground blinds for hunting is not allowed on department managed lands. This regulation is designed to prevent the "staking out" or making advance claims to hunting locations in favor of a first-come-first served practice. However the overnight placement of stands is allowed on many other public lands which are not managed by DNR and may also be practical on department lands.

This proposal suggests a trial period of three years when the overnight placement of tree stands on DNR managed lands north of State Hwy. 64 would be allowed during the traditional 9-day firearm and the muzzleloader-only season. This would provide experience to hunters who would be able to balance and compare the convenience of not having to carry and place a tree stand or blind for each hunt, especially for an aging demographic of hunters, with a philosophy of trying to reduce competition on public lands. Some hunters have observed that competition for hunting locations in areas north of Hwy. 64 is already reduced compared to times when people felt that deer were more abundant.

Under this proposal, tree stands could only be placed beginning 48 hours before the first day of the traditional 9-day firearm season and must be removed on the day after the muzzleloader-only season. The proposal requires that all unattended tree stands be marked with the owner's department customer identification number or name and address. It would be illegal to cause damage to a tree, but careful pruning of limbs less than 1 inch in diameter would not be considered causing damage to the tree the stand is placed in. This would not permit cutting trees, brush and other vegetation for shooting lanes.

This proposal would clarify that any person may use a stand that is not occupied and being used by the owner and that stand placement does not reserve a location for exclusive use by any individual. However, the owner of the blind or stand would retain the authority to remove and relocate their stand at any time. It would be illegal to relocate a blind or stand that was lawfully placed by another.

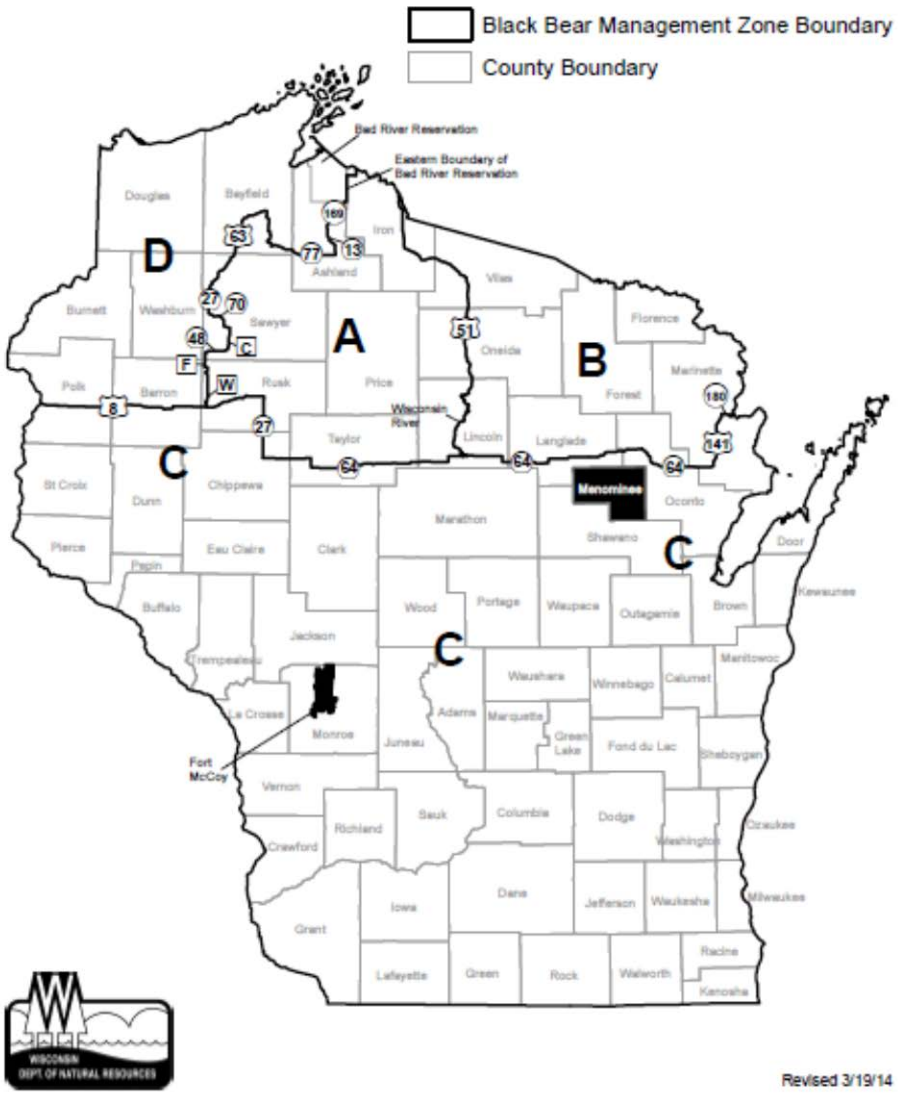
The department would survey hunter's opinions and evaluate concerns that are identified during the trial period before authorizing new rules.

70. Do you favor a three year trial period during which the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds would be allowed on department owned and managed lands located north of State Hwy. 64? Stand placement would be limiting to the traditional firearm and the muzzleloader only seasons and an evaluation would be conducted before new rules are authorized.	**70.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 71. Bear management zone C

Bear management zone C was created at a time when there were very few bears in the zone. Today, the bear population continues to grow and expand in zone C. Zone C encompasses most of the southern two-thirds of the state and the management interests for bear may vary throughout that single zone. In some areas, there may be tolerance for a relatively abundant bear population. In other areas, a lower number of bears may be desirable.

Subdividing the current bear zone C may allow for different management objectives for bears in different areas of southern Wisconsin.



71. Should the department subdivide bear management zone C in order to provide management flexibility?	**71.** YES____ NO_____

CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

Please utilize the blue ballot to provide your input on any citizen introduced resolutions.

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress County Meeting that is held in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings annually in April.

For information on the Conservation Congress resolution process, see page 62.

Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the 2015 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for "Spring Hearings") by April 24, 2015.

NOTES:

Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

Please utilize the green ballot to provide your input.

AG DAMAGE AD HOC COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1. Setting values for wild animal protection surcharges

Wisconsin State Statute, section 29.983 sets a monetary value on fish and wildlife species in Wisconsin. These values are used in forfeiture cases for the unlawful killing, wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of wild animals. With the exception of the current value of elk at $2,000 none of the other values have changed since the statute's creation in 1991. Deer, coyote, lake sturgeon, and raccoon are valued at $43.75, a sandhill crane is valued at $262.50, and a turkey at $175.00.

1. Do you support the state legislature reviewing and adjusting these values to higher values where appropriate?	**1.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 2. Deductibles for crops damaged by wildlife

Currently under Wisconsin State Statute, crop owners who apply for crop damage compensation have to meet a $500 threshold, or deductible, to receive damage compensation. For example: if they have $1,000 worth of damage they receive a $500 payment or if they have $5,000 of damage, they receive a $4,500 payment. The maximum compensation limit is currently $10,000. This is not an equitable way to meet the deductible as it favors a crop owner who has more damage to their crops, typically larger producers.

2. Do you support the state legislature changing the law to make the deductible for all crop damage claims to be 10% of the claimant's total assessed damages while keeping the current $10,000 maximum compensation limit? (For example: $100 deductible for $1,000 of damage and a $1,000 deductible for a $10,000 claim.)	**2.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 3. Provide an ethical hunter verification system for landowners to check potential hunters or trappers

Currently, there is no readily available system for landowners in the state to verify whether hunters or trappers wishing to hunt or trap on their property are reputable or not. Washington State has developed a "master hunter program" in which hunters submit to a background check and in some cases an advanced hunter safety course. Upon certification, these people are eligible to hunt on property landowners have enrolled in that program. This provides a reasonable level of assurance to land owners that they are allowing qualified people on their property to hunt or trap.

The Master Hunter Card (MHC) could be similar to the WDATCP certification for chemical applicators and could be renewable every 5 years. A minimal fee could be charged to cover the costs of issuing the MHC.

Landowners would have the ability to find qualified individuals to give access to their land.

Some landowners experiencing wildlife damage of crops and property have found it difficult to get hunters and trappers that they can be confident would respect their property. A MHC certification could give them that confidence.

3. Would you be in favor of the DNR developing a master hunter program for landowners to verify the reputability of any person asking permission to hunt or trap?	**3.** YES___	NO_____

BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 4. Bear hunting with dogs in Zone C (700314)

Currently bear hunting with dogs is allowed in Zones A, B, and D.

4. Would you support bear hunting with dogs in the portion of Zone C north of highway 21, consistent with bear hunting in Zones A, B, and D with a 3 year sunset clause?	**4.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 5. Earlier bear hunt in Zone C (100114, 270114, 720314)

Hunter success in Zone C has fluctuated much in the past years. A large acorn crop in a particular year may have a significant effect on the use of bait stations by bears.

A slightly earlier season in Zone C would not have a negative biological effect on the bear population. Some feel an earlier start to the bear hunting season in Zone C would give a hunter a greater chance of harvesting a bear.

5. Would you support an early opening for the bear harvest season in Zone C starting on September 1, with a season closure consistent with other closures as in the past?	**5.** YES___	NO_____

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 6. Antler point restrictions (030314, 100314, 520114)

Deer management recommendations are now determined at the county level with each county being a deer management unit and having a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC).

Antler point restrictions that are supported at the county level could be recommended by the CDAC to the DNR for implementation in that county.

6. Do you support the DNR implementing antler point restrictions upon the recommendation of the County Deer Advisory Council?	**6.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 7. County Deer Advisory Council option for hunting white deer (720114)

Several areas of the state are becoming populated with white deer. This population is increasing because white deer are protected.

Some landowners report seeing only white deer during the hunting season and dominant white bucks seem to chase other bucks away preventing harvest opportunities.

7. Do you support a rule change that would allow County Deer Advisory Councils to recommend the hunting of white deer in their respective counties?	**7.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 8. Change deer baiting and feeding laws (480114)

Current laws enacted by the legislature prohibit baiting and feed of deer in all counties where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in either wild or game farm deer. In those counties not affected by CWD, it's legal to bait and feed deer which creates inconsistent hunting regulations between counties.

Banning deer baiting and feeding from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season could eliminate numerous issues that many associate with the distribution and movement of deer.

8. Do you support a legislative change to ban deer baiting and feeding statewide from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season?	**8.** YES___	NO_____

QUESTION 9. Strengthen laws regarding wanton waste (060114)

Wisconsin laws pertaining to the wanton waste of game are currently vaguely written and have proven to be difficult to enforce. The current law is as follows:

Wisconsin State Statute, section 23.095 - Protection of natural resources.
(1) (a) "**Damage**" means **to commit a physical act that unreasonably** destroys, molests, defaces, removes or **wastes**.

(1g) GENERAL PROHIBITION. No person may damage or attempt to damage any natural resource within the state.

(3) PENALTIES.
(a) Any person who violates sub. (1g) shall forfeit not more than $100.

9. Would you support an effort by the WCC and the DNR to work together with the legislature to develop a tougher and more precise wanton waste law for Wisconsin?	**9.** YES____ NO_____

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 10. Silica mining in Wisconsin study update (090414, 131714, 180314, 270214, 510214, 630314, 720614)

> ***NOTE:*** *At its January 2015 meeting, the Natural Resources Board approved a recommendation from the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a strategic analysis of the industrial sand mining industry in Wisconsin. This will entail an update to the 2012 report with more current information.*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed a report on silica sand mining in Wisconsin in January 2012. Silica sand mining continues to grow with a strong demand for frac sand. The silica sand mining industry is currently concentrated in West Central Wisconsin with potential to expand to other parts of the state containing deposits of minable sand. The published report does not include a technical analysis of the potential cumulative impacts on open space, groundwater, air quality, soil erosion, or fish and wildlife habitat. The report does not specify a process whereby WDNR will evaluate and consider such cumulative impacts. A study that would include citizen and local official input as well as cumulative short and long term natural resource, transportation and regulatory impacts, property values, tourism and archeological resources should be conducted.

10. Should the Natural Resources Board and the DNR partner with appropriate state and federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the environmental impacts of silica sand mining in Wisconsin?	**10.** YES____ NO_____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 11. Fisher season extension (690114)

The fisher harvest in Wisconsin is regulated by a quota system. Permits are randomly drawn, based on preference points. The number of permits issued is a function of the harvest quota and the success rate of trappers in filling their permits in the last three years. Should the harvest quota be met before the scheduled season end, the Department of Natural Resources has the authority to close the season early.

The current fisher season begins in mid-October, and runs through December 31. Some trappers have expressed an interest in extending the season to allow trapping opportunities after the close of the last deer seasons. These trappers point out that if the longer season results in a higher success rate, the population would be protected by the automatic reduction, the following year, in the number of permits issued to harvest a given quota and, if the harvest quota should be exceeded, the department can close the season early.

11. Do you support a rule change to extend the fisher season to end concurrent with the earliest Wisconsin otter season (currently the south zone which ends March 31)?	**11.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 12. Traps set in "weasel boxes" (090614)

In Wisconsin, weasels are sometimes trapped using a trap set within a baited box. Currently, these “weasel box” sets must be checked once every four days if the entrance hole is no greater than 1⅜ inches in diameter, the enclosure set employs a body grip trap, and the enclosure is securely anchored to an immovable object. This allows these weasel sets to be run together with underwater beaver traps, and be checked at the same time. Since the weasels are killed by the trap, it should not subject the weasels to any undue suffering. Box sets with an entrance hole greater than 1⅜ inches in diameter must be checked daily.

12. Do you support a rule change to expand the four-day trap check for "weasel boxes" to include those trap sets with an entrance hole greater than 1⅜ inches in diameter?	**12.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 13. Eliminate the otter lottery drawing (230214)

To harvest an otter in Wisconsin, a trapper must first be awarded a harvest permit through a lottery process and they may not receive a permit every year. Otter populations are estimated statewide and the available permits are divided between the three zones based on past experience in each zones. Many trappers believe that populations are higher than estimated. They are frustrated that they are unable to trap otters every year, and can rarely take more than one otter per year. It is suggested that a system similar to neighboring states with a season bag limit for all trappers of two otters each season would create more opportunities. They believe that current otter numbers would support this increased harvest.

13. Do you support an otter season with no lottery and a season bag limit of two per licensed trapper?	**13.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 14. Trapping license endorsement to trap turtles

Currently turtle trappers must have either a small game license or a fishing license. It is felt that it would be appropriate to also allow turtles to be trapped by those who possess a trapping license.

14. Do you support legislation allowing the trapping of turtles by individuals possessing a valid trapping license?	**14.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 15. Remove otter and fisher permit application fees from patron license benefits (360113)

Currently, anyone purchasing a patron license can ask to be entered in the drawing to receive a permit to harvest a fisher and/or an otter. It is widely believed that many patron license purchasers who receive these permits are less likely to use them than trappers who apply for the permit through the normal process and pay the required $3.00 fee. Unused permits reduce the success rate in filling the permits and result in more permits being issued to harvest the intended number of animals. However, many suspect that the unused permits must result in animals which should have been available for harvest not being harvested, and therefore, a reduced recreational opportunity. These same concerns have resulted in bear and bobcat permit application fees having been removed from the patron license in the past. A change in current law to require that patron license purchasers pay the $3.00 application fee for fisher and otter permits will require legislation.

15. Would you favor legislation and rule changes to require purchasers of patron licenses to pay an additional $3.00 fee for fisher and/or otter permit applications?	**15.** YES____ NO_____

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 16. Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee increase (020114, 160114, 260114)

Revenue from the sale of the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp helps support the DNR trout and salmon rearing and stocking program for the Great Lakes. Legislation in 2014 directed the DNR to provide some funding from this Great Lakes stamp for sea lamprey treatments and barriers. An increase in the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee would help state hatcheries to continue to provide cultural, historical, economic, and biological services that benefit all Wisconsin residents.

16. Would you support legislation to increase the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee?	**16.** YES____ NO_____

LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 17. Target shooting on department lands (Columbia County) (110414)

There are no established public shooting ranges in Columbia County.

17. Would you support the establishment of a safe and controlled public shooting range on DNR property in Columbia County?	**17.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 18. Uncontrolled target shooting on DNR lands (Columbia County) (110414)

Uncontrolled target shooting has been a problem on DNR owned property in Columbia County, such as the Swan Lake Wildlife Area.

18. Would you support the DNR request that the Natural Resources Board approve an amendment to the Columbia County Master Plan for DNR lands to address uncontrolled target shooting?	**18.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 19. Saving the monarch butterfly (450114)

Wisconsin's monarch butterfly population is at historic lows. The major reason for the monarch population reduction is that female monarchs only lay their eggs in/on milkweed plants and there has been a widespread loss of milkweed plants in Wisconsin resulting in the migration of fewer monarchs.

19. Would you support DNR efforts to institute a public awareness campaign aimed at restoring more milkweed vegetation in Wisconsin?	**19.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 20. Designation of the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly (450114)

Twenty-seven other states already have a designated state butterfly. Designating the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly could support and enhance efforts to save the monarch butterfly in Wisconsin.

20. Would you support legislation to designate the monarch butterfly as Wisconsin's state butterfly?	**20.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 21. Opening DOT mitigation lands to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) owns wetland mitigation sites throughout the state of Wisconsin. Some of these sites would be ideally suited for public recreational use. One example is a 345 acre tract of DOT owned lands in the Town of Stockton, near Stevens Point in Portage County. This property is not currently open to the public for hunting and trapping.

21. Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to open wetland mitigations sites to the public that are suitable for public hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing?	**21.** YES____ NO_____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 22. Give authority to conservation wardens to enforce trespass laws related to hunting, fishing, trapping and other activities regulated by the DNR (570114)

At present, Wisconsin trespass laws can only be enforced by local or county law enforcement officers. These officers are often busy with other business and cannot respond in a sufficient period of time. Wardens are often involved with these cases to address potential violations of laws the DNR enforces related to seasons, bag limits, method of harvest and hunting from roadways, but have no authority to initiate charges for associated trespassing.

22. Are you in favor of giving authority to Wisconsin DNR conservation wardens to investigate and issue citations for trespass violations when the trespassing occurred while the person was engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping or other activities the DNR regulates?	**22.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 23. Increase fines for dogs/hounds running at large while hunting or training (130514, 710114)

Currently the "dogs running at large" state violation is found under Wisconsin State Statute, section 174.042(4) and the penalty established is as follows:

> (4) PENALTIES. If the owner of a dog negligently or otherwise permits the dog to run at large or be untagged, the owner shall forfeit not less than $25 nor more than $100 for the first offense and not less than $50 nor more than $200 for subsequent offenses.

23. Are you in favor of the state legislature increasing the minimum forfeiture penalties from $25 to $250 and maximum forfeiture penalties from $100 to $500 for dogs running at large while training or hunting on private lands without permission?	**23.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 24. Sandhill crane hunting season (360114, 550114)

There are 700,000 sandhill cranes in North America and 17 states have hunting seasons including two states in our flyway: Kentucky and Tennessee. A management plan approved by 31 states and Canadian provinces in eastern North America established that the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes was large enough to be hunted and established a process for a state to apply for a limited quota based hunting season. In Wisconsin, the state legislature must approve a quota-based hunting season on sandhill cranes before the DNR can develop a season.

24. Do you think Wisconsin should have a sandhill crane hunting season?	**24.** YES____ NO_____

MIGRATORY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 25. Opening day shooting time (410214, 500314)

Currently Wisconsin opens the waterfowl season at 9:00 am. Minnesota and Iowa start before 9:00 am.

25. Do you favor a duck season opener at one half hour before sunrise?	**25.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 26. Unattended decoys on private lands (520514)

It has been proposed that water set decoys be allowed to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under one ownership with no public access at any time during the year. This would free private land waterfowl hunters from having to set and then pick up their water set decoys at the end of each hunt. It is presently legal to leave unattended decoys on dry land. This proposal is currently legal in other flyway states and there is no biological detriment occurring from this practice.

26. Do you favor legislation that would allow water set decoys to be left unattended on water areas completely surrounded and enclosed by private land under the same ownership with no public access at any time during the year?	**26.** YES____ NO_____

OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 27. Start Wisconsin .22 rifle team challenge (041014)

Currently, there is not an organized statewide .22 rifle team challenge where shooting teams can compete. Shooting sports promote hunting heritage and develop good firearm safety practices among hunters and non-hunters.

27. Would you support the development of an organized statewide .22 rifle team challenge?	**27.** YES____ NO_____

OUTREACH & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE / EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 28-30. Posting or delisting the Winnebago System as federal waters (200114, 200214)

The Winnebago system includes all the waters of Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, and Lake Buttes des Morts. It also includes the Wolf River from Lake Buttes des Morts to the Shawano Dam and the Fox River from Lake Buttes des Morts to Portage including Buffalo Lake and Lake Puckaway. These waters are designated federal waters and as such, are under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard. State and federal boating regulations are different, but both apply to federal waters.

A Captain's License issued by the United States Coast Guard is required for persons who guide for fishing on the Winnebago System. Because these waters are not always posted as federal waters at access points, and they are not consistently identified in the Wisconsin boating and fishing regulations as federal waters, it is difficult to know what the boating and guide requirements are for these waters. The United States Coast Guard occasionally patrols these waters and issues citations for violations.

It would take an act of Congress to remove the designation of federal waters on the Winnebago System. If the waters within the Winnebago System were delisted as federal waters, the requirement of a Captain's License could be eliminated. Wisconsin law enforcement would continue to enforce the requirement of a state guide's license in order to guide for fishing on these waters. This change could provide more opportunities for guiding. It could create a positive economic impact for those wanting to guide on this system and businesses could benefit from increased tourism.

28. Would you support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin working with the United States Coast Guard and the federal government to post federal waters as federal waters at all public access points?	**28.** YES____ NO_____
29. Would you support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin working with the United States Coast Guard and the federal government to delist the Winnebago system waters as federal waters?	**29.** YES____ NO_____
30. Would you support the Conservation Congress, the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin work with the federal government to eliminate the requirement of a Captain's License on the Winnebago system, so only a state guide's license would be required for those who guide for fishing on the Winnebago System?	**30.** YES____ NO_____

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 31. Reinstate dark house spearing on Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters (050114, 380114)

Dark house spearing through the ice for northern pike was traditionally allowed on the Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters until the late 1980's. Currently, the spearing of northern pike through the ice is legal in Wisconsin only on the waters of Lake Superior and in seven other states (mainly in the west). By re-instating the regulation to allow the spearing of northern pike through the ice on Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters, another opportunity would be regained by anglers wishing to pursue this activity. This may result in increased license revenue and more people enjoying the outdoors. However, some concerns have been expressed by musky anglers in the waters of Green Bay regarding protection of that species. The DNR is willing to meet with the "dark house" user groups to discuss the feasibility of a dark house pike fishery, but there are user conflict concerns with both anglers and tribal harvest.

31. Do you support allowing the harvest of northern pike through the ice by the method of spearing from a dark house on the Wisconsin portion of the Wisconsin/Michigan boundary waters from December 1 through March 1, with hole size and marking restrictions that match those for lake sturgeon spearing on the Winnebago system?	**31.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 32. Trolling while fishing with live bait (640514)

Motor trolling is defined as trailing a bait or lure from a boat while being propelled by a motor or sail and is currently illegal except in certain counties or waters and for certain disabled anglers.

Position fishing is defined as fishing from a boat where the fishing line extends vertically in the water while the boat is maneuvered by a motor. Position fishing is allowed statewide in all waters.

Some anglers would like to be able to fish for muskies by trailing a line off the back of the boat (trolling) while simultaneously fishing with another line and using an electric trolling motor. This would allow the angler to cast and retrieve artificial baits, while having a rigged sucker off the boat. Fishing would be done in accordance with the fishing regulations of Wisconsin.

32. Do you favor a rule change to allow the trolling of a sucker or other fish as bait while casting and retrieving with another line and using the aid of a motor statewide?	**32.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTIONS 33-34. Warm water habitat restoration and enhancement

Over time the productivity of most warm water habitats has been altered by pollution, riparian and general watershed development, exotic invasions, etc. Fish management tools like stocking and regulations may mitigate habitat loss, but do not correct it. Unlike trout streams, techniques to restore and enhance warm water habitats, primarily lakes, have not been well funded or researched for effectiveness. Research is needed to identify the specific habitat limitations of lakes and develop techniques to address them.

33. Do you favor a DNR initiative to determine the most effective techniques to restore and enhance the productivity of warm water resources, primarily lakes?	**33.** YES____ NO_____
34. Do you favor the utilization of new funding sources, such as a habitat stamp or other non-fish and game fund sources, to support warm water habitat initiatives?	**34.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 35. Definition of attended lines (210414)

The definition of an attended line in open water is an angler must be within 100 yards of any line at any time. The definition of an attended line while ice angling is an angler must attend the line immediately after an indication of a strike. This means there is no maximum distance anglers can be from their lines. With new electronics and smart phone apps, an angler could be inside watching TV waiting for a text message telling them what line to attend. In Minnesota, ice anglers must remain within sight of their lines or within 200 feet of their tip-up.

35. For rule simplification and better understanding, would you favor changing the definition of an attended line, any time of the year, to be that anglers may be no more than 100 yards from any of their fishing lines at any time?	**35.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 36. Eliminate largemouth bass size limit on Cosgrove Lake, Florence County (190114)

DNR fish surveys show Cosgrove Lake in Florence County has an overabundance of small sub legal largemouth bass. The forage fish are declining and there are no predators for the largemouth bass.

36. Do you favor eliminating the minimum size limit for bass on the Cosgrove Lake Chain, Florence County?	**36.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 37. Harvest of bait minnows from VHS waters for personal use (220114)

Currently, the harvest of bait from Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) affected waters is prohibited. Bait may be harvested from non-VHS affected waters by the following methods only:
1) Hook and Line
2) With seines no more the 35 feet long with a mesh no larger than ½ inch
3) With dip nets no more than 8 feet in diameter or square
4) With traps no more than 24 inches long and 16 inches in diameter or square, with a throat measuring 1½ inches or less. All traps must bear their owner's name and address and be emptied at least once every 48 hours.

37. Do you favor the daily harvest of bait, by the above methods from VHS affected waters, and return of this bait to those same waters?	**37.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 38. Limit motorized watercraft on spring spawning marshes of the Fox River (240414)

Walleye eggs and aquatic vegetation are being destroyed in the walleye marshes of the Fox River by motorized watercraft. Motorized watercraft churn bottom sediments and grind and displace aquatic vegetation to which walleye eggs are attached. Eggs sink into the bottom sediment where they suffocate.

38. Do you favor a change in state law to prevent entry of motorized watercraft to public and private spawning marshes of the Fox River except for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May?	**38.** YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 39. Limit motorized watercraft on spring spawning marshes of the Wolf River (200314)

Walleye eggs and aquatic vegetation are being destroyed in the walleye marshes of the Wolf River by motorized watercraft. Motorized watercraft churn bottom sediments and grinds and displaces aquatic vegetation to which walleye eggs are attached. Eggs sink into the bottom sediment where they suffocate.

39. Do you favor a change in state law to prevent entry of motorized watercraft to public and private spawning marshes of the Wolf River except for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May?	**39.** YES____ NO_____

WOLF COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 40-41. Change the opening day of the wolf harvest season (540114)

> **NOTE:** *At the time of print, gray wolves have been relisted by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act and there is currently no harvest season for wolves in Wisconsin. The below suggested changes to the state's wolf harvest season are asked only to provide public input on the season structure in the event that wolves would be federally delisted and management was returned to the state.*

Under the current structure, the wolf harvest season opens on October 15 every year. The rush to harvest a wolf before the zone closes has created conflicts between trappers and hunters with bird hunting dogs being caught in the traps. The wolf pelt is not prime but the risk of zone closure forces trappers to harvest animals before the pelts are prime. Moving the season opening date to a later date would help to alleviate these problems.

40. Would you support the WCC working with the NRB and the state legislature to change the opening of the wolf harvest season to the first Saturday in November?	**40.** YES____ NO_____
41. Would you support the WCC working with the NRB and state legislature to change the opening date of the wolf harvest season to the Saturday before the opening day of the 9 day gun deer season?	**41.** YES____ NO_____

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Join Friends of Wisconsin Conservation Congress and others contributing to the success of this MacKenzie Center youth event in Poynette.

Free to students: Archery, airguns, dog handling, muzzleloading, birding, conservation, forestry, fur trapping, plus ATV/snowmobile and firearms safety, natural heritage, elk, turkey and waterfowl calling and other activities run by volunteers from various partner groups and DNR staff. Live bison, wolves, eagles & more.

Great way to give students an opportunity that many would not otherwise have, plus information on where they and their parents can go for ongoing outdoor education programs, Learn to Hunts and mentored opportunities throughout the year.

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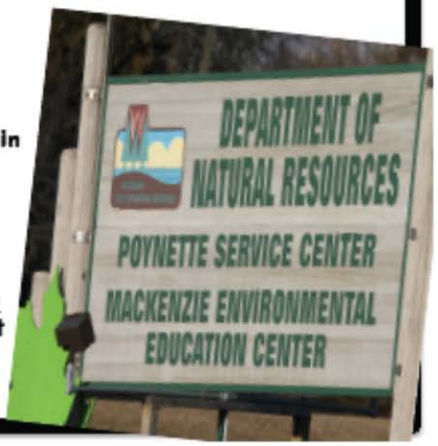
Launched with generous donations from SE WI Bowhunter and Badgerland Chapters of SCI, and major funding from the Wisconsin Chapter of SCI and Wisc. Friends of NRA. Please join Dane Co. Conservation League and others stepping up to help.

For more information, see www.outdoorheritageeducationcenter.com or contact organizer Mark LaBarbera at 608-854-2196, malabarb@peoplepc.com or via mobile: 520-730-9252.



Appendix A. Proposed Panfish Regulations (Question 14.) These regulations would sunset in 2026.

- **25/10** - a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day but no more than 10 of any one species
- **Spawning Season 15/5** – a total of 25 panfish may be kept per day except during May and June when a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species
- **15/5** - a total of 15 panfish may be kept per day, but no more than 5 of any one species year round

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Adams	Arrowhead	25/10
Adams	Camelot	25/10
Adams	Crooked	Seasonal 15/5
Adams	Lake Sherwood	25/10
Adams	Parker	15/5
Eau Claire	Lake Eau Claire	25/10
Florence	Halsey	25/10
Florence	Sea Lion	15/5
Florence	Spread Eagle Chain Of Lakes (Bass, East, Long, Middle, North, Railroad, South and West lakes)	Seasonal 15/5
Forest	Wabikon & Riley	25/10
Kenosha	Paddock	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Big Twin	25/10
Langlade	Crystal	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Dynamite	25/10
Langlade	Long T33N R10E S35	25/10
Langlade	Post (Lower & Upper)	25/10
Langlade	Meyer	15/5
Langlade	Moose	Seasonal 15/5
Langlade	Mueller	25/10
Langlade	White	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Clara	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Crystal	15/5
Lincoln	Echo	15/5

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Lincoln	Hilderbrand	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Hilts	25/10
Lincoln	Lake Clara T35N R07E S14	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Pesabic	Seasonal 15/5
Lincoln	Rice Reservoir Chain (Bridge lake, Deer lake, Lake Nokomis, Rice River Flowage)	25/10
Manitowoc	Bullhead	Seasonal 15/5
Manitowoc	English	15/5
Manitowoc	Harpt	25/10
Manitowoc	Long	15/5
Manitowoc	Pigeon	25/10
Marathon	Lake Wausau	25/10
Marathon	Mud	15/5
Marathon	Pike	Seasonal 15/5
Marinette/ Oconto	Caldron Falls Reservoir	25/10
Oneida	Boom-Rhinelander Chain (Rhinelander Flowage, Boom Lake, Bass Lake, Thunder Lake, Lake Creek)	Seasonal 15/5
Oneida	Carrol	25/10
Oneida	Gilmore	25/10
Oneida	Indian	15/5
Oneida	Madeline	25/10
Oneida	Moen Chain (Moen, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth)	25/10
Oneida	Oneida	15/5
Oneida	Squaw	15/5
Portage	Emily	25/10
Portage	Lime	25/10

LIST CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Price	Butternut	25/10
Price	Phillips Chain	15/5
Price/Vilas	Pike Chain (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner)	25/10
Price	Solberg	15/5
Racine	Bohners	15/5
Rusk	Lower Flambeau River Flowages: Big Falls Flowage, Dairyland Flowage, Ladysmith Flowage, Thornapple Flowage	15/5
Sawyer	Black Dan	15/5
Sawyer	Blueberry	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Connors	25/10
Sawyer	Durphee	15/5
Sawyer	Evergreen	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Island	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Lake Of The Pines	25/10
Sawyer	Loretta	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Lost Land	25/10
Sawyer	Lower Holly	15/5
Sawyer	Mason	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Osprey	Seasonal 15/5
Sawyer	Round (Big & Little)	25/10
Sawyer	Spring	25/10
Sawyer	Teal	25/10
Sawyer	Windigo	15/5
Sawyer	Winter	25/10
Shawano	White Clay	25/10
Sheboygan	Crystal Lake	Seasonal 15/5
Taylor	Chequamegon Waters Flowage	Seasonal 15/5
Taylor	Rib	15/5

County	Lake Name	Panfish Reg
Vilas	Allequash	Seasonal 15/5
Vilas	High	15/5
Vilas	Fishtrap	15/5
Vilas	Rush	15/5
Vilas	Kentuck	25/10
Vilas	Little Saint Germain	25/10
Vilas	Palmer	25/10
Vilas	Partridge	Seasonal 15/5
Vilas	Pickerel	25/10
Vilas/Price	Pike Chain (Amik, Pike, Round, and Turner)	25/10
Walworth	Tripp	25/10
Washington	Big Cedar	25/10
Washington	Little Cedar	25/10
Washington	Silver	15/5
Waupaca	Graham	15/5
Waupaca	Hartman	15/5
Waupaca	School Section	25/10
Waupaca	Shadow	Seasonal 15/5
Waupaca	Stratton	25/10
Waupaca	White	25/10
Waushara	Big Hills	25/10
Waushara	Irogami	Seasonal 15/5
Waushara	Kusel	Seasonal 15/5
Waushara	Porters	15/5
Waushara	Witters	15/5
Wood	Nepco	Seasonal 15/5

Appendix B. Fish Refuge Modifications and Removals (Question 15.)

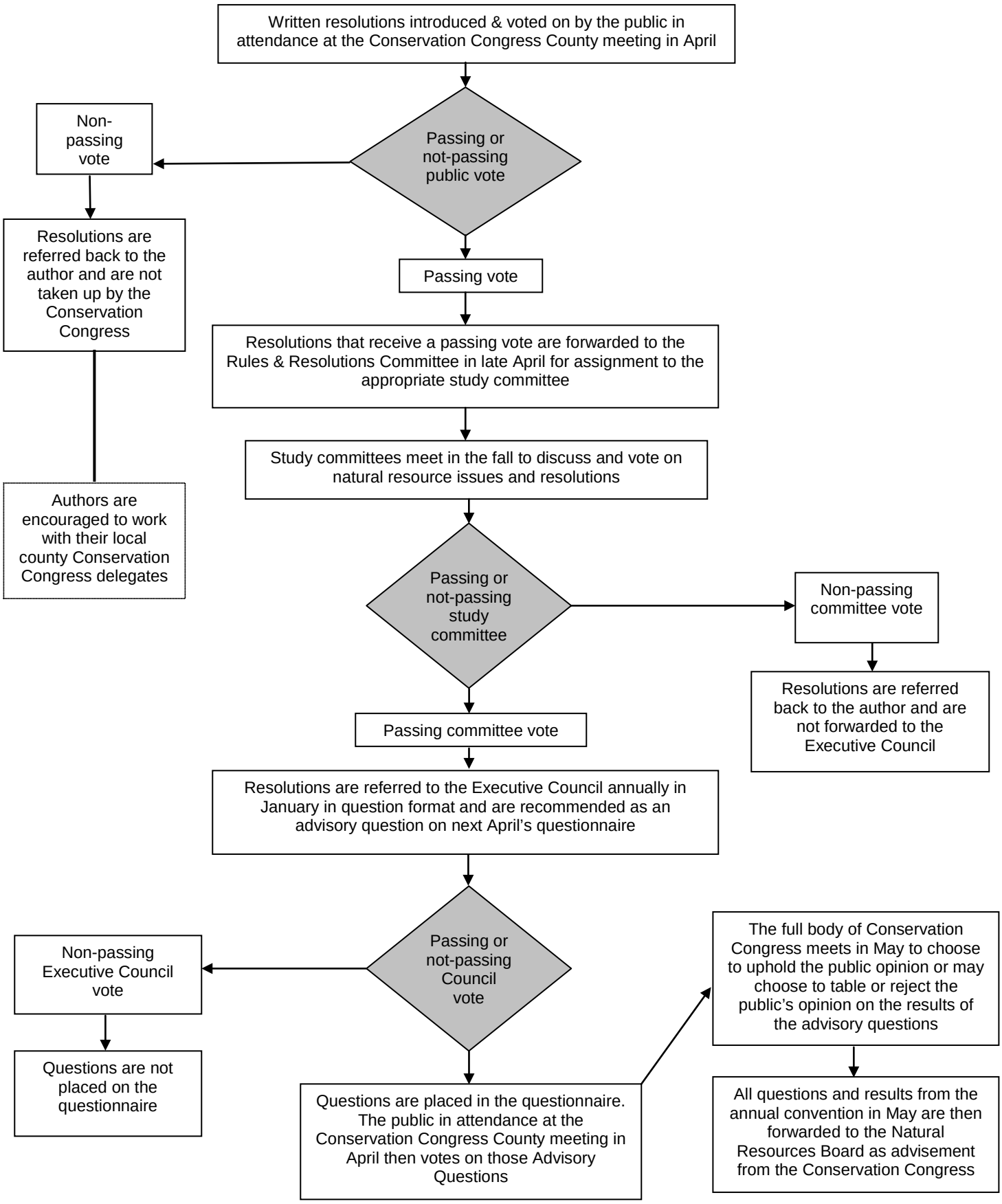
County	Waterbody	Start Date	End Date	ACTION	Justification
Barron	Sand creek (from Little Sand lake to Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Sand creek (the dam outlet of Sand lake)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on Sand Lake walleye and muskellunge populations
Barron	Spring creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Lake Montanis; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Staples creek	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	The refuge is no longer needed because Staples Lake is no longer managed for walleye
Barron	Beaver Dam lake inlets (unnamed stream)	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	No longer needed in this area, see below
Barron	Beaver Dam lake inlets (from Riebe lake to Cumberland ditch)	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Walleyes do periodically use this area; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Granite lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Granite Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Duck lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on the Duck Lake walleye population
Barron	Silver lake inlet	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Refuge does not have meaningful effect on the Silver Lake walleye population
Barron	Hemlock creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Hemlock and Red Cedar lakes; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Barron	Turtle creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Lower Turtle Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties; combine these two to be the stretch of Turtle Creek between Upper Turtle and Lower Turtle lakes
Barron	Turtle creek (outlet of Lower Turtle lake)	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	
Barron	Rice creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Prairie Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Brown	Duck creek	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	The refuge below two small dams located in Pamperin Park was established to protect migrating fish from illegal harvest; these two small dams were removed in 2012 and refuge is no longer needed

Burnett	Clam river	Apr 15th	Jun 1st	REMOVE	The refuge was put in place to protect migrating sturgeon in the spring; there is no open sturgeon season on the Clam River and it can be enforced without this refuge
Columbia	Lake Columbia	year round	year round	REMOVE	This fishery is no longer intensively managed and is not needed
Dane	Wingra creek	Mar 1st	May 15th	MODIFY: Extend it to end at Arboretum Drive (bridge across Wingra Creek)	Bridge is an easily identifiable limit, rather than currently using a buoy placed during the refuge period
Dunn	Red Cedar river	Jan 1st	May 1st	MODIFY: only keep Red Cedar River - section 6, township 28 north, range 12 west; remove other section; and change end date to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	All walleye in the Lake Menomin system spawn in this section below the dam and are susceptible to illegal harvest
Eau Claire	Little Niagra creek	year round	year round	REMOVE	Refuge was created for a fish hatchery that is no longer present
Fond Du Lac	Fond du Lac river	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	There used to be spawning runs of white bass that migrated up the river and were fished at the Hickory St. Bridge, but this has greatly diminished in the last 20 years
Lafayette	Yellowstone lake sub-impoundment and rearing pond	when posted	when posted	REMOVE	Refuge no longer needed
Marquette	Fredereck creek	year round	year round	REMOVE	Westfield hatchery is now closed and there is no reason for the refuge
Marquette	Fox river/Buffalo lake	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	With the rebuild of the dam and incorporation of a fishway into the design, this refuge is no longer necessary
Marquette	Lower Neenah creek	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	With the rebuild of the dam and incorporation of a fishway into the design, this refuge is no longer necessary
Polk	Balsam branch	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	The area can get muskellunge and walleye from Wapogasset and Bear Trap lakes; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Butternut creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	The area can get walleye run from Big Butternut Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Harder creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	The area can get walleye run from Balsam Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties

Polk	Horse creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Has walleye run from Cedar Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Polk	Sucker creek	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Commonly has walleye and muskellunge in the spring, likely spillovers from Wapogasset Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent for all refuges in Barron and Polk counties
Price	Solberg creek	April 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	The refuge does not have a meaningful effect on walleye populations
Price	Squaw creek	April 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	The refuge does not have a meaningful effect on walleye populations
Price	Round lake	April 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	Walleye spawn on many other rocky areas of Round Lake—spawning is not concentrated on the artificial reef refuge area
Price	South Fork Spirit river	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY DESCRIPTION	There is no South Fork Spirit River in WDNR's Registry of Waterbodies - correct location is on the Spirit River entirely within Price County just north of the Price-Taylor County line
Price	Big Elk river	Apr 15th	Jun 15th	REMOVE	Not needed: there is no public access by road or land, and access by water is difficult from upstream (portage required) or downstream (against the substantial springtime current in a shallow, rocky channel)
Rusk	Swift creek	April 1st	May 31st	REMOVE	Season, bag limit, and size limit regulations on walleye should effectively limit legal harvest of walleyes
Shawano	Wolf river	Apr 15th	May 15th	MODIFY: starting on April 1st to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Refuge is below the Shawano dam and is in place to protect fish that are concentrated there during spawning
Shawano	Embarrass river	Apr 15th	May 15th	MODIFY: starting on April 1st to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	The refuge reduces or prevents the illegal taking of sturgeon from the remote areas known as the Rips and the High Banks
Washburn	Balsam lake outlet	April 1st	May 14th	MODIFY: April 1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Gets walleye run from Red Cedar Lake; shorten dates and keep consistent with the Hemlock Creek refuge (Barron County) on Red Cedar Lake
Washburn	Bear creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washburn	Birch creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washburn	Little Mud lake outlet	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore

Washburn	Slim creek	April 1st	May 14th	REMOVE	Very few walleyes use this area for spawning anymore
Washington	Pike lake dam	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	Season, bag limit, and size limit regulations should effectively limit legal harvest of walleyes
Washington	Milwaukee river (Newburg dam)	Mar 1st	Apr 15th	REMOVE	Dam removed and refuge no longer needed
Waukesha	Scuppernong Springs	year round	year round	REMOVE	Scuppernong Springs has become rehabilitated through dam removal, stream restoration and stocking efforts and angler opportunity should be promoted
Waukesha	Bark river	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	Modify: expand to cover the entire section of river between Upper Nemahbin and Nagawicka lakes	Expansion of the current refuge accounts for removal of the Nemahbin Roller Mill dam and the ability for walleyes to move upstream into critical spawning habitat of the Middle Bark River
Waukesha	Pewaukee lake inlet	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	Pewaukee Lake inlet does not have adequate habitat to support game fish spawning and nursery potential
Waukesha	Lac La Belle	Mar 1st	Friday before 1st Saturday in May	REMOVE	Lac LaBelle refuge no longer has an outlet grate and no longer supports concentrations of game fish
Waukesha	Oconomowoc river	April 1st	May 31st	MODIFY: expand boundaries to be "Oconomowoc Lake inlet upstream to the Okauchee Lake Dam" and change date to: 3/1 to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	The Oconomowoc River refuge downstream of Upper Oconomowoc Lake should be expanded to include from the outlet of Okauchee Lake downstream to the inlet of Oconomowoc Lake
Waupaca	Little Wolf River	April 1st	May 14th	MODIFY: April 1st to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	This refuge is below the Manawa dam and is in place to protect sturgeon that are concentrated there during the spawning migration
Winnebago	Fox River	Jan 1st	May 1st	MODIFY: March 1st to Friday before 1st Saturday in May	A later refuge start date would be better to cover the migration period for walleye and sturgeon

The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



How to Write a Resolution

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

Resolution Content

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

Resolution Format

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less**,** on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with **TWO COPIES** of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Sample Resolution

Title: Spring Dinosaur Hunting Season

The Problem:

Dinosaurs are a threat to agriculture across the state, especially in April and May, because they make deep footprints in newly planted farm fields, damaging the emerging crops. The problem is aggravated in southern Wisconsin, because dinosaurs are migrating across the state line to avoid hunting pressure in Illinois.

There is already an overpopulation of dinosaurs in Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit dinosaur hunting at any time during the year. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent with Illinois, which permits dinosaur hunting in the spring.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering significant crop damage because of dinosaur incursions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 14, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season.

Name of Author: Fred Flintstone
Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen
Address: W12345 State Road 3
City, State, Zip Code: Bedrock, Wisconsin 54231
Name of the County Introducing In: Buffalo

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

See WCC Resolution Process (page 62)

Thank you for attending this year's meeting!

Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing
&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting

Interested in making a difference by becoming part of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress?

Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the Conservation Congress website at: dnr.wi.gov – search "Conservation Congress"