

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Results of voting on the Bureau of Wildlife Management's 2018 spring fish & wildlife meeting agenda of advisory questions.

FOR: May 2018 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Karel, Wildlife Regulation Policy Specialist

SUMMARY:

The following advisory questions were the subject of voting at 2018 spring fish & wildlife meetings held jointly with the Conservation Congress on April 9, 2018. All six questions passed with fairly strong support Wildlife bureau staff will continue to develop the concepts and they could become rule proposals that would be subjects of voting at the 2019 spring hearings.

Question 10. Require that deer harvested in a CWD-affected county must only be transported within that county or an adjacent CWD-affected county, unless taken to a licensed taxidermist or meat processor within 72 hours.

Question 11. Move the close of pheasant season daily shooting hours on public properties stocked with pheasants from 2 p.m. to 12 p.m. on weekdays from the third day of the pheasant season through November 3.

Question 12. Modify the closed area on certain wildlife refuges to provide additional trapping opportunities.

Question 13. Allow lures/baiting during the closed season for trapping furbearing animals for nuisance wildlife control purposes.

Question 14. Allow trapping within 15 feet of beaver dams on private land, with permission from the landowner.

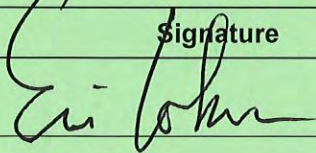
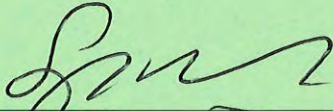

Questions 15: Allow trappers to keep raccoon incidentally trapped in beaver sets during the closed season for raccoon.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
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Approved by	Signature	Date
Eric Lobner, Wildlife Management Bureau Director		4/27/18
Sanjay Olson, Fish, Wildlife & Parks Division Administrator		4/27/18
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary		4/27/18

by Ed Eberle

DATE: April 25, 2018

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Daniel L. Meyer

SUBJECT: Results of voting on the Bureau of Wildlife Management's 2018 spring fish & wildlife meeting agenda of advisory questions.

This memo will summarize the results of voting and anticipated future action on the six wildlife-related advisory questions that were on the 2018 spring hearing agenda.

Background:

The 2018 wildlife spring hearing questions were advisory-only and solely aimed at gathering public feedback. In 2019 and subsequent odd-numbered years, the department will present a rules package at the spring hearings for additional public input. The process and timeline for rule promulgation comply with the requirements of Ch. 227 Stats. as modified by 2011 ACT 21.

The department annually compiles rule proposals and advisory questions on wildlife-related topics of statewide and local interest. These questions are presented in April at the statewide spring fish & wildlife hearings for citizen input. Questions submitted by the Bureau of Wildlife Management may be proposed by staff specialists, area supervisors or local staff. Wildlife questions may also include Conservation Congress questions that have gained support in previous years and questions proposed by the Natural Resources Board.

Summary of Agenda Items:

Spring hearing attendance in 2018 was 6,893 people. Table 1 provides a description of each question and a summary of statewide voting results. Table 2 summarizes written comments. The full spring hearing questions are found in Appendix 1.

Table 1. Voting results.

	Question Description	Yes Votes	No Votes	Statewide Support	County Vote (Yes/No/Tie)
10	Restricting the transportation of deer harvested in a CWD-affected county to within that CWD-affected county or an adjacent CWD-affected	3102	2617	54.2%	50 / 21 / 1
11	Move the pheasant shooting hour closure on certain properties from 2 p.m. to 12 p.m.	3631	1715	68.0%	70 / 1 / 1

	Question Description	Yes Votes	No Votes	Statewide Support	County Vote (Yes/No/Tie)
12	Reducing the time during which certain wildlife refuge are closed (except during firearm deer hunting) to September 1 - the end of the waterfowl season.	2913	2011	59.1%	61 / 10 / 1
13	Allow the use of lures/bait for trapping furbearing animals for nuisance wildlife control purposes during the closed season	4293	1066	80.1%	71 / 1 / 0
14	Allow trappers to set traps on beaver dams located on private land with written permission from the landowner.	4235	1189	78.1%	71 / 1 / 0
15	Allow trappers to retain incidental raccoons caught in beaver traps after the close of the raccoon season.	4795	741	86.6%	72 / 0 / 0

Table 2. Written comments.

		Ayes	Noes
Statewide Fisheries Management Advisory Questions			
10	Restricting the transportation of deer harvested in a CWD-affected county to within that CWD-affected county or an adjacent CWD-affected	6	5
11	Move the pheasant shooting hour closure on certain properties from 2 p.m. to 12 p.m.	6	1
12	Reducing the time during which certain wildlife refuge are closed (except during firearm deer hunting) to September 1 - the end of the waterfowl season.	5	1
13	Allow the use of lures/bait for trapping furbearing animals for nuisance wildlife control purposes during the closed season	5	1
14	Allow trappers to set traps on beaver dams located on private land with written permission from the landowner.	5	2
15	Allow trappers to retain incidental raccoons caught in beaver traps after the close of the raccoon season.	5	1

Future Action on 2018 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

The public input gathered for each of these advisory questions will provide a basis for policies and rule development in 2019 and beyond.

STATEWIDE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 10: Require that deer harvested in a CWD-affected county must only be transported within that county or an adjacent CWD-affected county, unless taken to a licensed taxidermist or meat processor within 72 hours

Carcass movement restrictions were put into place to prevent tissues most likely to contain chronic wasting disease (CWD) infectious agents (prions) from being introduced to areas of the state where CWD does not yet exist. From 2002-2013, the CWD management zone consisted of south-central deer management units (DMUs). Starting September 1, 2009, regulations were put into place which only allowed movement of whole carcasses within the management zone and adjacent management units unless the carcass was brought to a licensed taxidermist or meat processor within 72 hours.

In 2014, the deer management units were changed to mostly county-based units. The CWD management zone was changed to CWD-affected counties. A county was considered CWD-affected if a wild or captive cervid had tested positive for CWD in the county or in a county within 10 miles. The CWD-affected counties encompassed a much larger area than the CWD management zone, including areas outside the southern endemic CWD area. This allowed hunters to move a whole carcass to more areas of the state than previously.

This rule change would limit the movement of carcasses as was the intent of the original carcass transportation restrictions centered on the CWD management zone. This would minimize the risk of moving CWD prions along with carcasses to areas of the state that have not had CWD-positive test results.

10. Do you support restricting the transportation of deer harvested in a CWD-affected county to within that CWD-affected county or an adjacent CWD-affected county, unless the carcass is taken to a licensed taxidermist or meat processor within 72 hours? YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 11: Move the close of pheasant season daily shooting hours on public properties stocked with pheasants from 2 p.m. to 12 p.m. on week days from the third day of the pheasant season through November 3

Currently, shooting hours close at 2 p.m. on public lands stocked with pheasants during the pheasant season to allow staff to stock birds without hunters pursuing them straight out of the stocking truck. In some cases, due to staff limitations and other logistics, DNR staff must begin stocking pheasants earlier. This rule would establish a noon closure on stocked properties to give staff more time and flexibility to stock while removing hunting pressure on the birds until the next morning.

11. Do you support establishing a 12 p.m. daily closure on public properties stocked with pheasants to reduce hunting pressure on the birds immediately following stocking? YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 12: Modify the closed area on certain wildlife refuges to provide additional trapping opportunities

Current rules establish no-entry wildlife refuges from Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 on the properties regulated in Chapter NR 15.022 (listed below). This question would modify these wildlife refuges to be closed to hunting, except for gun and muzzleloader deer hunting, only from Sept. 1 – Nov. 30. This modification was originally proposed to allow trappers access to early ice muskrats, but will allow other recreational users to access the refuges earlier as well. The change is not anticipated to significantly affect waterfowl that use the refuges.

- Sportsman’s Lake (Clark County)
- Theresa Marsh (Dodge and Washington counties)
- Brule River (Douglas County)
- Meadow Valley (Juneau County)
- Necedah (Juneau County)
- Bong (Kenosha County)
- Collins Marsh (Manitowoc County)
- Beans Eddy (Marathon County)
- Townline reservoir/Berkhahn flowage (Marathon County)
- Honey Island Flowage (Marathon County)
- McMillan Marsh (Marathon County)
- Mead (Marathon and Wood counties)
- Powell Marsh (Vilas County)

12. Do you support reducing the time during which the wildlife refuges regulated in NR 15.022 are closed (except for firearm deer hunting) to Sept. 1 – Nov. 30? YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 13: Allow lures/baiting during the closed season for trapping furbearing animals for nuisance wildlife control purposes

Current law prevents the use of lures/bait outside of the trapping season. The landowner exemption, which allows a landowner to hunt or trap listed species on that landowner’s property, establishes a year-round open trapping season during which the use of bait and lure is allowed. This exemption does not extend to agents of the landowner. This is because agents/assistants do not receive any authorization from s. 29.337, Stats. The intention of this rule change is to allow nuisance wildlife control agents, working for a landowner, to use bait/lure outside of the open trapping season. Further, it would allow nuisance trappers called upon to remove nuisance wildlife from public property to use lure/bait outside of the open season. Nuisance trappers asked to remove beaver from public property, adjacent to roads that are having culvert plugging problems, is one example.

13. Do you support the use of lure/bait for trapping furbearing animals through nuisance wildlife control work conducted during the closed season? YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 14: Allow trapping within 15 feet of beaver dams on private land, with permission from the landowner

Current law prevents the placement of traps, except enclosed trigger traps, at any time within 15 feet of any beaver dam. The landowner exemption does allow a landowner to trap on a dam, but this exemption does not extend to agents of the landowner. The United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services can trap on dams as part of their beaver program as well. This proposal would allow both nuisance and fur trappers to trap on a beaver dam with written permission from the landowner.

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14. Do you support the placement of traps, snares, colony traps or cable restraints at any time within 15 feet of any beaver dam found on private land, with written permission from the landowner? YES___ NO___
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QUESTION 15: Allow trappers to keep raccoon incidentally trapped in beaver sets during the closed season for raccoon

Current law allows muskrat taken while trapping beaver during the beaver season to be retained by the trapper. Allowing the possession of raccoon would be a similar exemption.

There are trap type restrictions that would allow law enforcement to determine if trappers were targeting raccoons. Allowing trappers to retain incidentally trapped raccoons during the beaver season would reduce incidental calls to wardens and allow incidental raccoon to be salvaged.

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15. Do you support a rule change allowing raccoon incidentally taken in beaver sets, during the beaver trapping season and after the close of the raccoon season, to be legally kept? YES___ NO___
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