

Warm water study committee minutes 12/05/2009

Meeting called to order by Chairman Weiss at 10:00 AM

Introductions of all in attendance

Roll call was taken. Harold Holub & Scott Lange were absent unexcused

A review was done of the committee's mission statement.

Tim Simonson DNR Fisheries spoke on WDNR informational items

- 1. Over population of largemouth bass**
- 2. Proposed statewide 40" size limit on muskies. He gave a brief power point on the subject Showing studies that prove a 40" size limit will help overall size structure and Recruitment rates for muskies in Wisconsin**

Byron Goetch DNR Law Enforcement.

- 1. Gave update on warden vacancies. Currently there are 26 vacancies in Wisconsin**
- 2. Spoke briefly on how successful the Water Guard program has been. The DNR is looking to hire more water guards in 2010**

Discussion and actions taken on Citizen Resolutions

030109 OVER HARVEST OF WALLEYE ON SILVER LAKE

Silver Lake, located in Lakeland Township, Barron County, has been a producer of trophy-class walleyes with limited fishing pressure since flooding in 2002. Now that the water levels have lowered, water quality has improved, and the large fish have proven to be very susceptible to harvest. There is an estimated 15 times more fishing pressure on the 337 acre lake, than in the past. This level of harvest is not sustainable at the current level.

Silver Lake has proven its ability to produce trophy class walleyes.

Would you support a 28" size limit with the daily bag limit being reduced from 5 fish to 1?

A motion was made and seconded to support this resolution. The resolution was accepted, and will advance.

030709 LOWER BAG LIMIT ON CRAPPIES NORTH OF HWY 8

The overall size of crappies being caught on many northern lakes appears to be dropping. The problem may be the over harvest of large crappies. Most crappie fisherman do not at the present practice catch and release, as is done in muskie and bass fishing. More people fish for crappies in Wisconsin than any other fish except walleye.

Would support the WDNR managing crappies as separate species, so that lower bag limits could be set on lakes and rivers north of Hwy 8.

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. The motion was accepted and will be advanced.

110109 Muskellunge Fishing Regulation Change on the Lower Wisconsin River.

Would you support increasing the size limit on the Lower Wisconsin River from 34" to 50"?

A motion was made and seconded to reject this resolution. After a brief discussion a vote was taken and the resolution was rejected.

140309 ROUGH FISH SNAGGING AND POSSESSION

Would you support allowing anglers to retain rough fish that were foul hooked?

A motion was made and seconded to reject this resolution. After the discussion a vote was taken and the resolution was rejected and will not be advanced.

190509 PATTERN LAKE WALLEYE REGULATIONS.

In 1997, special walleye size and bag limits were established on Pattern Lake to reduce the number of undersize walleye being lost through hooking mortality. There is no minimum size limit on walleye but you can only keep one fish over 14" in your daily bag limit of 5 fish.

Based on results of a fish survey taken on Pattern Lake by the WDNR in August , 2000, the young of the year walleye count was above average, and now the lake has a balanced age structure. Special regulations are no longer needed. The Pattern Lake property owners association is requesting that Pattern Lake be returned to the statewide walleye regulations, based on this information.

Would you support restoring Pattern Lake walleye regulations to a daily bag limit of 5 fish with a size limit of 15"?

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. Motion was accepted and will be advanced.

290109 MUSKY SIZE LIMIT ON THE WISCONSIN RIVER, CONNECTED LAKES AND TRIBUTARIES.

Would you support a 50" size limit on muskies on the Wisconsin River and all of its tributaries?

A motion was made and seconded to reject this resolution. Motion was rejected.

290209 MUSKY SIZE LIMIT ON LAKE REDSTONE IN SAUL COUNTY

Muskies are being harvested before they are at good spawning size on Redstone Lake. It is also believed that some fishermen are harvesting muskies thinking that they are northern pike. Lake Redstone has great potential to produce trophy class muskies due to the fertility of the lake and its good forage base.

**Would you support increasing the size limit on Redstone Lake from 34" to a 50" size limit?
A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. Motion was accepted and will be advanced.**

290309 PETENWELL AND CASTLE ROCK WALLEYE REGULATIONS.

The daily bag limit is 5 walleye on these two flowages of the Wisconsin River. Would you support a daily bag limit of 3 walleye with a slot limit of 15" to 20" with one fish in your creel being over 28"?

A motion was made and seconded to reject this resolution. Resolution was rejected.

350109 RE-OPEN WISCONSIN RIVER

A 22 mile section of the Wisconsin River was closed to year round fishing in 2009.

Would you support re-opening this section of the Wisconsin River for year round fishing?

A motion was made and seconded to reject. Motion was rejected.

440209 INVASIVE SPECIES RULES FOR FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Wisconsin lakes have been identified with known aquatic invasive species. Fishing tournaments often involve fishing different bodies of water on the same day or weekend. The practice enhances the transfer AIS from one lake to another.

Would you support prohibiting fishing tournament organizers from conducting multi lake tournaments on the same day or weekend?

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. Resolution was accepted and will be advanced.

440309 REMOVAL OF TROPHY MUSKY DESIGNATION FOR PELICAN LAKE.

Pelican Lake is considered an action fishery for musky. The trophy designation on this lake is not supported by the local fisherman. A trophy muskie is in the eyes of the beholder. Therefore the local residents wish to restore the 34" size limit on Pelican Lake.

Do you support restoring the 34" size limit on Pelican Lake?

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. A vote was taken and the resolution was accepted and will be advanced.

580109 50" MINIMUM LENGTH SIZE LIMIT FOR MUSKIE ON WHITEFISH LAKE

Muskie can now be harvested at a size of 34" on Whitefish Lake. At this size they have not come close to their potential growth in this body of water. It is a costly venture to stock extended growth muskies to only have them harvested at their now legal size of 34".

Whitefish Lake is connected to Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone Lakes which have a 50" size limit on muskies.

Would you support changing the musky size limit on Whitefish Lake from 34" to 50"?

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. After discussion a vote was taken and the resolution was accepted and will be advanced.

580309 SAWYER COUNTY BASS REGULATIONS

Sawyer County's waters are not well served by existing bass regulations, which need to be changed to accommodate management plans and public desires.

**Would you support managing smallmouth and largemouth as separate species statewide?
Would you support moving Sawyer County into the southern bass management zone?**

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. A vote was taken and the resolution was accepted and will be advanced.

Member Matters

Rick Olson submitted a member resolution.

Title:

Fishing season expansion, Chippewa Flowage, Sawyer County.

Problem:

The Chippewa Flowage is the only inland water specifically closed to ice fishing. The rule is primarily social in nature. There is no biological rationale for the rule. Ice fishing will provide additional angling opportunity and will direct needed harvest of northern pike and largemouth bass and is a recommendation of the Chippewa Flowage Management Plan. This is the same as the DNR Question with the addition of, continuous panfish season.

Question:

Do you favor extending the fishing season on the Chippewa Flowage, for game fish, from December 1, to the first Sunday in March, and panfish continuous, with a panfish daily bag of ten in aggregate?

A motion was made and seconded to accept this resolution. Motion was accepted and will be advanced.

Bill Herriman submitted a member resolution

Would you support separating panfish into species specific categories for the purpose of species management?

A motion was made to accept this resolution. Motion was accepted and will be advanced.

Meeting Adjourned

Ken Snow

Secretary Warm Water Study Committee