Monday, April 8, 2019

Agenda:

1. **Registration**
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   - Online Input Instructions
   - Notice of Public Hearing
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2. **WCC – Delegate Elections**
   - Conservation Congress Delegate Election Process
   - WCC Delegate(s)
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3. **County Deer Advisory Council Update**
   - 2019 Preliminary County Deer Permit Recommendation
   - WCC CDAC Chair
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4. **DNR – Wildlife and Fisheries Public Hearing**
   - DNR Wildlife Proposed Rule Changes
   - DNR Wildlife Advisory Question
   - DNR Fisheries Proposed Rule Changes
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5. **Citizen Resolutions**
   - Conservation Congress Resolution Process
   - How to Write a Resolution & Sample Resolution
   - WCC Delegate(s)
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6. **Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting**
   - Conservation Congress Advisory Questions
   - WCC Delegate(s)
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This hearing is not a debate but rather an opportunity for public input. 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. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 11, 2019. **NEW THIS YEAR:** For individuals who are unable to attend a hearing in person, an online input option will be available and open to the public until April 11, 2019 (see page 3 for information).

The results of the 2019 Spring Hearings will be available online as soon as they are compiled.
Visit dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”
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WILD

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APP YOU
NEED.

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“HUNT APP”

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For the first time ever, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be offering an online option for individuals who wish to provide input on the DNR proposed rule changes and WCC advisory questions through an alternate method.

*Please note, the election of WCC delegates and input on citizen-introduced resolutions will remain unchanged and will require in-person participation.

- The link for providing online input will be posted on the Spring Hearing webpage at https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html or go to DNR.WI.GOV and search keywords “Spring Hearings.”

- The online input option will go live at 7:00 pm on April 8, the same time the Spring Hearings begin, and will remain open for three days (72 hours).

- Individuals in attendance at the Spring Hearing can choose to fill out the paper input form the night of the hearing or take a random verifiable number that can be submitted using the online input option. The random verifiable number will allow an individual’s input to be tallied along with the input provided by in-person attendees in the county in which they attended.

- Individuals who are unable to attend a Spring Hearing can provide input through the online option (without the random verifiable number). This input will be compiled and considered with the overall input but will be separate from the county-specific (in-person) input.

- The questions in the online option are identical to the questions provided to in-person attendees through this questionnaire. Persons taking the online version will be required to sign in to the survey, just as in-person attendees are required to sign in at the hearing.

- There are some additional optional demographic questions being asked through the online input option which may be used as context to assist the DNR and the WCC when interpreting the input.
Please read instructions below carefully, as they have changed from past years.

After you have registered, you will be provided with one input form.

**The front** will be used to provide input on Department of Natural Resources proposed rule changes and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions in the questionnaire.

**The back** can be used to provide input on any citizen resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**You may use either a PENCIL or a PEN**

For your input to be accurately captured:

- The question number on the input form that coincides with the question in the questionnaire
- Mark your input for each question clearly with an **X** or **✓**

1. YES **X** NO _____

- You do not need to answer all the questions for your input to be counted—mark as may or as few as you are interested in.
- DO NOT use markers to complete the form
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks on the form
- DO NOT scribble out mistakes
- If you DO NOT follow these directions and clearly mark your choice, your input may not be accurately counted.

**If there are citizen resolutions introduced:**

- Resolutions will be numbered by the WCC county chair and posted for your review.
- Resolutions are numbered in the following format:

  Example: **27 01 19**

  This is resolution number 1 introduced in Jackson County (27) in 2019.

- The first two numbers (27) are the county code.
- The second two numbers (01) are the resolution number for that county. This number will coincide with the number on the back of your form.
- The last two numbers (19) are the year it is introduced.
Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing &
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting

Use the following format to mark your form:
EXAMPLE: 1. YES X NO
*You may use pen or pencil.
*You do not need to answer all the questions for your input to be counted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife Management Questions</th>
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<tr>
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<td>23. YES</td>
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We’ll be here. Will you?

Enjoy Wisconsin’s wild side!
WCC Delegate Elections

The delegate elections take place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring Hearing/County Conservation Meeting.

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. Proof of residency within the county is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

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 themselves or 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. 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.

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.
PREVENT A WILDFIRE

GET A BURN PERMIT

online, by phone or emergency fire warden

Fire conditions change quickly. Check fire restrictions daily!
dnr.wi.gov, search “fire”
888-WIS-BURN (947-2876)

Nearly all debris burning-caused wildfires in Wisconsin are caused by people who burned without a permit.
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings at the same locations. The purpose of this portion of the meeting will be to gather public input on wildlife and fisheries management proposed rule changes, which are being asked to gauge public opinion.

The public may provide input on Board Order WM-21-18 that will modify Ch.’s NR 10 and 45 related to hunting, trapping and target shooting. This rule will serve several purposes, including simplifying weapons restriction regulations, offering additional trapping opportunities, and provide regulated shooting in Rock County.

Further, the public may provide input on Board Order FH-19-18 that will modify Ch.’s NR 20, 23 and 26 related to fishing regulations on inland, outlying and boundary waters of the state. This rule will serve several purposes, including applying fishing regulations to waters to accomplish new management goals, improving the clarity and consistency of regulations on shared boundary waters with Michigan and Minnesota, establishing statewide regulations that provide harvest opportunity while protecting fish populations, and aligning regulations with public desires for certain waterbodies.

The Conservation Congress County Meeting will convene following the close of the DNR rules hearing. Immediately following the close of the Conservation Congress County Meeting, the WCC delegates (including those newly elected) will meet to elect the county delegation’s chair and vice-chair.

The public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

01 Adams Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
02 Ashland WITC-Ashland, Room 305, 2100 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
03 Barron Barron County Government Center, 330 East LaSalle Avenue, Barron, WI 54812
04 Bayfield Drummond High School, 52440 Eastern Ave, Drummond, WI 54832
05 Brown Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Room SC130, 2740 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54307
06 Buffalo Alma High School, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
07 Burnett Burnett County Government Center, 7410 County Highway K, Siren, WI 54872
08 Calumet Calumet County Courthouse, Room 025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
09 Chippewa Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
10 Clark Greenwood High School, 306 W Central Avenue, Greenwood, WI 54437
11 Columbia Columbia County Health and Human Services, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI 53901
12 Crawford Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E Crawford Street, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
13 Dane Monona Grove High School, Auditorium, 4400 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716
14 Dodge Horicon Marsh DNR Education and Visitor Center, Auditorium, N7725 Highway 28, Horicon, WI 53032
15 Door Sturgeon Bay High School, Commons, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
16 Douglas Solon Springs School, 8993 E Baldwin Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873
17 Dunn Dunn County Fish and Game Building, 1600 Pine Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
18 Eau Claire CVTC Business Education Center, Room 103 A/B, 620 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
19 Florence Florence Natural Resource and Wild Rivers Interpretive Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
20 Fond du Lac Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 East Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
21 Forest Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 U.S. Hwy 8, Crandon, WI 54520
22 Grant Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
23 Green Monroe Middle School, Enter via North-side Door, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
24 Green Lake Green Lake Elementary School, Entrance off Mill Street, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
25 Iowa Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
26 Iron Iron County Memorial Building, 201 Iron Street, Hurley, WI 54534
27 Jackson Black River Falls Middle School, Large Group Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
28 Jefferson Jefferson High School, Commons/Cafeteria, 700 West Milwaukee Street, Jefferson, WI 53549
29 Juneau Olson Middle School, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
30 Kenosha Kenosha County Center, Hearing Room, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104
31 Kewaunee Kewaunee High School, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
32 La Crosse Onalaska High School, Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
33 Lafayette Darlington Elementary-Middle School, Large Group Room, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
34 Langlade Antigo High School, Volm Theatre, 1900 Tenth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409
The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2019.

Comments on DNR proposed rule changes may be submitted to the agency contact person no later than April 11, 2019:
- Fisheries Rule Coordinator, Meredith Penthorn, 101 South Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 316-0080, meredith.penthorn@wisconsin.gov
- Wildlife Rule Coordinator, Scott Karel, 101 South Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 267-2452, scottr.karel@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 combined with the input received at the county hearings or through the online input option.

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.”
Your County Deer Advisory Council wants YOUR input on the proposed 2019 antlerless deer quotas

Visit [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html) to provide your comments.

- CDACs are groups of public stakeholders that provide deer management recommendations for each county
- Every 3 years: CDACs form deer population objective recommendations (increase, decrease or maintain herd size)
- Each Spring: CDACs develop antlerless quota, permit level, and season structure recommendations for your county
- For more information on CDACs: dnr.wi.gov, keyword “CDAC”

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 objective and antlerless harvest quota recommendations to the DNR and Natural Resources Board. 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

**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.
voting members. All CDAC meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities to provide public comments.

WEIGH IN ON 2019 ANTLERLESS HARVEST QUOTAS AND PERMIT LEVELS

Councils are now developing 2019 antlerless harvest quota and permit level recommendations that will be used to achieve the county’s population objectives. CDACs consider a variety of indicators including harvest data, winter severity data and public input when developing quota recommendations for the 2019 deer seasons. The first round of meetings to discuss quota recommendations occurred in March. The public comment period on those recommendations is currently open through Wednesday, April 10, 2019, and can be found at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html. CDACs will determine final recommendations for 2019 antlerless quotas and permit levels at their final meeting in April.

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 “Find” tab, then enter county name.
- Meeting schedule for spring 2019: click on the “Find” tab, then enter your county name to find meeting schedule, member contact information and county specific data.
- Online public input opportunities: check the CDAC website frequently for updates. Public review of preliminary quota recommendations runs from April 1 – 10, 2019.
- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 11 – 14 and 18 – 21</th>
<th>Review data and form preliminary 2019 antlerless harvest quota, permit and season structure recommendations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1 – 10</td>
<td>Public comment period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15 – 18</td>
<td>Review public feedback and determine final recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Recommendations approved at NRB meeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBERSHIP Some councils still have open seats for qualified candidates. If you are interested in applying, visit the CDAC website and determine if your county has seats available. When you are ready to apply, click on the application link. Paper applications may also be available; contact your county’s CDAC chair for more information.
Whether it’s hunting, fishing, trapping, boating or just enjoying a hike, we know you appreciate fresh air and open spaces. Subscribe to Wisconsin Natural Resources, and we’ll bring you stories and photos about your favorite places and outdoor activities four times a year — Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter!

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#Weagleplate  Go to dnr.wi.gov and search “eagle plate”
QUESTION 1: Allow trappers to keep raccoons incidentally trapped in beaver sets during the closed season for raccoon

Current law allows muskrats taken while trapping beaver during the beaver season to be retained by the trapper. Allowing the possession of raccoons 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.

1. 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?  
   1. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 2: Allow trapping on or within 15 feet of beaver dams on public and 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.

2. Do you support the placement of traps, snares, colony traps or cable restraints at any time on or within 15 feet of any beaver dam found on public and private land, with written permission from the landowner?  
   2. YES____ NO_____

Please utilize page 1 of your input form.
QUESTION 3: Change the river otter framework from a quota/permit system to a bag limit/quota system.

River otters are currently managed through a limited permit/quota framework. This system requires trappers to submit an application by August 1, includes a $3 issuing fee and requires wildlife to coordinate mailing of durable tags to successful applicants. A quota is established annually, and permit levels are calculated based on average success rates over the previous three harvest seasons.

This proposal intends to change the river otter framework from the quota/permit system to a bag limit/quota system. Instead of a drawing and issuance of physical permits, an annual bag limit for river otter would be included with the purchase of a trapping license. Trappers would no longer be required to purchase/apply for an otter permit and would no longer be required to carry a physical tag. Trappers would receive authorization to harvest otter through their trapping license approval and harvest would continue to be documented within GameReg.

3. Do you support switching to a bag limit/quota system for river otter?  

3. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 4: 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.

4. Do you support establishing a 12 p.m. daily closure on public properties stocked with pheasants to reduce hunting pressure on the birds?  

4. YES____ NO_____

QUESTIONS 5: Allow the department to regulate target shooting on department properties in Rock County

Currently target shooting is unregulated on DNR-owned lands unless these lands are in counties listed Ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code. There are no designated public shooting ranges in Rock County, a county with a relatively high population density and relatively flat topography. There is significant unregulated target shooting on state-owned lands such as the Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area. People target shooting outside of designated shooting ranges are frequently doing so without adequate backstops. Using inappropriate targets such as bottles and trees, shooting at inappropriate times of the day and littering are discouraging other legitimate public uses on the wildlife area such as hunting and fishing.

5. Do you favor adding Rock County to the list of counties covered under Ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code and restrict target shooting on DNR owned lands?  

5. YES____ NO_____

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QUESTIONS 6: Eliminate minimum barrel length restrictions for handguns that are used for hunting

Muzzleloading handguns used for deer hunting are required to have a barrel length of at least seven inches. Breech loading handguns used for deer hunting are required to have a barrel length of at least five and one-half inches. Muzzleloading and breech loading handguns used in other hunting situations must have a length of at least four inches. These regulations appear to have little or no purpose related to safety or game conservation. These firearms can also now be carried legally under the authority of a concealed carry permit or openly while hunting.

6. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating minimum barrel length restrictions for handguns that are used for hunting?  
   YES____  NO_____

QUESTION 7: Eliminate minimum caliber requirements for pellet guns for hunting certain small game species.

It is currently legal to hunt hare, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat or unprotected wild animals with pellet guns or pellet handguns of a caliber that is .17 or larger, but it is illegal to use a caliber smaller than .17. Other calibers are not popular or in common use and this rule may not be needed. There may also not be a conservation-related purpose for the restriction.

7. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating minimum caliber requirements for pellet guns for hunting hare, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat or unprotected wild animals?  
   YES____  NO_____

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NEW!
DEER SEASON WEB SERIES

CHECK IT OUT AT DNR.WI.GOV, KEYWORDS “WILD WISCONSIN”

Photo by Linda Freshwaters Amdt.
QUESTION 8: Return to a three-zone framework for mink and muskrats

In 2014, as part of a larger rule simplification program, the Department switched to a one-zone, one-opening day format for managing muskrat and mink. This resulted in earlier opening dates in the central and southern zones and a uniform end date. Prior to this simplification, the department had managed mink and muskrats through multiple harvest zones. Some trappers would like to return to a three-zone (plus Mississippi) system with each zone having different start and end dates.

8. Do you favor moving to a three-zone framework for mink and muskrats where the south and central zone would be separated by STH 60 and the central and north zones would be separated by STH 64?  
   8. YES____  NO____
REPORT SPILLS IMMEDIATELY

1-800-943-0003
QUESTION 9: Largemouth bass - consistent Wisconsin-Michigan boundary water regulations

In order to provide consistent Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters regulations for Wisconsin anglers, the proposed regulation will apply an open largemouth bass season from the third Saturday in June to December 31, and an early catch-and-release season for largemouth bass from the first Saturday in May to the Friday before the third Saturday in June.

The current regulation is an open season from the first Saturday in May to December 31. However, Michigan is implementing an early catch-and-release season, so the proposed regulations would maintain consistency in Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters to reduce confusion for anglers while maintaining the largemouth bass fishery.

9. Do you favor changing the opening date of largemouth bass season on the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from the first Saturday in May to the third Saturday in June and catch and release only season on the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from the first Saturday in May to the Friday before the third Saturday in June?

9. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 10: Bass - Establish alternate size and bag limits for permitted, catch-and-release bass fishing tournaments

In response to angler interest and department survey data for particular waterbodies, largemouth and smallmouth bass are often managed with regulations that are different than the statewide five fish bag limit and 14-inch minimum size limit. Tailoring management to the unique conditions on certain waters can result in higher quality fishing opportunities than would otherwise be available.

However, special regulations can be a disadvantage for organized fishing tournaments. For instance, a daily bag limit of one bass with an 18-inch size limit greatly reduces the number of fish that are available for tournament anglers to possess during an event.

To address this, the department could create an exception that allows participants in permitted fishing tournaments to adhere to the standard statewide five fish bag limit and 14-inch minimum size limit - as long as all bass are released back to the same waterbody.

An exception for permitted tournaments could result in improved fishing for everyone by eliminating a source of conflict between non-tournament and tournament anglers that can make it challenging to establish what some believe are the most appropriate regulations for a waterbody. Tournament regulations are readily enforceable because the department issues permits in advance of the events. Under state statute, bass are the only species for which tournament regulations can be less restrictive than the regulations for non-tournament anglers.

10. Do you favor an exception that allows participants in permitted fishing tournaments to adhere to the standard statewide five fish bag limit and 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, as long as all bass are released back to the same waterbody?

10. YES____ NO_____

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QUESTION 11: Bass - Establish a statewide (including Michigan boundary waters), continuous open season for bass fishing but allow harvest only during the current traditional season

Some people have expressed an interest in increasing fishing opportunity by allowing year-round fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Under current rules, bass fishing is generally allowed during the traditional fishing season that begins on the first Saturday in May and continues through the first Sunday in March and is closed for two months in early spring. Many rivers, their impoundments, and Lake Winnebago currently have a continuous open season for bass. There is already a catch-and-release season for smallmouth bass in the northern bass zone that begins on the first Saturday in May and continues through the Friday preceding the third Saturday in June. Our surrounding states do not have closed seasons for bass.

The current closed season does not protect bass from fishing pressure during their May to June spawning season and is not needed for that purpose. A catch-and-release bass season in March and April is not expected to result in an increase of bass mortality. A catch-and-release bass season could make it more difficult to enforce the closed season for other species such as walleyes and northern pike during March and April. However, possession of bass, walleyes, or northern pike would continue to be prohibited and would continue to be readily enforceable by conservation wardens.

11. Do you favor establishing a statewide (including Michigan boundary waters), continuous open season for bass fishing but allow fish to be retained only during the current traditional season? 11. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 12: Muskellunge – Extend the Northern Zone fishing season

This proposal would extend the open fishing season for muskellunge from November 30 to December 31 during open water on all inland waters north of US HWY 10, all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters, and on outlying waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc.

The goal of extending the season would be to provide increased late-season, open-water fishing opportunities for muskellunge in northern Wisconsin, similar to what is currently available in southern Wisconsin during December. Many muskellunge anglers in northern Wisconsin have expressed a desire to continue late-season fishing during open water, when available. A citizen resolution from Vilas County to allow musky fishing in December during open water was introduced at the 2017 Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearings and passed with public support. Some concerns have been expressed about allowing ice fishing for muskellunge during a portion of December, based primarily on the potential for higher hooking mortality relative to open-water angling. In most years, however, there is often open water (or poor ice conditions) in many northern Wisconsin lakes during a portion of December. The department does not believe that providing this expanded fishing opportunity will result in any adverse impacts to muskellunge populations in northern Wisconsin. The objective is to increase musky fishing participation by 15% (as measured by directed fishing effort).

12. Do you favor extending the open fishing season for muskellunge in all inland waters north of US HWY 10, all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters, and in outlying waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc, from November 30 to December 31 during open water? 12. YES____ NO_____
### QUESTIONS 13-15: Muskellunge – Wisconsin-Michigan Boundary Waters

This proposal seeks to more closely match both Michigan’s and Wisconsin’s muskellunge regulations by establishing new dates for the open harvest season as June 1 to December 31 (currently May 15 to November 30), creating a catch-and-release season during what would be the closed harvest season (January 1 to May 31) and increasing the minimum length limit from 40 inches to 50 inches on all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources believes that the May 15 opening date does not offer enough protection for spawning muskellunge in these northern boundary waters. Wisconsin is proposing to extend the open season for muskellunge through December 31 on northern Wisconsin waters. The proposal to establish a catch-and-release season on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters during the closed harvest season is intended to improve consistency with other Michigan waters. The 50-inch minimum length on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters will allow adult populations to reach their full growth potential and attain an optimum size-structure.

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<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tr>
<td>13. Do you favor changing the opening date of the muskellunge season on all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters from May 15 to June 1?</td>
<td>YES____ NO_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Do you favor creating a catch-and-release fishing season during the closed harvest season (January 1 to May 31, assuming the first question is supported) on all Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters?</td>
<td>YES____ NO_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches on Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters?</td>
<td>YES____ NO_____</td>
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### QUESTION 16: Walleye – Lake Winnebago System (Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties)

This rule proposal for the Winnebago system would reduce the daily bag limit to three walleyes or sauger with only one being a sauger or hybrid, with no minimum length limit. Current regulations allow a daily bag limit of five walleye with only one being a sauger or hybrid, and no minimum length limit. The Winnebago System walleye fishery is unique in that there are three months (April-June) where the majority of walleye exploitation takes place. Most of the adult walleye will make spring spawning runs up the Wolf and upper Fox Rivers during March and April before returning to the Upriver Lakes and Lake Winnebago in May and June. The walleye activity on the system then often slows drastically each year during early summer, as new hatches of forage species such as trout perch, gizzard shad, panfish, and other species become available, causing walleye to become more scattered throughout the system. The heavy fishing pressure, concentration of walleye, and post-spawn feeding patterns often result in periods during April to June when anglers, including novice anglers, can limit out with five fish.

As a result, reducing the daily bag limit to three should aid in reducing exploitation levels on adult and immature females, particularly during times of high fishing pressure and exploitation between April to June, and reduce overall harvest pressure on single-year classes moving through the system.

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<td>16. Do you favor reducing the daily walleye bag limit from 5 to 3 in total (only 1 may be a sauger or hybrid) on the Lake Winnebago System in Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties?</td>
<td>YES____ NO_____</td>
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QUESTION 17: Walleye – Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and connected waterbodies (Iron County)

This proposal would apply a 12-inch minimum length limit for walleye with only one fish over 15 inches allowed for harvest, and a daily bag limit of 3 walleyes on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and connected waterbodies. The current regulation is no minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 3. The regulation would apply to these waters:

- Trude Lake
- Bear River
- Flambeau River upstream of Turtle-Flambeau Flowage at Murray’s Landing
- Little Turtle River
- Manitowish River upstream of Flambeau River to the Rest Lake Dam, including Benson Lake, Sturgeon Lake, and Vance Lake.

The management goal is to manage for a walleye population with above-average density (4-8 adult walleyes/acre) and a size structure that provides quality harvest opportunities (30-50% of the adult stock being greater than 15 inches). Under the present regulation, both adult walleye density and adult walleye size structure are below management goals.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal as it reduces harvest of juvenile walleyes (less than 12 inches) and reduces harvest of larger adults (greater than 15 inches), important for improving densities and overall size structure of the walleye population on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

17. Do you favor applying a 12-inch minimum length limit, but only one fish greater than 15 inches, and a daily bag limit of 3 walleyes on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Trude Lake, Flambeau River upstream of Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (at Murray’s Landing), Little Turtle River, and the Manitowish River upstream of Flambeau River to the Rest Lake Dam (including Benson Lake, Sturgeon Lake, and Vance Lake)?

17. YES___ NO____

QUESTION 18: Lake sturgeon – Define parameters for spears used in the Winnebago system sturgeon spearing fishery

The Winnebago System has hosted an annual spear fishery for lake sturgeon since 1932. Currently, the only requirement regulating equipment is that the spear must be thrown by hand. Spearers have expressed concern about the use of large, “non-traditional” spears over the past few spearing seasons. This practice is not viewed by the department as a biological issue as a harvest cap system protects the population from overharvest. Thus, use of large spears is viewed as a social issue. The department implemented a survey to 2,000 randomly selected license holders to poll spearer opinion on this issue. Over half (52%) of the survey respondents supported the department working with stakeholders to define legal parameters of a sturgeon spear (22% opposed and 27% were neutral). There was consensus from the Winnebago Citizen Sturgeon Advisory Committee, which is composed of representatives from more than 25 sportsman clubs in the Winnebago region, to move forward with a regulation to define two parameters of a sturgeon spear: 1) tines may only be arranged in a single straight line, and 2) a maximum spear head width of 18 inches measured between the outside edges of the tines.

18. Do you support a regulation to better define a spear by limiting the head to a single row of tines in a straight line with a maximum width of 18 inches for use during the annual lake sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago System?

18. YES___ NO_____
QUESTION 19: Cisco and lake whitefish – All inland waters

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 10 fish in aggregate for cisco and lake whitefish on Wisconsin’s inland waters, which would be consistent with existing regulations on outlying waters and Trout Lake, Vilas County. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 25 pounds plus one fish.

The total daily bag limit for cisco and lake whitefish on inland waters is 25 pounds plus one additional fish, whereas on outlying waters the daily bag limit is 10 fish in total. The 25-pound plus one additional fish limit is the only bag limit in Wisconsin that is not determined by the total number of fish caught.

Anglers have sometimes incorrectly assumed that a 5-gallon bucket filled with cisco/lake whitefish is about 25 pounds. Fish sizes can vary, but informal measures by wardens and others have shown that this common practice can yield harvests that regularly exceed 35 pounds or more. In order to provide additional protection to currently stable but fragile native cisco and lake whitefish populations, and to make the regulation clearer to anglers and easier for wardens to enforce, the following is proposed:

19. To simplify the regulations, do you favor changing the total daily bag limit for cisco and lake whitefish to 10 fish in combination for Wisconsin’s inland waters?

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES ─ MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOUNDARY WATERS

QUESTIONS 20-21: Walleye and Sauger – Mississippi River

The proposed regulation for pools 3 through 8 of the Mississippi River is a daily bag limit of 4 for walleye and sauger combined, a 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye and none for sauger, and only one walleye or sauger over 20 inches allowed for harvest per day. The proposed regulation for Pools 9 through 12 is a daily bag limit of 6 for walleye and sauger combined, no size limit for sauger and a 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye and all walleye 20 to 27 inches must be immediately released except that one walleye above 27 inches may be kept. The current regulation is a 6-fish combined daily bag limit and a 15-inch size limit for walleye and no size limit for sauger.

Fisheries data indicate that walleye and sauger in the Mississippi River system are faster growing and shorter lived than in many other locations in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Large Lake Program in Minnesota has data for Lake Pepin/Pool 4 going back to 1965, and these long-term trends indicate that populations of walleye in Pool 4 appear to be in relatively good shape. Walleye catch per net reached long term highs in early 2000s due to a record setting 2001 year class. Since that time, walleye numbers have been lower, but within long-term averages. Sauger catch rates in Pool 4 have been slightly below the long-term average in recent years. However, catch rate of sauger over 14-inches has generally been increasing.

For Pools 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, and upper 9, fisheries data suggest a decrease in sauger abundance. From 1983 through 2017, the percentage of sauger in walleye and sauger surveys has gradually decreased from 60 percent to 40 percent. In addition, sauger reproduction, as measured in the fall, has been below average for nine of the last ten years. The department has not seen this number of below-average annual catch rates since surveys began in 1980. In Pool 8, 1993 to 2017 long-term trend data suggests a decline in sauger abundance by as much as 70 percent concurrent with an increase in average size. These trends suggest recent weak reproduction. A reduced sauger bag limit could potentially stabilize apparent declining abundance trends.
Use of a "1 over" regulation allows for increased protection of larger individuals while minimizing the "cropping" effect that can occur with protected slot limits. Based on available fisheries data and public input, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources jointly recommend decreasing the overall bag limit while using a "1 over" regulation to reduce harvest of larger individuals during hot “big fish” bites like the pre-spawn period. A majority of anglers favored daily bag limits of four or less for both walleye (58%) and sauger (52%) and the desire to protect spawning fish was one of the most common comments received during the initial regulations review period.

20. For pools 3 through 8 of the Mississippi River border waters upstream of the dam at Genoa, do you support reducing the walleye/sauger daily bag limit from 6 to 4 (combined), 15-inch minimum for walleye, no minimum for sauger, but only one walleye or sauger over 20 inches per day to be implemented concurrently with Minnesota?  
20. YES___ NO_____

21. For pools 9 through 12 of the Mississippi River boundary waters, do you support a walleye/sauger/saugeye daily bag of 6 combined, 15-inch minimum length limit for walleye, all walleye from 20 to 27 inches must be immediately released and no more than 1 walleye above 27 inches may be kept per day and no minimum size limit for sauger, in Wisconsin waters of the Mississippi River?  
21. YES___ NO_____

QUESTION 22: White Bass – Mississippi River Pools 3 - 9

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 10 white bass with no size limit on the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters of the Mississippi River, Pools 3-9. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 25 fish with no size limit.

White bass are best described as a target of opportunity for anglers. In Pool 4, they are also a very important component of the harvest. Creel surveys on Pool 4 have shown that white bass are the third most harvested species during open water periods, just behind sauger and walleye. Multiple long-term sampling data sets on the Mississippi River, including creel surveys on Pool 4, indicate that the white bass population is declining. The decline has no clear cause but may be linked to changes in habitat or water clarity and harvest may now be directed at a smaller population.

White bass have historically been managed with generous bag limits in the upper Midwest, much like panfish species that have relatively short life spans and high turnover. However, recent analysis of age and growth has shown that white bass live much longer in the river than previously thought (up to 15 years) but reach a large size in only 5 to 6 years. Reproduction and recruitment are also highly variable. This information, along with the declining trend suggest that managing this species with a high bag limit is not appropriate in the Mississippi River.

White bass seasonally provide outstanding fishing opportunities for both those anglers that want to harvest fish and those that like to experience high catch rates of quality size fish. White bass are also an important component of the fish community of the Mississippi River. The recommendation is to manage this species for high catch rates of larger individuals and to reduce overall harvest.

Based on available fisheries data and public input, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources jointly recommend a daily bag limit of 10 for white bass.

22. Do you support reducing the white bass daily bag limit from 25 to 10 in Pools 3 through 9 of the Mississippi River concurrently with Minnesota?  
22. YES___ NO_____
QUESTION 23: Sunfish, Crappie and Yellow Perch – Mississippi River Pools 3 – 9

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 15 sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed and green sunfish combined), 15 crappie and 15 yellow perch with no size limit. The current regulation is 25 each of sunfish, crappie and yellow perch with no size limit.

Sunfish, crappie and yellow perch are most frequently targeted by anglers for harvest opportunities. When these species are concentrated and biting, many anglers will take advantage of the high catch rate potential for these species. Populations of these species in the upper pools of the Mississippi River are currently in relatively good shape. Increased water clarity in recent years has provided good habitat and abundant vegetation leading to good reproduction and survival. However, incremental loss of aquatic habitat on the Upper Mississippi River from the effects of sedimentation is a serious cause for concern. Compounding this loss of habitat is the fact that populations of these species become more concentrated during winter months which make them vulnerable to high harvest rates, especially the larger, older individuals.

Sunfish, crappie and yellow perch in the upper Midwest have historically been managed with unrestricted or generous bag limits. However, recent trends show that many states have adopted substantial reductions in bag limits for these species in their inland waters. Bag reduction is a consistent management tool applied to protect high quality fisheries from quality overfishing (reduction in average size of fish caught due to high harvest). The Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources recommend managing panfish species for sustainable high catch/harvest rates of larger individuals and to distribute overall seasonal harvest among a larger group of anglers.

Based on available fisheries data and public input, the Minnesota and Wisconsin departments jointly recommend a daily bag limit of 15 Sunfish, 15 crappie, and 15 Yellow Perch.

23. Do you support reducing the bluegill, crappie, and yellow perch bag limits from 25 each species respectively to 15 each species respectively in pools 3-9 of the Mississippi River concurrently with Minnesota? 23. YES____ NO______

QUESTION 24: Shovelnose Sturgeon – Mississippi River Pools 3 – 9

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 3 shovelnose sturgeon with no size limit. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 10 with no size limit.

Currently little is known about the population of Shovelnose Sturgeon inhabiting the Mississippi River portion of the Minnesota and Wisconsin border waters. While they are not a commercially harvested fish in either state, increasing pressure on sturgeon stocks worldwide for roe to support the caviar market makes them potential targets for overharvest. The increasing popularity of the catch and release lake sturgeon season on the border waters may bring more anglers in contact with shovelnose sturgeon and potentially lead to increased cases of species misidentification. Misidentification of juvenile lake sturgeon as shovelnose sturgeon has been noted in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ tagging program and by biologists on the water.

Current creel data (primarily Pool 4) indicates that harvest is currently quite low, so the proposed change should not dramatically impact what anglers are currently harvesting.

Although similar in appearance to lake sturgeon, the maximum size of shovelnose sturgeon is much smaller. They are also similar to lake sturgeon in that they are long lived and slow to reach reproductive maturity. Low bag limits that reduce overall harvest are typically used for sturgeon species. Harvest of shovelnose sturgeon is not allowed in Wisconsin or Minnesota inland waters, with the exception of the lower Wisconsin River where there is daily bag of three.
Based on the life history of this species and other biological factors, the Minnesota and Wisconsin departments jointly recommend a daily bag limit of 3 for shovelnose sturgeon.

24. Do you support reducing the shovelnose sturgeon daily bag from 10 to 3 in pools 3 through 9 of the Mississippi River concurrently with Minnesota? YES___ NO_____

QUESTION 25: Northern Pike – Mississippi River Pools 3 – 9

The proposed regulation is a daily bag limit of 3 northern pike with only 1 fish over 30 inches allowed for harvest. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 5 with no size limit.

Northern pike are generally in low to moderate abundance in the Mississippi River, but size structure is above average with trophy size fish present in the population. As a cool water species, northern pike are susceptible to high mortality rates during peak summer water temperatures and loss of backwater habitat may reduce overwinter survival. Because northern pike tend to concentrate in thermal refuges during winter and summer months, they can be vulnerable to high harvest rates and local populations of larger fish can be rapidly depleted.

Reducing harvest of larger northern pike through the use of a reduced bag or a “1-over” regulation may improve available spawning stocks, but the primary effect would be in mitigating the impact of angler harvest on the large/trophy sized population. In particular, it may help to prevent stock depletion during times of the year when fish are concentrated.

Based on available fisheries data and public input, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources propose a daily bag limit of 3, with only 1 over 30 inches. This regulation should increase catch-and-release of larger northern pike, reduce harvest of seasonally concentrated pike, and provide harvest opportunities that are similar to waters in the southern zones of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

25. Do you support reducing the northern pike daily bag limit from 5 to 3, with only 1 pike greater than 30 inches per day in pools 3-9 of the Mississippi River concurrently with Minnesota? YES___ NO_____

WORKING TOGETHER
Keeping Wisconsin's waters healthy
(Inspect, remove, drain and don't move)

• INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment
• REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals
• DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles and equipment
• NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a water body
QUESTION 26: Channel and Flathead Catfish – Mississippi River Pools 3 – 9

The proposed regulation is a combined daily bag limit of 10 catfish with only one catfish over 30 inches allowed for harvest. The current regulation is a combined daily bag limit of 25 catfish with no size limit.

Fisheries data show that channel and flathead catfish populations are healthy in both abundance and size structure. Catfish have historically been managed for high harvest, including commercial fishing. Creel survey data from Pool 4 indicate that angler harvest of catfish is very low, but little is known about harvest levels in other parts of the river. Large catfish, particularly flathead catfish, are long lived species that can attain a large size and provide trophy fishing opportunities. Flathead catfish commonly reach a weight of over 50 pounds in the Mississippi River, which is by far the largest of any gamefish species in the river. Flathead catfish are also a top-level predator that could function in helping to control invasive carp.

The proposed regulation of a combined daily bag of 10 channel catfish and flathead catfish, with only 1 of either species longer than 30 inches will maintain a substantial harvest opportunity for catfish. It will also make daily bag limits the same in both states. The addition of the 1 over 30-inch size limit will add additional protection to trophy-sized fish, (particularly flathead catfish) and it may distribute the highly desired "large and trophy-sized fish" among a larger number of anglers. Based on available fisheries data and public input, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources jointly recommend a combined daily bag limit of 10, with only 1 catfish over 30 inches daily.

26. Do you support reducing the catfish (both species combined) bag limit from 25 to 10, with only one catfish over 30 inches per day in pools 3 through 9 of the Mississippi River concurrently with Minnesota?


FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSED LOCAL RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 27: Walleye - All waters of Shawano and Waupaca counties (excluding the Lake Winnebago system)

This regulation proposal would apply a minimum length limit of 18 inches and a daily bag limit of 3 on walleyes in all waters in Shawano and Waupaca County that are not part of the Winnebago system. The current statewide regulation is a minimum length limit of 15 inches and a daily bag limit of 5 walleye.

Recent survey results have shown that walleye populations in lakes within these two counties tend to be low-density, fast-growing fisheries. Furthermore, most are sustained through stocking with little evidence of natural reproduction in any of these waters. Research conducted in lakes in southern Wisconsin that have low-density, fast-growing walleye populations sustained primarily through stocking has shown that increasing the minimum length limit to 18 inches and decreasing the daily bag limit to three walleyes can enhance the quality of walleye fisheries in these lakes. In southern Wisconsin, lakes with the 18-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 3 had more and bigger walleyes than lakes with the 15-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5.

27. Do you favor establishing an 18-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of three for walleye in all waters in Shawano and Waupaca counties, except for waters that are part of the Lake Winnebago system?

27. YES____ NO_____
QUESTION 28: Walleye - Lake Koshkonong, Rock River and Crawfish River (Dane, Jefferson and Rock counties)

The proposed regulation would establish a minimum length limit of 18 inches and a daily bag limit of three for walleye, sauger and hybrids and maintain a year-round open season on Lake Koshkonong, the Rock River from the Indianford dam upstream to the lower Watertown dam, the Crawfish River from the mouth upstream to and including the Highway 19 bridge and their tributaries in Dane, Jefferson and Rock counties upstream to the first dam. The current regulation is the statewide regulation of a minimum length limit of 15 inches with a daily bag limit of five and a year-round open season.

This current combination of regulations attracts high angling pressure, especially in the spring when the majority of other waters are closed. During a 2008-2009 creel survey, walleye were the species most frequently targeted by anglers. During that creel survey, it was estimated that 61,396 walleyes were caught and 19% of those fish were harvested. Data suggest Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River see above-average walleye catch and harvest rates. Further, recent analysis of a long-term (2005-2016) tagging dataset showed average annual exploitation rates of 41.9% (range 20.9% to 70.6%). This exceeds the 35% exploitation threshold for sustainable walleye populations suggested by literature. Coupled with the high angling pressure, fall electrofishing surveys have shown walleye recruitment to be highly variable (range 2.4 to 104.3 young of year per mile) and studies have shown stocking to have significant contribution to the system. The proposed regulation aims to increase the density of adult walleye and improve potential for natural reproduction.

28. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for walleye, sauger and their hybrids from 15 inches to 18 inches, reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 3 and keeping a year-round open gamefish season on Lake Koshkonong, the Rock River and all connected Jefferson County tributaries from the Indianford Dam to the lower Watertown Dam? 28. YES___ NO_____

QUESTION 29: Bass – Jordan Lake (Adams County), Pike Lake (Chippewa County) and Paya Lake (Oconto County)

The proposed regulation for Jordan Lake (Adams County), Pike Lake (Chippewa County) and Paya Lake (Oconto County) is no minimum length limit with a 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and one fish over 18 inches allowed for harvest for largemouth bass. The daily bag limit would be 5 bass. The current regulation on these lakes is a minimum length limit of 14 inches with a daily bag limit of five bass.

On these lakes, largemouth bass are abundant, but most are smaller than 14 inches. Few bass reach their full growth potential. It is believed that high densities of bass are slowing growth and creating a poor-quality fishery. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal of improved bass size structure because increased harvest of small (less than 14 inches) largemouth bass should reduce their density and is expected to improve growth and size structure over time.

29. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, on Jordan Lake in Adams County, Pike Lake in Chippewa County and Paya Lake in Oconto County? 29. YES___ NO_____
QUESTION 30: Bass – Smoky Lake, Vilas County

This proposal would remove the minimum length limit for bass on Smoky Lake in Vilas County but apply a 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and one fish over 18 inches allowed for harvest. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit. The daily bag limit of 5 fish will remain the same. The current 14-inch minimum size limit and bag limit of 5 are not adequate to provide a quality bass fishery. This regulation should maintain high bass catch rates, increase the number of preferred and larger fish while still providing harvest opportunity for a single large fish, and help control rusty crayfish and rainbow smelt. This regulation is also consistent with Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ proposed regulation for Smoky Lake.

30. Do you favor no minimum length limit for bass with a 14 to 18-inch protected slot limit and one fish at least 18 inches in length allowed for harvest on Smoky Lake in Vilas County?  
30. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 31: Bass – Hatch Lake, Waupaca County

This regulation proposal would apply a minimum length limit of 18 inches and a daily bag limit of one on bass in Hatch Lake in Waupaca County. The current regulation is the statewide regulation of a 14-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 bass.

Recent survey results have shown that largemouth densities in Hatch Lake are low, averaging just 8.1 largemouth bass per mile of electrofishing in the spring 2014 largemouth bass/panfish electrofishing survey. Additionally, bluegill growth rates were found to be slow, taking on average 6.4 years for a bluegill to reach 6.0 to 6.5 inches. It took some bluegills 8 years to reach 6.0 to 6.5 inches in Hatch Lake. Slow growth is likely a result of density-dependent competition for resources. Furthermore, bluegill size structure is poor, with few fish being sizes anglers would prefer to harvest. A high minimum length limit and reduced daily bag limit on largemouth bass will increase the number of largemouth bass in Hatch Lake. Increased numbers of largemouth bass will reduce the number of bluegill and other panfish, thus reducing the competition for resources. With more resources available to individuals, bluegill growth rates and size structure should increase.

31. Do you favor establishing an 18-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of one for bass in Hatch Lake, Waupaca County?  
31. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 32: Bass – Roberts Lake (Forest County) and Wheeler Lake (Oconto County)

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth bass in Roberts Lake, Forest County and Wheeler Lake, Oconto County. The current regulation consists of a 5-fish daily bag with a 14-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to reduce largemouth bass abundance while simultaneously re-establishing a self-sustaining walleye population that allows for improved angler harvest without the need for stocking.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of largemouth bass is expected to reduce their abundance over time.

32. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on bass in Roberts Lake, Forest County, and Wheeler Lake, Oconto County?  
32. YES____ NO_____
QUESTION 33: Smallmouth bass – Pipe and North Pipe lakes, Polk County

This proposal would apply an 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 fish daily bag limit to smallmouth bass in Pipe and North Pipe lakes, Polk County. The current regulation follows the largemouth bass regulation on Pipe Lake, which is a no minimum length limit and a 5-fish daily bag limit.

The management goal is to increase the smallmouth bass population to 1 to 3 adults per acre within 15 years, and ultimately provide a fishable smallmouth bass population in a Polk County lake. The management goal is currently not being met because anglers are able to harvest smallmouth bass of any size in Pipe and North Pipe lakes.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because protecting smallmouth bass from harvest while allowing harvest on largemouth bass could improve the size and abundance of the smallmouth bass population while reducing the overabundant largemouth bass population.

33. Do you favor applying an 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 fish daily bag limit on smallmouth bass in Pipe and North Pipe lakes, Polk County? 33. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 34: Northern Pike – Geneva Lake, Walworth County

The proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike in Geneva Lake, Walworth County. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 1 fish and 32-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to maximize harvest pressure and reduce abundance of northern pike. Pike in Geneva Lake consistently underperform, particularly in comparison to the trophy performance of all other gamefish species in the lake. Pike in Geneva Lake are the adult host for a unique parasitic tapeworm that also infests cisco. Significantly reducing pike abundance will directly impact the tapeworm life cycle, likely leading to decreased tapeworm abundance. Pike growth and size structure and tapeworm abundance will be closely monitored in future surveys.

34. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike in Geneva Lake, Walworth County? 34. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 35: Northern pike – Amey Pond and Mason Lake, Adams and Marquette counties

This rule proposal would set a 32-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one fish for northern pike on the connected waterbodies of Amey Pond and Mason Lake in Adams and Marquette counties. Mason Lake currently has a 26-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of two for northern pike. Gizzard shad and common carp are present in Mason Lake; they can negatively impact the fish community and fish habitat. Northern pike are a top predator fish with below-average abundance in Mason Lake. The objective is to increase the abundance of northern pike and increase northern pike predation on these rough fish species beyond current conditions. Increasing the minimum length limit to 32 inches will still provide a quality northern pike fishery with some harvest opportunity as survey data show that northern pike can reach sizes larger than 32 inches.

35. Do you favor applying a 32-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of one on northern pike in Amey Pond and Mason Lake in Adams and Marquette Counties? 35. YES____ NO____
QUESTION 36: Northern Pike – Dutch Hollow and Mirror lakes (Sauk County) and White Lake (Waupaca County)

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike, however all northern pike from 25 to 35 inches must be released in Dutch Hollow Lake and Mirror Lake, Sauk County and White Lake, Waupaca County. The current regulation is a 26-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 2 fish for the Sauk County lakes and no minimum length limit and a daily bag of 5 for White Lake.

The management goal is to decrease abundance of smaller northern pike, reducing competition for prey resources and improving growth rates and population size structure. This will provide a northern pike fishery with more large fish available to anglers in Dutch Hollow Lake, Mirror Lake and White Lake.

The management goal for Dutch Hollow and Mirror lakes is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small northern pike in these lakes. One objective is to decrease the abundance of adult northern pike in each lake as calculated from spring netting survey data. The second objective is to decrease the amount of time it takes a northern pike to reach 34 inches in length. The third objective is to increase the percentage of the northern pike populations over 28 and 34 inches. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small northern pike is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition for prey, preserve a range of sizes by protecting 25 to 35-inch pike, and provide an additional harvest opportunity.

Recent fisheries surveys have shown that northern pike size structure in White Lake is sub-optimal due to a very high density (catch per unit effort of 39 northern pike per net night and an estimated population size of 9,242 northern pike, or 8.7 northern pike per acre) of small, slow-growing northern pike. In 2016, only 1% of the stock size and larger (i.e., ≥ 14.0 inches) northern pike were greater than 21 inches in length. 99% of the stock size and larger northern pike were between 14 to 21 inches in length. This regulation will allow for harvest of smaller northern pike while protecting larger individuals from harvest. Furthermore, if the number of small northern pike is reduced, predation on other species will also be reduced resulting in more consistent fisheries for other gamefish and panfish species.

36. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike, however all northern pike from 25 to 35 inches must be released on Dutch Hollow Lake and Mirror Lake in Sauk County and White Lake in Waupaca County?  

36. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 37. Northern pike – Lake Emily (Dodge County), Little Lake Butte des Morts (Outagamie and Winnebago counties), Big Cedar and Gilbert Lakes (Washington County), and Okauchee and Upper Oconomowoc Lakes (Waukesha County)

The proposed regulation is a 25 to 35-inch protected slot limit and daily bag limit of two. The current regulations are:

- Little Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago/Outagamie counties): No minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of five
- Lake Emily (Dodge County): A 26-inch minimum length limit and 2-fish daily bag limit
- Okauchee Lake and Upper Oconomowoc Lakes (Waukesha County): A 26-inch minimum length limit and 2-fish daily bag limit
- Big Cedar and Gilbert lakes (Washington County): A 40-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of one

The management goal is similar for these lakes and aims to provide pike harvest opportunities while improving the trophy potential of pike by increasing the survival and density of larger fish. The proposed
regulation would allow anglers to harvest smaller pike for consumptive purposes while protecting larger adults, especially during spawning.

**Lake Emily:** A 2017 netting survey on Lake Emily yielded an adult northern pike population estimate of 13.7 fish/acre. Literature suggests that growth can be negatively influenced when northern pike populations exceed 5 fish/acre. This proposal would aid in maintaining lower densities while protecting spawning size adults.

**Okauchee and Upper Oconomowoc Lakes:** On Okauchee and Upper Oconomowoc Lakes, northern pike size structure has not increased significantly since the current regulation (26-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 2) was implemented in 1995. Okauchee Lake has slower northern pike growth rates and higher abundance when compared to other southern Wisconsin lakes, despite the presence of a high-density cisco population. The northern pike fishery is very healthy and abundant and will likely sustain a considerable amount of angler harvest.

**Big Cedar and Gilbert Lakes:** In Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake, the main forage fish, cisco, were greatly reduced or eliminated due to low dissolved oxygen in the deeper, colder waters of the lake, which forced cisco into waters too warm to tolerate. Due to this fish kill, the forage base to support a trophy northern pike fishery on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake is no longer present and most northern pike do not reach the current minimum size limit of 40 inches. This new regulation will allow anglers to harvest some northern pike while continuing to expand the northern pike fishery on Big Cedar Lake and Gilbert Lake.

**Little Lake Butte des Morts:** The current year-round open season and 5 daily bag limit for northern pike on Little Lake Butte des Mortes (Neenah/Menasha Dams downstream to Appleton Lock 1 Dam) is fairly liberal. In 2015, fisheries staff received numerous inquiries from concerned anglers regarding the high harvest of northern pike on LLBDM, particularly on large fish during late season ice fishing near Strobe Island, which is a well-known northern pike spawning area. In addition, local groups have also voiced concerns and advocated for more restrictive northern pike regulations. Survey results indicated that LLBDM has the potential to produce a quality northern pike fishery with both eater- and trophy-size angling opportunities, but the current, more liberal regulation may be limiting the potential for producing quality fishing opportunities.

37. Do you favor a daily bag limit of 2 fish and no minimum length limit for northern pike, except that all pike between 25 to 35 inches must be released on the following waters: Lake Emily, Dodge County; Big Cedar and Gilbert lakes, Washington County; Okauchee and Upper Oconomowoc lakes, Waukesha County; and Little Lake Butte des Morts, Winnebago/Outagamie counties?  

37. **YES**  **NO**
QUESTION 38: Muskellunge – Rainbow Flowage, Minocqua Chain (Little Tomahawk, Mud, Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua, Jerome and Kawaguesaga lakes) (Oneida County) and White Sand Lake (Vilas County)

This proposal would apply a 50-inch minimum length limit for muskellunge in White Sand Lake in Vilas County, and Rainbow Flowage and Little Tomahawk, Mud, Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua, Jerome and Kawaguesaga lakes (Minocqua Chain) in Oneida County. The current regulation is a 40-inch minimum length limit. The management goal is to provide a trophy musky angling opportunity. This regulation proposal will help meet that management goal by protecting large muskellunge from harvest.

These proposals originated as citizen resolutions that received public support at the 2018 Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearings.

38. Do you favor a 50-inch minimum length limit on muskellunge for the Rainbow Flowage and Minocqua Chain (Little Tomahawk, Mud, Tomahawk, Mid, Minocqua, Jerome and Kawaguesaga lakes) in Oneida County and White Sand Lake (T42N, R7E, S27) in Vilas County?

38. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 39: Panfish – Sherwood Lake (Clark County), Lake Emily (Dodge County), Clark Lake (Door County), Paya Lake (Oconto County), Virginia Lake (Sauk County), Iola Millpond (Waupaca County), Long Lake (Waushara County)

The proposed regulation is an aggregate daily bag limit of 10 panfish for lakes in Clark, Dodge, Door, Oconto, Sauk, Waupaca and Waushara counties. The goal of this regulation is to reduce harvest pressure on panfish to increase the abundance of certain panfish species, especially larger bluegill, and provide a memorable fishing opportunity. The current regulation is the statewide panfish regulation of a 25-aggregate daily bag limit. These regulations apply to:

- Sherwood Lake (Clark County)
- Lake Emily (Dodge County)
- Clark Lake (Door County)
- Paya Lake (Oconto County)
- Virginia Lake (Sauk County)
- Iola Millpond (Waupaca County)
- Long Lake (Waushara County)

Sherwood Lake: In 2014, the entire fishery was lost due to a dam failure. As part of the plan for restoring the fishery, the lake would be stocked with panfish and panfish would be managed with a reduced bag limit, which should allow the fishery to recover and provide quality panfish opportunities in the future.

Lake Emily: The management goal for Lake Emily in Dodge County is to increase abundance of quality-size bluegill. Survey data corroborate Lake Emily Fishing Improvement Club accounts that quality bluegill fishing has been on the decline. The proposed regulation is in line with management recommendations made in the 2006 Lake Emily comprehensive fish survey. The 2017 fishery survey adequately documented the current condition of the bluegill population and suggests a more restrictive regulation may be warranted.

Clark Lake: Constituents have expressed interest in improving panfish populations in Clark Lake. A bag limit reduction is proposed to improve population abundance and panfish size, especially for bluegill and yellow perch. Abundance of yellow perch has generally decreased during recent years, and a reduced bag limit is intended to reduce harvest and allow population growth. For bluegill, catch rates have increased during several most recent department surveys and growth or size-at-age is good, so a bag limit reduction is
intended to further increase and improve abundance. Opportunity for inland panfish angling is limited in Door County with few inland lakes, so this regulation proposal also seeks to protect and improve a somewhat unique angling opportunity.

**Paya Lake:** The goal for Paya Lake is to improve panfish size structure and abundance while creating and maintaining a memorable fishing opportunity for panfish, namely bluegill. The objective is to maintain the proportion of bluegill over 8 inches at 10%.

**Virginia Lake:** The management goal for Lake Virginia is to increase the total abundance of bluegill, especially moderate and larger-sized bluegills, by reducing harvest pressure. Decreased harvest of larger bluegills will keep larger adult fish in the system for a longer period, providing a better fishery for anglers and improving reproduction and recruitment.

**Iola Millpond:** Recent fisheries surveys have shown that bluegills in Iola Millpond can routinely grow to 9+ inches with reports of 10+ inch bluegill being caught by anglers. One management concern with shallow impoundments that have a high density of vegetation is that bluegill populations can become overabundant and experience density-dependent competition and reduced growth rates. Given the social structure of bluegill reproduction, maintaining large bluegill in the population is essential to prevent bluegills from maturing at small sizes.

**Long Lake:** Increased fishing pressure on Long Lake, along with high bag limits (25 bag) and lack of habitat have negatively impacted the population and size structure of bluegill and other panfish (black crappie and yellow perch) species. A reduced bag limit would reduce fishing pressure on panfish.

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39. Do you favor changing the panfish regulations to a daily bag limit of 10 fish in total with no size limit for Sherwood Lake (Clark County), Lake Emily (Dodge County), Clark Lake (Door County), Paya Lake (Oconto County), Virginia Lake (Sauk County), Iola Millpond (Waupaca County) and Long Lake (Waushara County)?

39. **YES____ NO_____**

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**QUESTION 40: Lake sturgeon - Lake Superior**

This proposal would apply a change in the minimum length limit of lake sturgeon in Lake Superior (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties) to a 60-inch minimum size and 1 sturgeon per year. The current regulation is 50-inch minimum size and 1 per year.

The management goal is to rehabilitate and maintain spawning populations of lake sturgeon that are self-sustaining. Although this goal is currently being met, concern over recent increases in harvest threaten the success of maintaining a self-sustaining population.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it will reduce harvest without removing the harvest opportunity and allow the lake sturgeon to reproduce at least once prior to being susceptible to harvest.

40. Do you support changing the lake sturgeon regulation on Lake Superior in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties from a 50-inch minimum size and 1 per year to a 60-inch minimum size and 1 per year?

40. **YES_____ NO_____**
QUESTION 41: Trout – Big Spring Branch, Sixmile, Pompey Pillar, Smokey Hollow and Mill creeks (Grant and Iowa counties), Trout Creek (Iowa County), Karbergers Springs (Langlade County), Middle Inlet (Marinette County), and Pine, North Pine and Cady creeks (Pierce County)

This proposal would apply a minimum length limit of 8 inches and daily bag limit of 3 trout. The current regulation is a maximum length limit of 12 inches and daily bag of 3 (Big Spring Branch and Sixmile Creek, Mill Creek and Trout Creek), minimum length limit of 12 inches and daily bag of 2 (Pompey Pillar Creek and Smokey Hollow Creek), no size limit and daily bag of 5 (Karbergers Springs), and a minimum length limit of 12 inches for brown and rainbow trout and 8 inches for brook trout, and daily bag limit of 3 (Middle Inlet, Pine Creek, North Pine Creek and Cady Creek). The proposal of an 8-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 3 would apply to the following waters:

• Big Spring Branch – downstream of Pine Tree Road and Sixmile Creek (Grant/Iowa counties)
• Pompey Pillar Creek – downstream of County Highway I (Iowa County)
• Smoky Hollow Creek (Iowa County)
• Mill Creek – Mill Dam Road to County Highway H (Iowa County)
• Trout Creek – below the dry dam (Iowa County)
• Karbergers Springs (Langlade County)
• Middle Inlet (Marinette County)
• Pine Creek and North Pine Creek (Pierce County)
• Cady Creek (Pierce/St. Croix/Dunn counties)

This proposal would simplify regulations and provide harvest opportunity for anglers while maintaining quality-sized trout. The regulation is intended to prevent brown trout from becoming the dominant species over brook trout on Pompey Pillar Creek below CTH I, Smoky Hollow Creek, Middle Inlet, Pine Creek and Cady Creek. For Big Spring (downstream of Pine Tree Road) and Sixmile Branches, Trout Creek (below the dry dam) and Mill Creek (Mill Dam Rd to County H), the proposed regulation would encourage quality-sized brown trout. For Karbergers Springs, this regulation would match trout regulations on the rest of Drew Creek and the Woods Flowage Fishery Area for management of a naturally reproducing brook trout fishery with quality-sized trout.

41. Do you favor applying an 8-inch minimum length limit for all trout and a 3-fish daily limit to Big Spring Branch and Sixmile Creek (Grant/Iowa counties); Pompey Pillar Creek, Smoky Hollow Creek, Mill Creek and Trout Creek (Iowa County); Karbergers Springs (Langlade County); Middle Inlet (Marinette County); and Pine Creek, North Pine Creek and Cady Creek (Pierce/St. Croix/Dunn counties)?

41. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 42: Trout – Plum Run (Crawford and Richland counties) and Devils Creek (Rusk County)

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum size limit on trout in Plum Run Creek downstream from CTH U to Knapp Creek in Crawford County, simplifying the regulations to match the county base regulation. The current regulation allows the harvest of 3 trout under 12 inches in length.

This proposal would apply a daily bag of 5 trout (in total) of any size or species in Devils Creek, Rusk County. The proposal simplifies fishing regulations by replacing the special harvest regulation with the county-wide trout harvest rule. The current regulation allows anglers to keep a daily bag limit of 3 trout at least 8 inches long. The fishery management goal of this proposal is to allow more opportunity for anglers to harvest trout. If enacted, this proposal would promote the management goal because with no minimum length limit anglers could direct some of their harvest attention toward the abundant intermediate-size trout that are
Currently protected. Increasing the allowable harvest from 3 to 5 trout per day could also serve to encourage catch-and-keep anglers to take medium-size fish for their meal and release the larger trout they catch for their future quality angling experiences. With the moderately low fishing pressure observed in recent years, relaxing harvest rules should not substantially change the abundance and size structure of Devils Creek’s trout populations.

**QUESTION 42:** Do you favor applying the county base regulation of no minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 5 trout on Plum Run below CTH U in Crawford and Richland counties and Devils Creek in Rusk County?

**YES** | **NO**
--- | ---

**QUESTION 43:** Brook trout catch and release on native broodstock streams – Harker and Lowery creeks, Iowa County

This proposal would apply a regulation of 5 trout in total daily bag limit, no minimum length for brown trout and rainbow trout but all brook trout caught shall be immediately released, and artificial baits only may be used on Harker Creek upstream of the confluence with Flint Creek and on Lowery Creek upstream from Highway 23. The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 8 inches and a daily bag limit of 3 trout.

The management goal is to protect brook trout in Harker and Lowery creeks, as they provide eggs for Wisconsin’s wild brook trout stocking program, as well as provide angling and harvest opportunities for other species of trout. These efforts are expected to conserve and maintain our native brook trout in these streams. Brook trout have shown higher levels of hooking mortality when caught on live bait, so to prevent unintended hooking mortality artificial lures will be required.

**QUESTION 43:** Do you favor applying a regulation of 5 trout in total daily bag limit, no minimum length for brown trout and rainbow trout but all brook trout caught shall be immediately released, and artificial baits only may be used on Harker Creek upstream of the confluence with Flint Creek and Lowery Creek upstream of Highway 23?

**YES** | **NO**
--- | ---

**QUESTION 44:** Trout – Castle Rock Creek, Grant County

This proposal would apply a 12-inch minimum length limit and 2-fish daily bag limit with bait allowed on Castle Rock Creek upstream from Witek Road to third County Q bridge. The current regulation is a catch and release season with artificial bait only from the second Q bridge upstream to Church Rd.

The proposed regulation will restore harvest opportunities for anglers on a one-mile stretch of Castle Rock Creek that historically allowed harvest. A citizen resolution was proposed at the 2016 Grant County Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearing to allow harvest on this one-mile stretch of Castle Rock Creek. It passed 17 to 12. This proposed regulation change appeared on the 2017 Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearing questionnaire as a statewide advisory question and passed 37 to 1 in Grant County and 1,816 to 92 statewide. This stretch of stream can support harvest because it is currently supporting a fishable population of brown trout with good density (>300 per mile) and excellent size structure.

**QUESTION 44:** Do you favor applying a 12-inch minimum length limit and 2-fish daily bag limit with bait allowed to the 1-mile stretch of Castle Rock Creek between the 2nd and 3rd bridge crossings of Hwy Q?

**YES** | **NO**
--- | ---
QUESTION 45: Trout – Knapp Creek (Crawford County), Mt. Vernon Creek (Dane County), Big Green River, Borah Creek, Crooked Creek, Little Grant River (Grant County), Gordon Creek (Iowa County), Camp, Knapp and Elk creeks (Richland County), and Elk Creek (Vernon County)

In order to simplify and make rules consistent, the proposal is to increase the daily bag limit for trout on streams managed with a 12-inch maximum size limit. Statewide, the bag limit for streams managed with a maximum size limit is 5 trout. The current regulation on these waters is a 12-inch maximum size limit with a 3-fish daily bag limit. The proposed regulations would apply to:

- Crooked Creek (Grant County)
- Big Green River (Grant County)
- Little Grant River from Govier Rd upstream to Milner Rd (Grant County)
- Borah Creek (Grant County)
- Camp Creek (Richland County)
- Knapp Creek upstream of Hwy 171 (Richland/Crawford counties)
- Elk Creek (Richland/Vernon counties)
- Gordon Creek between Hwy 78 and Spring Creek Rd (Iowa County)
- Mt. Vernon Creek between County Hwy U and Hwy 92 (Dane County)

These streams currently have a bag limit of 3. The maximum size limit is intended to allow harvest of smaller fish on streams that have high recruitment and high abundance, while limiting the harvest of larger fish to maintain a fishery with excellent size structure and quality opportunity for anglers.

45. Do you favor changing the bag limit from 3 trout to 5 trout on the following streams currently managed with a 12-inch maximum size limit, including: Crooked Creek, Big Green River, Little Grant River and Borah Creek (Grant County); Camp Creek (Richland County), Knapp Creek upstream of Hwy 171 (Richland and Crawford counties); Elk Creek (Richland and Vernon counties); Gordon Creek between Hwy 78 and Spring Creek Rd (Iowa County), and Mt Vernon Creek between County Hwy U and Hwy 92 (Dane County)?  

45. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 46: Trout – Black Earth Creek, Dane County

In response to observed declines in all size classes of brown trout at our annual trend surveys of Lower Black Earth Creek, downstream of South Valley Rd, this proposal would switch to an 18-inch minimum length limit and 1-fish daily bag limit for trout from the current regulation of 3 trout under 12 inches.

The goal for Lower Black Earth creek is to increase abundance of larger trout to offer a memorable fishing experience. Switching to a high minimum size limit with a reduced bag will protect smaller trout and improve size structure.

46. Do you favor changing the regulation for trout from a 12-inch maximum size limit and a 3-fish daily bag limit to an 18-inch minimum size limit and a 1-fish daily bag limit on Lower Black Earth Creek from US Highway 14 (east side of Mazomanie) upstream to South Valley Road?  

46. YES____ NO_____
**QUESTION 47: Fish Refuge - St. Louis River, Douglas County**

This proposal would change the fish refuge season on the St. Louis River (State Highway 23 bridge to the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary) in Douglas County to: March 1 to the Friday two weeks prior to the Saturday nearest Memorial Day. The current fish refuge season is March 1 to May 18. For the first five years that the rule would be in place, beginning in 2021, this change would provide four additional fishing days in 2021, five days in 2022, six days in 2023, eight days in 2024, and nine days in 2025.

The management goal is to maintain the naturally reproducing, moderate- to high-density walleye population that sustains harvest and catch-and-release angling opportunities and supports predator-prey balance with invasive fishes such as Eurasian ruffe and round goby throughout the St. Louis River. This regulation proposal will simplify regulations to match general Wisconsin-Minnesota border water fish refuge and fishing season rules, extend recreational fishing opportunities, and continue to support predator-prey balance.

47. Do you favor changing the fish refuge season above the State Highway 23 bridge to the Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary to March 1 to the Friday two weeks prior to the Saturday nearest Memorial Day on the St. Louis River in Douglas County?  

**QUESTION 48: Fish refuge – Mink River, Door County**

The proposed regulation is a total fishery closure on the Mink River downstream to the mouth at Rowley Bay in Door County, beginning with the normal March gamefish closure until June 15. The current regulation is a catch and release season from the first Saturday in May until June 15 and a 14-inch minimum length limit and 5-fish daily bag limit for bass from June 16 to the first Sunday in March.

The management goal is protection of the Mink River smallmouth bass population during the spawning period in a rare Great Lake estuary system that is an ecologically unique, sensitive area where fishing effort is heavily concentrated during the spring and fish are very susceptible to multiple catch-release events. The concern is that the excessive stress related to this pressure, exacerbated by the presence of the exotic round goby (an aggressive nest predator), may be impacting spawning and reproductive success of this unique population. The proposed rule will provide protection for nesting bass in a northern system where the spawning season is short (relative to southern systems) and larval fish have an abbreviated period to successfully recruit to juvenile stages. Allowing the male to provide uninterrupted attendance to young during the entire nesting and rearing period will enhance recruitment success.

Currently the Mink River falls under the regulation for catch and release beginning the season opener until the 3rd Saturday in June. While this regulation restricts harvest, there is still a considerable amount of pressure on spawning (nesting) fish and the limited area likely means fish are caught and released multiple times over the spawning and rearing period. Specific effort for smallmouth bass in Lake Michigan waters of Door County (consisting mainly of the Mink River/Rowley Bay area) has climbed precipitously since 2011 and reached a record high in 2015 of nearly 60,000 hours fished, nearly doubling from the previous year. This is a combined result of excellent fishing due to large year classes produced in the mid-2000s and the recent installation of a public boat launch in Rowley Bay. While effort has recently declined to near the previous 10-year average (~30,000 hrs.), the concern is that it could again spike with improved fishing.

48. Do you favor creation of a temporary fish refuge for the Mink River, Door County which would extend the normal spring closure until June 15?  

**37**
QUESTION 49: Fish Refuge – Fox River, Brown County

This proposal would extend the dates of the Fox River refuge below the DePere Dam from March 1 through May 31. The current regulation is a fish refuge in effect from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May.

Since the 1990s, lake sturgeon have been spawning and adult Great Lakes spotted muskellunge have been observed below the dam in DePere. Although the sturgeon numbers have increased during this period, they have not reached the management goal of 500 adults. More recently, access for shoreline fishing has improved, increasing the number of anglers fishing in areas used by sturgeon for spawning. This type of activity has been shown to inhibit spawning for many species of fish including sturgeon. Currently, a refuge protects spawning walleye from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May. Typically, lake sturgeon spawn and adult muskellunge occupy this area after this date. This proposal changes only the dates the refuge is in effect, extending the refuge through May 31. This proposal does not change the size or location of the current refuge.

49. Do you favor changing the effective dates for the Fox River refuge below the DePere Dam from March 1 through the Friday before the first Saturday in May to March 1 through May 31? 49. YES ____ NO ____
THEN SAY YES TO THE CHERISH WISCONSIN OUTDOORS FUND.

The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund supports habitat management and ensures the future care and enjoyment of our publicly owned lands and waters. This includes our state parks, state natural areas, state wildlife areas and state fisheries areas.

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Please utilize page 2 of your input form to provide your feedback 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 Public Hearings annually in April.

Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the 2019 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) by April 19, 2019.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution Process

- Resolutions are introduced and input is provided by the public in attendance at local Conservation Congress meetings in April.
- Resolutions that pass are assigned to a WCC advisory committee for further examination and vetting.
- Resolutions that pass out of WCC committees are referred to the District Leadership Council and recommended for statewide input as an advisory question on the next April’s questionnaire.
- Questions that pass the District Leadership Council are placed on the questionnaire and the public in attendance at the Conservation Congress County Meetings in April can provide input on those advisory questions.
- If a majority of the input received is not favorable, the resolution is referred back to the author and not advanced further.
- Authors are encouraged to work with their local county Conservation Congress delegates to reevaluate the idea and perhaps reintroduce the resolution in a subsequent year.
- Resolutions that do not pass out of committee are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.
- Resolutions that do not pass the District Leadership Council are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.
- The full body of the Conservation Congress meets in May to take a Congress position on the issue based on the public’s opinion and the results of the advisory questions.
- All questions and results from the annual convention in May are then forwarded to the Natural Resources Board as advisement from the Conservation Congress.
Each year the Conservation Congress accepts 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.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public input 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.

- The resolutions must be typed.
- 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 are required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

- 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.
- 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 provide input on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Designating the morel as the state fungus (requires legislation)

At present, Wisconsin does not have a designated state fungus.

The morel is important to many citizens; from the thousands of Wisconsin mushroom hunters that take to the woods to look for these edible wild mushrooms to the thousands of others that consume them and consider them a seasonal delicacy.

Morels typically grow in sandy soils near ash, aspen, elm and oak trees (usually dead or dying trees) and they require very specific temperatures, site and weather conditions to grow, so the quantity and time period that they are available is limited. Given the challenges associated with finding and harvesting these mushrooms, as well as the fluctuation in the number produced annually, the ability to locate and sell morels to other citizens provides an economic boost to successful hunters.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to designate the morel as the state fungus?

Name of Author: John Q. Public
Name of Organization (optional): Private Citizen
Address: W12345 State Road 6
City, State, Zip Code: Hometown, Wisconsin 54321
Name of the County Introducing In: ________ County
Telephone Number (including area code): 123-456-0789
Email (optional) JQP@myemail.com

*Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.
WISCONSIN YOUTH
CONSERVATION CONGRESS

✓ Enjoy spending time outdoors?
✓ Want to contribute to your community?
✓ Want your voice to be heard?
✓ Want to kick-start a career in natural resources?

Right, YCC delegate Gavin Wright helps DNR staff with goose banding and below, YCC delegate Madison Schaffer assists DNR staff with a fish survey.

Goal: Effectively engage, educate, and involve youth in the management and protection of our natural resources and foster a conservation ethic through participation on the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress (YCC).

Objectives:
Teach youth delegates about:
• natural resource management and careers through a variety of service-learning opportunities throughout the year
• the process by which Wisconsin’s natural resource policy is determined
• the role and history of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), a statutorily created citizen advisory group

Provide youth delegates with the opportunity to:
• strengthen valuable problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through working with other Youth Conservation Congress delegates, WCC delegates, and DNR staff
• network with youth from around the state that are interested in natural resources and DNR professionals and policy makers

For more information on the YCC contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann (DNR/WCC Liaison) at (608) 266-0580 or Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov
Please continue on page 1 of your input form.

(Please note: any numbers in parenthesis following the question title are referencing the resolution(s) from which the question originated.)

**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 50: Increase setback from fields to streams to 30 feet (530218) (requires legislation)**

Currently, over 700 streams and rivers in Wisconsin are listed as impaired. A majority of this impairment is due to suspended solids (turbidity from soil loss) and nonpoint nutrient pollution (phosphorus impairments). Current setbacks can be as little as 5 feet and not all farmers use nutrient management plans. Expecting all farmers to have nutrient management plans requires cost sharing. When funding is limited, plans often don’t happen.

50. Do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and the state Legislature to increase the distance from agricultural fields to streams and rivers to 30 feet, and encourage vegetation?

50. YES____ NO_____

**QUESTION 51: Reduce daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks to three (680118)**

At the present, Wisconsin has a 6-bird daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks (“Old Squaw”). There has been an increase in open water hunting on the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan, which has resulted in an increase in harvest of long-tailed ducks. Due to the remoteness and massive area of the artic, in which these birds nest, there are relatively poor population estimates. However, it is generally believed and accepted that the continental population is roughly 1 million birds. Wisconsin harvests an average of 5,000 Long-tailed ducks each year, but there has been concern expressed by hunters regarding how easily and how many long-tailed ducks are being harvested on Lake Michigan.

51. Would you support the WDNR to reduce the daily bag limit on long-tailed ducks to 3 until population research is completed?

51. YES____ NO_____
QUESTION 52: Conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program in 2019 (330118) (requires legislation)

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is causing serious damage to Wisconsin’s deer herd and deer hunting heritage. 2018 surveillance detected a record 965 CWD-positive deer; of which 99% were within the southern farmland deer management zone. The percentage of the southern farmland deer herd infected with CWD also increased significantly.

The Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies recently identified best management practices for combating CWD. To manage CWD spread and prevalence, they recommend using hunting to target deer herd cohorts most likely to have CWD, as well as, CWD hotspots.

The CWD Payment for Positives (P4P) goal is to increase the disease control effectiveness of Wisconsin’s deer hunting seasons. Participation is completely voluntary. P4P pays both landowners and their hunters a significant financial reward for each CWD-positive deer they harvest. A smaller reward would also go to cooperating CWD sampling businesses to encourage more sampling sites. Using Wisconsin’s database of 226,000 tested deer, P4P would create probability maps to help landowners and hunters make harvest choices on their land. A pilot would test whether P4P can increase both the rate of CWD sampling and removal of CWD positive deer from infected areas. If the pilot is successful, the P4P program can be ramped up for full implementation as a tool to reverse rising CWD prevalence.

Funding for a 2019 pilot program would need to be authorized in the 2019-21 budget bill. The recommended funding source is existing tax revenue generated from Wisconsin’s $1.3 billion deer economy. The cost of a pilot depends on the level of reward chosen and scope of the pilot. The table shows a range of costs for a pilot yielding 500 CWD-positive deer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reward payment level</th>
<th>$750/deer</th>
<th>$1,000/deer</th>
<th>$1,250/deer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilot Cost¹</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ -Includes 500 payments to landowners and hunters & $300 payment to sampling site businesses

52. Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas? 52. YES____ NO_____

QUESTIONS 53-54: Ban the use of underwater cameras for spearing lake sturgeon on Lake Winnebago system (080318)

Sturgeon spearing is a very traditional way of harvesting sturgeon and is entrenched in a strong tradition on the Winnebago system. There is a growing concern among some that the use of underwater cameras is going to continue to increase, resulting in a “perversion” of this traditional method of harvest. While some spearers are embracing these technologies, others are concerned that these advanced technologies have no place in a
more “primitive” harvest season. Camera use for spearing sturgeon has caused a rift and animosity between spearers using cameras and those that choose not to use cameras.

The use of underwater cameras to see and spear Lake Sturgeon on the Winnebago System has gained in popularity in recent years and one can only expect the use of cameras to grow. During the 2018 season DNR wardens noted that about 30% of spearers checked on Lake Winnebago were currently using cameras. Poor water clarity has been the primary impetus for the greater use of cameras. If underwater cameras do in fact add an advantage to harvest, it could result in a shortened spearing season in the future.

Currently the DNR is stating the use of underwater cameras is not a biological issue as the harvest cap system protects from over harvest and the harvest in dirty water years has been well below the cap. The DNR has conducted two surveys in 2013 and 2018 to gauge spearers’ positions on camera use. Results have indicated a relatively even split from respondents for and against camera use. The DNR does not currently have information on the percentage of fish that are harvested with the aid of underwater cameras.

53. Would you support a rule prohibiting the use of underwater cameras as an aid in spearing Lake Sturgeon during the sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago System? 53. YES____ NO____

54. Would you support a rule prohibiting the use of any electronic fish locator/fish finder equipment as an aid in spearing Lake Sturgeon during the sturgeon spearing season on Winnebago System? 54. YES____ NO____

**DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 55:** Restore deer tagging requirements in statute (041018, 050418, 060418, 090318, 131618, 160518, 180418, 240418, 270218, 280118, 340118, 350418, 380318, 400118, 440118, 450418, 490218, 560518, 640218, 641018, 660118, 670418) *(requires legislation)*

The state budget that passed in 2017 contained language that removed the requirement to place a carcass tag on a deer after harvest.

55. Would you support a legislative change restoring the carcass tag requirement when harvesting deer? 55. YES____ NO____

**QUESTION 56:** Baiting and feeding ban *(requires legislation)*

New research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison helps to confirm the longstanding suspicion that CWD prions accumulate in the environment of areas like mineral licks and baiting and feeding sites where deer congregate. Scientists concluded that environmental reservoirs of prions could serve as additional transmission routes of CWD, which can also pass from deer to deer by direct contact.

56. To protect the health of our wild deer population, would you support a statewide ban on baiting and feeding of deer? 56. YES____ NO____
QUESTION 57: Require pheasant, grouse and quail hunters to wear blaze orange or pink (720318) (requires legislation)

Safety should be the most important part of any hunt. Blaze orange has proven to be effective in preventing accidents by providing visibility, avoiding crowding and eliminating conflicts. Many game farm pheasant hunts require blaze orange/pink to be worn for safety and visibility of hunters in thick cover.

57. Do you support requiring pheasant, grouse and quail hunters to wear blaze orange or florescent pink on 25 percent of their outer clothes above the waist, including a hat, if worn?  
57. YES____ NO_____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 58: Allow the use of firearms to dispatch legally trapped animals within 50 feet of unpaved roads (020518, 040318, 350318, 430318) (requires legislation)

Currently, it is not legal to discharge a firearm within 50 feet of the centerline of any road. A statutory exception allows the hunting of small game within 50 feet of the centerline of an unpaved road with a muzzleloader or a shotgun loaded with a shot shell or chilled shot size BB or smaller. However, animals legally trapped within 50 feet of the centerline of any road cannot be dispatched with a firearm. Some animals, such as wolves, raccoons, and coyotes are most safely and most humanely dispatched with a rim fire rifle, or handgun.

58. Do you support a legislative change that would allow the dispatch of legally trapped animals within 50 feet of the centerline of unpaved roads, using a rim fire rifle or handgun?  
58. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 59: Expansion of fisher season length to February 15 (690218) (requires legislation)

The raccoon, fox, coyote and fisher trapping seasons begin on the Saturday nearest October 17. The raccoon, fox and coyote seasons end on February 15; however, the fisher season ends on the Sunday nearest January 6.

Fishers have a season bag limit of one, by permit. The other three species have no season bag limit, and no special permits are required to harvest them. For the 2018-19 permit drawing, the minimum number of preference points required to be awarded a fisher permit was three in the north fisher zone, and one in the south fisher zone.

Some trappers would like to see the fisher season extended to close on the same day each year, as the raccoon, fox and coyote seasons do. This will offer increased opportunity for trapping after there is a snow cover. Because the wait for a fisher permit is relatively short, this change would not be expected to significantly increase the waiting period between permits drawn by an individual trapper.

59. Do you support a legislative change that would extend the fisher season to close concurrently with the raccoon, fox and coyote season?  
59. YES____ NO_____

46
QUESTIONS 60-62: Remove colony trap placement and funneling restrictions (230518, 710518)

Currently, colony traps are legal to use for muskrat trapping in Wisconsin. There are trap size restrictions in place. Colony traps cannot be set within 3 feet of a culvert, cannot be baited or lured to attract muskrats and they must be set completely under water. No fencing, netting, or other material (including other colony traps) can be used to create an underwater obstruction designed to force or channel any wild animal into the trap.

These restrictions were put in place as precautions when colony traps first became legal. The Fur Harvest Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress feels that adequate time has passed to lift some of these restrictions without fear of negative consequences.

60. Do you support rule changes that would allow the placement of colony traps within three feet of culverts? 60. YES___ NO_____

61. Do you support rule changes that would allow the use of bait and/or lure in conjunction with colony traps? 61. YES___ NO_____

62. Do you support rule changes that would allow the use of fencing to create an obstruction designed to force or channel muskrats into the trap? 62. YES___ NO_____

   All other restrictions would remain in place.

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 63: Protect or improve panfish angling in Cranberry Lake, Price County (510118)

Citizens have voiced concern that fishing pressure and harvest above what is usual could jeopardize the high-quality angling opportunity that Cranberry Lake offers for black crappies, bluegills, and yellow perch. Reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 panfish in total could sustain and possibly improve the size structure of Cranberry Lake's panfish populations and distribute the harvest more evenly among anglers.

63. Do you support reducing the daily bag limit of panfish on Cranberry Lake from 25 to 10 panfish in total? 63. YES___ NO_____.

QUESTION 64: Northern pike size limit on Wilson, Big Twin, Little Silver, Napowan, Gilbert, Pine (Springwater Township), and Mt. Morris lakes in Waushara County (700318)

These clearwater lakes are not achieving normal growth rates for northern pike. Pike seldom reach the 26-inch harvest minimum and due to overpopulation, are also reducing the forage base for most other species, namely largemouth bass and panfish.

64. Would you support a five-fish daily bag limit and no minimum length limit on northern pike on Wilson, Big Twin, Little Silver, Napowan, Gilbert, Pine (Springwater Township), and Mt. Morris lakes in Waushara County? 64. YES___ NO_____.
**QUESTION 65: Northern pike harvest opportunity, Portage County (500418)**

The current regulation for northern pike harvest in Portage County is a daily bag limit of 2 fish and a 26-inch minimum length limit, however, the northern pike regulation north of Hwy 10 across the rest of the state is 5 fish and no minimum length. Changing the regulation to a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length north of Hwy 10 (except for waterbodies with special harvest regulations; i.e. Wisconsin River) would allow anglers to harvest smaller fish and diversify the overall fishing opportunities in Portage County lakes north of Hwy 10. This change would simplify enforcement, reduce confusion among anglers, and provide consistency with adjoining counties to be uniform across the state. Portage County is the only county with areas north of Hwy 10 that have a minimum length of 26 inches for northern pike. Most lakes in Portage County (besides the Wisconsin River flowages) are small (less than 300 acres) and many are winter kill lakes. Most of these small waterbodies are not capable of growing large fish because they do not have the productive capacity to do so.

65. Would you support a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length for northern pike in Portage County north of Hwy 10 to match all adjoining counties?  
   **65. YES____ NO_____**

**QUESTION 66: Remove the 36-inch size limit on sturgeon during spearing season (360618)**

It is difficult to judge the exact size of a fish you may only see briefly through a hole in the ice. The size limit for sturgeon has changed multiple times dating back to 1941 (ranging from 30-45 inches) and there is no biological reason to have a 36-inch size limit. The females don't start spawning until they are about 55 inches (30 years old). Spearing is not catch and release and mortality of undersized fish is likely high. Spearers who return speared undersized fish to the lake likely cause the mortality of multiple fish during a season and it would be beneficial to have those fish counted against the quota. Eliminating the minimum length limit would also allow a spearer to fill a sturgeon tag with a smaller fish (whether intentional or inadvertent, misjudgment of size).

66. Would you support removing the 36-inch size limit on sturgeon during the spearing season?  
   **66. YES____ NO_____**

**QUESTION 67: Designate a 14-18-inch slot limit with a maximum daily limit of one over 18 inches for largemouth bass in the Tiger Cat Flowage, Sawyer County (580418)**

The Tiger Cat Flowage Chain is both an important recreational and economic resource in Sawyer County. The introduction of northern pike has adversely affected the largemouth bass population in the chain. A DNR survey in 2005 indicated the harvest rate for largemouth bass is double that of other northern Wisconsin lakes. More protective fishing regulations for bass may improve the quality of the bass population. Additionally, a denser population of larger bass should provide some predatory control on small northern pike.

67. Do you support a protective 14 inch-18 inch slot limit with a maximum daily limit of one over 18 inch for largemouth bass on the Tiger Cat Flowage Chain in Sawyer County?  
   **67. YES____ NO_____**
QUESTION 68: Increasing size limit on muskellunge in the Lemonweir River (010118)

The current size limit for muskellunge in the Wisconsin River System in Adams County is 50 inches. The Lemonweir River is a large tributary that flows into the Wisconsin River south of the Highway 82 bridge. Size limit consistency throughout the system would be conducive to creating a trophy fishery and be helpful to law enforcement and anglers by making the rules the same.

68. Do you support increasing the size limit on Muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches in the Lemonweir River from the Mauston Dam downstream to the confluence of the Lemonweir River and Wisconsin River south of the State Highway 82 bridge with a daily bag limit of one per day? 68. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 69: Reduce daily bag limit for panfish on Huron Lake (700118)

Huron Lake is a small lake (40 acre) in the township of Oasis in Waushara County. Huron Lake is susceptible to being overfished, as there is a county park located on the lake. Also, due to the clarity of the water, it is a popular place for snorkelers and divers to spear panfish. Reducing the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 fish would protect and enhance the quality and size of the fish.

69. Would you support reducing the daily bag limit on panfish from 25 to 10 fish in total on Huron Lake? 69. YES____ NO____

LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 70: Restore public funding for public lands (120218, 230218, 420418, 540618) (requires legislation)

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the management of more than 1.5 million acres of lands and adjacent waters of the state that are available for public use for a wide variety of outdoor activities. These state lands and waters include parks, natural areas, wildlife and fishing areas, and public hunting grounds that provide significant contributions to our quality of life and economy. Public assets require maintenance, management and development with public resources paid by all state residents.

Financial resources to manage, maintain and provide infrastructure on these lands have been diminishing, partly due to lack of budgetary funding resources. These lands and waters are public resources for the benefit of the residents of Wisconsin and an asset of the state that should be adequately managed, maintained and developed for use by the public like other state assets.

70. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board, state legislature and the people of the state to provide adequate budgetary finances to maintain, manage and develop public lands to their full potential for the benefit of the residents of Wisconsin? 70. YES____ NO____
QUESTION 71: Creating a centralized list of timber sales (550118)

The timber industry is second only to agriculture in economic impact on Wisconsin, however the timber market is continuing to become more complicated due to market fluctuations and quota available to independent contractors. Tracts of industrial forests have also increasingly been divided into smaller parcels. If these smaller sales could be aggregated, buyers and sellers could both benefit.

Currently, there is no centralized listing of private land timber sales that buyers can use to find timber to buy. The DNR could utilize its website to provide an opportunity for buyers to search for established private land timber sales by location, species, and product (pulp, saw timber, etc.). Such a system may benefit landowners, loggers, truckers, mills and the businesses that rely on these contractors.

71. Would you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR to create a web-based application that will provide landowners and consultant foresters a venue to list established timber sales for loggers and timber buyers who are looking for timber sales? 

71. YES____ NO____

BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 72-73: Non-resident hunting laws (370118) (requires legislation)

The application fee for bear (for both resident and non-resident hunters) is $4.50, and the application fee for bobcat (for both resident and non-resident) is $6. Current wait times for bobcat tags in the northern unit is over 10 years and the southern unit is 4 years. The wait time for a bear tag is anywhere from 1 to 9 years depending on the zone. Currently, non-residents have the same chance of drawing a harvest permit as a resident.

72. Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for bear to $40? 

72. YES____ NO____

73. Do you favor raising the non-resident application fee for bobcat to $40? 

73. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 74: Quartering of deer, bear and elk in the field (440518)

Current DNR rules prohibit field quartered deer, bear and elk from being divided into more than 5 parts and only the entrails may be left in the field. Bear may not be divided in a manner that does not keep one part of the bear intact to allow for the measurement of the tip of the nose to the base of the tail to prove a minimum length. Allowing hunters to quarter big game reduces spoilage and facilitates an easy and quick removal from the field.

74. Do you favor a rule change to allow quartering of deer, bear and elk in the field at the point of recovery without limiting the number of parts an animal is divided into and at a minimum the four quarters, back straps, and inside loins be removed from the field? For bear, a portion of the bear’s head and/or spinal column must be retained in no more than 2 pieces to demonstrate that the bear is a minimum of 42 inches long.

74. YES____ NO____
QUESTION 75: Restore the bear application to the Conservation Patron License (660618) (requires legislation)

The bear application was removed from the conservation patron license in 1997. At the time, it was thought that people were applying for a permit just because it was free on the patron's license and would lengthen wait times. Since then, bear permit applications have steadily gone up disproving that assumption.

75. Do you favor returning the bear application to the Conservation Patrons License? 75. YES____ NO____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 76-77: Change youth hunting age limit back to 10 years old (180518, 560318, 180118) (requires legislation)

When first passed into law, the mentored hunting rules allowed anyone 10 years and older to participate, one firearm between the mentor and the mentee, and did not require them to take hunter education. In 2017, the Legislature removed the age restriction from statute, meaning anyone at any age could participate as a mentored hunter and removed the one firearm restriction. Currently, twelve states have no age restriction for hunting.

76. Would you favor making it illegal for a person younger than 10 years old to obtain a hunting license? 76. YES____ NO____

77. Would you favor returning state statute to require only one firearm between a mentor and the mentee? 77. YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 78-79: Remove mandatory uncocking or encasing requirements of unloaded crossbows (360518) (requires legislation)

All firearms (excluding handguns) must be unloaded when inside any vehicle, whether moving or stationary. A loaded firearm may be placed on, but not inside, a vehicle that is stationary.

Current law allows for an unloaded (bolt removed)/uncocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport, and an unloaded/cocked crossbow must be enclosed within a carrying case when being transported by a vehicle. It is illegal to place a cocked crossbow on a stationary vehicle unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case.

78. Would you support a legislative change to allow unloaded/cocked crossbows to be placed on a stationary vehicle when uncased? 78. YES____ NO____

79. Would you support a legislative change to allow an unloaded/uncased/cocked crossbow to be placed within a vehicle for transport? 79. YES____ NO____
QUESTION 80: Designate the hickory nut as the state nut (240318) (requires legislation)

At present, Wisconsin does not have a designated state nut. The hickory nut has been an important resource for Native Americans in Wisconsin for thousands of years and continues its tradition with rural farm families that have cared for and harvested these long-lived trees. It is a primary forage for wildlife and consumed by thousands of residents who consider hickory nuts a seasonal delicacy.

80. Would you favor the legislature passing legislation to designate the hickory nut as the state nut? 80. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 81: Identification for non-motorized watercraft (140418) (requires legislation)

Presently, Wisconsin does not require identification for non-motorized watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and skiffs. There have been instances that a non-motorized watercraft is found floating in a lake/river or along a shoreline with no one in it, making it hard for law enforcement to locate the owner and determine if an accident has occurred. Searches have been conducted based on not being able to contact the owner of the watercraft, requiring time and effort from law enforcement and rescue personal, only to find out that no one was in the watercraft prior to being found. Currently, owner identification is required for ice shanties and waterfowl blinds on state properties.

81. Would you favor legislation that would require the owner of a non-motorized watercraft to affix identification to the non-motorized watercraft? 81. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 82: Increase Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp fee (170318, 180618, 220118, 320318, 630418) (requires legislation)

The sale of Wisconsin's Inland Trout Stamps funds trout stream restoration, stream improvement, surveys and stream maintenance activities. On average 25 miles of stream improvements are made per year. Over the years 865 miles of streams have been improved out of nearly 13,000 miles of trout streams in Wisconsin. Over 700 miles of trout streams in northern Wisconsin are kept free of beaver dams annually. Since 2011, Trout Stamp annual expenditures have averaged $1.6 million per year, with an average of 140,000 stamps sold at $10.00. Costs of materials, fuel and labor continue to rise with an increased need for trout stream restoration work.

82. Would you favor a legislative change to an increase in the Inland Trout Stamp from $10.00 to $15.00 to allow for more trout stream restoration? 82. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 83: License fee increase to fund cold water fish hatcheries (160418) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin state fish hatcheries are vital to the stocking of the Great Lakes. Our hatcheries need adequate funding for staff, maintenance, upgrades and eventual replacement to meet fishery demands. The Great Lakes fishery provides a benefit for Wisconsin residents, tourism and business through the recreational opportunities this world class fishery provides.

83. Would you favor an increase in the Great Lake Trout & Salmon Stamp from $10.00 to $15.00 with the additional $5 going specifically to hatchery needs? 83. YES____ NO_____
QUESTION 84: Allocation of Invasive Species Control Fund for *Phragmites australis*, Common Reed (110218, 131518) *(requires legislation)*

*Phragmites australis*, Common Reed, is an aggressive invasive plant species that inhabits wetlands including highway drainage ditches and agricultural lowlands. It spreads via seed and rhizome, and roots can grow over 15 inches per year and outcompete native species. Removal is intensive and can require herbicides, burning, and mowing. It is spreading from east to west across Wisconsin, but the DNR, DOT, and private landowners have been working to reduce the spread along this line.

84. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and legislature to create a *Phragmites australis* Control Fund?  

84. YES____ NO_____

QUESTIONS 85-86: Ban lead ammunition and fishing gear in Wisconsin (131418) *(requires legislation)*

Lead is currently the industry standard for hunting ammunition and fishing tackle. Scientific evidence shows that lead from spent ammunition and fishing tackle is a source of lead poisoning for at least 130 species of birds and wildlife and it’s often fatal. Lead has been removed from common sources such as paint and gasoline for years, and in 1991 a federal prohibition of lead shot used for waterfowl hunting went into effect to help prevent die-offs of aquatic game birds. Non-toxic bullets, shot and fishing tackle are commercially available and in many cases are comparable to lead in performance and price.

85. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead ammunition? This would exclude ammunition used in target shooting and could be phased in over time.  

85. YES____ NO_____

86. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead fishing sinkers, lures and tackle weighing 1 ounce or less? This could be phased in over time.  

86. YES____ NO_____

QUESTION 87: Perform groundwater study at Brule State Fish Hatchery (160618)

The Brule State Fish Hatchery was built on the Little Brule River to provide trout fingerlings to the Brule River, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and other inland locations. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) was detected in the Great Lakes in 2005. VHS is a threat to more than 25 freshwater fish species. The Brule River is a tributary to Lake Superior, and as such risks spreading VHS. Utilizing natural artesian water for the fish hatchery would remove the VHS issue for fish coming from the hatchery.

87. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR and the Natural Resources Board to complete a groundwater study at the Brule State Fish Hatchery to determine its suitability for use to provide fingerlings with no VHS exposure?  

87. YES____ NO_____
QUESTION 88: Creation of pilot program for temporary shooting ranges for scholastic shooting teams (040118)

Scholastic shooting teams are growing in popularity across the US and in Wisconsin. In some areas of the state there are no clay target shooting ranges located within a reasonable distance to be practical for schools to form shooting teams, and in the areas that do have shooting ranges located within a reasonable distance from the schools, the established ranges may not have the capacity/ability to accommodate school shooting programs. In addition, the process to site and get necessary permits for a new shooting range is complicated and can take several years to complete.

In areas with these problems, the option of a temporary shooting range may allow school teams to be established until the permanent range approval process is complete. A pilot program establishing a few temporary ranges within a reasonable distance from the school and with the permission and cooperation of a private land owner and area residents within a 1-mile radius of the temporary range could eliminate these issues. These ranges would have a four-year sunset on operation, and to avoid landowner liability with the environmental issues associated with lead, non-toxic shot may be required.

88. Would you support a four-year pilot program creating a few temporary shooting ranges to be used for school sponsored teams that do not have access to local facilities, in which a lead-free ammunition requirement may be in place? 88. YES____ NO_____
Thank you for attending this year’s 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”