

Citizen Resolution # 090721

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Foothold trap size date change

Currently Wisconsin trapping regulations restrict foothold trap size to a jaw spread width of less than 7" from the opening of trapping season until November 30th, unless it is a water set, then allow traps up to 8" jaw spread width after November 30th. The issue is Wisconsin wolf trapping seasons have historically started prior to November 30th (February 2021 season notwithstanding) which restricts trappers from using traps over 7" which are best suited for humanely catching and holding wolves.

The 2019 Best Management Practices for Trapping Wolves in the United States published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies suggests inside jaw spreads for coil-spring foothold traps for wolves and allow wider jaw spread width for a more human catch and hold. Furthermore, traps specifically manufactured for wolves are manufactured with laminated and offset jaws with jaw spreads greater than 7" for a more humane catch and hold.

Furthermore, other states with wolf trapping seasons such as Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and the Provinces of Canada which all allow regulated wolf trapping seasons follow these Best Management Practices allow foothold trap sizes larger than 7" and some as large as 9" inside jaw spread. These states and provinces have similar game species at risk of incidental catch and are humanely released.

Therefore be it resolved, the foothold trap size restriction of jaw spread width of less than 7" date be changed to the opening of trapping season until "the opening of wolf season" to allow use of traps specifically designed for more humane catching and holding of wolves.

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. 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.

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