

# Citizen Resolution # 090221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## Trialing/Testing a Muskellunge Slot Size Limit

In 2012 the state size limit on muskellunge was increased from 34 to 40 inches. Ironically the average male musky never reaches 40 inches. This size limit favors the harvest of mature females capable of reproducing and fish near what many would classify as a “trophy muskellunge” (50 inches or larger). According to the DNR, “The combination of effective regulations and voluntary catch-and-release of large muskellunge is the best way to realize the full potential of our waters to produce trophy muskellunge.” Does the 40 inch size limit accomplish this? The 40 inch limit also restricts fishermen who target muskellunge as table fare to harvest fish over 40 inches that accumulated mercury and PCBs for approximately 9 years plus. Since the size limit on muskies was increased in 2012, walleye and panfish regulations have become more restrictive on many bodies of water; walleyes are now commonly managed with slot sizes. It makes sense to apply this tactic to our muskellunge fishery as well; a restrictive slot limit could better balance the harvest of male muskies while protecting both the mature female population capable of reproducing and fish on the cusp of trophy status. Would you support the DNR, trialing a slot limit of one musky per day in total from 30 inches to 36 inches OR one fish over 50 inches on up to 50 lakes in the northern muskellunge zone over a 7 year period to study its impact on musky, walleye, and panfish populations?

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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.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.