

Citizen Resolution # 131921

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Support 10 panfish bag limit – Lake Mendota, Dane County – preserve size structure and increase population density.

Recent fish sampling data collected by the DNR suggests that the size structure of panfish in Lake Mendota is still healthy, but that same data also shows that population densities of some panfish, bluegills and perch in particular, are not optimal.

Specifically, Lake Mendota provides anglers with an opportunity to catch some of the biggest bluegills in the state, but data also shows that numbers of bluegills in the lake are low. Panfish in Lake Mendota are under further pressure, not only from anglers, but from gamefish predation as well. Lake Mendota is managed as a “Trophy Fishery” for northern pike and walleye while the rest of the lakes in the Madison Chain – Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa – are managed the same way as the majority of waterbodies across Southern Wisconsin.

See examples below:

Lake Mendota Gamefish Restrictions:

Minimum size limit for walleyes is 18 inches with a daily bag limit of 3 fish

Minimum size limit for northern pike is 40 inches with a daily bag limit of 1 fish

Lake Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa Gamefish Restrictions:

Minimum size limit for walleyes is 15 inches with a daily bag limit of 5 fish

Minimum size limit for northern pike is 26 inches with a daily bag limit of 2.

Managing panfish bag limits in a similar way to gamefish bag limits will help streamline regulations for Lake Mendota while also helping to create a higher quality fishing experience for all anglers. This proposal will protect the size structure that currently exists in the panfish population, while also creating opportunities to increase the overall numbers of panfish in Lake Mendota.

Would you support a 10 panfish bag limit on Lake Mendota to protect size structure and to increase panfish population throughout the lake?

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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.