

Citizen Resolution # 370822

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reducing daily bag limits in response to increases in pressure and technological advancements.

Many Wisconsin inland game fish populations have been drastically reduced over the last several years due to various reasons, including increases in invasive species, loss of natural spawning habitat, fishing pressure, etc. As a result of lockdowns during the COVID19 pandemic, there has been an even greater surge in fishing pressure throughout the state, resulting in a greater impact of harvest to any given school of fish. Simultaneously, electronic fishing companies, like Hummingbird, Garmin, and Lowrance, continue to enhance the capabilities of their products to quickly locate fish. Through the use of instantaneous and broad sonar technologies, fishermen with these tools are able to locate schools of fish much faster than ever before, and therefore implement their fishing efforts much more efficiently and effectively. Schools of fish can now be easily located, tracked, and targeted with precise casting or jigging, and in some cases, completely decimated due to generous bag limits. Outlawing technology is a slippery slope, so I don't recommend making these tools illegal. However, bag limits need to correspond to the ever increasing effectiveness of these tools. Panfish bag limits on most bodies of water, for instance, could be reduced to 10 fish per species. Anglers wishing to take home more fish (the traditional 25) would have to fish multiple species in the same day, which would minimize the impact. Wisconsin lakes still have the potential to offer amazing fun and table fare for anyone willing to pursue it. However, if measures aren't taken quickly, the combination of increased fishing pressure and technology could forever damage these wonderful natural resources.

As a result of increased technological advancements (sonar) and fishing pressure, do you support reducing the panfish bag limit on most Wisconsin waters to 10 fish per species?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0254652>, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11160-021-09643-1>,

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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.