

# Citizen Resolution # 440322

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## Bass size and bag limit on Pelican Lake, Oneida County

The DNR established an 18-inch minimum length and a daily fish harvest of one bass in 1995 because of a perceived problem with the rusty crayfish. After 26 years of this regulation, bass are now plentiful and the rusty crayfish are scarce. This is substantiated by the WDNR creel survey that reports smallmouth bass catch of 891 in 1991 and 9,066 in 2012 and Largemouth bass catch of 1,337 in 1991 and 8,633 in 2012. The current size limit has made it a bass catch and release lake. Only one percent of the 2012 catch were harvested. Bass are protected in lakes by the WDNR for two ecological reasons. One is to control the population of rusty crayfish and the second is to reduce panfish populations in lakes with an overabundance of stunted panfish. After 26 years of this current regulation, bass have moved on from the crayfish to consuming panfish of Pelican Lake. We believe a change in the regulation will allow anglers to reduce the abundance of bass, which will allow increased growth rates for the population as a whole. This regulation will also reduce bass abundance by focusing the harvest on smaller fish which will increase the size structure of the population. Reduced abundance of bass would not only improve the bass fishery, but it may have an impact on panfish and non-game fish populations which would have a positive impact on the fishery as a whole.

**Would you support the Cons. Congress working with the DNR to impl. a 14-18" protected slot size for bass on Pelican Lk, Oneida Cty? Only large and smallmouth bass less than 14" maybe kept except for 1 fish over 18" with a daily bag limit of 5 Total.**

Additional Information provided by author:

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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.