

JANUARY 2016
3.B.6. - Bohmann/WCC

Office of the Secretary approval:

Signature: Ed Erbe

Date: 1/20/16

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1. Support the Natural Resources Board choosing the DNR Secretary (131015)
(requires legislation)

For seventy years, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) secretary was appointed by the Natural Resources Board (NRB). This changed in 1995 when the position became a cabinet position appointed by the governor.

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1. Do you support legislation to return the appointment of the DNR secretary to the NRB? 1. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 2. Eliminate the "artificial-only" restriction from regular season trout regulations

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress has joined the effort to make the rules governing hunting, fishing and trapping more understandable to the state's sportsmen and women and thus add to their enjoyment of the outdoors. At its most recent meeting, the members of the WCC Rule Simplification Committee advanced a proposal to remove artificial restrictions from all trout waters in Wisconsin. The WCC Executive Council voted to forward the proposal for public input. Surveys of trout anglers in Wisconsin show preferences for the use of both artificial and live baits and this proposal would respect the rights of both. While some studies have shown that post-release mortality of trout caught with bait can exceed that of trout caught with artificial lures, there are no rigorous studies on population-level effects of post-release mortality of trout caught by bait in Wisconsin streams.

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2. Do you favor eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the regular season trout regulations? 2. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 3. 2011 Wisconsin Act 21 rule process (requires legislation)

In 2011, the legislature passed laws which significantly lengthen the time it takes to adopt administrative rules. Prior to this, rules could be adopted in as few as 12 months. Under current law, it takes a minimum of 18 months to adopt rules. The ability to adopt rules in a shorter time frame allows for more flexible and responsive management of fish and wildlife to meet federal requirements, biological needs, and stakeholder interests for the species in question.

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3. Do you favor legislation that would exempt fish and wildlife rules from Act 21? 3. YES ___ NO ___
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BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 4. Applying for a bear tag (510215) (requires legislation)

As more hunters are getting involved in bear hunting, it is taking longer to draw a harvest permit. At present, it can take up to 10 years of accumulating preference points to receive a harvest permit. Hunters

must apply for a bear license or preference point at least once every three years to avoid losing accumulated preference points. Knowing it can take up to 10 years to receive a harvest permit, some hunters may wish to apply for up to six years of preference points at one time and to avoid the need to apply annually for a preference point.

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4. Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and the legislature to introduce a statutory change to allow hunters to apply for preference points up to six years at a time? Hunters would have the ability to request a harvest permit if a hunter would have enough points to draw a tag prior to the six years. Any remaining "pre-purchased" preference points would be lost. 4. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 5. Non-resident black bear preference point price increase (050215) (requires legislation)

The state of Wisconsin charges \$4.50 for a non-resident black bear preference point/license application. Wisconsin currently receives over 100,000 applications for just over 10,000 bear licenses making black bear licenses one of Wisconsin's most popular big game tags. Many other states charge \$50 or more for preference point license applications for non-resident hunters for their most popular big game tags. Charging non-resident hunters more for preference point/license applications would result in more money available to the Department of Natural Resources which could be earmarked for black bear research. It would also likely result in less competition from non-residents for black bear tags, which may result in shorter wait times for residents to draw black bear tags (currently, it can take up to 10 years to draw a harvest tag).

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5. Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and the legislature to increase the non-resident black bear preference point/license application fee to \$35? 5. YES ___ NO ___
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CDAC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 6. Division of counties into multiple deer management units (110215)

Under new herd management rules, which began to be implemented in 2014, deer are now managed along county lines. Most counties are single deer management units. In the past, units were aligned along lines of differing geography, or along lines of differing land uses. This avoided large numbers of antlerless permits which were issued to reduce a herd which has reached problem proportions in one part of the unit, from actually being used in another part of the unit where access is easier, but where deer numbers are much lower. Some County Deer Advisory Councils have asked that they be allowed to divide their counties into two or more deer management units to avoid a similar problem.

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6. Do you support the practice of allowing County Deer Advisory Councils to divide counties into multiple deer management units? 6. YES ___ NO ___
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DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 7. Allow the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC's) to extend the archery season to January 31 in the Southern Farmland Zone.

The Natural Resources Board recently adopted rules relating to deer management and hunting, and also implemented the 2012 Deer Trustee's Report. These rules adopted a December 4-day antlerless season statewide in counties that have antlerless quotas. The rule also gives the CDAC's the ability to recommend an antlerless only holiday hunt from December 24 through January 1. Current season options do not allow the CDAC's that recommend the holiday hunt to also recommend the archery and crossbow season be extended to January 31.

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7. Do you support allowing the CDAC's in the Southern Farmland Zones that recommend an antlerless holiday hunt, to also have the ability to recommend extending the archery and crossbow season to January 31? 7. YES ___ NO ___
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 8. Repeal the iron mining law (010415, 020215, 090415, 131615, 170315, 280515, 320615, 350515, 410415, 440515, 460415, 630215, 640915) (requires legislation)

2013 Wisconsin Act 1 created a new regulatory framework applicable to ferrous (iron) mining activities. The legislature modified the regulatory process applied to other metallic mines to facilitate review of future iron mining projects. Major changes included imposing a specific review timeline on DNR, removing the mandatory contested case hearing held before issuance of permits, and changing review processes and decision-making criteria related to wetlands, navigable waters, mining waste facilities, groundwater quality and water withdrawals. Iron mining projects are typically large in scale and could affect several thousand acres of land and the water resources in the vicinity of the project. The recently withdrawn GTAC Project in Iron County would have been located in the headwaters of the Bad River, which flows north to Lake Superior through the Kakagon Bad River Sloughs, a national natural landmark and a wetland of international importance.

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8. Are you in favor of repealing Act 1, the iron mining law from 2013? 8. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 9. Moratorium on new state permits for frac sand mining and processing (090115, 110515, 120215, 131515, 180315, 240315, 280315, 460615, 480215, 560415, 580215, 630115, 640815, 690215) (requires legislation)

The industrial sand, commonly called frac sand, mining and processing industry has experienced rapid growth in some portions of Wisconsin containing economic deposits of frac sand material. The mining and processing operations involve thousands of acres of land and millions of tons of product and waste materials. These operations can have a direct impact on storm water runoff, groundwater recharge, and air quality on and directly adjacent to mining and processing sites. In response to public concerns and regulatory issues the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has authorized a Strategic Analysis of Industrial

Sand Mining to be completed in 2016. The study will provide scientific information for those making future frac sand regulatory decisions.

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9. Are you in favor of the legislature imposing a moratorium on new state permits for frac sand mining and processing until any recommendations that may be developed following the completion of the Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining can be implemented? 9. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 10-11. Ban Lead from Sporting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle (131915)

Lead has been removed by law from consumer products such as gasoline and paint to reduce the amount of lead being discharged to the environment and to protect human and animal health. Non-lead shot is required for waterfowl hunting. Lead in sporting ammunition and fishing tackle is a source of lead poisoning for wildlife. Venison from deer harvested by hunters using lead ammunition has been identified as containing lead fragments. Many other states have adopted lead restrictions on a wide variety of lands and waters.

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10. Do you support the DNR requiring non-toxic shot on all department managed lands? 10. YES ___ NO ___
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11. Do you support the DNR requiring non-toxic fishing tackle under 1/2 ounce in weight? 11. YES ___ NO ___
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FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 12. Single dry land trapping opener (500315)

In 2015, raccoon, fox, and early bobcat hunting and trapping seasons, and fisher and coyote trapping season opened October 17. If there had been a wolf season, by statute, it would have opened on October 15. To simplify regulations, to reduce conflicts between trappers and bird hunters, and to take advantage of better fur conditions and fur values, some trappers have suggested that there should be a single dry land trapping opener on November 1. Hunting season openers for those same species would not change.

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12. Do you support a single dry land trapping opener of November 1? (Note: changing the opening date of the wolf season would require a change in statute). 12. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 13. Establish an otter bag limit (230214)

To harvest an otter in Wisconsin, a trapper must first be awarded a harvest permit through a lottery process. They do not receive a permit every year. Populations are estimated statewide, then the available permits are divided between the three units based on past experience in each unit. Many trappers believe that populations are higher than estimated. They are frustrated that they are unable to trap otters every year, and can rarely take more than one otter per year. It is suggested that a system similar to neighboring

states with a season bag limit for all trappers of two otters each season, would create more opportunities. They believe that current otter numbers would support this increased harvest.

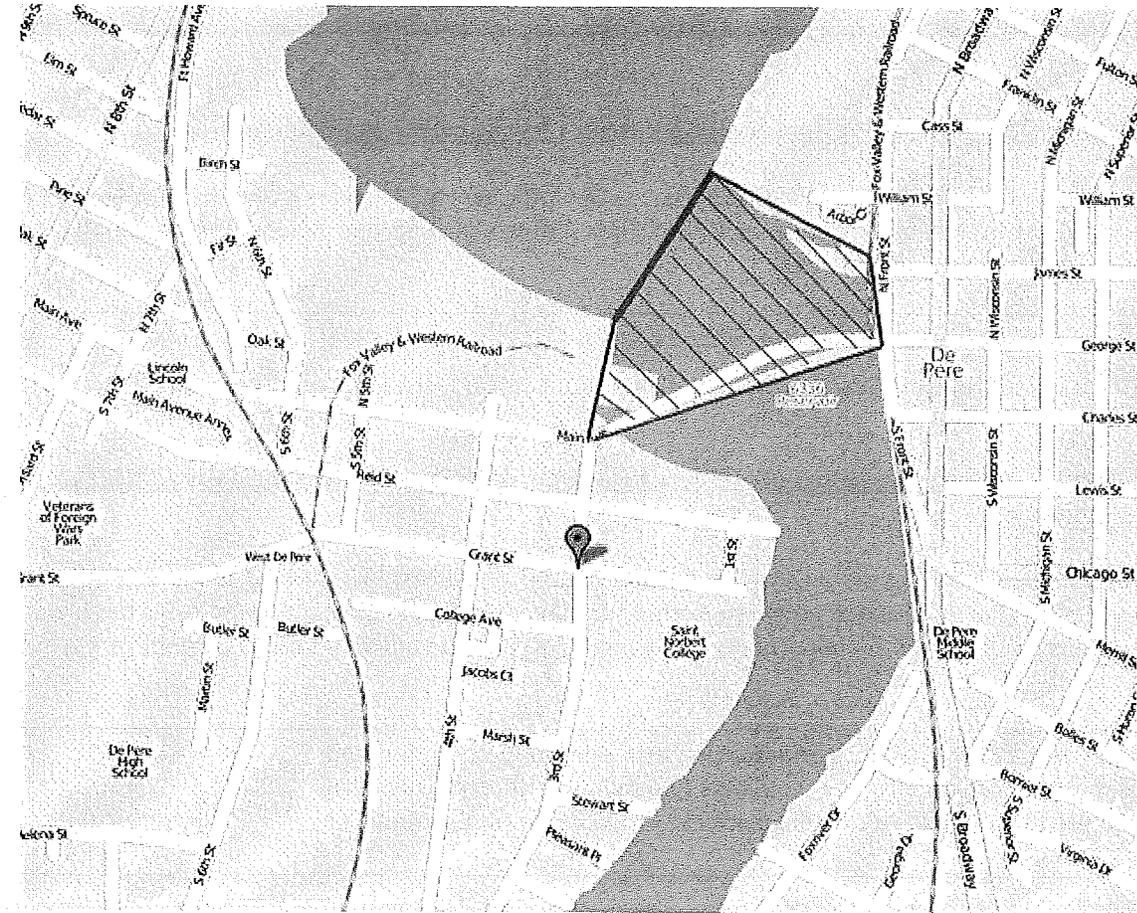
13. Do you support an otter season with no lottery, and a season bag limit of two per licensed trapper? 13. YES ___ NO ___

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 14. Modification of the early season walleye fishing in the Fox River (050515)

Current fishing regulations and new access to the river along the river walk in De Pere has increased access for anglers to this popular area during the spring walleye run. Night fishing creates unique challenges for law enforcement and illegal activities can be more difficult to detect at night. A night fishing prohibition area, similar to those found on the Peshtigo and Oconto River systems, could be established to assist law enforcement in reducing the illegal activity in this area during the spring walleye spawning run. (See the proposed area on the map.)

14. Would you support a nighttime fishing prohibition during the spring walleye spawning run (March 1 to the regular fishing opener) within the shaded area below the De Pere Dam on the map? 14. YES ___ NO ___



LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 15. Hunting and trapping on DNR lands at Strawberry Creek (150215)

The WI DNR currently operates a fish hatchery on two contiguous forty acre parcels on Strawberry Lane in Sturgeon Bay, Door County. These 80 acres are designated as a fish hatchery which by State Statute 20.089(1) precludes hunting or trapping on the property. The department only uses a small portion (approximately 5 acres) for fish hatchery activities. The remaining area is suitable to hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities that would not impact the fish hatchery operations and could provide a valuable opportunity for outdoor activities on property already owned by the Department.

This proposal would have the Department make a request to the Natural Resources Board to re-designate the areas of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not used by the fish hatchery as a statewide fish habitat area rather than as a fish hatchery. This re-designation would open this acreage to public use.

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15. Do you favor the DNR making a request to the NRB to re-designate the portion of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not utilized by hatchery activities to a statewide fish habitat area, thus opening the acreage to public use? 15. YES ___ NO ___
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16. Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License (requires legislation)

The current cost of a Conservation Patron License is \$165 for persons 18 years and older. For anyone age 12-17, a Conservation Patron License is \$75. Senior Citizen Fishing and Senior Citizen Small Game Licenses are offered at a reduced price.

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16. Do you favor legislation creating a Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License? 16. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 17. Initiate the selling of gift certificates for DNR licenses, fees, permits (270315) (requires legislation)

Every year thousands of people enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources. The use of many of our natural resources requires the purchase of a license, permit, or other fee. While there are many ways these can be purchased, there is currently no opportunity for someone to provide others a license, permit, or pay a fee as a gift.

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17. Do you support the DNR working with the legislature to create and implement the opportunity for customers to purchase gift certificates that can be used by others towards the purchase of DNR licenses, permits, or fees? 17. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 18. Increase scientific, professional natural resource management in the Wisconsin DNR (130215) (requires legislation)

In 1928, sportsmen and women successfully fought to establish a citizen board to oversee natural resource management in Wisconsin and to authorize that board to appoint professional natural resource managers to oversee the natural resource agency. In 1995, the legislature, while retaining the Natural Resources Board as the decision-making body for the agency, made the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the top managers for the DNR political appointees. In the past twenty years, under administrations of both parties, many senior managers have been appointed that do not have any significant education or applied experience in natural resource management.

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18. Do you favor legislation that would require at least two of the three senior DNR managers (Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Deputy Secretary) to have either an educational degree in natural resource management and five years of applied natural resource management or ten years of applied natural resource management before they are appointed? 18. YES ____ NO ____
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QUESTION 19. License fee increase (640315) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin has not had a license fee increase in over 8 years. A two to three dollar per license increase on average would potentially raise 4-6 million dollars or more. This additional money could allow the DNR to fund more biologists and wardens to better protect and understand the resources and ensure quality experiences for all resource users.

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19. Do you support the legislature increasing hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees? 19. YES ____ NO ____
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QUESTION 20. Registration of non-motorized watercraft (670215) (requires legislation)

Currently non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, etc) do not have to be registered. These watercraft utilize the services of the DNR aquatic biologists as do motorized watercraft and non-motorized watercraft can spread invasive species as can motorized watercraft. Also, if any kayak or canoe is found floating empty, law enforcement has no way of finding out who it belongs to or if someone is missing. A fee of \$15/3 years could generate as much as \$1.5 million in revenue (estimate based on 100,000 non-motorized watercraft) and could be utilized for prevention of invasive species. Groups with multiple non-motorized watercraft or unique circumstances (ex. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc) could pay a special group fee.

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20. Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and legislature to establish a non-motorized watercraft fee via the legislative process? 20. YES ____ NO ____
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MIGRATORY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 21. Removal of Waterfowl Blinds on Public Lands (680315)

Permanent waterfowl blinds are allowed on public water/land beginning 7 days prior to the start of any waterfowl season and must be removed within 7 days of the end of the waterfowl season.

Because of poor late season access and difficulty locating or identifying the builder of these blinds, many are not removed. The result can be dangerous or unsightly materials left in the water or on land which can become a hazard to boaters, swimmers, hikers and animals (mostly dogs). This law may also contribute to the perception of public land being reserved or "off-limits" around the area of the permanent blind.

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21. Do you favor legislation that would repeal the law that allows permanent waterfowl blinds on public water/lands? Waterfowl blinds that are removed at the end of each day would be allowed. 21. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 22. End the 16-day 1:00 pm closure in Mead Wildlife Area (370415)

The Mead Wildlife Area currently has a 16-day 1:00 pm closure of the waterfowl season to provide a refuge for waterfowl. The closure prolongs the length of time the birds stay in the area and are available to hunters. However, those hunters that wish to or are only able to hunt in the afternoon are not able to utilize the Mead because of this closure. The current 1:00 pm closure is a result of positive annual surveys of hunters who have used the Mead Wildlife Area from 2009-2014 and have shown support for the 1:00 pm closure ranging from 65%-79%.

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22. Do you favor repealing the 16-day 1:00 pm closure for waterfowl hunting at the Mead Wildlife Area? 22. YES ___ NO ___
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OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 23. Raise public awareness of DNR / conservation efforts for all Wisconsinites (130915)

Some Wisconsin citizens are uninformed or misinformed about the policies, practices, and priorities for Wisconsin natural resources.

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23. Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR and NRB to explore new ways to raise public awareness, consciousness, and improve stewardship for Wisconsin's natural resources that are beneficial to all people? 23. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 24. Learn-to-Hunt participation (140215)

Current regulations limit participation in Learn-to-Hunt events to no more than one event per species. Learn-to-Hunt was put into place as a tool for recruiting and training new hunters. Research has indicated that participation in more than one event may be needed to educate and retain new hunters.

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24. Would you support allowing individuals to participate in two Learn-to-Hunt events per species under current mentoring regulations? 24. YES ___ NO ___
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QUESTION 25. Wildlife Conservation Stamp (130515) (requires legislation)

Non-consumptive resource users have fewer opportunities to support conservation in Wisconsin. Creating a voluntary Wildlife Conservation Stamp could provide a revenue source for managing Wisconsin public lands, preserving habitat and wildlife, and give non-consumptive users a funding tool for species and habitat projects that are sometimes passed over in favor of game animal priorities.

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25. Would you support legislation to create a Wildlife Conservation Stamp that would generate funds to help support DNR budgets for conservation efforts for all wildlife? 25. YES ___ NO ___
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<p>TROUT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION</p>

QUESTIONS 26. Alternate bag limits for Wisconsin's trout fisheries (020315, 040615, 131215, 240215, 260215, 330215, 370615, 450215, 460215, 480115, 490315, 520615, 560315, 700215)

The DNR has the authority under s. NR 20.35, Wis. Adm. Code, to set alternate, temporary size and/or bag limits for warm water fish species such as walleye, largemouth and small mouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, and panfish in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource in a particular waterbody. The alternate limits are intended to be temporary, corrective measures applied to species currently managed under general statewide size and bag limits. No such option for temporary size and bag limits currently exists for trout species (brook, brown, rainbow) in NR 20.35.

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26. Do you support amending NR 20.35 to include—by name—the three trout species of our state (brook, brown, rainbow) and an alternate temporary size limit and bag limit for each that would apply under certain circumstances alongside the warm water species already protected via listing in the administrative code? 26. YES ___ NO ___
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TURKEY & UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTIONS 27. Allowing unused spring turkey permits to be used in 5th and 6th hunting seasons (520215)

Results from the DNR's spring turkey hunter questionnaire, indicate over 65% of respondents believe the separate 6-week time periods are important to maintain a quality spring turkey hunting experience. However, a hunter may experience unforeseen circumstances (land access, health issues, permit availability, schedule conflicts, inclement weather, etc.) that may limit or hinder their ability to hunt in the zone or time period that they may have applied and purchased their permit for under the current six-period spring turkey season.

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27. Would you be in favor of expanding the spring turkey hunting opportunities while maintaining the existing six-period season structure by allowing unsuccessful turkey permit holders from time periods 1,2,3, and 4 the use of their unfilled permits during the 5th and 6th time periods in their specific zone? 27. YES ____ NO ____
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WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28. Reopening the year round walleye fishing season on the Lower Black River (270415)

Anglers are currently not allowed to keep or fish for walleyes during the closed season (first Sunday in March to the first Saturday in May) on the Lower Black River. More consistent and regulated water releases at the dam, watershed improvements and other factors have contributed to making the Lower Black River the fishery it is today. By allowing the walleye season to be open year round, only a small amount of time would be added to actual angler effort. Ice break up and high flows from snow melt along with precipitation events would limit the amount of time anglers can actually pursue walleyes in the spring. The walleye population would be further protected by current statewide minimum length limits or slot length and bag limits. Opening the walleye season year round would provide additional recreational opportunities.

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28. Do you favor opening the walleye season year round on the Lower Black River? 28. YES ____ NO ____
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QUESTION 29. Increasing the musky size limit on Trout Lake (Vilas County) to 50 inches (640715)

Trout Lake has the size, population density and forage base consistent with development of fish to a trophy size of 50 inches or more. Management of Trout Lake to "trophy" potential may benefit local economies with increased tourism. Trout Lake currently has a minimum length limit of 45" for muskellunge.

29. Do you favor raising the minimum size limit for muskies on Trout Lake from 45 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish. 29. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTIONS 30. Holding fish for personal gain

In the past, fish have been retained with the intent to keep them alive for later use in tournaments, photo opportunities, and for guides to misleadingly promote their business. Some of these fish are retained for weeks. Many people feel that this is unethical. No current law prevents this activity.

30. Would you favor a rule that would prohibit anyone who receives or may receive compensation for fishing activities from storing live game fish with any unattended storage device on any body of water beyond the day of catch? 30. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 31. Elimination of size limit on largemouth bass on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County (040415)

Historically, Diamond Lake has been primarily a walleye and smallmouth bass fishery. In recent times, the population of largemouth bass has increased significantly. Other area lakes with similar circumstances have instituted reductions in size limits on largemouth bass to reduce their populations, and improve walleye fishing.

31. Would you favor eliminating the size limit on largemouth bass in Diamond Lake? 31. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 32. Muskellunge size limit increase on North and South Twin Lake, Vilas County (640615)

North and South Twin Lakes have the size, population density, and forage base consistent with development of fish to trophy size of 50 inches and more. Raising the minimum size limit for musky may benefit local economies due to increased tourism.

32. Would you support a rule change to raise the minimum size limit for muskellunge on North and South Twin Lakes from 40 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish. 32. YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 33. Reduce Yellow Perch daily bag limit on Bearskin Lake, Oneida County (440115)

Rusty Crayfish are an invasive species present in Bearskin Lake. Yellow perch, nine inches or longer, are effective predators on Rusty Crayfish. Currently there is a 25 per day bag limit on Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake. A reduction of the bag limit on Yellow Perch to 10 per day may allow more perch to remain in the lake and grow to a size that could have an impact on the Rusty Crayfish population.

33. Would you support lowering the daily bag limit of Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake from 25 fish per day to 10 fish per day? 33. YES ___ NO ___
