

Joint Warm Water/Great Lakes Committee Meeting

(September 27th, 2008 at the Royal Inn, Stevens Point, WI)

10:00am call to order

Resolution 030208 Green Bay Musky Size Limit Increase: presented by Jay Zahn, emails shared by Joe Weiz, motion to support made and seconded by joint committee members, discussion followed with input from fisheries biologists stating that 50" is the average maximum length on these fish and there was no biological reason for not raising the limit to 54". Others expressed their concern about "the trophy mentality" being imposed on all fishermen on a number of water bodies throughout the state. The resolution passed by a joint committee vote to be forwarded to the executive council at 10:55am.

Resolution 050408 Northern Pike Slot Size Regulation on Green Bay: Motion to support was made and seconded by the joint committee. Discussion followed with many in support, but it was noted that a slot size would likely not have any effect on large northern pike population in the waters of Green Bay, nor would this make the regulations easier for fishermen or law enforcement. The resolution passed by a joint committee vote to be forwarded to the executive council at 11:09am.

Resolution 150108 Dark House Spearing on Outlying Waters: Motion was made and seconded to support the resolution. Strong concern was expressed about this resolution, given the previous two resolutions and anglers misidentifying spotted musky for northern pike and difficulty with determining size, given the above proposed slot size rule change. The resolution was supported by some, but the final vote by the joint committee at 11:21am was 7 in favor, 14 apposed, and 7 abstaining. Dave Tupa will contact the author.

Department updates were given to both committees about VHS, the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, the lack of action to prevent the spread of invasives around the Rapide Croche water way, and on invasive species classification was discussed.

The joint committee discussed the EA on cormorant damage where it was mentioned that a statement was sent by the Conservation Congress Chair (Ed Harvey) and WCC Great Lakes Chair (Dale Mass), endorsing the plan to control cormorant populations in the Great Lakes. In addition, the WCC Great Lakes Committee Secretary (Dave Tupa) noted that he encouraged his 26 environmental science students from Fish Creek, WI to write letters to the USDA Wildlife Services office with their opinions on cormorant management. All of Dave's high school students were shown the EA report on cormorant damage and then wrote letters, responding to the report. Bill Horns commented that people in the DNR/USDA were commenting on the mass of letters received from the students.

Great Lakes Study Committee Meeting:

At 12:30pm the Great Lakes Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Dale Maas. Roll call was taken: Committee members present at the meeting were: Dale Mass, David Tupa, Richard Alvin, Donald Anderson, Richard Becker, Alvin Bochler, Pete Petrouske, Richard Pladies, Bruce Prentice, William Tisch, Ronald Vander loop, Robert Bernson, and Michael Witkiewicz. Also present were DNR liaisons Bill Horns and Chris Groth, DNR Fisheries Biologist Mike Seider, WCC Chairman Ed Harvey, Kurt Thiede, and resolution author Steven Alt. Absent and excused were Norman Blohm, John Blumreich.

Dale Mass distributed a draft mission statement that was edited and rewritten with help from Kurt Thiede. A motion was made and seconded to approve the mission statement. A unanimous vote accepted the revised mission statement for the Great Lakes Study Committee.

Dale Mass brought forth a perch fishing question/resolution authored by Steve Alt with an explanation that this resolution was not passed in Milwaukee County due to a technicality and declared not valid by Joann the county chair. Therefore, it lacks a resolution number. Rather than leave this open for another year, Dale took the position that we could bring it to the committee as advisory and with Ed and Joann's knowledge of that action. Steve Alt, the author of the resolution provided hand-outs and supporting information to back the resolution. (There was some discussion about a resolution by Steve Alt to permanently close commercial fishing for yellow perch on Lake Michigan that passed the Great Lakes review last year, was placed on the spring questionnaire, and passed statewide 60/72 counties, but no action was taken by the DNR, nor was there clear communication why no action was taken. Bill Horns explained to the committee that the DNR is bound by the state legislation on the books to provide commercial fishing in the state.) The current proposal is to close commercial fishing in three grids that are important for yellow perch in Lake Michigan. The committee discussed this resolution, made a motion and second to approve the resolution, drafted a question with the help of Kurt Thiede to include a map of the grids, and unanimously approved the resolution to be forwarded for the executive council to review.

Informational items and updates were provided to the committee by the DNR about "Wind on Water" see their website: www.AWEA. An update on the Great Lakes Compact was provided by Bill Horns. A report on ballast water legislation was presented to the committee with hand-outs from the American Great Lakes Ports Association. A motion was made and seconded to have the committee go on record by sending a letter in support of ballast water legislation controlling the introduction of exotic/invasive species and contaminants into the Great Lakes. All were unanimously in favor of this request. The lake trout restoration plan was also presented with three hand-outs from Bill Horns.

3:15 A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All agreed.

Respectfully written and submitted by Dave Tupa, WCC Great Lakes Committee Secretary