

Warm Water Study Committee

Minutes

12/11/2010

Meeting called to order .

Roll call. Due to the weather there were 10 members absent and excused for the weather.

Those who called in the conference call were enough to establish a quorum.

A moment of silence was observed for Sherm Jacobson, a longtime WCC Warm Water Committee member who passed away this past year.

The warm water mission statement was reviewed

There was no public comment

Department review by Tim Simonson

Proposals of statewide and regional interest and significance

In general, the proposals considered to be of statewide or regional significance are those in which proposed changes to Administrative Code affect boundary or Great lakes waters or large waters with a high statewide public profile, or where changes represent a broad change in management policy.

1. Using quick-strike rigs when fishing with an 8-inch or longer minnow as bait: This rule would require the use of a quick-strike bait rig with one or more three-point treble hooks attached to the body of the minnow or sucker when using an 8-inch or longer minnow. The rule is expected to reduce delayed hooking mortality in muskellunge caught on live bait.
2. Trolling inland waters of the State: This rule would allow a disabled person who holds a current fishing license or a trolling permit to troll inland waters of the State using an electric motor. This rule will make administrative code consistent with existing statutory language.
3. Walleye, sauger, and hybrids increased minimum size restriction: This rule would increase the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches and decrease the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and hybrids for waters in 19 southern Wisconsin counties, the Kickapoo river downstream of the Gays Mills dam (Crawford county), and Lake Michigan tributaries and waters south of a line due east from the eastern terminus of Waldo Boulevard in the City of Manitowoc. The rule is expected to increase angler walleye catch per hour, average stock of adult walleye, and yield potential. It is also

expected to protect female walleyes to age 4 to allow at least one year of spawning and to simplify fishing regulations by county.

Waters with walleye regulations to be exempted from the rule include the Lower Wisconsin river upstream from the Prairie du Sac dam to the Kilbourn dam (Columbia and Sauk counties) where the daily bag limit will remain at 5 fish in total with a minimum size restriction of 15 inches, except the possession of fish from 20 through 28 inches is prohibited and only one fish may be longer than 28 inches; the Baraboo river (Columbia county), and Monona, Kegonsa, and Waubesa lakes and the Yahara river upstream of Dunkirk dam (Dane county) where the daily bag limit will remain at 5 fish in total with a minimum size restriction of 15 inches; the Mississippi river (Grant county) where the daily bag limit will remain at 6 fish in total with a minimum size restriction of 15 inches for walleye and no size restriction for sauger and hybrids; and Yellowstone lake (Lafayette county) where the daily bag limit will remain at 2 in total with catfish, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass with a minimum size restriction of 15 inches and a maximum size restriction of 18 inches. The 15-inch size limit will also remain on sauger and hybrids in the Lower Wisconsin river, downstream from the Prairie du Sac dam (Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland, and Sauk counties).

4. Statewide muskellunge size restrictions: This rule would increase the statewide minimum size restriction from 34 to 40 inches for muskellunge on approximately 600 waters. It would decrease the minimum size restriction to 28 inches for muskellunge on ten waters: English and Mineral lakes (Ashland county), Bearskin, Booth, Julia, and Squaw lakes (Oneida county), Butternut and Solberg lakes (Price county), Spider lake (Sawyer county), and Upper Gresham lake (Vilas county). As a result, twenty waters would have a 28-inch minimum size restriction and 20 waters would continue to have a 45- or 50-inch minimum size restriction. The rule is expected to meet the expectations of anglers, protect female muskellunge to full maturity, and simplify regulations statewide.
5. Wisconsin-Michigan cisco, whitefish, and hybrid harvest: This rule would establish a continuous hook and line fishing season for cisco (lake herring), whitefish, and hybrids in the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary waters with a possession and daily bag limit of 10 in total and no size limit. This rule is expected to provide protection to the spawning population of these species. Michigan has agreed to pursue a similar change to their regulations which will make Wisconsin and Michigan rules consistent.

Proposals of local interest and significance:

In general, the proposals considered to be of local significance are those in which minor adjustments are made to Administrative Code. These are generally adjustments to angler daily bag limits, rules governing what sizes of fish may be harvested, or opening and closing dates for open seasons within individual water bodies.

The Department proposes to:

6. increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge in Rice and Stump lakes (Barron County);
7. establish a protected slot for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Lilly lake (Brown County) that allows hook and line fishing from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, a daily bag limit of 3 in total, and no minimum length, except the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited;
8. reduce the daily bag limit from 25 to 10 fish in aggregate for panfish in Lilly lake (Brown County);
9. eliminate the 15-inch minimum size restriction on walleye, sauger and hybrids in the Lower Fox river (Brown County) to make regulations consistent with the adjacent waters of the Lower Fox river in Outagamie and Winnebago counties;
10. eliminate the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in all waters of Burnett County except Clam, Namekagon, St. Croix, Totagatic, and Yellow rivers which would retain a minimum size restriction of 14 inches, and all waters of Washburn County except Balsam, Birch, Red Cedar and Shell lakes, Trego Flowage, and Namekagon and Totagatic rivers which would retain a minimum size restriction of 14 inches;
11. modify hook and line fishing for catfish in all waters of Green Lake and Marquette counties, which includes a continuous open season for channel catfish and an open season from the first Saturday in May to September 30 for flathead catfish; a daily bag limit of 25 in total but only 1 may be flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline; and no minimum size restriction except 30 inches for flathead catfish and

possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited. These changes make hook and line fishing for catfish consistent with rules in Lake Winnebago system waters;

12. re-establish in open area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish on the Fox river 500 feet above the first dam upstream from Princeton to Wicks Landing at Fox River Drive (Green Lake County) from the Saturday nearest May 20 to September 30. There will be no bag limit, but only 1 may be a flathead catfish regardless of whether caught on hook and line, set or bank pole, or setline, and no minimum size restriction except 30 inches for flathead catfish and possession of flathead catfish from 36 to 42 inches is prohibited;
13. re-establish a closed area for set or bank pole and setline fishing for catfish in Lake Winnebago system waters except for waters from Lake Butte des Morts upstream to Eureka dam;
14. increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for spotted muskellunge brood stock lakes, including Archibald and Anderson lakes (Oconto County), and Big Elkhart lake (Sheboygan County);
15. eliminate the minimum size restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in the Minocqua Chain (Oneida County);
16. increase the minimum size restriction from 15 to 18 inches and decrease the daily bag limit from 5 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in the Minocqua Chain (Oneida County);
17. add the Appleton Memorial Park (Outagamie County), Kohler-Andre Park (Sheboygan County), and Delafield Rearing (Waukesha County) ponds to the State's urban fishing program, in which there is a continuous open season but only persons under 16 years of age or disabled pursuant to s. 29.193 (3) (a), (b) or (c), Stats., may fish from the second Saturday in March to but not including the last Saturday in April, and in which persons may possess 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, sauger or hybrid in total; 10 panfish and bullheads in total; 3 trout and salmon in total, and an unlimited number of rough fish;
18. increase the minimum size restriction from 40 to 50 inches for muskellunge in Redstone lake (Sauk County);

19. decrease the minimum size restriction from 28 to 18 inches and increase the daily bag limit from 1 fish to 3 fish for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in Black Dan and Island lakes (Sawyer County);
20. establish a protected slot for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Glen and Squaw lakes (St. Croix county) that allows hook and line fishing from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March with a bag limit of 3 fish in total and no minimum length, but the possession of fish from 14 through 18 inches is prohibited, and only one may be longer than 18 inches;
21. establish a year-round fish refuge in the Milwaukee River within the fishway at the Thiensville-Mequon dam (Ozaukee County); and
22. alter the boundaries of an existing fish refuge on the Peshtigo river (Marinette County) because the existing privately-owned foot bridge boundary marker will be removed and extend the end date of the fish refuge from May 15 to May 31.

Resolution 04072010 submitted by Jim Brakken was discussed and **rejected**.

Law enforcement review by Byron Goetsch.

Ten new wardens to come on line in June of 2011

Waterguard program up and running well

Sturgeon license sales up by 20%

The department will be submitting resolutions asking for the use of crossbows for rough fish.

Discussed the transportation of aquatic vegetation, and the new rules regulating vegetation removal from boats and trailers. Law enforcement statewide will now enforce the new rule.

Citizen resolutions

04062010 Manage largemouth and smallmouth as separate species. **Advanced**

04082010 Northern pike size limit on Diamond Lake. **Advanced**

04092010 Reduce bag limits on Trapper Lake Bayfield County. **Rejected**

170110 Reduce panfish bag limit on Eau Galle Lake Dunn County. **Advanced**

200110 Musky survey using the ALIS system. **Advanced**

210210 Reduce largemouth size limit on Trump Lake in Forest County. **Advanced**

290110 Musky size limit for areas on the Wisconsin River. **Rejected**

330210 Cage traps for turtles. **Rejected**

340310 No minimum length and 10 bag limit on smallmouth bass on the upper Wolf River. **Rejected**

360310 Size and bag limits on northern pike and walleye on Long Lake Manitowoc County. **Rejected**

490110 Walleye slot limit on Balsam Lake Polk County. **Rejected**

580110 Walleye restoration for the Chippewa Flowage. This was a two part resolution. Part one of the resolution was **rejected**. Part two of the resolution was **advanced**

580210 Chippewa Flowage ice fishing regulations. **Rejected**

580510 Free Ice fishing weekend. **Advanced**

580610 Walleye slot size on all Wisconsin waters. **Rejected**

590410 Northern pike daily bag limit on Caroline Pond Shawano County. **Rejected**

590510 Northern pike size limit. **Rejected**

610110 Panfish bag limit on Miller Dam Flowage. **Rejected**

6880110 Northern Wisconsin gamefish season extension. **Advanced**

Member matters

Ken Snow mentioned that there should be a rule allowing the use of electric trolling motors on the lake in the Willow River State Park

Mike Arrowood talked about aquatic vegetation management on the Winnebago Chain

Bill Herman discussed his resolution regarding statewide bass regulations.

Meeting adjourned.

Ken Snow

Secretary Warm Water