

THE PROBLEM:

The Northern Pike fishery along the South Shore of Lake Superior has declined remarkably from 10 to 20 years ago. In the past it was common to catch numbers of Pike in all different sizes from this water and its connecting sloughs and river mouths, where now it has become much more difficult for the angler to target Pike in this system. One of the main contributing factors to this decline is the increase harvest pressure on Pike due to the current regulation allowing an angler to catch and keep 2 Pike per day over 26 inches in length. Due to this regulation, this fishery has seen a significant decline in the overall number of mature spawning Pike over the 26 inch minimum size limit. Along with this regulation, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to suggest many anglers are keeping every legal sized Pike they catch.

Whereas, a slot limit type regulation is needed to protect the intermediate sized Pike in this system, allowing for a rebound in the Pike population.

Whereas, scientific studies done by qualified state/provincial and private fisheries biologists have shown that slot limit regulations to protect Pike improves both their numbers and the size structure to their population.

Whereas, many anglers enjoy fishing for Pike and will travel and spend dollars for the opportunity to catch Pike. Where, Lake Superior historically held numerous trophy class Pike and potentially can again be seen as trophy Pike destination due to its size, cold water, and exceptional forage.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Ashland County on 04/16/07 recommend that the Department of Natural Resources take action to adopt a slot limit on Northern Pike in Lake Superior, including all of it's harbors, bays (except Allouez Bay, Superior Bay, St. Louis Bay, Little Pokegama Bay, Pokegama Bay, and Kimballs Bay are considered boundary waters and are regulated by Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water regulations), tributaries (except for the St. Louis River, which is governed by Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary water regulations) and sloughs, requiring the immediate release of all Northern Pike caught between the lengths of 25 inches and 40 inches, keeping a bag limit of 2 fish, where only one fish can be under 25 inches and one fish can be over 40 inches.

Name: James K. Hudson
Address: 24 North 3rd Street Bayfield, WI 54814
County: Bayfield
Tel: (715)779-5833

Local Fish Issue
Consulted w/ local DNR
Local DNR Neither for
nor against

Signature: Bruce Prentice SPONSOR & designated representative

For Office Use Only:

County:

Passed or Failed

County Resolution Number 020107

County Vote YES 9 NO 6