

**Loon Lake Bag Limit / Size Proposal**

***The Problem:*** Loon Lake is a 33-acre lake near Mellen that is almost surrounded by Copper Falls State Park. There are six private cabins on the lake and they comprise the Loon Lake Protective Association. The lake receives heavy fishing pressure from locals, tourists and park visitors during the summer and almost daily ice fishing during the winter. In 2005, Jeff Roth (DNR Fisheries Biologist) conducted a lake survey to assess the fishery. The results showed a very modest population of fish, fish small for their age, and slow-growing fish (e.g., 15" bass was eight years old). Mr. Roth stated: *"I support a reduced panfish bag limit [10 fish/day] and additional protection for the bass population. This combination of regulations is most appropriate for this small, sensitive fishery."*

The panfish population is small because of fishing pressure. Since bass do not reach maturity until they pass the 12" length, and grow so slowly in this lake, few bass reach reproductive maturity often enough to replace those taken by fishermen.

***Whereas*** the panfish and bass populations in Loon Lake are fewer in number and small for their age, and fishing pressure appears to retard normal population and growth rates and

***Whereas*** changes in the fishing regulations for this lake have the unanimous approval of the lake association and property owners, the back up for DNR Fisheries, and the complete support of the Superintendent of Copper Falls State Park,

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that we ask the Ashland County Conservation Congress to support our request to *reduce the panfish bag limit for Loon Lake from 25/day to 10/day and change the bass regulation from the statewide limits to one fish per day no less than 18" per day.*

Name: Jerold P. Bauch Address: 36550 Loon Lake Drive, Mellen, WI 54546  
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Local Fish Issue  
Consulted w/ Local DNR  
Local DNR Agrees

Passed or Failed

Signature: Bruce Pruntyer Chair & Designated representative  
County Resolution Number: 020207

County Vote (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES 12 NO 3