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## RESOLUTION

### END THE PROVISION REQUIRING BARBLESS HOOKS DURING THE EARLY CATCH AND RELEASE TROUT SEASON

#### THE PROBLEM:

No lures are manufactured without barbed hooks and pinching down the barbs to meet current regulations to be in compliance with the regulation can be difficult and also there is no one specific test to see if the hook is legal. Numerous studies have been done on trout mortality with the barbed vs. barbless hook. For flies and lures combined, mean hooking mortality was 4.5% for barbed hooks and 4.2% for barbless hooks. The conclusion was that the use of barbed or barbless flies or lures plays no role in subsequent mortality of trout caught and released by anglers. Because natural mortality rates for wild trout in streams commonly range from 30% to 65% annually, the 0.3% difference in the two hook types is irrelevant in the population level, even when fish are subjected to repeated capture. Based on existing mortality studies, there is no biological basis for barbed hook restrictions in artificial fly and lure fisheries for resident trout. Restricting barbed hooks appears to be social issue.

#### THE SOLUTION:

Change the current regulation that requires barbless hooks during the early trout season

Therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Monroe County supports the end of the barbless hook requirement for the early catch and release trout season.

  
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Yes 28

NO 3