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2009 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution

The Problem:

Trump Lake, in Forest County, has had a size limit on largemouth bass of 18" minimum size since 1990. This was done in an effort to reduce a large population of bluegills that had been established in the lake.

DNR fish surveys in 1998 and again in 2005 showed no substantial size increase in bluegills or largemouth bass. Both surveys showed the largemouth bass population remains healthy when compared to North Central WI (NC WI) averages but the average size is lower than the NC WI by at least 2 inches average. Of all the largemouth bass captured during the surveys only 4% in 1998 and 9% in 2005 were over 15 inches in length. This indicates that with the large population of bass are not growing to the 18 inch minimum limit that would have been desired by raising the limit. Fishing pressure on the lake is average for a lake of this size and most people contacted practice catch and release on largemouth bass.

The Trump Lake Association and others in this area feel that the 18 inch minimum size limit is not having any effect on increasing the largemouth bass size structure on the lake. They also feel that the bass are over-populated and stunted so they are not growing over 18 inches thereby restricting the legal harvest of these fish.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Forest County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the DNR take action to reduce the largemouth bass size limit on Trump Lake to 14 inches minimum.

QUENTIN VELICER

~~Tom Swanson~~, President, Trump Lake Association

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County Vote: Yes X; No _____

Local Issue

No indication as to whether or not the local fisheries staff had been contacted.