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April 12, 2010

Resolution to the Conservation Congress

Title: Wisconsin Muskellunge Survey using the ALIS Licensing System

The problem: Muskellunge are managed in Wisconsin as a trophy fish, not a sport fish. Size limits are implemented on a lake by lake basis based more often on social desires than on the biology of the lake or the muskellunge population in the lake. Every year at the Congress Spring Hearings there are requests for larger or smaller size limits introduced for various lakes in Wisconsin that add to the complexity of muskellunge regulations. This process has made regulations that pertain to muskellunge the most complex regulations for any fish species in Wisconsin.

The number of anglers that fish exclusively muskellunge, the number of anglers that catch and keep muskellunge and the number of muskellunge that are actually harvested for consumption are all unknown. To manage muskellunge populations as trophy fish based on statewide angler exploitation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the citizens attending Conservation Congress Spring Hearing in Fond du Lac County on April 12, 2010 recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural to implement a statewide muskellunge fishing survey in 2011 using the ALIS Licensing System asking the following questions

- 1. Did you fish exclusively for muskellunge in Wisconsin at any time in 2010?
YES ___ NO ___
- 2. Did you catch muskellunge at any time while fishing in Wisconsin in 2010?
YES ___ NO ___
- 3. Did you keep a muskellunge that you caught in Wisconsin, for any reason in 2010?
YES ___ NO ___
- 4. How many muskellunge did you keep in 2010? ___

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