#4 250410 Iowa Co.

Title: Chippewa Flowage ice fishing and panfish regulations

The Problem: The Chippewa Flowage is the only inland water in Wisconsin specifically closed to ice fishing. Ice fishing for all species was initially closed in the 1950's. The primary issues at that time were associated with significant winter drawdowns of the flowage and included health and safety concerns due to open water areas in submerged river channels as well as angler competition and overharvest of fish concentrated by the lower water levels. These concerns were primarily social in nature. Overwinter drawdowns only accounted for an approximate 20% reduction in the size of the flowage at the time and currently are less significant. Growing angler interest in allowing ice fishing prompted a regulation change in 1997 which allows a daily bag limit of 15 panfish, excluding crappie which is still closed, from December 1 to the first Sunday in March and a daily bag limit of 25 panfish, of which only 15 may be crappie, from the first Saturday in May through November 30. This combined harvest has not damaged panfish populations. In addition, a Conservation Congress Advisory Question to allow some winter harvest of crappie was approved at the 2009 spring hearings. Changing the panfish daily bag limit to 25 in aggregate will provide a standard harvest limit year-round than the current regulations and extend the seasonal angling opportunity by several months.
Changing the open season for anglers on the Chippewa Flowage to one consistent with statewide regulations will provide additional angling opportunity.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 12, 2010 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this problem by introducing rule changes most likely to achieve management objectives.

Sawyer County: Chippewa Flowage

Do you favor:

Creating a continuous (year-round) open season for all panfish with a daily bag limit of 25 per day (aggregate) on the Chippewa Flowage and all connected waters upstream of the Chippewa flowage (Winter) dam?

YES _____ NO _____

Name of Author: Rick Olson

Address: W5989 Lake Winter Road

Winter, Wi. 54896

Name of county introducing in: Sawyer

Submitted by: ~~Mike Dreischmeier~~ Steve Holmes

County of Iowa