

680110

Title: Northern Wisconsin Gamefish Season Extension

Proposal: To extend the Northern Wisconsin gamefish season for all inland waters within the Northern Zone (north of Hwy 10), excluding boundary waters until the second Sunday in March of each year. (Range of dates would fall between March 7 – March 14.)

Present: The first Sunday in March is currently the end of the gamefish season statewide, for all regular inland waters. There is no general differentiation between Northern or Southern Management Zones for close of the gamefish season.

Advantages of extending the Northern Wisconsin gamefish season would include:

- An increase in inter/intrastate tourism which would promote a significant economic benefit to the region.
- Increased angling opportunity with no biological detriment to the fishery, or safety of ice angling.
- More consistent rule structure in comparison with the average ice out dates of the Southern Zone. (The average ice out date for Southern Wisconsin inland lakes is March 21, and Northern Wisconsin inland lakes is April 21.)
- No interference with licensing as the Wisconsin licenses expire March 31.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waukesha County on April 12, 2010 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action, by introducing a rule change extending the Northern Wisconsin gamefish season (north of Hwy 10), to the second Sunday in March of each year.



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