

58-05-2011

Title: Include Spider Lake (Sawyer County) as a 40-inch muskellunge lake.

**The Problem:**

The pending vote and approval of a Muskellunge 40-inch size limit on most waters statewide, while long overdue, singles out 10 lakes in the state where the minimum size limit would be reduced from 34-inches to 28-inches. They are considered to be slow growth waters.

DNR surveys in 2006 and 2008 were used to support the argument that Spider Lake is a slow growth lake with a large number of small fish. Over the same period, area guides and other Musky fisherman noticed an increase in the number of fish well over 28".

Many different factors affect sampling results including timing, weather, water temperature, and sampling effort, to name a few. It is not unheard of to reach different conclusions when comparing short-term (spring) and long-term (ice out to ice up) observations.

While the majority of musky anglers practice catch and release, designating Spider Lake as a 28-inch lake has the potential to attract anglers who are not conservation minded and don't realize that muskies especially larger ones, need to be protected.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Sawyer County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to designate Spider Lake (Sawyer County) as a 40-inch muskellunge lake.

Name of Author:

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Name of the County Introducing In: Sawyer

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