

37-02-13

Title: Game fish bag and slot limits on Upper Rib River

The Problem:

Game fish populations on the Rib River have been greatly decimated over the years due to ecological changes, fishing pressure and other factors. The Rib River is not large enough nor are fish populations high enough to sustain bag limits of 5 walleye, northern, and bass each.

Current regulations are daily bag limits of 5 for walleye, northern, and bass. There is a 15 inch minimum size limit on walleye, 14 inch on bass, and no size limit for northern.

I propose that the size minimums stay the same but change the daily bag limit to 2 walleye, 1 northern, 1 bass each. A slot limit on walleye should also be applied either to agree with the Wisconsin River slot of 20-28" or a smaller slot of 19-26" due to the size of the river and to protect some of the smaller fish as well. Whichever the state sees fit but one should definitely be instituted. Due to possible changes on the lower part of the Rib River below the highway 29 bridge, these regulations would be instituted north of the 29 bridge upstream to County Road A.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Marathon county on April 08, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change to change bag and slot limits.

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