

21 04 14

## Attended Lines Definition

### The Problem:

The definition of attended lines in open water is you must be within 100 yards of any line at any time. (page 8 of the regs.) The definition of attended lines while ice fishing is quite different and vague. Through the ice a line must be attended immediately. If you are a mile across a lake and start to move toward a tip up when it is tripped, you are legally attending that line. Even though the fish may have the bait and hook swallowed by the time you actually get there to set the hook. Now with some of the new electronics, you can set in your cabin watching the flat screen waiting for an indicator light to go on telling what line is tripped. Also now, there is an App for your smart phones which will text you which tip up just went up. With all the new electronics helping the fishermen, somewhere along the line we have to draw a line and give the fish a break. You can now legally fish from the living room of your cabin while watching the Super Bowl, waiting for a text on your smart phone. I ask, is this what we call fair chase?

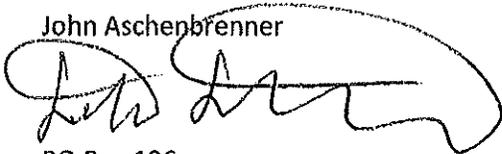
Wisconsin law permits (3) three lines, where MN allows (2) through the ice, but in MN there is a maximum distance you can ever be any of your lines and still be considered attended.

With size limits and slot sizes being used more and more in Wisconsin's fish management programs, immediate response to a close line will reduce the deep hooking of under sized or slot fish, which must be released.

### Therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Forest County, on April 14, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by changing the definition of attended line, any time of the year, to be no more than 100 yards from any one of your lines at any time.

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