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Establishing Reduced Bag Limits and Increased Size Limits on Steelhead in the Wisconsin Waters of Lake Michigan and its Tributaries.

The Problem:

Because of declines in steelhead (Rainbow Trout) returns, especially during the last few years as witnessed by tributary fishermen and confirmed by the WDNR, we need to limit harvest until we can address the factors contributing to the problem and apply suitable solutions.

We know that some of the contributing factors are decreased stocking numbers, minimal natural reproduction, additional fishing pressures, excessive size and bag limits, predation, diseases, and other environmental reasons. We need to limit harvest until we can verify the problems and establish suitable solutions to bring steelhead (Rainbow Trout) back to sustainable populations. If we continue at the present rate of decline without addressing harvest numbers we may drop below fish populations necessary to sustain the fishery.

This has been endorsed by the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Kewaunee County on April 13, 2015, recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to establish a daily bag limit of one steelhead (Rainbow Trout) with a minimum length of 26 inches similar to one fish of 26 inch bag limit currently in place for Lake Superior.

Name: Jeffry J. Treu

Name of Organization: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Address: 16 Tabbert Ave.

City, State, Zip Code: Ripon, WI 54971

Name of the County Introducing In: Kewaunee

Telephone Number: 920-410-1250

