

4701-16

Title: Spring Walleye Fishing Season

The number of Walleye in Wisconsin Rivers and Lakes are ~~are~~ declining. The fact that Walleye can be caught below the dams in both Alma and Red Wing during the months of March 1- May 1st, has greatly hindered the ability for Walleye to spawn and create enough offspring to sustain and populate the rivers and lakes. The decline has especially been noticeable over the past 3-5 years, and if this continues, the Walleye population will significantly be affected.

State laws currently allow for the harvesting of Walleye over **15** inches at both of these locations.

Spawning size is typically between ~~15-28~~ <sup>18" and up</sup> inches. For this reason, walleye fishing should be limited to under 18 inches or 1 over 28 inches, to allow for the Walleye to be able to spawn and repopulate.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Pepin county of April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to limit walleye fishing should be limited to under 18 inches <sup>and</sup> ~~or~~ 1 over 28 inches during the months of March 1- May 1, to allow for the Walleye to be able to spawn and begin to repopulate.

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