

Citizen Resolution # 59 05 16

Title: Wolf River System Spring Hook and Line Sturgeon Fishing Season

The Problem:

Although there is a sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago and the upper lakes, there is no provision for a hook and line season for those sportsmen that have no interest or desire to take part in spearing.

There is a harvestable population of sturgeon in the system. At present there is no season for a hook and line season on the Wolf River System. If I want to hunt deer, I have a choice of using a bow, a crossbow, a pistol, a shotgun, or a rifle. Hook and line fishermen deserve an equal opportunity at obtaining a harvest tag. At present the DNR sets a spearing harvest limit for the upper lakes and Lake Winnebago. Many times this limit is met, often in just a few days. This year the limit was not met due to poor ice and water conditions. What I am proposing is to let hook and line fishermen apply for a tag to make up for the fish that could not be harvested during the spearing season.

Be it Resolved that the Conservation Congress at it's annual meeting recommend to the Department of Natural Resources that it take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to allow for a hook and line season for Lake sturgeon on the Wolf River System with a harvest tag limit equal to the number of fish not harvested during the spearing season.

This resolution should include the following provisions:

1. Limit the number of tags to one tag per successful applicant every ten years with preference points given to unsuccessful applicants
2. Limit the section of river that can be fished so that it can be easily policed.
3. Set the length of the season to 9 days, i.e. Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Dates to be set by DNR to correspond with the spring spawning run.
4. Establish a 50 inch size limit.
5. Successful applicants must wear Blaze Orange outer wear as if deer hunting. This will make it easier for wardens to police.
6. Tags will resemble deer back tags and must be displayed on the angler's back.
7. Fish must be registered within 24 hours of catch.

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