

**SUBJECT:** Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2012 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

**FOR:** JANUARY 2012 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE:**  
Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

**SUMMARY:**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will present their 2012 advisory questions to the Natural Resources Board . The questions have been approved by the WCC Executive Council for inclusion on the Spring Hearing Questionnaire and will be used to gauge public opinion on a variety of natural resources issues. The questions will be presented to the public for their input at the joint Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting/ Hearing held in each county of the state on Monday, April 9, 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information only

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

*Tim Andryk*  
Bureau Director,

01/18/2012  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator,  
*Matt Sporey*  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
1/18/12  
Date

cc: NRB Liaison  
DNR Rules Coordinator

## 2012 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

### *Air, Waste and Water Study Committee:*

#### **1. 130311- Phase-Out Felt Sole Wading Products**

Felt soles wading boots have been identified as a means of transferring sediment and aquatic invasive species such as Whirling Disease, Didymo (algae also known as rock snot), New Zealand Mud Snails, and Zebra Mussels that have devastated fisheries elsewhere across the US. Felt sole products are a contributor to transferring aquatic invasive species because the felt soles are porous and retain sediment, are difficult to sanitize between uses and may take several days to dry. The industry has developed comparable alternatives to felt sole wading products and some manufacturers have begun to phase out felt products or already stopped making them.

Recently, Alaska, Maryland, Missouri, and Vermont have ban felt sole wading products and a number of other states are considering the phasing out of felt sole products. At present there is no restriction on felt sole wading products in Wisconsin and public awareness of felt sole waders as a transport device is believed to be low. NR 40 (Wisconsin Administrative Code) does make it illegal to transport invasive species, however it is not applicable if the department determines the transportation, transfer or introduction was incidental, unknowing, or not due to a person's failure to take reasonable precautions.

Currently Zebra mussels are a known aquatic invasive species in some waters of Wisconsin and Whirling Disease has been reported in nearby states. Mud Snails and Didymo have not yet been reported in Wisconsin. A regulation to phase out the use of felt sole wading products in Wisconsin may increase public awareness of this issue and decrease the possible spread of aquatic invasive species.

Do you favor phasing out the use of felt sole wading products in Wisconsin waters?

#### **2. 040711- Wisconsin Recycling Program (requires legislation)**

The 2011-2013 state budget passed in June cut the funding for the recycling program that provides grants to local governments and responsible units from \$32 million dollars to \$20 million dollars. There is concern that the reduction in funding to these local recycling programs has resulted in an increase in cost to residents through special assessments and fees, a significant decrease in services, and may increase the improper disposal of recyclables (littering or landfilling).

Would you support returning the recycling program to its former funding of \$32 million?

#### **3. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Wetland Management Regulations (requires legislation)**

Currently, the state of Wisconsin, each of the 72 counties and many incorporated municipalities in Wisconsin have independent wetland protection rules. All or most local wetland ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear, even within the agencies, who is responsible for a particular wetland. Applications often need to be made to both the state, each of the 72 counties and

all incorporated municipalities and permits are often received from both.

To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor the transferring shore land and isolated wetland protection responsibilities to the State of Wisconsin?

#### **4. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Storm Water Management Regulations**

Currently, the state, many counties and many municipalities within those counties in Wisconsin have independent storm water management rules. All or most county and local ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear, even within the agencies, who is responsible for a particular construction site.

To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor a consolidation of permit issuance responsibilities so that both the state and county permits are issued by the counties, with the state paying part of the necessary county employee's salary and costs, and with local municipalities having the option for county permit issuance?

#### **5. Consolidating Jurisdictions for Erosion Control Management Regulations**

Currently, the state, many counties and many municipalities within those counties in Wisconsin have independent construction site erosion control rules. All or most county and local ordinances are versions of a state model ordinance. Because of these overlapping jurisdictions it is often unclear, even within the agencies, who is responsible for a particular construction site. Duplicate applications, and permits from both the state and the county are almost always required.

To reduce the number of employees required, and to make the permitting process easier to understand for permit applicants, do you favor a consolidation of permit issuance responsibilities so that both the state and county permits are issued by the counties, with the state paying part of the necessary county employee's salary and costs, and with local municipalities having the option for county permit issuance?

#### **6. Open Burning Citation Authority (requires legislation)**

The DNR does not have the authority to issue citations to individuals or businesses for the illegal open burning of prohibited materials. Each year the Department responds to intentionally set fires which contain significant quantities of illegal materials such as tires, plastic coated wiring, shingles, household appliances, mattresses and other items. Under current law, the DNR must refer illegal burning violations to the Department of Justice for legal action, which makes enforcement practical for only the most egregious cases. The general public perception is that, since illegal burning relates to the protection of air quality, proper waste management, and controlling the emission of pollutants to the environment, the DNR enforces those rules and the public often reports violations to Conservation Wardens, or to other department officials.

To better protect public health by simplifying the process, and to conform to the generally accepted public perception of government responsibilities, do you favor a statutory change which provides DNR or local law enforcement agencies with the authority to issue citations

for the illegal open burning of prohibited materials such as plastic, oily substances, shingles or other solid wastes?

**Big Game Study Committee:**

**7. 590511-Allow the Use of Rifles in All of Shawano County**

The restriction on the use of rifles for deer hunting has been largely based on safety concerns. DNR statistics have shown that the rate of shooting incidents is disproportionately higher among hunters that most often use shotguns, than among those who most often use rifles. A 2003 survey of hunters indicated that 23% of hunters use shotguns most often, while 76% of hunters most often use rifles. However, shotguns were involved in 42% of all shooting incidents from 1998 through 2008 and rifles were involved in 58% of those shooting incidents during that same time period. In the last several years the DNR has expanded the use of rifles in the CWD zone shotgun counties and several other counties have voted to remove the rifle restriction with no safety issues reported. Rifles are currently allowed for use north of Highway 29 and west of County Highway J in Shawano County. Citizens at the 2011 Spring Hearing supported allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in the area of Shawano County bounded by Highway 29 on the north, County Highway J on the west, the Waupaca County boundary on the south, and Highway 22 on the east (2,305 yea, 801 nay). This proposal would allow rifles for use during firearm deer season in all of Shawano County. Currently the areas of Shawano County with higher population density already allow the use of rifles.

Do you favor allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in all of Shawano County?

**8. 640211-Archers in Quota Units Must Apply for Antlerless Permits**

The ability of archery hunters to take any deer under the archery license was established in the 1930's. Recently, the archery license was changed to include a buck-only permit plus an antlerless-only tag valid in any unit. There has been a significant increase in the number of archery hunters in Wisconsin as well as advancements in archery equipment that have increased their success rate. Some DMU's (deer management units) now have deer populations at or below goal and are experiencing less liberal antlerless harvests to maintain or increase the deer herd in those units. In these antlerless quota units (often referred to as "buck plus quota" units), gun deer license holders must apply for an antlerless permit to limit the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested. However, archery hunters continue to be able to harvest both an antlered and antlerless deer under the archery license.

Would you support making the archery license valid only for a buck and requiring archery license holders to apply for an antlerless permit, similar to gun deer license holders, in antlerless quota units? Archery license holders could receive a free antlerless permit with their license valid in any herd control unit, just as gun deer license holders currently do.

**9. 450511-Use of Rifles for Deer Hunting North of Hwy 54 in Outagamie County**

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Currently the use of rifle cartridges in handguns and the use of muzzle-loading rifles is legal in shotgun counties. Rifles can also be used to hunt predators and small game in Outagamie County. It is currently legal to use rifles for deer hunting in Waupaca County and most of Shawano County which have similar terrain and population densities as northern Outagamie County.

Do you favor allowing the use of rifles during any firearm deer season in the area north of Highway 54 in Outagamie County?

#### **10. Creation of Public/ Private Antlerless Deer System**

Many Wisconsin deer hunters have the perception that because publicly accessible hunting areas in our state often have increased hunting pressure compared to most private lands, deer populations in those areas have been overharvested in an attempt to manage broader deer populations that have been sheltered on private land. Data collected from hunters' registration stubs for several years indicates that in many units the percentage of deer harvested on public land in the unit is disproportionately high when compared to the percentage of public land within the unit. This suggests that more of the available antlerless permits within each Deer Management Unit (DMU) are being filled on lands easily accessible by the public and not necessarily to the areas of greatest deer density.

One idea that is being considered is having separate public and private land antlerless permits in all DMUs with antlerless quotas. Each permit would be available to hunters through separated quota systems with the intention of avoiding overharvest of antlerless deer on public lands while targeting higher populations on private lands in the same DMU with an appropriate number of antlerless tags. Having more antlerless permits available for private land does not guarantee that any more deer will be harvested on private land than are currently being harvested. However, having fewer antlerless permits available for publicly accessible land would likely decrease the harvest on those areas that have increased hunting pressure, but lower deer numbers.

One concern with this option is that it differentiates between those hunters who own or have access to private land and those hunters who do not and some would say it divides the two "classes" of hunters and "privatizes" a portion of the deer herd. However, those portions of the deer herd that stay on private land, although a public resource, are effectively inaccessible to most hunters until they move on to huntable land.

Would you support the concept of separate (DMU specific) antlerless deer permits for private and public lands in any DMU with an antlerless quota?

#### **11. Northern DMU Boundaries-**

The deer herd in Northwest Wisconsin is disproportionately dispersed across the landscape with lower deer numbers in the forested portions while population levels remaining at or



Would you support a rule change to allow the trolling of a sucker or other fish for musky while position fishing with the aid of a motor?

**13. 180411 Allow Sale of Turkey Bones and Feathers (requires legislation)**

Currently state law prohibits the sale of legally harvested wild game birds. The prohibition on the sale, purchase, or bartering of most wild animals and their parts is primarily aimed at protecting certain species from illegal harvest by not creating a market for the sale of wild animals and/or their parts. Some people would like to use the bones of legally harvested wild turkeys to make calls and the feathers for decorative uses in various crafts that they could then sell. It is legal to possess and make such items from wild game birds for personal use or to give them away, but they may not be sold for a profit. Turkey bones and feathers from captive or farm raised birds may be use to make such items which would then be legal to sell.

Would you support legalizing the sale of turkey bones and feathers from legally harvested wild turkeys?

**14. 330111 Legalize Cage Type Traps for Turtles**

Cage traps were legal in Wisconsin until 1997. Currently the only turtle traps legal in Wisconsin are the hoop style funnel type trap constructed of mesh net with a six inch stretch. There is currently no restriction on the size of the trap or the number of hoops used.

Would you support legalizing a cage type trap, rectangular in shape, approximately 48 inches long by 24 inches wide by 14 inches high (48" long x 24" wide x 14" high) with a hinged door at both ends. The trap would be made of 4" x 2" heavy gauge mesh fence wire and would have four 6" openings for smaller fish and turtles to escape. The same rules would apply for the cage trap as they do for the hoop trap including staking the trap to prevent it from moving and setting the trap so that the top of the trap is at least 2" above the water level.

**15. 320311 Use of Handheld Artificial Lights to Scan While Predator Hunting (requires legislation)**

Coyotes, foxes, and raccoons are predator species with strong populations that have considerable impacts on other species. They are generally nocturnal and as such, one of the most effective times to hunt predators is at night. Current Wisconsin law, allows the use of an artificial light while hunting predators at the point of kill to identify the target, but does not allow "scanning" with an artificial light to locate and identify the target. With the increasing population of wolves, when hunting coyotes, it is particularly important to accurately identify the target. Some feel that allowing scanning is an efficient tool and would help hunters locate and accurately identify their target.

Do you favor allowing an individual engaged in hunting coyotes, foxes, and raccoons to use handheld artificial lights to "scan" under the following stipulations:

1. The hunter must be a minimum of 200 feet from their vehicle and in compliance with state firearms discharge laws and/or local ordinances regarding firearms discharge or use of lights.
2. The hunter must be stationary and not changing their location while scanning.

3. The hunter must be using a predator call and clearly engaged in predator hunting.
4. "Scanning" may only be used during times and areas where there are no gun deer seasons in effect?

**Forestry Parks and Recreation Study Committee:**

**16. 240211 Allow Bowhunting on the Closed Area of Grand River Wildlife Area**

The Grand River Marsh (GRM) State Wildlife Area is a 7,000 acre property located in southwest Green Lake County and southeast Marquette County. There is a Waterfowl Closed Area located on the west end of the wildlife area which is managed to be a rest area for migrating waterfowl. As such the west end is closed to all hunting, trapping, and boat access during all waterfowl seasons (except it is open for regular deer gun and muzzleloader deer hunting). Local bowhunters believe that deer hunting and the closed area's waterfowl refuge intent can co-exist on this public property.

The waterfowl mainly rely on the open water habitat during the migration as resting areas. Of the 7,300 acres, there are over 2,800 acres of land in the closed area and nearly 1,300 acres of open water habitat for waterfowl refuge. Some feel there is more than enough area for both bowhunters (on the wooded and upland portions of the closed area), and migrating waterfowl (in open water) within the closed area. The fact is that the GRM closed area's intent and bowhunting are amicable uses of the property due to the following:

1. Bowhunting for deer is a quiet non-intrusive sport. Bowhunting on this property would not substantially affect waterfowl in a negative way, certainly not anymore than other currently lawful activities such as hiking.

2. There are many wooded upland areas within the GRM closed area that archery deer hunters could utilize without disturbing waterfowl on the open water refuge.

3. Also, the entire property is much more wooded than it previously was when the refuge was formed, creating a visual and sound buffer to the open water areas.

4. Gun deer hunting is currently allowed during the November firearm season. While the gun deer season is generally too late to affect a majority of migrating waterfowl, during some years, there is migration that occurs during late November. Some feel that allowing gun deer hunting on this property, but not bowhunting is not an equitable treatment of the hunting public on a property that can support a waterfowl refuge and also be open to bowhunting simultaneously.

Do you support the closed area of the Grand River Wildlife Area be opened to archery hunting during all archery deer seasons?

**Fur Harvest Study Committee:**

**17. 720211 4-Day Check for Weasel Traps**

Trappers in Wisconsin use enclosures to trap weasels in winter. These enclosures are generally a shoebox size structure with an opening on one end, the trap positioned near the front of the enclosure by the opening, and the bait placed in the rear of the enclosure. These types of trap sets have been studied and the trap types recommended for use were found to meet humane standards with weasels usually expiring soon after entering the enclosure. In Wisconsin as a dry land set, it currently needs to be checked daily, but weasels in these enclosure traps in winter expire quickly, are chilled and preserved, are out

of sight from the public, and are unavailable to scavengers. And if the trap and enclosure are securely fastened to an immovable object, the recommended size of the opening and the trap are small enough that if a non-target species put a front paw in the enclosure it would be able to pull it out from a securely fastened trap without harm to the animal.

Would you support allowing trappers four days to check weasel enclosures if the enclosure meets the following requirements:

- The opening is not larger than 1 3/8 inches diameter (this size restriction would specifically target weasels and effectively eliminate the accidental take of the American marten)
- The enclosure set uses a bodygrip trap
- The enclosure is secured to an immovable object
- And the bodygrip trap is fastened down securely to allow non-target furbearers to self release without harm?

### **18. 500111 Combine Muskrat & Mink Zone into One**

The northern muskrat and mink management zone begins two weeks earlier than the southern and Winnebago zones. The Winnebago zone ends 15 days later than either the northern or southern muskrat and mink zones. The staggered openings result in "opening day" waves of harvest pressure on the resource localized in the respective zones. Some dislike the early localized harvest pressure in the northern zone during the first two weeks and feel the late ending date of the Winnebago zone adds additional unnecessary complexity to the season structure and is not widely utilized. Others feel that the staggered opening and closing dates provide additional opportunity in different areas for trappers. This is largely a social issue and changes to the opening and closing dates for the zones would have minimal impact on the resource, the fur quality, and the fur market. As a way to simplify regulations and reduce staggered "opening day" pressure, this proposal is to delay the northern zone one week and open the southern and Winnebago Zones one week earlier, and close the northern and southern zones one week later and the Winnebago zone one week earlier.

Would you support the combining of the northern, southern, and Winnebago muskrat and mink management zones into one zone, with an opening date the Saturday nearest October 22<sup>nd</sup> and closing the Saturday nearest March 7<sup>th</sup>?

### **19. Increase Trapping License by \$2.00 to Fund Permanent Position to Administer Trapper Education (requires legislation)**

Presently, the DNR is only able to fund a Limited Term Employee (LTE) Furbearer Specialist to administer the DNR trapper education responsibilities and the average turnover rate for this non-permanent position is about two years which makes it difficult for the program to expand. The Wisconsin Trappers Association and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation are proposing a \$2.00 fee increase on all trapping licenses. This revenue would be earmarked specifically for funding this trapper education specialist position.

Would you support a \$2.00 fee increase for resident and non-resident trapping licenses, and conservation patrons who trap, to fund the Furbearer Specialist position to administer the trapper education program in a permanent capacity?

**Great Lakes Study Committee:**

**20. 380111 Spring Closure for Northern Pike on Green Bay and Tributaries**

Green Bay and the surrounding tributaries provide one of the limiting factors in northern pike reproduction—suitable spawning habitat. During spring spawning northern pike are vulnerable and more concentrated when they congregate in the shallows prior to ice out. There is anecdotal evidence, from wardens and anglers observations, to suggest there has been an increase in fishing pressure on northern pike through the ice as they gather in their spawning habitat.

Would you support a change to the northern pike regulation to close the waters of Green Bay and its tributaries from after the first Sunday in March to before the first Saturday in May to protect pre-spawning and spawning northern pike?

**Legislative Study Committee:**

**21. 520411 Allow Use of Crossbows during Bear Season (requires legislation)**

Currently, the weapons that are legal to use for bear hunting with a class A bear permit include a rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader, or archery equipment. Hunters 65 years of age or older or a disabled hunter with a Class A, B, or C disabled permit may use a crossbow to harvest a black bear. Adding crossbows to the list of legal hunting equipment for any holder of a class A bear permit, regardless of age or disability, would increase hunting opportunity and flexibility by allowing hunters another weapon option they could use to hunt bear during the bear season.

Would you favor legalizing the use of crossbows during the bear season for anyone with a class A bear permit?

**22. 520311 Allow Use of Crossbows during Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons (requires legislation)**

Currently, the weapons that are legal to use for turkey hunting during the spring and fall seasons include a shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader shotgun, or archery equipment. Hunters 65 years of age or older or a disabled hunter with a Class A, B, or C disabled permit may use a crossbow to harvest a turkey. Adding crossbows to the list of legal hunting equipment for any holder of a spring or fall turkey permit, regardless of age or disability, would increase hunting opportunity and flexibility by allowing hunters another weapon option they could use to hunt turkey during the spring or fall turkey season.

Would you favor legalizing the use of crossbows during the spring and fall turkey season for anyone with a turkey permit?

**23. 180311 Create a maximum of 25 mph on Frozen Water (requires legislation)**

Winter outdoor recreation activities are increasing in popularity and there are a growing number of users on the frozen waters of the state. Anglers, snowmobilers, ATVer's, cross-country skiers, ice skaters, and Wisconsinites of all ages are often found simultaneously enjoying the frozen waters of the state. Cars, trucks, snowmobiles, and ATV's driving and riding on the frozen surface, can create safety hazards and issues for other users. Sometimes these vehicles are moving at high speeds and within close proximity to persons,

other vehicles, or structures. Vehicles moving at high speeds also contribute to some degree to the deterioration of ice conditions due to the energy wave created under the surface of the ice. ATV's and snowmobiles are currently required to slow to 10 mph on the ice when within 100 feet of a person not on a motorized vehicle or within 100 feet of an ice shanty. Speed limits for licensed motor vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) on the frozen waters of the state are not regulated on a statewide basis by state law and only some municipalities have local regulations. This proposal would create consistent regulations for all licensed motorized vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) on the frozen waters of the state.

Would you support legislation creating a maximum speed limit of 25 mph for all licensed motorized vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) travelling on frozen waters of the state unless on a designated state or club marked trail?

**24. 520711 Lesser Weapon Option for Deer, Bear, and Turkey (requires legislation)**

There is increased interest in providing additional hunting opportunity for crossbow users. The crossbow has proven to be an effective weapon for big game and small game hunting.

Would you support the legislature introduce a statute that would allow the use of a rifle, shotgun, handgun, muzzleloader, crossbow or bow under the authority of the gun deer license; the use of a shotgun, crossbow, or bow under the authority of a turkey license; the use of a bow under the authority of an archery license unless the person is 55 years of age or has a class A, B, or C disabled permit for a crossbow?

**25. 650611 Make Land Owner Preference Tags Property Specific (requires legislation)**

Landowners who obtain turkey tags through the landowner preference system can currently use those tags anywhere in the zone for which it is issued, including public hunting lands. Some areas of the state have limited public hunting access available.

Would you support legislation to make licenses obtained through the landowner turkey preference permit system valid only on private property?

**26. 130211 Sturgeon Spearing Preference Point (requires legislation)**

When a person applies for an upriver sturgeon spearing tag there is no option to apply for a preference point only. Most other programs administered by the DNR that require numerous preference points to draw a harvest tag allow the applicant to apply either for a preference point only or a harvest tag. It currently takes on average about four to five years to draw an upriver sturgeon spearing tag and many times a person will know in advance that they will not be able to use a harvest tag in a given year. By not applying the person will lose that year in preference status and by applying for the tag, the person runs the risk of getting a tag they cannot use and losing all their preference points.

Would you support the DNR change the application process for upriver sturgeon spearing tags to allow the option to apply for a preference point only?

**27. 440111 Transfer of License/Permit to Senior or Disabled Person (requires legislation)**

Some Wisconsin senior and/or disabled residents may not have the opportunity to harvest a bear, bobcat, turkey, fisher, otter, or sturgeon that requires individuals to obtain a harvest

permit using the cumulative point preference system. The length of time it takes to secure a permit varies, but can be a number of years. This extended period of time required to acquire a permit may prevent some senior and/or disabled residents with deteriorating health from participating in one of these hunting opportunities.

Would you support legislation to allow the transfer of a valid permit from a successful permit holder to a senior (65 years of age or older) or disabled resident?

**28. 200111 Use of Crossbows for Rough Fish with Valid Fishing License (requires legislation)**

Current state law does not allow for the use of a crossbow as a means of taking rough fish. Legal means are listed as spears, bow and arrow, spear guns, and other similar devices with crossbows specifically listed as unlawful (even for persons with a permit to hunt with a crossbow). Allowing the use of a crossbow would allow the bowfisher to be in the ready position longer, would expand fishing opportunity and add another tool for the harvest of rough fish.

Would you support legislation legalizing the use of crossbows for spearing/ bowfishing rough fish with a valid fishing license? All other spearing/ bowfishing laws would apply.

**Migratory Study Committee:**

**29. 350211 50% Concealment Rule for Waterfowl Hunting**

Currently waterfowl hunters are required when hunting in boats to be 50% or more concealed from one direction when looked at with shoreline vegetation at a minimum height as high as the sides of the boat used. This rule may be unique to Wisconsin. This rule was established to prevent open water hunting in areas of Wisconsin where open water hunting is not allowed.

A problem with the rule arises on flowages, or other water areas subject to draw downs. This rule prevents hunting from boats as there is no water to float a boat near enough to vegetation to meet the concealment regulation.

Do you favor a rule change that while hunting from a boat, that the boat must be stationary, and pulled close as possible to the existing natural shoreline, so that the boat becomes part of, and rests on the natural shoreline, or emergent vegetation, or on the lake bottom, on the day that the hunt is taking place?

**30. 550111 Sandhill Crane Season (requires legislation)**

The Sandhill Crane population in Wisconsin has grown in size and a population has been established. Some farmers in Wisconsin are reporting high levels of crop damage by Sandhill Cranes. Other Mississippi Flyway states are currently petitioning the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a hunting season on the eastern Sandhill Crane.

Are you in favor of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress asking the Wisconsin Legislature to give the DNR authority to develop a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes?

**31. 700211 Mekan Springs Area – Waushara Co.**

Boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities are prohibited at Mekan Springs after September 1<sup>st</sup>. This was done many years ago to create a refuge at the Greenwood Wildlife Area to protect a flock of non-migratory Canada geese. Giant Canada geese are very prevalent now to the point that they have overpopulated some areas and the formally unique nature of the Mekan Springs flock has been eliminated. Closing Mekan Springs to all outdoor activities no longer serves its original purpose and no other species exists at Mekan Springs that warrants protection and a September 1<sup>st</sup> closure. This issue has been discussed with DNR staff and they concur that a closed area is no longer needed.

Do you favor the elimination of the Mekan Springs September 1<sup>st</sup> closure area and opening the area to all outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, and trapping that are deemed compatible with this area?

**32. 520811 Canada Goose Tagging – Horicon Zone**

Current regulations require that Canada geese be immediately tagged with a validated tag before being moved or carried from the spot where they fell in the Horicon Zone. The intent of the rule is to insure proper and legal validation and placement of the harvest tag. This regulation may put the hunter in a potentially dangerous situation if the goose falls on a road or waterway. This regulation may also disrupt the hunt of others in the vicinity.

Do you favor a regulation change for the Horicon Zone that says the goose must be legally tagged at the location of kill?

**33. 490111 Exterior Canada Goose Season Dates**

Beginning in 2008 the DNR began experimenting with the opening date of the exterior Canada goose. It was thought that if the start of the exterior goose season was delayed after the early season closure, an increase in Canada goose harvest would result. While more geese were harvested on opening day, the total season Canada geese harvest did not increase. The geese taken in September are primarily local nesting geese, not Mississippi Valley Population geese from Canada. In 2011, the exterior season in both the north and south exterior zones opened the day after the early goose season closed.

Do you favor having the exterior Canada goose season start date in the north and south exterior zones, start on the day after the early season closes, unless compelling biological reasons develop to do otherwise?

**34. 060311 Delay Start to Spring Crow Season**

Wisconsin's spring crow season generally begins in January and closes in mid-March. Some other northern states open their spring crow seasons later so as to continue the season through the last weekend of March and occasionally through the first days of April. This season shift of approximately two weeks is favored by some crow hunters as it would extend crow hunting opportunities into more favorable temperatures experienced in early spring. Likewise to other migratory species, crow season length is regulated by federal law, but states have some flexibility in setting the timing of the season.

Do you support a delayed start to the spring crow season so as to allow the spring season to continue through the last weekend of March?

**Trout Study Committee:**

**35. 660411 Continuous Open Season for Trout in “Put and Take” Lakes**

“Put and take trout lakes” are lakes where legal size trout are stocked to provide anglers a fishery, but for a variety of reasons, there is little or no survival of these stocked fish from year to year and no natural reproduction. Currently, the inland trout harvest season closes in September. However, some inland lakes with trout are open from January to September, while others are open from May to March. Consequently, any trout that carryover past March will likely not survive until the May opening of the trout season, and the opportunity to harvest and maximize the utilization of this resource is lost. In addition, opening the season year around would simplify the trout regulations for all put and take lakes. These “put and take trout lakes” can be easily identified by the DNR.

Would you support the Department of Natural Resources identify “put and take trout lakes” and allow a year around season for the harvest of trout on these lakes?

**Warm Water Committee:**

**36. 580211 Walleye Restoration on Lake Chetac, Sawyer County**

The walleye population in Lake Chetac, Sawyer County, has declined in recent years, while the largemouth bass (LMB) has increased. Often, when walleye populations decline, LMB populations tend to increase. Some people would like to attempt to reduce the LMB population, in order to help the walleye population recover. It is thought by some that abundant LMB may be inhibiting walleye natural reproduction by preying on juvenile walleyes. Therefore, they are asking to eliminate the 14” size limit for LMB on Lake Chetac, Sawyer County.

Do you favor eliminating the 14” size limit for largemouth bass on Lake Chetac, Sawyer County?

**37. 580111 Eliminate the Late Opening of the Largemouth Bass Season in Northwest Wisconsin**

Some feel that the later opening of the harvest season for largemouth bass (LMB) in northwest Wisconsin has facilitated their expansion, to the point where LMB may affect already depressed walleye populations through predation on young walleyes.

Do you favor returning the largemouth bass harvest season north of Hwy. 8 and west of Hwy. 13 to the regular May opener?

**38. 590611 Reduce the Largemouth Bass (LMB) Size Limit to 12”, Shawano Lake, Shawano County**

The largemouth bass (LMB) population on Shawano Lake is healthy and increasing. It is felt by some that there is a large population of LMB under 14” that could be utilized without damaging reproduction or the overall population of LMB and would provide increased angling opportunity of this resource.

Do you favor reducing the largemouth bass size limit on Shawano Lake & the Wolf River to the first dam north of the city of Shawano from 14" to 12"?

**39. 590711, 590811 Reduced Bag and Increased Size for Northern Pike Caroline Pond, Shawano County**

Because of increased fishing pressure and loss of habitat from sedimentation, the Caroline Conservation Club recommends reducing the daily bag from 2 to 5, and establishing a minimum length limit of 26" on northern pike in Caroline Pond, Shawano County. The boundaries for this regulation would be from the dam upstream on the South Branch of the Embarrass River to County Highway M and from the dam upstream on the Middle Branch of the Embarrass River to the ATC-PAR transmission lines. The downstream boundary would be the Caroline Dam.

Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit to 2 and establishing a 26" size limit for northern pike on Caroline Pond, Shawano County?

**40. 700311 Reduced Daily Bag Limit for Panfish, Little Hills Lake, Waushara County**

There is local concern about over-harvest of panfish on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County. It is 83 acres in size and, at one time, had a reputation as a good bluegill lake. A recent lake survey showed few bluegills. The Lake District is asking to reduce the daily limit of panfish from 25 to 10, in hopes of rebuilding the bluegill population.

Do you favor reducing the panfish daily bag limit from 25 to 10 on Little Hills Lake, Waushara County?

**41. Allow Motor Trolling Statewide**

Motor trolling is trailing a lure, bait, or similar device used to attract or catch fish from a boat while being propelled (forward or backward) by a motor or a sail. Currently, motor trolling is illegal except in some counties, specified waters, and for certain disabled anglers.

Some anglers feel that allowing motor trolling statewide would reduce complexity, simplify fishing regulations, increase angling opportunity, reduce unnecessary confusion and citations, and remove any confusion about dragging suckers while musky fishing. Motor trolling is allowed in all waters of surrounding states and Ontario, without any adverse effects. If trolling were allowed statewide it would remove confusion on where you can and cannot legally motor troll, and would eliminate the need for "position fishing."

Do you favor allowing motor trolling statewide?

**42. 500211 Prohibit the Spearing of Panfish by Divers**

Presently, skin and scuba divers can spear panfish in the State of Wisconsin waters. Panfish daily bag limits have been reduced on 40 individual water bodies statewide and in St. Croix County over the past several years to protect panfish species. There are some who feel that it is relatively easy to spear panfish while diving and their ability to remove the largest of each panfish species has had a negative effect on panfish populations and size structure.

Do you support modifying the fishing regulations to include "panfish" as a fish that cannot be taken by spearing in all Wisconsin waters?

**43. 200411 Largemouth Bass Size Limit on Winnebago System**

The current 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass restricts harvest of this fish on the Winnebago system. The Largemouth Bass population on the Winnebago system is healthy and increasing. There is no documented evidence that a 14" size limit is necessary to support a healthy population of Largemouth Bass on the Winnebago system. Eliminating the 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass will provide increased angling harvest opportunity of this resource.

Do you support removing the 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass on Lake Winnebago, Poygan, Buttes des Mortes, and the Fox and Wolf Rivers upstream to the first dam on each river?

**44. 210511 Largemouth Bass Size Limit Reduction on Pickerel and Crane Lake**

The Largemouth Bass size limit on Pickerel and Crane Lakes in Forest County was changed about ten years ago to 18" to provide a "trophy bass opportunity." It is the unanimous feeling of the Commissioners and members of the Pickerel and Crane Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District of Forest and Langlade Counties that walleye, perch and other panfish populations are greatly threatened by bass size and numbers and would like to return these waters to the statewide Largemouth Bass bag (5) and size limits (14").

Do you support returning the Largemouth Bass size and bag limits on Pickerel and Crane Lakes in Forest County to the statewide limits of a 5 bag and 14" size limit?

**45. 440311 Lower Daily Bag of Crappies to Five on Oneida Lake**

Crappies are the number two targeted fish during the winter ice fishing season. Some are concerned that the size structure and populations of crappies have declined on some small lakes as a result of the current bag limits on panfish.

Do you support a rule change that would reduce the daily bag limit of crappies to 5 with a possession limit of 10 on Oneida Lake in Oneida County?

**46. 540411 Spearing Rough Fish Within 200 ft. of a Dam**

Rough fish, mainly carp, are abundant in Wisconsin waterways. These fish can damage the spawning sites of native species, destroy plant life and forage base, and disrupt the natural ecosystem. Congregation of these fish near dams offers an opportunity to efficiently and effectively target these populations without depleting game fish species.

Do you support a rule change to allow the use of hand held spears within 200 ft. of a dam for the purpose of taking rough fish?

**47. 580511 40" Minimum Size Limit for Musky on Spider Lake**

The rule proposing a 40" minimum statewide musky size limit singles out 10 lakes that would become "slow growth" waters with a size limit of 28". DNR surveys in 2006 and 2008 supported an argument that Spider Lake in Sawyer County was a slow growth lake with a large number of small fish. However, some area guides as well as other fisherman have noticed an increase in the numbers of large fish in this lake. Biologists have also recently expressed that more information needs to be gathered on Spider Lake regarding it's "large fish" potential.

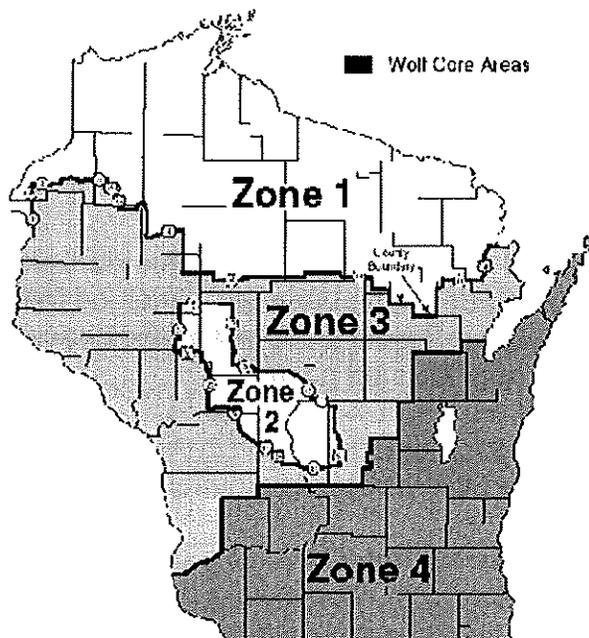
Do you support allowing Spider Lake to remain in the statewide 40" musky size limit designated lakes?

**Wolf Study Committee:**

**48. 440211 Allow Statewide Coyote Harvest During Deer Firearm Season**

The coyote season in Wolf Management Zone 1 is currently closed during the deer gun seasons. Coyote season in this area has been closed during the deer gun season since 2000 as recommended in the 1999 Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan to avoid the accidental harvest of wolves. However, wolves currently exist in the zones outside of Zone 1 where the coyote season is open during the deer gun season.

Would you support eliminating the closure of the coyote season in Wolf Management Zone 1 in northern Wisconsin during the deer firearm season?



**49. 350111 Notification of Wolf Depredations or Attacks to Livestock**

Currently the Wisconsin DNR advises dog owners when wolf attacks or depredations occur through timely warnings on the DNR website (maps and summaries of incident), e-mail advisories to subscribers, setting up warning areas of pack involvement, and occasionally by issuing press releases.

Currently the Wisconsin DNR advises the public on a monthly basis of proven or probable depredation sites to livestock, threats to livestock, or threats to human health and safety (incidents where wolves have displayed a lesser degree of fear of humans than expected).

Some Wisconsin residents feel the public needs to know when and where wolves are causing problems and need to learn about wolf incidents in a timelier manner in order to take precautions.

Would you support the Wisconsin DNR advising the public in a timely manner of all verified and probable wolf attacks, depredations, and threats to livestock and human health and safety (incidents where wolves have displayed a lesser degree of fear of humans than expected), through use of their web site, e-mail alerts to subscribers, setting up pack warning areas, and through use of press releases when appropriate?

### **Shooting Range Ad Hoc Committee:**

#### **50. 040211 Pittman-Robertson Money for Shooting Ranges**

The Pittman-Robertson Act is an excise tax money fund from firearm, ammunition and archery sales. It is money that is returned to the state from the federal government and has not been utilized in recent years to help improve the ranges, build new ranges, increase safety, expand education or help purchase new shooting equipment. The Congress is currently working to restore and get these funds back to the public for range improvements.

Do you support the Secretary of the DNR allocating these existing funds for the improvement of shooting ranges?

#### **51. Shooting Range Initiative**

There are over 900 shooting ranges in the state of Wisconsin and at present, no unified single group to work with these ranges, shooting groups, and the user factions to unite them and promote and protect the shooting sports.

Do you support a move by the Conservation Congress to work with the WDNR to bring these ranges, shooting groups, and factions together working to further promote and educate the public on the shooting sports?

### **Executive Council**

#### **52. Panfish Limit**

Presently, the Conservation Congress Warm Water Committee entertains many resolutions each year dealing with concerns of panfish exploitation in numerous lakes throughout Wisconsin. Crappies seem to be the desired species in need of protection along with the need to prevent overharvest of "big" bluegills, especially during the spawning period as well as "late ice" conditions in the winter. Finally, the smaller inland lakes seem to be affected the most with concerns of overharvest preventing a quality fishery to exist. In keeping with the Governor's charge to the Congress to find ways to simplify regulations:

Do you support a regulation change addressing panfish overharvest allowing an aggregate bag limit statewide of 30 panfish, which would include no more than 10 crappies, 10 bluegills, and 20 yellow perch? This would affect only inland lakes in the state.