

COUNTY CODE 4 #1 2013

Title: Simplification of Local Fish Rule Changes

The Problem:

Currently the process to get a local bag limit or size limit change on a particular lake takes at least 4 years. More often than not the local proposed rule change for a particular lake has been introduced to the local fish biologist by a group of concerned anglers, a conservation club or a lake association and is reviewed by both the local citizen group and the biologist for its need and effectiveness. The citizen group and the biologist meet again and a final proposed rule is formulated and presented as a resolution at the spring hearing in the county where the particular body of water is located. The resolution then enters the process and maybe 3 years later the rule is implemented. Fish population dynamics change so rapidly on some lakes that the rule that was proposed 4 years ago is no longer the proper rule for the lake.

In most cases, at the spring hearings, the local questions on bag limits or size limits for a body of water are passed and the deciding vote is actually made by the county where it was proposed or is decided upon by vote by a very small number of counties.

This year, 2013, there are 22 local fish rule questions and most if not all will be voted on in favor by the county where the body of water is located as a result of local input by the anglers and discussion and review by the local fish biologist.

The fish populations on some lakes are not being properly managed as a result of the burdensome 4 year process to get a needed rule change into effect.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Bayfield County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by changing the local fish bag limit and size limit rule making procedure to allow the local citizen groups and the local fish biologist the ability to make appropriate AGREED UPON changes to bag and size limits on a particular body of water without going through the 4 year process currently in place through the Conservation Congress process.

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