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County 5 - Resolution # 1 - 2014

Resolution To Re-instate Dark House Spearing

On Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters

The Issue: Dark House Spearing through the ice for Northern Pike was traditionally allowed on the Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters until the late 1980's. The Wisconsin DNR modified Chapter NR 20 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code pertaining to fishing regulations in an effort to streamline the code and spearing of northern pike was eliminated.

Currently the spearing of northern pike through the ice is legal in Wisconsin on the waters of Lake Superior and in 7 other states, with no negative biological effects. By reinstating the regulation to allow the spearing of northern pike through the ice on Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters, another opportunity would be regained by anglers wishing to pursue this activity, resulting in increased license revenue and more people enjoying the outdoors.

The recommendation would be to re-allow the spearing of northern pike through the ice of the Wisconsin portion of the Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters from December 1st until the closure of the Boundary Water pike season. Hole size restrictions and marking requirements would be consistent with regulations in place for the spearing of lake sturgeon on the Winnebago system.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Brown County on April 14th, 2014 support the reinstatement of the regulation that authorizes the harvest of northern pike through the ice by the method of spearing from a Dark House on the Wisconsin portion of the Wisconsin/Michigan Boundary Waters, with specific regulations relating to Dark House spearing.

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