

05-04-08

**Title: Protect the northern pike of the Bay of Green Bay**

**The Problem:**

The northern pike that reside in the bay of green bay have struggled over the last 15 years due to low water levels and the inability to reach many spawning grounds. None the less the surveys still report good natural reproduction throughout the bay. Many fisherman have seen a decline in quality-sized fish over the past years. But why are the trophy-sized pike disappearing with reports of good reproduction? Because there is no size limit on the northern pike, many pike are not reaching their large size potential and the number of trophy pike is becoming less and less each year.

At present, state law does not protect the larger northern pike in the bay. State law does protect many other species such as the perch, walleye, and the newly introduced musky in the bay and we feel that the northern pike fishery deserves the same protection.

**Be it resolved,** that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Brown County on April 14, 2008 recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department in order to improve the size structure of the northern pike by introducing a rule change which would create a catch and release slot of 30" to 40". The daily bag limit would remain 5 fish with only one fish allowed over 40".

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