

180308

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Proposed Green Bay Muskellunge Size Limit Increase

The Problem:

The reintroduction of muskellunge into Green Bay has created a world class fishery, bringing significant financial benefit to the region. As natural reproduction has not yet been documented, the system is entirely dependent upon stocking. However a recent VHS-related halt in stocking has now cast uncertainty onto the future of the fishery. Thus the current 50" minimum size limit on muskellunge is no longer adequate to protect the tremendous value of the fishery.

Supporting Arguments:

- 1) DNR studies indicate 50" muskellunge in Green Bay are typically 13-14 years old, young compared to 50" fish elsewhere. Thus these fish will likely continue to grow for several years.
- 2) A 54" minimum size limit exists for similar strains of muskellunge in certain Great Lakes waters, established by Canada to protect their "Record Class Fisheries."
- 3) The continued harvest of 50" muskellunge from Green Bay, combined with emerging VHS-related factors, may have a pronounced impact on both local and statewide economies.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting in Eau Claire county on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources increase the minimum length limit on muskellunge in the Green Bay system from 50" to 54". The waters affected by this proposal are those of Lake Michigan north of Waldo Boulevard, Manitowoc, Sturgeon Bay, the waters of Green Bay proper, the Fox River upstream to the DePere dam and the tributary streams considered outlying waters.

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County Eau Claire

Passed or Failed

County Resolution Number 180308

County Vote: Yes 37 No 12