



NOTICE OF PROPOSED FISHING REGULATION CHANGE ON LAKE MENOMIN IN DUNN COUNTY

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to change fishing regulations for walleye in Lake Menomin in Dunn County.

Changes in the regulations are being proposed in order to simplify regulations and conform with the current regulation on Tainter Lake (Ceded Territory) just upstream from Lake Menomin. This would simplify/match the regulations on the 2 lakes and reduce confusion about the difference in regulations that is often expressed by anglers. This regulation would also increase density and recruitment of the naturally reproducing walleye population while providing harvest opportunity for memorable size walleye. The proposed regulation would also protect large spawning females in the 20-24" protected slot, thereby maximizing spawning potential and promoting subsequent natural recruitment. The management objective would be to increase survival of walleye to improve the size structure and abundance and increase the number of preferred size walleye >20" which is currently low when compared to other similar lakes in Wisconsin.

Under s. NR 20.35(3), Wisconsin Administrative Code, removal of special regulations is warranted under these conditions.

The proposed regulations would take effect on or about May 2021.

It was found that Tainter Lake has a much more robust walleye population likely because of better access to preferred spawning habitat in the Hay and Red Cedar rivers. Both lake's walleye populations are completely reliant on natural reproduction; however, Tainter Lake has much more robust year classes. Therefore, because of the smaller walleye population and less availability to suitable spawning habitat especially when compared to Tainter Lake, the lower bag limit (3) would help to reduce harvest and promote the survival of large reproductive females. The proposed regulation would also help to protect large spawning females that contribute to the productivity of the fishery and that are currently open to harvest. Overall, this proposed regulation would simplify regulations by conforming to the regulation currently on Tainter Lake (directly upstream), improve walleye survival and recruitment by reducing harvest and likely allow the naturally reproducing walleye population to be sustainable into the future given declines in other naturally reproducing walleye populations across the state. The proposed regulation would also protect large spawning females in the 20-24 inches protected slot, thereby maximizing spawning potential and promoting subsequent natural recruitment. The management objective would be to increase survival and abundance of walleye to improve the size structure and increase the number of preferred size walleye (>20 inches) which is currently low.

A public meeting to hear public comments and provide information about the proposal will be held if requested in writing within 10 days of the publication of this notice. Public meeting requests and comments on this proposal should be sent to Kasey Yallaly, 890 Spruce St Baldwin, WI 54002, 715-977-7354, Kasey.yallaly@wisconsin.gov by 11/28/2020.