



2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 35

February 28, 2011 – Introduced by Representatives KLEEFISCH, BIES, MURSAU, STRACHOTA, RIVARD, ENDSLEY, NYGREN, TRANEL, RIPP, BROOKS, T. LARSON, KUGLITSCH, THIESFELDT, LITJENS, VOS, AUGUST, PRIDEMORE, HONADEL and VAN ROY, cosponsored by Senators MOULTON and LAZICH. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 29.4035; *to amend* 29.403 (4); and *to create* 29.403 (1m) of
2 the statutes; **relating to:** culling of bass in a fishing tournament.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to promulgate rules to establish a program to authorize and regulate fishing tournaments. Current law specifies certain rules that DNR may promulgate for the regulation of fishing tournaments, including rules specifying the length and frequency of fishing tournaments, the species of fish that may be caught and the bag and size limits that will apply. Current statutory law also prohibits a person from possessing a type of fish in excess of the bag limit for that type of fish.

This bill specifically authorizes culling at bass fishing tournaments and exempts the culling from any applicable bag limits imposed by statute or rule.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 29.403 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:
4 29.403 **(1m)** Any person conducting a bass fishing tournament authorized by
5 the department under this section may allow participants to fish for, and cull, both

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1 largemouth and smallmouth bass. Section 29.055 and any rule promulgated
2 pursuant to sub. (3) (L), as they relate to bag and possession limits for bass, do not
3 apply to culling that occurs in a bass fishing tournament authorized by the
4 department under this section.

5 **SECTION 2.** 29.403 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 29.403 (4) Notwithstanding subs. (2) and (3), the department may not, under
7 the program established under sub. (1), allow a participant in a fishing tournament
8 to engage in any activity in which the department would not allow an angler who is
9 not a participant to engage at the same time on the same body of water. This
10 subsection does not apply to participants in a bass fishing tournament ~~for which a~~
11 ~~permit has been issued under s. 29.4035~~ authorized by the department under this
12 section.

13 **SECTION 3.** 29.4035 of the statutes is repealed.

14 (END)