



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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January 28, 2009

Honorable Jim Holperin, Chair
Senate Transportation, Tourism, Forestry
And Natural Resources Committee
Room 409 South
State Capitol

Honorable Ann Hraychuck, Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Room 6 North
State Capitol

Re: Clearinghouse Rule No. 06-108
Regulation of fishing tournaments in inland, outlying and boundary waters of Wisconsin

Dear Senator Holperin and Representative Hraychuck:

On November 19, 2008, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources passed a motion requesting that the Department of Natural Resources make modifications to Clearinghouse Rule No. 06-108. The Department agreed to consider modifications as indicated in a letter sent to Representative Gunderson on November 21, 2008. To date we have made numerous modifications to the originally proposed rules to accommodate issues that were raised during the public comment period, Natural Resources Board meetings, and Legislative Hearings. Changes to the original rule include:

- 1) Allowing an organizer to obtain a permit up to 3 years in advance if necessary for logistical reasons
- 2) Substantially reducing the fees associated with fishing tournament permits
- 3) Adding provisions to encourage youth and disabled participation
- 4) Increasing the number of permits available in Iowa/Wisconsin Mississippi River boundary waters
- 5) Moving the "open period" to an earlier date to accommodate logistical needs of tournament organizers
- 6) Modifying the requirement for reduced daily bag limits for tournaments occurring during the summer to allow additional flexibility in circumstances where the reduced daily bag limit may not be necessary
- 7) Removing special warden inspection authority for tournament participants
- 8) Removing the amount of future prizes from the amount of total prizes used to calculate permit fees, and
- 9) Allowing traditional tournaments to exceed tournament activity limits on individual waterbodies up to maximum historical participation in that tournament

In light of these changes, we have considered additional modifications and feel that the current version of the rules is adequate to fulfill the intent of Wisconsin Act 249 and also balances the needs and desires of affected stakeholders. Therefore, we have not made any additional modifications. However, we plan to monitor implementation of this rule over the next year and are willing to make further changes if significant problems do in fact arise.

Attached is a copy of Natural Resources Board Order No. FH-22-06 (Clearinghouse Rule No. 06-108).

Under s. 227.19(5)(b), Stats., the Department of Natural Resources refers this action to your committees for an additional 10 working day review. If the Department does not hear from you within 10 working days of receipt of this letter, the Department will continue processing this rule.

Sincerely,

Matt Frank
Secretary

cc: Mike Staggs, Fisheries Management Bureau Director
Andrew Fayram, Fisheries Policy Specialist
Tim Andryk, Legal Services

Attachment
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