

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St. Box 7921 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921 Telephone 608-266-2621 FAX 608-267-3579 TTY Access via relay - 711

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 23