Notice of Hearing

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on an emergency rule EmR2104 to revise chapter NR 20 relating to Minocqua Chain walleye harvest regulations. In accordance with s. 227.17, Wis. Stats., the DNR is seeking public comment and feedback on EmR2104 at the time and virtual location shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: February 18, 2021

Time: 3 p.m.

Virtual Location Link: Online via Skype link or by phone at 608-316-9000, 693 32 483#

Rule Information: This emergency rule will extend the existing walleye harvest regulation on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes (consisting of Kawaguesaga, Minocqua, Mid, Little Tomahawk and Tomahawk lakes) for the 2021 fishing season. The current regulation sunsetted in April 2020. Extending this regulation will allow walleye stocked into these waters to continue to replenish populations on the Minocqua Chain. The department anticipates that by 2021, adult walleye numbers will reach established goals and natural reproduction will occur, and the department will develop a permanent regulation based on 2021 survey data and public input.

This rule extends the zero bag limit and defines the size limit as "none".

Accessibility

For the hearing or visually impaired, non-English speakers, or those with other personal circumstances which might make communication at the meeting/hearing difficult, DNR will, to the maximum extent possible and with reasonable advance notice, provide aids including an interpreter, or a non-English, large-print, or recorded version of hearing documents. To access these resources, please contact the email address or phone number listed below as soon as possible.

Appearances at the Hearing and Submittal of Written Comments

The public has the opportunity to testify at the hearing. Registration will take place at the hearing by completing a Hearing Appearance form, which is available here https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedEmergency.html. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged if you plan to provide spoken comments during the hearing. To pre-register, please download and complete the fillable Hearing Appearance form and send it to Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov.

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before Feb. 18, 2021. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, E-mail, or through the internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. Written comments and any questions on the proposed rules should be submitted to:

Department of Natural Resources Attn: Meredith Penthorn P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707

Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov or DNRAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis: The department anticipates a minimal economic impact, if any, as a result of these rules. Because this rule will extend an existing regulation, local anglers and businesses are not anticipated to experience any new economic impacts.

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

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