



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Northwoods Legislators Support Increased Walleye Bag Limits

Madison... This morning, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in anticipation of the annual tribal walleye spearing declaration, announced an emergency rule to be considered by the Natural Resources Board in April that would change the walleye bag limit on lakes within Wisconsin's Ceded Territories. In response Senator Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst), Representative Mary Czaja (R-Irma), and Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) issued the following statement:

"I support the DNR's effort to bring certainty to the sportsman throughout the state who travel to Wisconsin's Northwoods for our world-class fishing. The announcement by the DNR shows our investment in aquaculture through the Walleye Initiative is paying off and will bring returns to businesses through increased tourism and economic vitality," said Senator Tiffany.

"This initiative is a proactive move by the DNR. By increasing the walleye bag limit, the Northwoods will attract fisherman from all over the state, which is essential to growing and securing tourism dollars for our northern economy," said Rep. Czaja.

"Each year, concerned anglers and fishing guides reach out to my office with concerns on the walleye bag limits. I applaud the Department of Natural Resource's effort in raising the bag limits to spur economic development and promote tourism. This decision will reinvigorate the Northwoods fishing heritage and put Northern Wisconsin back on the map as a premier fishing destination," said Rep. Swearingen.

Last spring ninety percent of northern Wisconsin lakes within the Ceded Territories that were declared for spearing had a bag limit of one or two walleyes per day. This spring, lakes throughout the Ceded Territories could have a sport bag limit of three walleyes per day. The Walleye Initiative is a program instituted for the first time in Wisconsin's 2013-15 Biennial Budget and to date has invested \$14 million in private and state fish farms. That initial investment has doubled production of walleye fingerlings that have been stocked back into Wisconsin lakes.