

Fish & Wildlife

AB 4 – Catch and Release Bass and Musky Fishing

Rep. Hraychuck

Summary of Bill (*as amended*):

Assembly Bill 4 - This bill repeals two sections in current state statutes. First, the bill repeals the requirement that the DNR establish an early catch-and-release musky season. Second, the bill repeals the requirement that only a barbless hook may be used during a catch-and-release season.

Fiscal Effect:

No fiscal estimate was required for Assembly Bill 4.

Supporters Message:

- These provisions were included in the 2007-2009 State Budget and did not go through the usual legislative process.
- Because of when the catch-and-release season was scheduled, there could be a negative impact on musky spawning, which could lower population levels.

Opponents Message:

- No one testified or registered against AB4 and no one registered against it with the Ethics Board.

Key Supporters:

Representative Ann Hraychuck (author); DNR; Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; WI League of Conservation Voters.

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against AB4 and no one registered against it with the Ethics Board.

Committee Vote:

On February 18, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Fish and Wildlife recommended passage of AB4 on a vote of 9-0 (Danou, absent).

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Michael Bruhn; Office of Rep. Scott Gunderson (6-3363)