Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Legislative Summary
2017-2019 State Legislative Session
August (26th) 2017

Assembly Bills

AB28/SB7-----Clarifies expiration date of concealed carry permit
  Status: Enacted into law Wisconsin Act 5
  WWF Position---Support, simple clarification of expiration date

AB50/SB22-----Strengthens high capacity well pumping law
  Status: In Assembly Environment and Forestry Committee
  In Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
  WWF Position: Support, protects lakes, streams and wetlands

AB61/SB68-----Weakens protection against Chronic Wasting Disease
  Status: Governor signed into Law, Wisconsin Act 41
  WWF Position: Strongly opposes, a substantial weakening of deer herd
  protection from CWD

AB63-----------Exempts utility filling and dredging wetland permits in highway
  right of ways
  Status: In Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee
  WWF Position: WWF opposes due to likelihood of damage to fish and
  wildlife habitat

AB74-----------Reinstates 48 hour waiting period for handgun purchase
  Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
  WWF Position: Oppose, weakens Second Amendment Rights

AB105/SB76----Removes high capacity well permit renewal requirement
  Status: Signed into law, Wisconsin Act 10
  WWF Position: Oppose, major weakening of stream, lake and
  wetland protection laws

AB157/SB171---Restores Natural Resources Board Appointment of DNR Secretary
  Status----In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
  In Senate Natural Resources Committee
  WWF Position: Strongly support to reduce political natural resource
  decision-making
AB160/SB95-----Changes wetland and stream alteration laws governing fish farms
  Status: Signed into law as Wisconsin Act 21
  WWF Position: Neutral, the aquaculture industry worked with WWF and other groups to minimize adverse impact on streams and wetlands

AB203/SB150-----Authorizes special free events for disabled vets to learn to hunt turkeys
  Status: Hearing held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
  Awaiting hearing in Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
  WWF Position: Support, special recognition for disabled vets

AB214/SB152-----Prohibits filling or destroying lake beds through iron mining activities
  Status: In Assembly Rural Development and Mining Committee
  In Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee
  WWF Position: Support, bill is important to protect fish and wildlife habitat

AB230/SB178-----Grandfathers fences on MFL lands owned by three beagle training clubs
  Status: Signed by Governor, Wisconsin Act 43
  WWF Position: Strongly supports bill—saves three WWF Beagle Clubs

AB246/SB177-----Exempts Drainage Ditches from laws protecting streams and wetlands
  Status: In Assembly Agriculture Committee
  In Senate Agriculture Committee
  WWF Position: Neutral, bill contains sufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat

AB247/SB169-----Bill substantially reduces regulations regarding possession of weapons
  Status: In Assembly State Affairs Committee
  Hearing held in Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
  WWF Position: WWF is a strong supporter of Second Amendment Rights but objects to provisions allowing rifles and crossbows while shining wild animals and objects to firearms in wildlife refuges close to hunting

AB281/SB180-----Bill relates to municipal sewer service area under the Great Lakes Compact
  Status: Signed by the Governor, Wisconsin Act 38
  WWF Position: Support, this bill is consistent with WWF position in the City of Waukesha Great Lakes Compact diversion proceeding

AB 314/SB247-----Bill authorizes hunting from a lift attached to a motor vehicle
  Status: Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
  Passed the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, provides another safe hunting method

AB323/SB249------Bill transfers the woodchuck from the protected to game species list
Status: Passed the Assembly, Awaiting a Senate vote
WWF Position: Support, no biological reason not to harvest, often a nuisance

AB325/SB257------Removes minimum age limit to apply for bear harvest preference points
Status: Signed into law, Wisconsin Act 44
WWF Position: Supports bill, allows youth to hunt bear when reaching hunting age

AB328/SB225------Establishes uniform season closing for certain hunting and trapping seasons
Status: Passed Senate, Passed Assembly Committee
WWF Position: Support bill as amended

AB338/SB270------Requires DNR to use $10 million a year for eight years to buy public land owned by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee
In Senate Universities and Technical Colleges Committee
WWF Position: Strongly oppose, uses limited Stewardship funds to buy already public land open to hunting, fishing and trapping

AB346------------Requires DNR to continue to publish Natural Resources Magazine
Status: Passed as a motion to the State Budget in Joint Finance Committee
WWF Position: Support, the magazine is valuable to subscribers and is totally paid for by subscribers

AB 347------------Restores Funding for 16 Research Scientists to the DNR
Status: Motion defeated in Joint Finance Committee
WWF Position: Support, the past elimination of these positions significantly weakened the necessary science information development for natural resources program

AB 374------------Strengthens the fencing requirements for deer farms that have CWD
Status: In the Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, this bill is important to protect the wild deer herd

AB 388/SB320------Bill allows filling of artificial wetlands that do not have fishery values
Status: In the Assembly Environment and Senate Natural Resource Committees
WWF Position: Neutral; Review shows that bill adequately protects fish and wildlife values
AB411/SB321-------Bill substantially weakens warden authority to protect fish and wildlife on private property  
Status: Hearing held in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee; In the Senate Natural Resources Committee  
WWF Position: Strongly oppose; seriously weakens protection of fish and wildlife

AB416/SB326-------Places surcharge on penalties for the poaching of trophy deer  
Status: In Assembly Environment and Senate Sporting Heritage Committees  
WWF Position: Support, increases penalties for poaching deer

AB427/SB340-------Directs DNR and Superintendent of Education to develop curriculum for firearm safety courses (not hunter education) for high schools  
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Education Committee; In Senate Education Committee  
WWF Position: Support; increases firearm safety and shooting sports

AB428-----------Provides penalties for failure to report stolen or lost firearms  
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
WWF Position: Oppose

AB429-----------Requires someone selling or transferring a firearm to furnish a trigger lock or secure storage container  
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
WWF Position: Oppose

AB430-----------Requires a trigger lock or secure storage container for all firearms in residences where someone prohibited from possessing firearm resides  
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
WWF Position: Oppose

AB431-----------Requires a trigger lock or secure storage container for all firearms in residences where children may be present  
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
WWF Position: Oppose

AB441/SB373 ------Directs DNR to issue 5 sturgeon spearing tags to Sturgeon for Tomorrow for raffle to support sturgeon research and management  
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee  
WWF Position: Support, important funding for sturgeon management

AB455/SB362-------Removes age limit for hunting mentorship and one firearm requirement  
Status: Hearings held in Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
Committee and Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee
WWF Position: Oppose unless one firearm requirement remains to provide a true mentorship of young hunters

AB 464/SB376------Height of pole traps for bird depredation permits at game preserves
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage and Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
WWF Position: Neutral, bill drafted to protect raptors

AB461/SB371------Provides that nonresidents with terminal disease pay resident sporting fees
Status: In Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
In Senate: In Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
WWF Position: Support

AJR69/SJR68-------Opposes Back Forty Mine on the Menominee River
Status: In the Committee on Rural Development and Mining
WWF Position: Oppose, potential damage to excellent fishery

**Senate Bills**

SB4-----------------Overturns a DNR rule lowering the Lake Michigan Chub Quota
Status: In Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
WWF Position: Oppose bill because of low chub populations

SB346----------------Requires specific training requirements for concealed carry permit
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Neutral, additional information necessary

SB347----------------Requires general liability insurance for concealed firearms
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose, costly and burdensome for average gun owner

SB 348------------Requires microstamping of semiautomatic handguns
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose

SB349--------------Requires Attorney General to check “Do Not Fly” list for concealed carry permit issuance
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Neutral, additional information necessary
SB350-------------------Bans possession, transfer, transportation and possession of semiautomatic “assault weapons”
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose