

## **Youth Trout Fishing Proposal**

WHEREAS, in August 2008, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation adopted a resolution stating that the Federation supported a change of state trout fishing regulations to allow youth anglers 16 years and younger to fish in Category 5 trout streams using Category 4 regulations; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2008, a similar proposal passed at the Spring Conservation Congress hearings in Grant, Iowa, LaFayette, and Sauk counties and failed in Crawford county, with a combined vote of 267 in favor and 115 in opposition; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Congress Trout Committee voted down the youth trout fishing proposal on the grounds that allowing youth to have differing trout regulations on a trout stream would cause major regulation enforcement problems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has similar stream category trout fishing regulations as Wisconsin, with its Category 7 being artificial fly and catch and release, the same as Wisconsin's Category 5 trout streams; and

WHEREAS, Michigan allows youth under the age of 12 to fish in their Category 7 streams and catch and keep one fish between 8 and 12 inches in length; and

WHEREAS, communications with conservation wardens in Michigan has indicated that the youth trout regulation for Category 7 trout streams in that state has not caused significant enforcement problems; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin fishing regulations should be established that encourage youth fishing including trout fishing;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 16-18, 2010 call on the Department of Natural Resources, with input from the Conservation Congress, Trout Unlimited and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, to develop special youth fishing regulations for Category 5 trout streams in the State of Wisconsin.

Submitted by Bob Miller, Chair, WWF Inland Fisheries Committee