

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY 711



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 22, 2004

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Company»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Title» «LastName»:

The holiday season is upon us. I hope everyone's is safe and happy.

However the FTAC has some work to do. The next meeting of the FTAC will be **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004** at the **BEST WESTERN ROYALE, 5100 MAIN STREET (HWY 10) in STEVENS POINT** from **2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** This is the same place we met the first time. Please contact me if you need directions. Snacks and beverages will be provided at no cost to you.

I have included a proposed agenda for the December 8 meeting. There will be a chance for agenda repair in case we need to make modifications at the meeting.

A public hearing was held on the live well standards rule (FH-55-04) on November 11. In addition, a 3 week comment (written and online comments) period ended on November 18. Three people attended the hearing in Fitchburg, with one person testifying. I received a single written comment via the online system and no written comments via US mail. As expected, the live well rule was relatively non-controversial. There were specific comments regarding to how the 25 gallon minimum volume requirement would be applied to boats with multiple live wells. I believe that the current language would be interpreted that each live well must meet the minimum, but that is not clear. One comment suggested that total volume of all live wells add to at least 25 gallons (noting that a particular boat contains two 20 gallon live wells). The FTAC needs to think about that particular issue and be prepared to discuss and make a recommendation. I have included a summary of the public comments.

I have received 4 applications from bass fishing tournaments interested in participating in the bass tournament pilot program in 2005. These applications will be provided to the FTAC for your review and recommendation. In addition, a relatively new development has come up that the FTAC needs to discuss. Culling is currently prohibited on WI-MN boundary waters. I have two applications for events on the Mississippi River. The WDNR only has the authority to allow culling for the bass tournament pilot program in Wisconsin waters. Where regulations differ between states, anglers must follow the rules of the state within which they are fishing. This came to my attention after a meeting between WDNR and MDNR. WDNR could permit the tournament as part of the pilot program only in Wisconsin waters. More realistically, WI-MN boundary waters events should not be in the pilot program. They would, of course, still be permitted, but would have to follow bag limit rules (i.e. no culling).

Please begin thinking about other fishing tournament regulations and where you think the WDNR should go next with respect to promulgating fishing tournament rules. Use 2003 Wisconsin Act 249 as a reference for the types of rules we have authority to write. Time permitting, we will begin a brainstorming exercise relating to this issue at this meeting, and hopefully begin to prioritize the issues.

If you can not make it for some reason, please let me know. We can discuss alternative options for gathering, relaying your input, and incorporating it into any decisions made by the FTAC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call, email or write. My contact information is below.

Safe travels to all.

Sincerely:

Patrick Schmalz
608.266.8170
Patrick.Schmalz@dnr.state.wi.us
FH/3, 101 South Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707