

Door County Smallmouth Bass Meeting
Crossroads at Big Creek
6:30 PM
October 18, 2017

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Update on SMB in Sturgeon Bay (Scott) – 45 minutes
3. Update on SMB in Great Lakes (Willie) – 15 minutes
4. Tournaments in Wisconsin DNR (Tom) – 10-15 minutes
5. Discussion and Questions – *Facilitated by Tom Meronek*

Meeting Notes

Bass fishing is the number one species fished for in the country.

Tournaments in years past were held in greater numbers than currently and they have been declining in number.

The fishery in Sturgeon Bay was number 1 in the country as ranked by BASS. But it has now slipped out of number 1, and in a year or two could be out of the top 10.

The change in the mussel populations seems to favor the nearshore species.

Why can't DNR survey the other populations around Door County-

Hansen- The populations are inaccessible by netting due to exposure of the bay and safety concerns.

Is there a possibility for a potential Advisory Group for SMB? Too tap into local knowledge and gain further insight.

Meronek – We have not considered that, but in the future, it has not been ruled out.

It was noted that most club tournaments host a small number of boats and are likely not a factor according to some participants.

SMB Alliance would like to facilitate getting signs out on catch and release.

There are very few tournaments permitted during the spawn, even so, tournament anglers will need to evolve further.

What about an option to close certain bays to fishing during the spawn?

Meronek – Likely this would be an unenforceable regulation option and not supported by law enforcement.

Status of Southern Lake Michigan, they have catch and release and they are still facing recruitment failures.

What about the issue of disease, this was likely a cause of the decline in Lake St. Clair?

There was a comment that last year (2017) most fish caught had a lesion, so what is up with the analysis of the lesions.

Other comments:

Would like to see bass tournament sponsors work with DNR to find a way to not transport fish, but use catch-measure-photo registration of fish.

Why are walleye tournaments allowed to have so many dead fish but bass tournaments have few?

Regulate small club tournaments

Can we do something about bed fishing

