

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Results of input on the Bureau of Wildlife Management's 2022 spring fish & wildlife meeting agenda of advisory questions.

FOR: May 2022 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Karel, Wildlife Policy Specialist

SUMMARY:

These advisory questions were the subject of input at the online 2022 spring fish & wildlife meetings held virtually beginning the second Monday in April. Department staff will summarize and discuss voting results for the following questions:

1. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education.
2. Remove the requirement for youth hunters to have a goose permit for the youth season.
3. Allow the purchase of multiple spring turkey harvest authorizations per day after the season opens.
4. Allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years. (Requires legislation)
5. Have a single raccoon hunting season starting date. (Requires legislation)
6. Remove the prohibition of hunting certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24-hour period prior to the firearm deer season. (Requires legislation)

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

Background memo

Type name of attachment if applicable

Type name of attachment if applicable

Type name of attachment if applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Eric Lobner, Bureau Director	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Eric Lobner</i> <small>49A5E098CF08465...</small>	5/1/2022 7:46 PM CDT
Tami Ryan, Deputy Division Administrator	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Tami Ryan</i> <small>5853496A01C481...</small>	5/4/2022 12:59 PM CDT
For Preston D. Cole, Secretary	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Sarah Barry</i> <small>A7D70DC37Z0642E...</small>	5/4/2022 2:20 PM CDT

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

DS

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by Sarah Barry

Sarah Barry

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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2022

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Results of input on the Bureau of Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Board's 2022 spring fish & wildlife meeting agenda of advisory questions.

This memo will summarize the results of input and anticipated future action on the six wildlife-related advisory questions that were on the 2022 spring hearing agenda.

Background:

The 2022 wildlife spring hearing questions were advisory-only and solely aimed at gathering public feedback. In 2023 and subsequent odd-numbered years, the department will present a rules package at the spring hearings for additional public input. The process and timeline for rule promulgation comply with the requirements of Ch. 227 Stats. as modified by 2011 ACT 21.

The department annually compiles rule proposals or advisory questions on wildlife-related topics of statewide and local interest. These questions are presented in April at the statewide spring fish & wildlife hearings for citizen input. Questions submitted by the Bureau of Wildlife Management may originate from the staff specialists, area supervisors or local staff. Wildlife questions may also include Conservation Congress questions that have gained support in previous years and questions proposed by the Natural Resources Board.

Summary of Agenda Items:

Question 15 was inadvertently omitted from the survey. There will be additional opportunities for the public to provide input on that issue at a later date. Table 1 provides a description of each question and a summary of statewide voting results. The full spring hearing questions are found in Appendix 1.

Table 1. Wildlife Management advisory questions.

	Question Description	Yes or A	No or B	Option C	No Opinion	Statewide Support
11	Do you support an increase in the student registration fees for trapper education course to cover costs of the program? [\$8 increase \$4 increase no fee increase]	7,616	8,271	6,070	N/A	\$8 increase: 34.6% \$4 increase: 37.6%
12	Do you support removing the requirement that youth hunters have a state Canada Goose Hunting Permits during the annual youth waterfowl hunt?	11,269	7,319	N/A	3,326	60.6%
	Question Description	Yes or A	No or B	Option C	No Opinion	Statewide Support

13	Do you support allowing turkey hunters to purchase more than one bonus authorization per day once the season is open to hunting?	9,990	9,294	N/A	2,592	51.8%
14	Do you support legislation that would allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years?	12,615	5,681	N/A	3,541	68.9%
15	Do you support legislation that would create a single raccoon hunting season starting date for both residents and nonresidents?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	Do you support removing the prohibition of hunting and trapping certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24- hour period prior to the firearm deer season?	11,571	6,570	N/A	3,643	63.7%

Future Action on 2022 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

The department is not making specific recommendations for future action on these proposals at this time. Results of public input will be considered by delegates of the Conservation Congress at a convention which may still be held this summer. Positions taken by their full delegation will be another consideration of the department and board in developing future rule proposals.

All of this information and any additional scientific evaluation and information will provide a basis for policies and rule development in 2023 and beyond.

Drafter: Scott Karel

Appendix 1.

2022 DNR Wildlife Management Advisory Questions
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11. Increase the student registration fee for trapper education.

The Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Trappers Association have responsibilities in the education of Wisconsin trappers. Trapper education is imperative to educate citizens and trappers about furbearer biology, trapper ethics, trapping techniques, trapper responsibilities, trap handling, regulations and the humane treatment of animals. Trapper education has been mandatory in Wisconsin since May 12, 1992.

Current administrative rules establish a fee for the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP). The last time the student registration fee was increased was in 2008. At that time, it was increased from \$8 to \$12.

Student fees are used to prepare and distribute materials used in the WCTEP such as the student manual, course equipment, electronic media, furbearer management publications, trapper education pamphlets, and other related items. Fees are also used to administer the program including instructor reimbursement (venue rental fees, travel costs), insurance coverage and other costs with coordinating the statewide program.

11. Do you support an increase in the student registration fees for trapper education course to cover costs of the program?

11. Yes, increase the fee \$4 (total course fee of \$16)

Yes, increase \$8 (total course fee of \$20)

No, I don't support increasing the fee.

12. Remove the requirement for youth hunters to have a goose permit for the youth season.

During the annual two-day youth waterfowl hunt in September, hunters under the age of 16 are allowed to hunt all species of wild duck, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens. During this youth season all license and stamp requirements are waived, except for the state Canada Goose Hunting Permit. Waiving this permit would provide consistency to youth hunters by waiving all applicable state and federal license, stamps and permits for the youth season.

12. Do you support removing the requirement that youth hunters have a state Canada Goose Hunting Permits during the annual youth waterfowl hunt?

12. Yes ___ No ___

No
opinion___

13. Allow the purchase of multiple turkey harvest authorizations per day when the season is open for hunting.

Current rules only allow turkey hunters to buy a single bonus harvest authorization per day in zones where the number of applicants is less the available quota. The purpose of the rule is so when bonus authorizations first go on sale individuals can't buy up a large amount of leftover authorizations for early seasons before others get a chance to purchase them. However, in many cases when the later hunting periods are open there are still thousands of left-over authorizations still available statewide. Allowing hunters to purchase more than one authorization for a period once the season is open to hunting would allow hunters to potentially cut down on trips to a service center or visits to GoWild during these later seasons and serve as an incentive to purchase some of these additional left over tags.

13. Do you support allowing turkey hunters to purchase more than one bonus authorization per day once the season is open to hunting? 13. Yes ___ No___ No opinion___

14. Allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years. (Requires legislation)

Various statutory provisions establish that limited draw permit (turkey, bear and others) applicants who fail to apply at least once during any 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously accumulated preference points. This provision may not be as important as it once was as information storage and management technology has improved. Loss of points results in customer dissatisfaction.

14. Do you support legislation that would allow applicants to keep their preference points if they fail to apply for three years? 14. Yes ___ No___ No opinion___

15. Have a single raccoon hunting season starting date. (Requires legislation)

State statute mandates separate opening dates for raccoon hunting. It requires the department open the season for raccoon hunting for residents two weeks earlier than for non-residents. The staggered opening days of the raccoon hunting season for residents and non-residents contribute to season complexity. The DNR is not aware of any significant competition for this resource or overcrowding that would support the continued approach of having separate opening dates.

15. Do you support legislation that would create a single raccoon hunting season starting date for both residents and nonresidents? 15. Yes ___ No___ No opinion___

16. Remove the prohibition of hunting or trapping certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24-hour period prior to the firearm deer season

Current state law allows the owner or occupant of any land, or a member of their family, to hunt or trap beaver, coyote, fox, raccoon, woodchuck, rabbits and squirrels on their land without a license. However, these individuals are prohibiting from hunting these species 24 hours before the start of the 9-day firearm deer season. This law is likely outdated as various DNR regulations on hunting during that 24-hour period by non-landowners have already been repealed.

16. Do you support removing the prohibition of hunting and trapping certain species by landowners without a permit during the 24- hour period prior to the firearm deer season?	16. Yes __	No __	No opinion __
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