

Rulemaking – Fishing Season Deer Lake - Decision

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Presentation outline

- Review timeline and public involvement
- Review public comment
- Lake Trout Age and Growth
- Current and proposed fishing rules – staff recommendation
- Motion Language



Timeline and Public involvement

Nov. 2023	Commission received petition
Dec. 15, 2023	Petition accepted by Fish and Wildlife Commission
Dec. 19, 2023	CR 102 (Proposal Rulemaking) filed
Jan. 3, 2024	Proposal posted to website for public comment
Jan. 16, 2024	Virtual public meeting
Jan. 26, 2024	Commission briefing and public hearing
Feb. 16, 2024	Commission decision



Petition Review

Change fishing season open dates from **March 1-November 30** to **Year-round**

Petitioner Justification –

- Increased angling opportunity
 - Growing participation in ice fishing, including for Lake Trout
- Potential increase in revenue to local area related to angler trips (e.g., gas, lodging, tackle sales, etc.)
- Deer Lake is a productive Lake Trout fishery (high density)
- Increased harvest of Lake Trout would lead to reduced predation on stocked Rainbow and Brook Trout



Public comment

January 16 virtual meeting

– 12 attendees

- Four individuals commented.
 - All were in support of the rule change
- Two individuals were supportive but expressed concerns for overexploitation of Lake Trout and requested a conservative rule be put in place.

Written comment

Commission received two letters, 1 e-mail to staff

- DLPOA support for the rule change
- NWWG (John Magart), supportive of the rule change, need to consider conservative rule for Lake Trout harvest.
- NWWG (John Magart) recommended Lake Trout rule of 3 fish daily no more than 1 greater than 30 inches

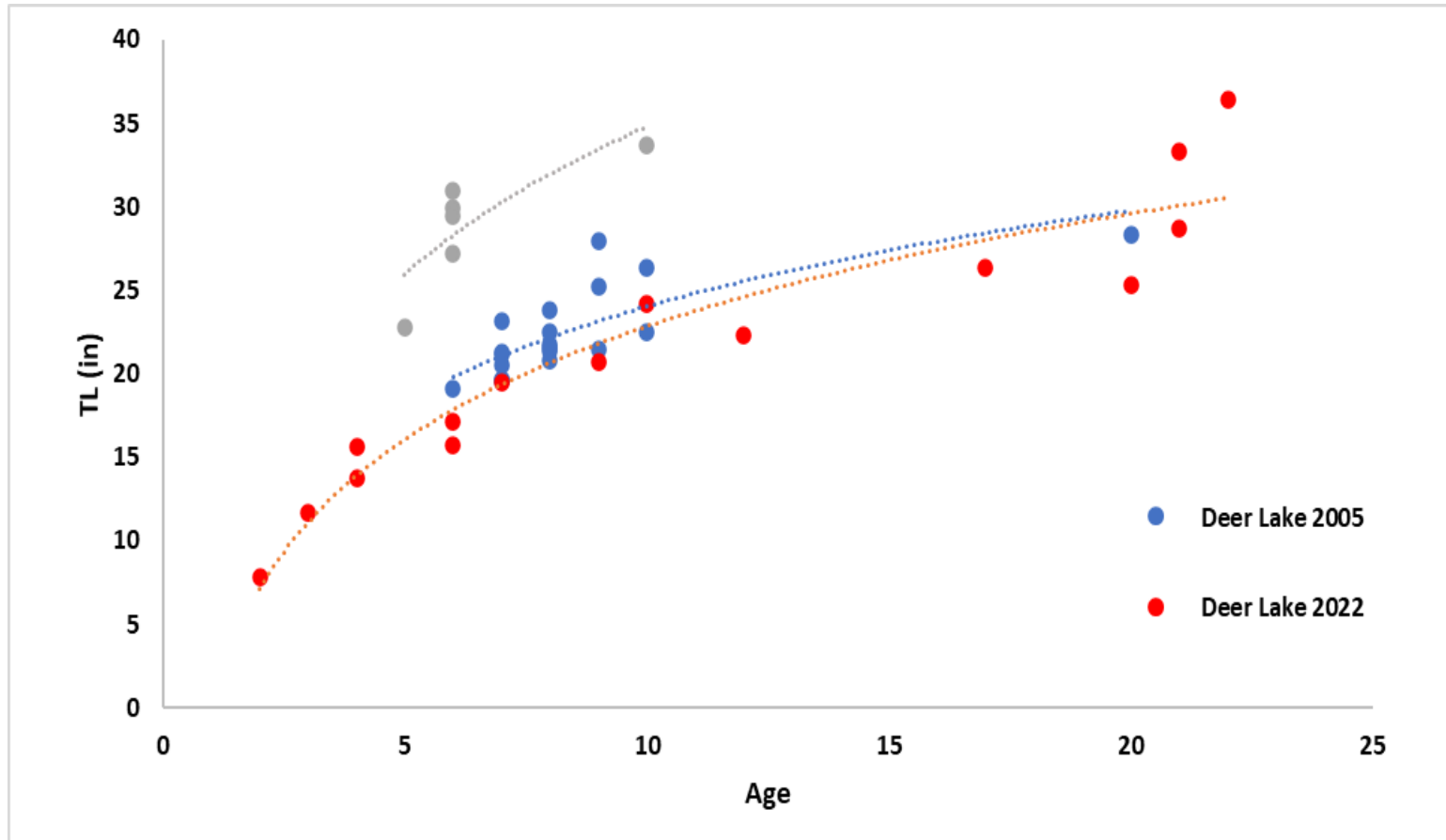
Commenting via web portal

15 comments as of 1/28/24

- 6 - support
 - Conservative rule for Lake Trout
- 4 - opposed
 - Current season is adequate
 - Concerned with over exploitation of Lake trout
- 5 - Neither support nor oppose
 - Comments gave advice on management approaches or other issues not relevant to the proposed rule change



Lake Trout Age and Growth



Fishing rules – Staff recommendation

SEASON	SPECIES	RULES
Current:		
	All Game Fish	Statewide min. size and daily limit. Except: Eastern Brook Trout count as part of trout daily limit.
Proposed:		
	All Game Fish	Statewide min. size and daily limit. Except: Eastern Brook Trout count as part of trout daily limit. Lake Trout daily limit 5, no more than 1 over 26 inches.



Motion Language

Option A (preferred) Motion: I move to amend the fishing rules for Deer Lake (Stevens Co.) Change the open fishing season dates from March 1st to November 30th to year-round and change the harvest rules for Lake Trout from no daily limit for Lake Trout to 5 Lake Trout daily, no more than one over 26 inches in length.

Option B Motion: I move to deny the rule change proposal.

