Minnesota Conservation Federation

Annual Meeting

September 13, 2015 Resolution #6 St. Cloud, Minnesota

Support of Statewide Northern Pike Zone Regulations

WHEREAS; over 100 years of over fishing has depleted the most influential fish in our lakes, that being the larger northern pike. The reduction in numbers of these fish has had and is having negative effects on our fishery, and

WHEREAS; in lakes with high numbers of small pike, due to overharvest of large pike; we will never have successful walleye stocking in those waters, and

WHEREAS; the selective harvest of these large fish can actually genetically change the number of vertebrae and numerous other traits that will keep the species from recovering to its original state, and

WHEREAS; the MN DNR has done extensive research on the pike/perch/walleye relationship, showing when you have large numbers of small pike (over 7.5 per net) you will rarely have over 5 walleye Per Gill net, and

WHEREAS; these high numbers of small pike have depleted the main forage for walleyes, the perch; after the perch have been eaten out of the system the walleyes are the next food source, and

WHEREAS; the State of Minnesota through the DNR spends $3.8 million dollars annually on the walleye stocking program, the most expensive walleye stocked are the advanced fingerlings, many of these fish are being used to feed small pike, and

WHEREAS; stocking efficiency in these problem pike lakes is one out of five being deemed successful, and

WHEREAS; only 15% of stocked walleyes end up being harvested by anglers at a cost of roughly $8.23 per fish, and

WHEREAS; this idea has had an informational hearing in the MN State Senate, and

WHEREAS; the DNR has a plan to change the statewide regulation to a Zone approach to address the small pike problems in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS; we can have a better overall fishery, lower the cost per harvested walleye; and help aid in the recovery of our lakes with a no cost regulation;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conservation Federation at its annual meeting on September 13, 2015 in St. Cloud, Minnesota strongly support changing the statewide northern pike regulation and support the zone regulation approach proposed by the MN DNR.

Sponsored by John Underhill Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance