

## **Winnebago System Fisheries Protection Alliance\***

August 29, 2019

**Contact:** George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation---608-516-5545

### **Press Release**

**Poynette:** Today, the Winnebago System Fisheries Protection Alliance, representing 244 hunting and fishing organizations in Wisconsin, requested the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal by the Fox River Navigational System Authority to reopen the Menasha Lock to allow boat traffic upstream into Lake Winnebago and the Fox-Wolf Rivers Watershed System.

The Menasha Lock was ordered closed by the WDNR in 2015 to prevent the passage of the round goby and other aquatic invasive species up into the Lake Winnebago System. The Fox-Wolf Rivers Watershed, extends from Columbia County in the south to Forest County in the north and contains 22% of the inland water resources of Wisconsin.

The Fox-Wolf River System extends from Columbia County in the south to Forest County in the north and makes up more than 22% of the inland water resources of the state. The watershed maintains a highly diverse and outstanding fishery including the finest Lake Sturgeon population and fishery in the world.

Beyond its vast recreational and environmental benefits, the economic benefits from angling in just the Winnebago Pool lakes according to a 2006 UW-Extension survey found that the total annual economic impact of that fishery was \$234 million and supported 4,300 jobs. The Wisconsin DNR and local and state sports clubs have invested scores of millions of dollars over the years to restore and maintain this highly valuable fishery. As stated previously, almost one-quarter of the state's inland water resources would be put at risk by the reopening of the Menasha Lock.

\*The Winnebago System Fisheries Protection Alliance is comprised of the following organizations: Dotyville Sportmans Club, Eagles Anglers, East Shore Conservation Club, Eden Gun Club, Fishermans Road Fishing Club, Foot of the Lake Fishing Club, Forest Sportsmans Club, Friendship Fishing Club, Lakeshore Bowhunters, Izaak Walton League – Fond du Lac, North Fond du Lac Rod & Gun Club, Lighthouse Anglers, Oakfield Conservation Club, Riverside Hunting & Fishing Club, Winnebago Conservation Club, Van Dyne Sportsmans Club, Wescott Sportsmans Club, Trout Unlimited--Central Wisconsin Chapter, Pipe Fishing Club, Wings Over Wisconsin--Eden Chapter, West Shore Fishing Club, Van Dyne Sportmans Club, WinnebagoLand Musky Club, Stockbridge Fishing Club, Walleyes For Tomorrow Fond du Lac Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow-Brothertown Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow Green Lake Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow Berlin Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow Appleton Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow-Manitowoc Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow-Shawano Chapter, Walleyes For Tomorrow Green Bay Chapter, Sturgeon For Tomorrow-Main Chapter, Sturgeon For Tomorrow-South West Chapter, Sturgeon For Tomorrow-Oshkosh Chapter, Sturgeon For Tomorrow-North Chapter, Sturgeon For Tomorrow - Upper Lakes Chapter, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (206 Affiliate Clubs)

