

Citizen Resolution # 131022

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Black Bear Bait Regulations

Wisconsin's bear baiting rules allow for up to 5.5 months of baiting and unlimited number of bait stations. The long baiting season increases the chances of disease transmission among a myriad of wildlife feeding at these bait stations, increases the chances for bear-hound-wolf conflicts, and bear habituation to foods found among humans at campgrounds and homes. Minnesota and Michigan limit bear baiting to three tended bait stations per registered hunter for two months. Stations may be moved upon submission of a relocation form to the DNR. Wisconsin currently has no baiting registration requirements. Wisconsin wardens have stated they cannot devote time or manpower needed to investigate the number of violations submitted to the DNR hotline. States that mandate fixed identification of bear bait stations include a combination of the following: GPS coordinates, name, address, driver's license or DNR hunting license number, township section and range, and signage. Required identification results in more hunter accountability and allows wardens to swiftly identify violations. A shorter baiting season decreases the number of conflicts around these stations and encourages bears to eat a natural diet available in the woods.

Do you support the WCC working with the WDNR to amend bear baiting regulations through the introduction of rule changes to require that bait sites be identified and to limit baiting to no earlier than 30 days prior to bear hunting season?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://wildlife.org/jwm-study-bait-is-major-food-source-for-northern-wisconsin-bears>

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/recreation/hunting/bear/bait_form.pdf

<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1533&context=hw> [https://www.outdoorsweekly.com/articles/process-for-registering-bear-baits-simplified-for-2021-bear\[1\]season](https://www.outdoorsweekly.com/articles/process-for-registering-bear-baits-simplified-for-2021-bear[1]season)

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.