



Sturgeon Bay Bass Tournament
711 Hickory Street
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

April 15, 2020

Dear Sturgeon Bay Bass Tournament Anglers:

The Sturgeon Bay Bass Tournament Committee has weighed all of our possible options for our 2020 Tournament and have determined that in the health and safety of our staff, the tournament anglers, and the general public that it is best to cancel our 2020 event. We have concurred with State, County, as well as the City of Sturgeon Bay officials on all of the orders that need to be followed. What we have found is as follows:

The Governor of Wisconsin has stated that the “**Safer at Home**” order will not end on April 24th by “just throwing the switch”, but more so in increments. This would start with small groups and moving towards larger events and sport venues. He hints that it could be extended by 30 days as well.

Door County is following in all of the State of Wisconsin orders and has asked for voluntary compliance with the stay at home order, and 14-day self-quarantine for those who do travel to the County from any hotspots.

The City of Sturgeon Bay has notified us that if the Governor’s orders are extended into May all reservations of City Pavilions will be cancelled. This would eliminate using the Pavilion at Sawyer Park and boat launch. In other words, we would have to find a new location to hold the event if this would happen.

Our local Fire Department, who caters our food and beverage sales, is in emergency mode and will be unable to cater this years’ event leaving us with no items to improve our spectator’s experience at the tournament.

The Wisconsin DNR stated within our tournament permit that “Tournament permits do not supersede or exempt the event or it’s participants from any Local, State or Federal Executive Orders pertaining to COVID-19. It is the responsibility of the tournament organizer to verify that all aspects of the fishing tournament comply with the Safer at Home order and all other orders that may have been issued. It is also the responsibility of each individual angler to comply with the “Social Distancing Requirements” as outlined in E.O. #12. Sec.16.” They go on to say in this update that it would be appropriate to imposing 1 person per boat and using electronic registration and weigh-ins. This update also states that tournament organizers and participants may be subject to law enforcement action which could be punishable by 30 days in jail and or a \$250 fine. Rescheduling any tournament would have to be applied for and will be handled on a first come-first serve basis.

The Sturgeon Bay Bass tournament has always been a team tournament with 2 fishing partners in each boat. Changing that at such a late date to a 1 person per boat would be a hardship to most of our angler teams. We received this update just last week.

The committee spent considerable time looking at alternate dates to postpone our 2020 event. In June, we determined that the bass here in Door County do the majority of their spawning and having a tournament in that month would be poorly received by the local sport anglers, and the order may still be in effect forcing another postponement.

We looked into later in the summer months and into fall, but have not found a date that worked for staff and anglers that we had checked with. This is the complete reason we have chosen to return in 2021 with our tournament.

The whole committee has mixed emotions of not having a tournament this year. We were surely going to have the biggest event in our 5th year, as we were well ahead of entries and were expecting to hit our maximum goal of 100 boats. Sturgeon Bay has had a Bass Tournament at our Sawyer Park Launch every year beginning the year it was built in 1991. This began with the Sturgeon Bay Open Bass Tournament, which Cheryl and I started, and continuing with the Sturgeon Bay Bass Tournament. But most of all, we all enjoy working with our great sponsors who support our event and the anglers who come from many locations who have become our friends. It provides our City with a season kick-off venue which helps many of our local businesses, as well as highlighting the awesome fishery Door County has to offer.

We hope everyone understands the reason for our decision, as this pandemic has very much so changed our life in many ways. We feel we are doing the right thing and being responsible in this decision to protect everyone's health and well-being.

Our ultimate goal will be to return in 2021 with an even bigger and better tournament and hope all of you will enter the tournament at that time.

Stay Safe and thank you for your understanding.

The Sturgeon Bay Bass Tournament Committee
Gary Nault, Tournament Director

**Please note: Since this letter was written, the Governor has extended the Safer at Home order until May 26, 2020.

