



Sportsmen and Women of Wisconsin

Spring 2018

We the undersigned, being purchasers of Wisconsin Hunting and Fishing Licenses do hereby petition the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Legislature to take the following Actions:

1. Take the appropriate legal action to cease and desist using Sport License funds to fund DNR patrolling activities for the Commercial Fishermen of Wisconsin. We understand that this amount may be as little at \$350,000 or as much as \$750,000 and we would prefer that this income derived from license sales be used to support the activities directly associated with sport hunting and fishing.
2. Deny the request of the commercial fishermen to deploy Gill Nets in Zone 3 of Lake Michigan in search of Whitefish. This activity was suspended back in 1970 due to safety and other reasons. Using large mesh gill nets places game fish in peril of becoming trapped in the Gill Net and dying, even though they are not the targeted species. This is referred to by-catch and because our Stamp Funds created that fishery, we are in opposition to allowing commercial fishermen to kill those fish, without due compensation.
3. Deny the request of the Commercial Fishermen to be allowed to keep and sell by-catch inadvertently killed by any netting. This could include sporting fishing species like Chinook and Coho Salmon, as well as Brown and Rainbow Trout. Again, these fish were introduced to Lake Michigan using the funds of the Great Lake Salmon Stamp, paid for by the Sportsmen.
4. Deny the immediate request of the Commercial fishermen to have the DNR create an allowable annual harvest of Lake Trout from the waters of Lake Michigan. We endorse further studies being performed by the science community as well as state and federal authorities to fully estimate if it is in the best interest of the Lake Michigan Sport Fishery to allow commercial harvest, complete with estimated additional potential by-catch mortality.

Furthermore, we request that the Wisconsin NRB and the State Legislature create a Sport Fishing Board for the State of Wisconsin and the thousands of Sport Fishermen, on the same terms and authority as the current Commercial Fishing Board. This would include recognition of the Sport Fishing Board as an authorized entity representing Sport Fishermen to the Wisconsin NRB and DNR, with equal representation. These 2 Boards could work together with the DNR at the sanctioned Fisheries Forum Meetings to work out the best solutions for all fishermen on an equal plane, based on the best economic situation and the best outcome for the fishery, which belongs to all of Wisconsin Citizens as declared by law.

Until the Board is authorized and created, we designate the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs as our collective representative.

Signed:

(Please print these 2 pages and sign on page 2 – US Mail to: GLSF – Gill Net Petition, P.O. Box 510332, New Berlin, WI 53151-0332 and your signatures will count if received by April 30!)

Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of sport fishing in the Great Lakes.

