

## **Resolution to Create a Lake Michigan Sports Fishing Board**

Whereas, sports fishing on Lake Michigan is a critically important recreational and economic activity bringing in over a billion dollars of economic impact to the state from motels, restaurants, watercraft sales, sporting goods sales and general tourist activity; and

Whereas, the Lake Michigan Fishery is a jointly shared sports and commercial fishery; and

Whereas, the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources have the authority to establish policies and regulations for the Lake Michigan Fishery; and

Whereas, the Legislature has created the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board as a statutorily created body to be advisory to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on all matters concerning the Lake Michigan fishery; and

Whereas, as a statutorily created entity, the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board has unlimited presentation rights and substantial impact on the NRB decisions on the joint commercial and sport fishery; and

Whereas, a Lake Michigan Sports Fishing Board advisory to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources would provide Lake Michigan sports anglers with similar opportunities to impact policy and regulatory matters concerning the Lake Michigan fishery; and

Whereas, a Lake Michigan Sports Fishing Board should be comprised of a geographic membership that represents Lake Michigan sports anglers from Marinette to Kenosha.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting on April 12 and 13, 2019 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin requests that the Wisconsin Legislature create a Lake Michigan Sports Fishing Board attached to the Department of Natural Resources to represent the interests of Lake Michigan sports anglers before that body.

Submitted on behalf of the:

Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sports Fishing Clubs  
and the WWF Great Lakes Committee, Keith Pamperin, Chair