

Resolution to Contain the Round Gobies in the Fox River

Whereas, the Round Goby, (*Neogobius melanostomus*), is an aquatic invasive species first discovered in the Great Lakes system in 1990, likely arriving in ballast water from ocean-going ships traversing the St. Lawrence Seaway; and

Whereas, round gobies are aggressive, voracious feeders that eat the eggs of native fish such as sculpins, darters, lake trout, smallmouth bass and walleye; and

Whereas, round gobies take over prime spawning sites traditionally used by native species, competing with native fish for habitat and changing the balance of the ecosystem and are very prolific, reproducing up to six times a year; and

Whereas, it has been confirmed that round gobies have moved from Lake Michigan up the Fox River and have been found below the Neenah Dam; and

Whereas, upstream on the Fox River is Lake Winnebago and the Wolf River System, which contains a world class walleye fishery, the largest self-sustaining population of lake sturgeon in North America, good populations of bass, yellow perch and other important game and panfish species, a fishery found to have a total annual economic impact of \$234 million and 4,300 jobs

Whereas, the valuable Winnebago and Wolf River System fishery would be highly threatened by predation by round gobies; and

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources immediately required that the next upstream Menasha lock and dam be closed and has recently indicated that the lock and dam be closed indefinitely.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2016 Annual Meeting on April 8th and 9th in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin applauds the rapid action of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to contain the spread of round gobies by the closure of the Menasha lock and dam and calls on the Department to require such lock and dam to be kept closed permanently in order to prevent the spread of round gobies into the Lake Winnebago and Wolf River System

Submitted by the WWF Inland Fisheries Committee by:
Gordy Merz, Chair