

Resolution Ending Sporting Subsidy of the Great Lakes Commercial Fishery

Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislature has statutorily established and mandated a Great Lakes fishery to include a Sport and Commercial component; and

Whereas, Great Lakes Commercial Fishing management is the responsibility of the WDNR and Commercial Fishing enforcement regulations is the responsibility of state Conservation Wardens; and

Whereas, Commercial Fishing licenses pay a small portion of the required funds needed for management and enforcement of Commercial Fishing; and

Whereas, the bulk of the Commercial fishery management is paid for by hunting, fishing and trapping license dollars and fee funds; and

Whereas, the public who consume the commercial fish are the primary beneficiaries of sound commercial fisheries management; and

Whereas, it is unreasonable for Wisconsin sports hunters, anglers, and trappers to subsidize the management and regulation of the legislatively mandated Great Lakes commercial fishing industry.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2016 Annual Meeting on April 8th and 9th in Wisconsin Rapids, calls on the Governor, the Legislature, the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to eliminate the use of sport fishing, hunting and trapping dollars to subsidize the management and enforcement of the Great Lakes commercial fishing industry.

Submitted by the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs
Thom Gulash, President