

Ending Fish and Wildlife Fund Subsidy for the Management of the Great Lakes Commercial Fishery

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has statutorily mandated that the Great Lakes Fishery Program include both a sports and commercial fishing component; and

WHEREAS, the management of the Great Lakes commercial fishery is accomplished by DNR fish managers and the enforcement of the Great Lakes commercial fishing regulations is done by DNR conservation wardens; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing license fees only pay a small portion of the funds needed for Great Lakes commercial fishing management and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the cost of the Department of Natural Resources' management and enforcement of the Great Lakes commercial fishing industry is paid for by state sports hunting, fishing and trapping license dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is unreasonable for Wisconsin sports hunters, anglers and trappers to subsidize the management and regulation of the state's Great Lakes commercial fishing industry:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 16-18, 2010 call on the Governor, the Legislature, the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to end the use of sports hunting, fishing and trapping license dollars to subsidize the DNR costs to manage the Great Lakes commercial fishery.

Submitted by
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WWF Great Lakes Committee