

Resolution Supporting Creation of a Fish Passage Ladder at the Lamprey Barrier on the Iron River.

WHEREAS, prior to the 1923 construction of the Orienta Dam near Port Wing in Bayfield County, anadromous (lake run) salmonids ascended the Orienta Falls on the Iron River on their upstream migration; and

WHEREAS, sportsmen were led to believe upstream migration of anadromous salmonids would be restored when the damaged Orienta Dam was removed in mid-1989. However, following the dam removal, a lamprey barrier was installed blocking all upstream fish migration to the disappointment of sportsmen; and

WHEREAS, fish migration up the Iron River would connect Lake Superior to Wisconsin's third largest trout stream tributary. A July 1993 DNR Report issued after an extensive study of the river system estimated the anadromous salmonid run would increase Wisconsin's Lake Superior anadromous fishery by nearly twenty nine percent; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 dollars the increased economic impact to the combined lake and stream fishery if the migration was allowed would be \$300,000 annually. It would take an estimated cost of \$400,000 annually to duplicate the projected Iron River anadromous fishery by stocking; and

WHEREAS, the current resident river fishery would not be significantly altered by restoring the migration based on the experience of similar anadromous use of other south shore streams such as the Brule and Sioux Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the July 1993 DNR Report also stated that the additional anadromous fish produced by the Iron River would not significantly impact forage abundance in Lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial anadromous fish migration can be established by the construction of a fish passage ladder at the site of the current lamprey barrier on the Iron River; and

WHEREAS, while the anadromous fish migration is beneficial, it is also important to protect the upstream Iron River Federal Fish Hatchery from being impacted by the migration; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Fish Hatchery can be protected by improving the current fish barrier on Schacte Creek, the tributary on which the hatchery exists, by replacing the current jumping pool at the Schacte Creek fish barrier with a concrete splash pad.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WWF at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on April 12th-13st, 2019 strongly support the restoration of anadromous Lake Superior salmonids passage to the upper Iron River by the construction of a fish passage ladder at the current lamprey barrier on the Iron River.

Submitted by the WWF Inland Fisheries Committee
Gordy Merz, Chairman and Ken Lundberg Vice Chair