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Eau Claire

Title: **Elimination of Non-Native Species Stocking in Inland Waters**

The Problem:

"Non-native plants, animals, and diseases are taking a toll on Wisconsin lakes, rivers, landscapes, as well as our recreation and economy." (WI DNR website) Tens of millions of dollars have been spent to address the problems associated with the introduction of non-native and invasive species in Wisconsin. Yet the Department's fishery program historically and currently contributes to the spread of non-native species through inland stocking programs of brown and rainbow trout.

This practice is extremely inconsistent with the message and effort of other Department programs and many other agencies and organizations.

More than 2/3 of 615,296 trout released by the Department to "hundreds of waters statewide" were not native to Wisconsin in 2009 alone. Many of these are "put and take" waters - an unsustainable practice both environmentally and economically.

The Fish Management Handbook allows the removal of native species in favor of non-native stocked species.

Stocking of non-native species occurs in the state's highest classified waters (ORWs).

Other activities involving such a direct alteration of our inland waters require public process far beyond the requirements of the Fish Management Handbook.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Eau Claire County on April 12, 2010, recommends the Department eliminate its practice of stocking non-native species in inland waters, and revise fishery program policy to be consistent with this recommendation.

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