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The Problem:

Lake Michigan perch numbers are still down 97%. For 15 years these extremely low numbers have resulted in a 5 perch limit, the lowest limit in the State. The DNR has not hesitated to stock other species of fish in other waters, for example 340 million walleyes in Vilas Co., to benefit other communities or fisheries.

The DNR refuses to stock yellow perch in Lake Michigan again, even when Lake Michigan strain yellow perch were being produced at the U.W. Milwaukee Great Lakes Water Institute, (1999-2003) or when 1.1 million perch were stocked in the Rock River, (1994-1998). The DNR also stocked about 3 million perch in Beaver Dam Lake.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by stocking Lake Michigan strain yellow perch into Lake Michigan in order to increase the perch population from current, dangerously low levels. To provide for a restored perch fishery, one with higher limits, encouraging fishing and tourism in Southeast Wisconsin, just as the DNR provides for other, far less populous communities.



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