

C

#2

410215

Title: Stopping the misuse of Sport money by the DNR.

The problem:

In 2012 Commercial Fishing Management Costs to the DNR was \$776,400, while the commercial industry paid \$75,800 in License Revenues, per Mr. Staggs (DNR). Sport license dollars were used to cover the \$700,000 shortfall and I believe that to be in violation of Wisconsin Legislature (Chapter 418, Laws of 1977, Section 923 (37) (d) 3), which demands '... an economically viable and stable commercial fishery and an active recreational fishery'.

Sport money was used, despite commercial fisherman taking \$6.1 million of public fish in 2012 (67% going to just 6 fishers). I estimate that this year, \$1 million of sport money will be used to pay for commercial fishing management costs. For years the Great Lakes Commercial Fishing Task Force have stated that they 'recognize that it will never be self supporting', as currently managed. For 10+ years alternate funding has not been found and the DNR seems unwilling to change commercial management to lower costs. Currently, via excess quotas, any reopening or increase in commercial harvest can automatically result in the taking of yet more sport money.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee County on April 13, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by obeying current law and not use any sport money to pay for commercial fishing management costs to the DNR.

Name of Author: Steven Alt
Address: 2342 W. Daphne Rd
City, State, Zip Code: Glendale, Wisconsin 53209
Name of the County Introducing In: Milwaukee
Telephone number: 414-247-2029

Signature: Steven Alt