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41-04-16

Title: Protecting jobs, sport dollars and Great Lakes fisheries

The Problem: Since 1977 Legislation has demanded commercial fishing, but since 1991 has refused to pay for it. The DNR refuses to manage commercial fishing as cheaply as possible. For decades there haven't even enough fish left in the Great Lakes to fill all commercial limits. Lake Michigan native prey fish are now down 99+% since 1989.

Commercials pay around \$76,000 per year in licenses, but commercial fishing requires over ten (10) times as much money, in public fish (\$6 million yr.), sport license money (\$700,000 yr.), ecological damage and lost economic opportunities, then commercials generate in total gross profit.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee County on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing change(s) to repeal the Wis. law requiring a commercial fishery, in order to end all State licensed commercial fishing in the future and thus save and generate millions of dollars every year.



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