

This resolution applies to multiple-lake tournaments only. It does not apply to tournaments that are on single waterbodies.

Fishing tournaments occur frequently on Wisconsin lakes resulting in hundreds of participants and tens of thousands of dollars in entry fees. It is in the best interest of the public, *including all tournament participants and organizers*, to protect our waters from aquatic invasive species (AIS). Tournament registration fees generate *substantial* revenue for the tournament sponsors and participants and could easily cover the cost to inspect boats for AIS.

04-07-2010

RESOLUTION: Multiple-Lake Fishing Tournaments and AIS Spread April 12, 2010

The Problem: 1. Many lakes are now infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and other AIS. Multiple-lake tournaments can result in transport of AIS from contaminated lakes. 2. Multiple-lake tournaments encourage boaters to travel from lake to lake, resulting in many lakes being visited by many boaters. 3. Success often requires quick transporting of boats, frequently resulting in fishermen not cleaning boats and trailers between launches. 4. AIS contamination can result in substantial loss in property values and tax base. It can eliminate recreational boating and devastate the fishery. 5. Paid, Clean Boats-Clean Waters (CBCW) staff are very effective in educating boaters, intercepting AIS, and preventing infestation. 6. The general public should not bear the monitoring expense because it is the tournament organizers and participants that benefit. 7. **Protection of public waters far outweighs the entertainment and profits of tournament organizers and participants.**

The Solution: Be it resolved that

1. Multiple-lake fishing tournaments must use the least possible number of boat landings to facilitate CBCW monitoring.
2. CBCW staff shall monitor all tournament landings throughout the event. Wages shall be paid by the tournament organizers.
3. Tournament rules shall state "*All participants must have boats, trailers and boating equipment inspected by CBCW monitors and use only launches approved by event organizers or be subject to immediate disqualification and forfeiture of entry fees.*"
4. A list of AIS contaminated waters shall be provided to participants by the DNR prior to the event with instructions to carefully inspect boats, trailers and equipment when leaving these contaminated waters.
5. Be it further resolved that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress calls upon each county and the State to provide adequate law enforcement to enforce AIS transport and related AIS violations at all tournaments.

Do you support these conditions related to the spread of invasive species through multiple-lake fishing tournaments? Y N

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Items in small font are not part of the resolution but for information only. They do not need to be read as part of the resolution:

- The primary means of AIS contamination is from AIS being transported on boating equipment by fishermen.
- A dime-sized fragment of EWM can contaminate an entire lake.
- Example: Each October there is a multiple-lake tournament in northwest Wisconsin. 18 lakes are involved in Sawyer and Bayfield Co. Over half of these lakes have EWM. The event attracts about 500 sportsmen each year. Entry fees are \$75, generating \$35,000. This is a 3-day event. The 500 fishermen often travel from lake to lake, usually in a hurry to launch and fish. Most of the landings used, including those on lakes with AIS, have no monitors. Some of the lakes they fish have many landings, making it difficult for the local lake associations to provide inspectors. Wages for the inspectors come from public funds, even though it is for the entertainment and, perhaps, the gain of the fishermen and tournament organizers.
- Most musky anglers are concerned about AIS and take time to inspect their equipment. Some, however, are less concerned and less careful. This would help assure that all tournament participants are aware and instructed to help prevent possible spread of AIS by following the AIS transport laws.
- **Protection of our public waters for all citizens far outweighs the financial profits and entertainment of the few.**