

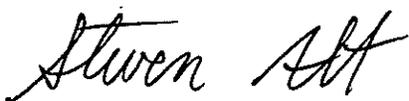
Title : Stopping the misuse of Fish & Wildlife Account funds

The Problem:

Fish and Wildlife Account funds have, for 20 years, been used to subsidize Wisconsin commercial fishing, in violation of Wisconsin Legislature, Chapter 418, Laws of 1977, Section 923 (37) (d) 3 - requiring "...an economically viable and stable commercial fishery...".

Sport funds were being taken, despite over \$120 million (adjusted for inflation) of public fish given for free to commercial fishers. By contrast, public trees are auctioned. Since the law requires that commercial fishing "be economically viable" and since the Great Lakes Commercial Fishing Task Force finds that commercial fishing will never be self supporting and it's been requested that GPR funds be used to support the viability of commercial fishing (Question 81, 2010 WCC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee County on April 12, 2010 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to protect Fish & Wildlife Account Funds by recommending to the Legislature that all commercial fishing be closed until such time as it can be made 'economically viable' as required by law or until such time as the Legislature changes the current law and/or appropriates the needed funds. If the Legislature refuses to make needed changes, it should recommend the Department work with the Department of Justice to prevent any more Fish & Wildlife Account funds from being taken for commercial fishing.



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