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Title: The Phasing Out of Felt Sole Wading Products.

The Problem:

Felt soles wading boots have been identified as a primary means of transferring aquatic invasive species such as Whirling Disease, Didymo, Mud Snails and Zebra Mussels that has devastated fisheries elsewhere. The reason that felt sole products are the primary contributor to transferring aquatic invasive species is because the felt soles are difficult to sanitize between uses and may take several days to dry. The industry has alternative felt sole wading products that are comparable or better than their felt counterparts.

At present there is not a regulation on felt sole wading products. Currently Alaska and Vermont have outlawed felt sole wading products and Colorado, Maryland, Montana and Oregon are considering the phasing out of felt sole products.

Currently Zebra mussels are a known aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin and Whirling Disease has been reported in states in the area. Mud snails and Didymo have not currently been reported in Wisconsin and this regulation would be a step in preventing the spread these aquatic invasive species.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change to phase out felt sole products.

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