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Title: Patron License Otter And Fisher Tag Drawing

The Problem:

When purchasing a Wisconsin Patron license, the licensee has the choice of being entered in the drawing for an otter and/or fisher tag (at no extra charge) or preference point.

Some, regardless of whether they actually intend to use the tag(s), enter the drawing because it's free. This prevents quite a few trappers who actually want to trap otter or fisher from being drawn. Thus, the probability of the serious trapper receiving a tag(s) from the drawing is reduced.

This results in less otters and fishers being harvested each year, as well as a higher incidence of accidental catches.

A solution would be to charge an additional fee for the drawing, as in the case of the bobcat or wolf tag drawing.

Resolution: I recommend that the Conservation Congress Work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change allowing a fee to be charged for the otter and fisher tag drawing when purchasing a Patron license.



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