71-02-14

April 8, 2014

THE PROBLEM

Walleye eggs and aquatic vegetation are being destroyed in the walleye spawning marshes of the Wolf River by individuals entering the marshes using boats propelled by "Go Devil" style engines.

WHEREAS: State Statute 23.095 "Protection of Natural Resource" **(1g)** GENERAL PROHIBITION. No person may damage or attempt to damage any natural resource within the state.

WHEREAS: State Statute 23.095 (a) "Damage" means to commit any physical act that unreasonably destroys, molests, defaces, removes or wastes.

WHEREAS: The offending boats propulsion system churns up, grinds up and displaces aquatic vegetation present in the marshes.

WHEREAS: Churning up of bottom sediments by these boats causes maturing walleye eggs to become covered with silt.

WHEREAS: Fertilized walleye eggs adhered to the submerged vegetation are dislodged and sink into the bottom sediment where they will suffocate

BE IT RESOLVED: There be a change in State Statute or N.R.Rule to make the public and private spawning marshes of the Wolf River NO ENTRY BY MOTORIZED WATER CRAFT other than for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May.

Submitted by

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