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Title: Lake Michigan Yellow Perch protection

The Problem:

Yellow perch numbers are down 99% in Lake Michigan and 96% in Green Bay (GB). I believe due in part to the WDNR's policy of allocating yellow perch harvest equally between the sport and commercial fishery and the 2005 & 2007 decision to increase GB commercial limits to uncatchable levels. WDNR policies have resulted in commercials historically taking over half the perch and perch 50% larger than sportsmen. The largest perch should be protected for spawning and repopulating Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by removing the Yellow Perch as a Lake Michigan commercial species, just as Northern Pike were removed as a commercial species.

Name of Author: Steven Alt

Name of Organization: Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Conservation Groups

Address: 2342 W. Daphne Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Glendale, Wisconsin 53209

Name of the County Introducing In: Milwaukee

Telephone Number: 414-247-2029

Steven Alt

*Congress member
Richard Mander
3716 S. 87th St
Milwaukee WI 53228*