

Citizen Resolution # 410221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Repeal the commercial fishing law (requires legislation)

Wisconsin law demands, "...an economically viable and stable commercial fishery..", yet in 2000 & 2010 (WCC Q81), about netting the DNR stated "...we recognize that it will never be self-supporting". The public have demanded to end using sport license money to pay DNR commercial Management and Enforcement costs (M&EC), which has gone from \$61,000 to \$937,477 by 2016. Instead of continuing to use sport license money for future shortfalls in M&EC, the Legislature could instead change law to use tax dollars or raise license fees to cover all commercial costs, or the DNR could cut costs by reducing commercial, 'participation', seasons, limits, waters or species netted. Netters receive future rights to fish (quota), free fish which are resold (fish worth \$180+ million since 1989), padded limits, limited completion, resalable quota. Per Dr. Bishop, the economic benefit is 10 times greater for sport caught rather than netted fish. The total 2016 dockside value of ~\$3 million provided ~\$362,000 to netters, so ~2.5 times more sport money was taken than netters saw in profit. It's cheaper to retire netters. There were 234 active netters in 1977 by 2018 were 30 with another 15 inactive. Over 6 years the top 7 netters got 61% of dockside value (~80% whitefish). WI loses \$30+ for every pound of netted fish reported. In order to protect fisheries and sport dollars as well as generate millions of new economic dollars, the WCC shall work with the Legislature to repeal the law requiring a commercial fishery.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.