

Citizen Resolution # 500221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Expanding Opportunities for Underwater Spearfishermen

Underwater spearfishing is the sport of hunting fish in their natural environment. As a unique combination of fishing and hunting, underwater spearfishing is centered around sustainability & building a connection between the spearfisherman and the natural world. Both hook & line fishing and spearfishing target fish, but underwater spearfishing imposes fewer negative environmental impacts. Underwater spearfishermen are able to be selective with their catch, so they don't disturb, injure, or kill any fish they don't intend to take home. Additionally, underwater spearfishing leaves no waste such as fishing line, hooks, or lead sinkers in the environment. Underwater spearfishing also offers a unique physical & mental challenge in that a spearfisherman must hunt wild game underwater, frequently on just a lungful of air. Despite this, Wisconsin spearfishermen are currently restricted to pursuing only rough fish and panfish. Rough fish are typically regarded as poor eating, and many panfish must be harvested to make a decent meal. This makes spearfishing, a sport integrally tied to eating your catch, less attractive in WI. Having more options would allow Wisconsin's underwater spearfishermen to have a more fulfilling experience while participating in the sport they love. With this in mind, underwater spearfishermen in Wisconsin propose the following: Underwater spearfishing be legalized for catfish (flathead & channel) and Northern Pike. Wisconsin spearfishermen understand that to take, we should also give. Would you support legalizing Catfish and Northern Pike for underwater spearfishing with a \$10 Underwater Spearfishing Stamp?

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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.