Remove burbot from list of Wisconsin rough fish (requires legislation).

The burbot (also called eelpout and lawyer) is a valuable, native fish found in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and many inland Wisconsin waters. The burbot, along with the lake trout, was historically one of the top native predator fish in Wisconsin’s Great Lakes waters. Although its population suffered when sea lampreys and other invasive aquatic species entered the region in the 1900s, burbot numbers have rebounded in recent years and are increasingly popular with sport anglers. At present, burbot is included in the list of rough fish in Wisconsin law. State statute NR 29.001(74) lists the following as Wisconsin rough fish: suckers, common carp, goldfish, freshwater drum, burbot, bowfin, garfish, sea lamprey, alewife, gizzard shad, rainbow smelt and mooneye. According to state fishing regulations, rough fish are not protected and may be taken year-round and in unlimited number by hand, hook and line, spear and other methods. Since it’s a valuable, native species, many anglers believe burbot should be removed from the list of rough fish. Such a change would allow it to be managed as a game fish. Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and DNR working with the state legislature to remove burbot from the list of Wisconsin rough fish?

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