

# Resolution 160420

## Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Fee Increase to Fund Cold Water Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations

WHEREAS, State of Wisconsin Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations require funding to adequately staff, maintain, repair and upgrade facilities to meet current demands, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a fish propagation system admired by many, but critical investments are necessary to meet future stocking needs. Doing nothing will result in shortfalls of fish for stocking statewide and will affect businesses benefitting from the \$2.75 billion in economic impact, 30,000 jobs, and the \$196 million in local and state tax revenues fishing provides annually in Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp has been ten dollars (\$10) since 2004, without the additional revenue which would be raised with a fee increase designated specifically for hatchery and rearing station needs, adequate staffing, maintenance and repair, some vital facilities (Such as the Brule State Fish Hatchery) may be lost, and

WHEREAS, a Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp fee increase will help provide resources which will benefit Wisconsin residents, tourism, businesses and recreational opportunities throughout the State of Wisconsin. The requested increase to the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Fee would be an increase of Five Dollars (\$5), to fifteen dollars (\$15).

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at its Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting held in Douglas County On April 13, 2020 recommends that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress support this initiative and present it to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for implementation to further support and promote Cold Water Fish Hatcheries and Rearing Stations in Wisconsin.

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