

Citizen Resolution # 660321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Remove burbot from WI rough fish list

Whereas, 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.

Be it resolved, On April 12th, 2021 that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting: 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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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.