

Citizen Resolution # 710221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Expanding Opportunities for Underwater Spearfishermen

Underwater spearfishing is centered around the sustainable harvest of fish in a unique and challenging way. Essentially underwater hunting, spearfishing is integrally tied to eating your catch. Unfortunately, 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. Therefore, Wisconsin spearfishermen are seeking to expand our opportunities to hunt more desirable fish, namely coho & chinook salmon. We believe that salmon are good candidates for spearfishing for a number of reasons. Primarily, salmon populations are supported by massive, multi-state DNR stocking operations, and spearfishermen are subject to the same bag limits as line fishermen. Thus, there should be little concern for spearfishing's effects on salmon populations.

Furthermore, if Wisconsin legalized underwater spearfishing for salmon, it would be one of two locations in the world (the other being Alaska) where spearfishing coho & chinook salmon is environmentally viable & legal. This would open up unique economic opportunities for fishing charters in the state, as Wisconsin is more accessible than Alaska. Additionally, spearfishing is about sustenance, so it would make sense that one of Wisconsin's best eating fish would be legal quarry. To finalize, we recommend underwater spearfishing of salmon be permitted only when the spearfisherman is fully submerged. It would not include above water spearing/bowfishing for salmon.

With these points in mind, would the Wisconsin Conservation Congress support legalizing underwater spearfishing for coho & chinook salmon?

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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.

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