

# Citizen Resolution # 682422

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## Unified one bag for steelhead on Wi. Great Lakes

**Problem and Background:** Currently the rainbow trout limit for Lake Michigan and its tributaries is 5 salmonids, of which all five could be rainbow trout. There is concern that the Lake Michigan bag is too liberal. It is perceived as giving an unfair advantage to lake anglers, while potentially putting stream-run fish at high risk of over-exploitation. The limit for Lake Superior and tributaries is 5 salmonids, but only one rainbow. This regulation was devised in a similar system to address similar concerns, and is in the established "Great Lakes regulation tool box". Many other Great Lakes states have gone to similar steelhead bag reductions in recent years. According to WDNR (Brad Eggold, Personal Communication) the steelhead population as indexed by the Root River Weir has declined over the last 40 years, from a high of about 3500 in the 1980s, to about 2500 in the 90s, and now in this century, 500-800 steelhead per year. Suspected causes include climate, water temperature, major community shifts in the lake ecosystem, stocking, and early life history survival. Harvest would be low on this list. Analysis of lake fishery creel data shows that the daily bag would have to be reduced to one rainbow, before we could expect any meaningful upgrade in the stream fishery. **Proposed Objective:** Simplify rules for Great Lakes steelhead fishery and insure an equitable division of harvest between the lake and stream user groups.

**Do you support changing the steelhead bag limit on Lake Michigan from five to one, as is already in effect in Lake Superior?**

Additional Information provided by author:

**Tom Couston**  
**1160 Chester St.**  
**Brookfield, WI 53005**  
**18476874411**  
**tomgcouston@att.net**  
**Waukesha County**

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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.