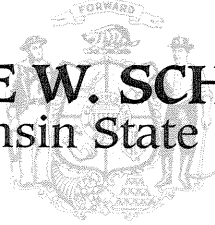


DALE W. SCHULTZ
Wisconsin State Senator



SB3786-
3 pt 01

TALKING POINTS

SENATE BILL 378

THEFT OF FARM RAISED FISH

- DATCP and DNR are in support of Senate Bill 378 (see letter)
- Theft of fish from Private and State Hatcheries is a problem that is increasing.
- Current penalties do not provide enough deterrence nor do they provide incentives for law enforcement to pursue violators.
- Due to the isolated nature of fish rearing ponds, they are easy targets for violators.
- Farm raised brood stock fish the most valuable are often the target as they are "Trophy Sized" fish.
- These crimes are often committed not for the food value of the fish, but for display value as a trophy mount. The same reason violators poach trophy deer.
- A brood stock fish is a asset that is often time more valuable than some livestock or prized horses. (see example below)

The Facts; (using conservative averages)

A female Walleye brood stock can be worth to the industry \$50.00 to \$500.00 depending on the genetic strain and productivity. A 7inch production proven female walleye would average \$350.00 to purchase.

A female Walleye, in its prime years of production will produce an average of 12,000 eggs per pound of fish. This calculates to 48,000 viable eggs for a 4 lb. Walleye, for one year of production with the fish at peak production for 5 years.

Harvested eggs will have a 70% successful hatch rate after fertilization.
That 70% hatch rate leaves on average 33,600 viable eggs per productive year.

The current market value of a 6 to 8 inch stockable walleye fingerling is on average \$1.80.

The numbers. (Using conservative estimates)

33,600 eggs X 5 years production = 168,000 viable eggs X \$1.80

= \$302,400.00 which conservatively represents the potential loss of revenue to an aquaculture operator if this fish is stolen before it's first year of production begins.

This figure does not include the actual value of the brood fish.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
and
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade & Consumer Protection



January 7, 2002

Senator Dale Schultz
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707


Dear Senator Schultz:

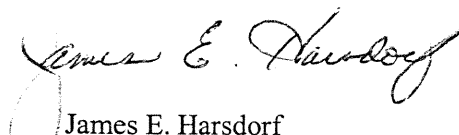
We are writing to convey support from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for LRB-3441/3, relating to penalties for farm raised fish. This bill increases penalties for theft of fish raised in state fish hatcheries and private fish farms, and will act as a deterrent to potential theft of these fish in the future. This legislation is beneficial to both private fish farms and DNR's fish hatcheries. Consequently both Departments support the proposed legislation.

Fish theft has become a costly reality to the aquaculture industry and public hatcheries as they have grown in Wisconsin. Due to this increasing experience, we feel it is important that the penalties for fish theft be enhanced to address this costly problem.

Thank you for your continued support of the aquaculture industry, public fisheries, and other natural resource programs.

Sincerely,


Darrell Bazzell
Secretary


James E. Harsdorf
Secretary

SENATE BILL 378

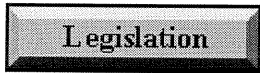
History of Senate Bill 378

SENATE BILL 378

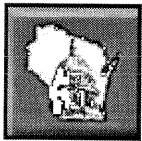
An Act to amend 895.80 (1) and 939.32 (1) (intro.); and to create 943.74 and 973.075 (1) (bj) of the statutes; relating to: theft of farm-raised fish and providing penalties. (FE)
2002

- 01-11. S. Introduced by Senators Schultz, Baumgart, Jauch and Roessler; cosponsored by Representatives Freese, Gronemus, Ladwig, Lassa, Ryba, Loeffelholz, Krawczyk, Turner, Skindrud, Starzyk, Plouff, Musser, Pettis, Hahn, McCormick, Albers, Petrowski, Johnsrud, Hines, Ott, Stone, Vrakas, Townsend, Sykora and Gunderson.
- 01-11. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs, and Campaign Finance Reform 499
- 01-16. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 01-22. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 01-22. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 01-29. S. Withdrawn from committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs, and Campaign Finance Reform and referred to committee on Environmental Resources 530
- 02-13. S. Fiscal estimate received.

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