



## MEMO

To: Natural Resource Committee  
From: Mike Rusch  
Northeastern Wisconsin Great  
Lakes Sport Fishermen  
Date: July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003

Dear Legislators,

Below is a copy of the Post Cards we sent to our Membership and those Fishermen that fish our Annual Salmon Derby. Over 1,100 of these were mailed back to the Wisconsin DNR. If we did not notify our fishermen, who was going to contact them.

### **“United We Stand”**

Dear Dr. Horns, Fisheries Team, and WDNR Board,  
We, the Sport Fishermen of Lake Michigan's Zone 3, are STILL in opposition to the Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3, based on “User Conflict, Safety, Lake Trout Mortality and the Negative Economic Impact on Sport Fishing & Boating Tourism.” We see no reason to place any sport fishermen in Zone 3, or their equipment at risk for several commercial fishermen, when these same commercial fishermen are not fishing their entire allowed season (FALL SEASON). A Quota is not a guaranteed catch. We do request that the Whitefish Trap Net Season remains “As Is” in Zone 3 with their nets being removed between June 28<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day. We also support the “Uniform Trap Net Marking System”, which should have been brought forth on its own merit.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

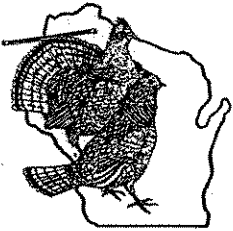
This was mailed to:

Dr. William Horns  
Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

Sincerely,

Mike Rusch

Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen



# Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

720 ST. CROIX ST., SUITE 101, PRESCOTT, WI 54021 • (715) 262-9279 • 1-800-897-4161

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Date: May 15, 2003

To: Bill Horns, WDNR Fisheries Management Team

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) through it's Great Lakes Fisheries Committee, remains opposed to the WDNR revised "Green Sheet" Item FH-46-02.

Our members oppose ANY EXTENSION of the whitefish trapnetting season in Zone Three of Lake Michigan.

We regard the proposed area a direct issue of user conflict. An extension of this commercial fishing season in the area described is also a direct issue of safety. We see no reason for putting the sportfishermen.s lives at risk and the risk of equipment entanglement for purely greater profits to the commercial fishing industry!

We also believe that a serious detrimental economic impact would befall the ports of Manitowoc and Two Rivers with regards to sportfishing tourism if this travesty should prevail!

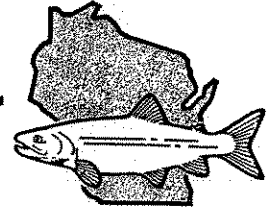
We request that the Whitefish Trap Net season remain as is in Zone Three of Lake Michigan with the nets being removed between June 28<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day of each year.

Sincerely,

The Great Lakes Fisheries Committee  
Of The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Frank Herres, District 11 Director & Committee Chairman  
2230 Ledvina Circle  
Green Bay, WI. 54313  
920-499-5703

# Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs



Mr. Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

March 19, 2003

Mr. Secretary:

Early in March, we received word of what the Fisheries Team was bringing to the March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. As you might expect we are satisfied with the Green Bay Smelt Recommendation found in proposal FH-12-03. Our only regret is that the WDNR did not make this move several years ago when we still had viable smelt numbers in the bay from which the population could rebuild. We are extremely upset with what has transpired with regards to proposal FH-46-02, the Whitefish Trap Net Season Extension in Zone 3.

- When this process started back in 2000, 3 Commercial Fishermen persuaded the Fisheries Forum to bring forth a Deep Water Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3. Originally they started out asking for 12 nets per license holder and with 5 license holders with ties to Two Rivers, we could have had up to 60 trap nets in our waters off Manitowoc/Two Rivers all summer.
- The Fisheries Forum could not come to consensus on this controversial topic, therefore comments were made to send this to Public Hearings against the sport fishermen wishes and the original proposal FH-46-02 was drafted by the Fisheries Team with 6 nets per license holder. That still could be 30 nets in the water off of Manitowoc/Two Rivers. It does not make any difference how many individuals are presently fishing. Once the law is passed, all license holders can legally place the 6 nets described in proposal FH-46-02 and there is nothing that anyone can do about it.
- FH-46-02, the **Whitefish Season Extension**, along with the meaningless **Forum Smelt Recommendation**, went to public hearings last month and were soundly defeated by the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen. The 40 pages of documented graphs and 100's of comments, both written and oral, which were submitted by the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Fishing Clubs, Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and the 100's of Wisconsin Sport Fishermen pointed out why they were against the season extension. **All the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen want is 2 months of net free waters in which to fish.**
- Before the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen were even notified what was being brought forward by the Fisheries Team to the March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, a new deal was being cut by members of WDNR and/or the 3 Commercial Fishermen in question. Although it is quite evident that the original proposal FH-46-02 was soundly defeated, another proposal was being drafted in order to get some type of Whitefish Season Extension for these 3 Commercial Fishermen. This is evident since a new modified proposal FH-46-02 was included in the packet we received back on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This modified proposal FH-46-02 is now being brought to the WDNR Board for approval for yet another round of public hearings, which is costing both the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and the WDNR money. How many times are we going to have to fight this issue? What is it that the department doesn't understand about the word "No".

*Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of sport fishing in the Great Lakes.*

- This time, the Fisheries Team or whoever drafted this new proposal, has written the new proposal FH-46-02 to divide the sport fishermen in an attempt to push this season extension through. Instead of opening up all of Zone 3 to trap nets all summer. This time the author of this new order is only opening up two areas of Zone 3, one off Manitowoc/Two Rivers and the other off Sheboygan. This was done to reduce the number of sport fishermen at these public hearings. They have taken a Zone 3 order and reduced it to a local issue. In fact, the Fisheries Team and Dr. Horns is now asking for only one hearing location. They are making the assumption that the Sport Fishermen from the southern ports will not take the time to drive up to Cleveland to voice their objections, since the nets will no longer be in their backyard.
- We are sick and tired of these ridiculous games. The Great Lakes Sport Fishermen have just as many rights as the Commercial Fishermen and when we speak as a united front, those wishes should be considered, especially when there will be no real economic hardship to the 3 Commercial Fishermen if their season is not extended. Before this issue surfaced, Mr. LeClair was catching 100% of his quota in the 2000-2001 season, Mr Kulpa also caught 100% of his quota in 2000-2001 season and Mr. Seger caught 94.7% of his quota in 2000-2001, while electing not to even fish a fall whitefish season, which is allowed, where there would be no user conflict.
- Nothing has changed since the original seasons were put in place to **"Remove User Conflict"** and protect the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen from loss of equipment and even death. This is a real danger to sport fishermen, especially in rough water, fog or darkness as was pointed out in the Public Hearings. All the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen ask for is **"2 Months of Net Free Water"** in which to fish. Fog, on Lake Michigan, is a common occurrence all summer, looking out for other boats is one thing, looking for flags of trap nets is a whole different matter.
- In addition, as Great Lakes Sport Fishermen, we insist that before this Whitefish Trap Net Season Extension is even considered, a **"Full Economic Impact Study"**, which was requested by the Sport Fishermen previously, be done by the Department of Natural Resources. We contend that if you are pulling your boat over from Minnesota or western Wisconsin, you will probably go to the port with the least number of trap nets in the water. Safety does come into the situation especially in low light or reduced visibility.
- The Manitowoc/Two Rivers area, has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state because of plant closings, including the Mirro Cookware Plant and now the WDNR is planning on destroying much of our Sport Fishing Tourism Dollars with a Whitefish Season Extension for the sake of 3 Commercial Fishermen who are already catching almost 100% of their quota.
- In addition, another thing that is really bothering the Sport Fishermen, is that the Uniform Trap Net Marking System has again been attached to this new modified proposal FH-46-03 in the hope that the Marking System will help push the season extension through. This reminds us of the ridiculous 11 month Lake Michigan Smelt Season, which was attached to the Budget Bill back in 1998 by Senator Allen Lasse for these same Commercial Fishermen. When is **"Enough-Enough"**.
- This Uniform Trap Net Marking System was brought forth from the Commercial Task Force back in 1999 and was agreed to by both the Wisconsin Commercial Fishery and the Wisconsin Sport Fishermen. This Uniform Trap Net Marking System should have never been attached to the Whitefish Season Extension, but should have been brought forth on it's own merits, and could have become a rule long ago.
- The Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen will again have to spend both time and money in an attempt to **"Save What We Now Have"**.

- We hope that you will give this your immediate attention and stop this new request for Public Hearings on the modified proposal FH-46-02 and reject any sort of Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3.
- We also request that the Uniform Trap Net Marking System be brought forward for immediate adoption without further delay. For this new marking system could certainly save both property and in the worse scenario, even lives.

As always Mr. Secretary, our sincere thanks for your consideration. We believe that both our position is sound and is fully supported by all the Mandates as set forth by the Department.

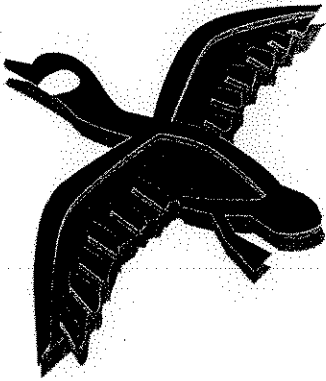
Yours truly,

  
Mr. Louis Kowieski, President  
WF/GLSFC

Copies By Certified Mail:

Chairman Trygve A. Solberg  
Mr. James E. Tiefenthaler, Jr.  
Mr. Herbert Benke  
Mr. Gerald M. O'Brien  
Mr. Howard D. Poulson  
Mr. Jonathan P. Ela  
Mr. Stephen D. Willett

- CC : Wisconsin Governor - Mr. James Doyle  
Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor - Ms. Barbara Lawton  
Mr. Kevin Shibilski - Wisconsin Division of Tourism  
Ms Genyne Edwards - Wisconsin Division of Tourism  
Representative DuWayne Johnsrud - Natural Resource Assembly Committee  
Representative Scott Gunderson - Natural Resource Assembly Committee  
Representative Frank Lasee - 2nd Assembly District  
Representative Bob Ziegelbauer - 25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Senator Alan Lasee - 1st Seante District  
Senator Joseph Leibham - 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Mr. Jim Weisham - President Wisconsin Wildlife Federation  
Mr. Frank Herris - Wisconsin Federation Great Lakes Study Committee  
Mr. Dan Thomas - Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council  
Mr. Dale Mass - Wisconsin Conservation Congress Great Lakes Study Committee  
Mayor Kevin Crawford - City of Manitowoc  
Mr. David Ressler - President of Manitowoc Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Kathleen Galas - President of Manitowoc Visitor Convention Bureau and Information Center
- CC: Mr. Michael Staggs - Bureau Director Fisheries Management & Habitat  
Dr. William Horns - Great Lakes Fisheries Coordinator  
Dr. Phil Moy - University Seagrant - Fisheries Forum
- CC. Lake Michigan Fisheries Team (all members - 10 copies)



# The Manitowoc Unit of The Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Association

c/o 1332 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Manitowoc WI 54220

Dear Dr Horns, Fisheries Team and DNR Board,

The Manitowoc Unit of Manitowoc County Fish & Game is one of the oldest sporting and conservation organizations in the State. Our history dates back to 1907 and we have long worked to improve the conditions in our area for sporting men and women. We have also worked closely with DNR officials to make Manitowoc County a better place for years to come.

Our club represents over 200 sportsmen in the City of Manitowoc. Many of our members fish the lake and take seriously any changes that will impact safety and the fishery in Zone 3. Our club wants to voice its continued opposition to the revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3 based on **“User conflict, safety and negative economic impact on sportfishing, boating and tourism.”**

We see no reason to place any sport fishermen in Zone 3 or their equipment at risk for the needs of only several commercial fishermen. These commercial fishermen are not current fishing their full season nor their full equipment under existing agreement. A quota is not a GUARANTEE to catch fish it is an opportunity. We believe they should fully use the existing opportunity before granting additional rights.

We do request that the Whitefish Trap Net Season remains AS IS in Zone 3 with the nest being removed between June 28<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day. We also support the Uniform Trap Net Marking System which should have been brought forth on its own merit. All the sport fishermen are asking for is two months of net free waters.

A study conducted several years ago by a local firm identified that the drop off of sport fishing and tourism from the mid-eighties cost the State of Wisconsin over \$450 million in tourism revenue. The ports of Manitowoc and Two Rivers were amongst the largest losers in this change. This proposed change would continue to hinder our tourism in sport fishing at a time when it is just starting to make a significant recovery.

We appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

Dean Halverson  
Secretarty  
Manitowoc Unit



# The Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sportfisherman

P.O. Box 8111, Green Bay, WI 54308

May 14, 2003

Dr. William Horns;  
W.D.N.R.

Dear Sir:

At the Public Hearings in January Green Sheet FH-46-02 Concerning the Trap Net Extension on Lake Michigan, a letter From the Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen was read into the official record at these hearings our clubs position was We opposed this Rule by a unainomous majority based on Safety concerns, and the Fact this was during Prime Salmon Fishing time by Sport Fishermen during the Summer.

The New Revised Green Sheet Item FH-46-02 Is coming Back again for Public Hearings is coming Back again this week. Our Club position has not changed we Do Not ,can not, and will not support ,Trap Nets during our Prime Fishing season.

Past Commercial Harvest catch records indicate these Commercial Fishermen have Been at or near their allowable Quota, without this Change.

It is our Position that by a majority vote we oppose this Trap Net Extension Proposal.

Sincerely,



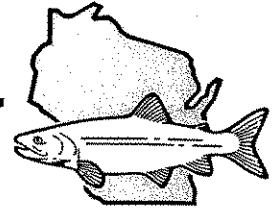
Billy R. Willis, President

GREEN BAY AREA GREAT LAKES SPORT

FISHERMEN.

# Wisconsin Federation

of Great Lakes  
Sport Fishing Clubs



## OUTLINE of TESTIMONY and DOCUMENTATION FROM:

Charles C. Weier , V.P. of the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs and speaking on behalf of the organization, and in opposition to FH-46-02 concerning a Whitefish Trap Net Season Extensions in Zone Three.

### OUTLINE

#### I Introduction (self and organization)

#### II Discuss basic issues:

- 1.) This issue is not biological
- 2.) This issue is not an economic issue;
  - A. Near quotas were met every year but last
  - B. Fall Season never fully utilized
- 3.) Issue of Season Extension is strictly User Conflict;
  - A. Note Federation and NEWGLSF supported June season ext.
  - B. Season extension into July and August is Unacceptable;
    - entanglement, all sport boats and loss of gear
    - danger to small boats (Michigan incident St. Ignace, 93)

#### III Value of Sport Fishing in Wisconsin 2001 (National Fish and Wildlife Service):

- 1.) 2.3 Billion \$ for Sport
- 2.) Eleven to twelve million \$ estimated from Commercial Fishing Task Force 2002
- 3.) Sport Fishing returned to the State of WI 90 million dollars in tax revenue

#### IV Value of Sport Fishing in Manitowoc & Sheboygan Counties:

- 1.) Lake Michigan stamp and license sales = ( \$ 395,169.25 ) 2002
- 2.) Commercial Whitefish fees @ \$900.00 x 7 licences = ( \$ 6,300.00 )

#### V Zone 3 Trap net season:

- 1.) Only significant in past 15 or 20 years.
- 2.) Commercial whitefish trap nets were never fished in July and August.
- 3.) Area requested to fish, TR/Man & Sheboygan.

Presented May 15, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles C. Weier".

Charles C. Weier

Documentation attd.

Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of sport fishing in the Great Lakes.



-----Original Message-----

From: jkennedy@gbmsd.org [mailto:jkennedy@gbmsd.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2003 1:31 PM

To: Horns, William H

Subject: Whitefish trap net rule

Hi Bill:

I might be sending in written comments on the proposed summer white fishing rule changes. Who should I send them to?

As I fish in Sheboygan, I'm obviously a bit concerned. Those nets pose quite a challenge in the fog. Given the large area proposed (7.3 miles long between 75 and 150 feet), and given that that area is prime summer trolling grounds, I may submit the comment that the commercial fishermen should make available the latitude line for each net set they put out. This info should be made available to the Wharf (a bait shop) on the Sheboygan River, and should be updated whenever they move a net.

If memory serves, those nets are always set perpendicular to shore, and I realize that there will be hazards (the main "pot" area of the net) north and south of the main latitude line, but at least we'll have a useful reference as we fish north - south, so as not to snag one of their leads.

Another question: does the proposal require that the nets in their entirety are within the 75 - 150 foot zone? I seem to remember last summer that some of them had leads which extended offshore into much deeper water.

Thanks for your help!

Regards,

John Kennedy  
Environmental Programs Manager  
GBMSD  
920-438-1071

**Horns, William H**

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**From:** Eggold, Bradley T.  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2003 2:11 PM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** FW: Commercial Fishing Sheboygan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** LEPeschke@aol.com [mailto:LEPeschke@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2003 2:06 PM  
**To:** Eggold, Bradley T.  
**Subject:** Commercial Fishing Sheboygan

Brad. I didn't receive notice that the commercial fish boat here wanted to fish this summer. It was brought to my attention at our board meeting. Our board voted against this proposal by a 4 to 2 vote being myself & one other member FOR the proposal. But we had a membership vote two years ago that we are Neutral were the Sheboygan Commercial fishing boat is concerned. If board members of the S.A.G.L.S.F. come to this meeting they represent the majority of the board only, Not the membership.

Yours Truly  
Lyle E. Peschke  
SAGLSF President  
920-452-9660

## Horns, William H

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**From:** Fred Pospeschil [fwp@excel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2003 3:44 PM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** Great Lakes Fisheries

Mr. Horn,

Thank you for your prompt response to my 7 May email, subject as above.

On the outside chance that summer commercial netting areas might be approved anywhere there are several more actions which should be taken for safety reasons.

1. All of the commercial floats should be brightly painted and considerably larger than they are at present. In their current condition most floats are extremely difficult to see from any distance. In addition, the generally dull and worn paint jobs makes it difficult to determine which floats are on the same net. As a result, it is often quite difficult to determine if your current course is going to take you over or around the nets.

2. For daytime visibility each float/steak should fly a bright day-glow colored flag. The flag should have a top horizontal support to make sure it is "flying" when the wind is calm.

3. At night each float/steak should have an operating strobe light mounted at its top. The lights for a given net should be the same color, and different from others in the area, so one net can be differentiated from the others in the area.

4. At an absolute minimum, NO nets should ever be set in the areas used during any of the fishing derby's. The rationale for this should need no further comment.

Mixing commercial nets with high density sport fishing is obviously dangerous and, therefore, must be avoided. Is it difficult to visualize what will happen when the downrigger balls on a small fishing boat get snagged in a net and the fishermen move to the back of the boat to try to free them? Add in a choppy following sea and you will have a very dangerous situation.

Finally, it seems reasonable to expect the sport fishermen will be irritated when their gear gets snagged in the nets and the commercial fishermen will be irritated when their nets are damaged. The two types of fishing must be kept separated in both space and time.

Respectfully,

Fred Pospeschil  
2739 42nd St.  
Two Rivers, WI 54241  
920-798-7844

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Pospeschil [mailto:fwp@excel.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2003 4:37 PM

To: Horns, William H

Subject: Great Lakes fisheries

Dear Sir,

this is in response to your letter of April 2003.

I am a sport fisherman and live in Two Rivers. As a matter of fact, upon retirement I moved here specifically to be by the lake and go fishing in it. This will be my fifth year trolling on the lake.

I am against creating the two deep-water summer trap netting areas as proposed. Each spring we have a heck of a time avoiding the nets before they cannot be set. The markers are small and quite difficult to see under the best of conditions. In hazy conditions and during darkness they are impossible to see. Twice I have almost become entangled in these nets.

Both of the proposed areas seem to be designed to maximize the danger to the sport fishermen as they are directly in front of the Two Rivers and Sheboygan harbors. This maximizes the probably that fishermen leaving and returning to port will encounter the nets. They are also in areas we use heavily. In addition, the 75 to 150 foot deep water is a range we use heavily all during the summer. It is hard to imagine designing worse areas to put nets.

Those of us who fish the area on a regular basis get to have at least some idea of where the nets are and look to avoid the commercial fish tugs. The tourist and occasional fishermen are far more likely to get tangled up in the nets.

In your letter you state "One of the major concerns of those who oppose the rule was safety. To help us evaluate this issue, please let me know of any written reports (e.g., newspaper stories, police reports, tec.) of incidents in which trap nets have caused injury or death on the Great Lakes.". Your request is designed to create the desired answer that there is no danger. The reason you will not see many of the reports you request is because the nets have NOT been allowed during the peak sport fishing months. We are trying to keep things safe and continue to not have the reports you are

looking for. How about a little help from your department in keeping things safe on the lake?

The data I have seen indicates that the commercial fishermen are able to catch their quotas without the summer months. While I recognize that these half dozen boats have a claim on the lake resources so do the hundreds of sport fishermen. Having these nets in the proposed waters will be a big negative on the tourist sport fishermen. With the economy being what it is it doesn't seem to make sense to do something this negative on the tourism business.

If you insist on creating new commercial areas at least put them where they will minimize the conflicts and dangers. For example, put the net areas half way between Sheboygan and Manitowoc and halfway between Two Rivers and Kewanee.

Respectfully,

Fred Pospeschil  
2739 42nd St.  
Two Rivers, WI 54241  
920-794-7844

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Fisheries Management  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

May 15, 2003

Subject : This is a request that the Rule FH - 46-02 which states: In response to hearing the rule had been revised. We are now proposing to limit summer trap netting south of Kewaunee to two small areas, on near Manitowoc and Two Rivers and one near Sheboygan. The maximum number of nets that could be used by any individual license holder in those areas during summer would be there. The net marking requirements contained in the original rule are retained in this version. The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board adopts and order to amend NR 25.09(2)(b)2.b. and e. and creating NR25.09(2)(b)2.f. relating to commercial fishing Lake Michigan. We vote no on changing the rule.

Dear Gentlemen,

We, the area Charter Captains, on trap netting removal dates. We are asking that the dates remain the same. we feel that the WI DNR is totally ignoring the Charter industry. we were under the impression that a small business impact study should have been done if not it should be. We as captains know that beside the safety factor which we will come back to later. Buy the very nature of trap netting that they divert or hold fish and some time we are forced to fish around these nets. In the past but this was in early spring, May and June where fishing tactics are completely different then in the months of July, August, and September. In the earlier months May and June we are usually fishing in the top 50 feet of the water and have no need to fish the bottom. But later in the year when the water temperature changes. We target Salmon and Trout we are fishing close to the bottom, if not right on the bottom of the Lake. By the very nature of trap nets this would be impossible. We could no longer bounce bottom for Lake Trout or fish the bottom for Salmon. We would become entangled in these nets. We would then lose time, equipment, and customers because we would not be able to produce.

In spring even though we are not fishing the bottom several other charter caption and myself have become entangled in this nets thus losing gear. Everytime I become entangled it costs us around a \$100 dollars or more. This includes the down rigger ball, the wire for the down rigger, the bait, the swivel, and the fishing line on the reel. In the year 2002 in June we were forced to fish around the trap nets I lost \$300 dollars in gear. This was on three separate occasions. Many recreational fisherman lost fishing gear. One boat became entangle in the pot of the net, who lost all of his equipment and was stuck for several hours not being able to escape the nets. Also another individual ran over a buoy and had to

replace his lower unit. Most of these incidents are unreported because of the embarrassment of the captain. But if they were compensated for these losses then I am most confident that you would have several hundred a year.

Sheboygan County remains ranked ninth in the state for traveler spending, drawing 2.3 percent of all traveler expenditures in the state, figures released recently by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. Tourists spent more than \$267 million in Sheboygan County last year, a 1.6 percent increase from 2001, when tourists spent more than \$262 million here. The Charter industry plays a very big role in this tourist dollar. The charter captains of Sheboygan ran 15 hundred trips. In a 5 month season this came out to \$4200 in daily sales. Which is over half a million dollars in total sales over season. No other shop or business on the riverfront generates that amount of daily sales in Sheboygan. The amount of trips has steadily grown in the past 5 years. We feel this will all come to an end if the trap netters are allowed to fish in July and August. Any charter captain will tell you that two months are the busiest in the season. This can make or break a charter captain's small business.

Now to the safety issue. In the green sheet the approving of public hearing on FH-46-02, turning to the summary of comments. Number one and I quote "Trap nets are a hazard to sport fishers and other boats especially small boater." Department comment "we recognize the concerns of sport fishers regarding safety, and acknowledge that sport fishing gear can become entangled in the nets we know of no documented cases in which trap nets have caused injury or loss of life to other boater." What about loss of fishing gear who will compensate the fishers for the \$100 maybe \$1,000s dollars worth of equipment lost. Also the DNR better open their eyes because there is several cases of documented injury and loss of life of fishers of other boater, several of them have been brought to the attention of the DNR. Yet they choose very careful to ignore and word their response as to give the impression that fishing around the traps nets is completely safe. Lets go to 26 "the commercial fisher has an environmental impact." Department comment "the trap net fishery has little of no environmental impact." Number 27 and 28 acknowledge recreational fishing boats becoming entangled in trap nets. But the department comments "we assume this correct. Fortunately there is no injury." What has to drive the safety issue home loss of life. Who will be held accountable will the DNR assume responsibility or will the white fishers be help responsible. Because to ignore the safety issue, because there has been no reported deaths in Wisconsin Waters from traps nets and saying the possibly of death is very small if at all. Is inviting a law suit. And I will be more than happy to help bring this about. Recently I received a brochure courtesy of Sea Grant University of Wisconsin The title "Don't Get Trapped." Turning to the first page at the bottom of the first paragraph and I quote "Sport trolling is NOT advisable near or above trap nets." On the fourth panel on the bottom it states and I quote " DO not pass or troll between trap net buoys, as propeller blades and/or fishing gear may easily snag net lines. This agency is not down play

the danger of trap nets not like the Wisconsin DNR, the same agency who feels a fish consumption advisory is their responsibility to produce in the name of public safety. If this agency is truly concerned with public safety then they would not even recommend these rule changes. Because the loss of life no matter how small it could be prevented.

Thank You

*Captain Robert J. Dumovich*  
Captain Robert J. Dumovich

**Horns, William H**

---

**From:** WiYellowPerch [wilmyellowperchcg@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2003 10:30 AM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** IN OPPOSITION OF FH-46-02 AND REVISIONS

Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Conservation Groups ®  
2342 West Daphne  
Milwaukee, WI. 53209  
email [wilmyellowperchcg@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wilmyellowperchcg@worldnet.att.net)

May 14, 2003

To All Members of the Senate's Committee on Environmental Resources

All members of the Assembly's Committee on Natural Resources

All Natural Resources Board Members

Bill Horns

Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Conservation Groups ® is now on record as opposing FH-46-02 and all revisions.

#### Background

In 1988 FH-40-88 was discussed and passed. Starting in Jan 1989 summer trap netting was prohibited because of social and safety issues. Since 1989 commercial interests have had two beneficial concessions made regarding their trap nets.

#### Nothing Has Changed Since 1989

The same safety and social issues are just as relevant today as they were in 1988 and 1989, if not more so.

#### Dangers of Over Numerous Miles of Hidden Nets

Lake Michigan can be a dangerous body of water. A change of winds, a sudden storm, a crowded group of pleasure boats, down riggers and threatening conditions are bad enough without having numerous miles of unseen commercial nets under water. This has the potential of a disaster waiting to happen.

The DNR has documents outlining accidents involving boaters and commercial nets that have happened. Lets not let a very small, special interest group, intent on making a few dollars jeopardize the large sport



angling community.

### Dangers to Recovering Yellow Perch Populations

In 2001 a determination was made by the DNR and NRB that the L.M. Yellow Perch were in so much trouble that the sport season had to be shortened 16 additional summer days and bag limit reduced. That resulted in an emergency closure last year and permanent closure this year to protect these L.M. Y.P. A combination of events, off Milw. which happened on Oct 4-5 2001, when there were 37, 500 pre-spawn Y.P. killed in commercial nets in only 156 f.o.w. could happen in these trap nets, that string out over numerous miles. This trap fishing proposal has the potential to do tremendous harm to the recovering YP population. There was 2 miles of nets in the Oct 4-5 incident now we are talking about the possibility of 25 to 50 miles of net.

### Threat to High Value Sport Fish from Sunken Trap Nets

Sunken commercial trap nets, which happen, was outlined by Central Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing, Inc. in letter dated 1-21-03. This we believe is a real threat to a recovering L.M. Y.P. population and we cannot jeopardize this high value species.

There was no impact study on the potential harm to the Y.P. We cannot afford to jeopardize this recovering Y.P. population with a proposal that is only a social issue and would only benefit a handful of privileged people.

### Additional Enforcement Expenses

This proposal will put an addition expense on enforcement. Time lost on enforcement of this proposal will take DNR personnel from more worthwhile and deserving projects.

### Lack of Endorsements for this Proposal

We were supplied by the DNR with one documented endorsement from a Sport angler.

### In conclusion we oppose FH-46-02 Because

- 1 Social issues are the same as in 1989 when summer trap netting was prohibited.
- 2 Safety issues are more of an issue now, 14 years later, when there are many more pleasure boats and more leisure hours available to the public.
- 3 To jeopardize the Yellow Perch recovery when the sport angler as had so much taken away because of illegal harvests by some commercial fishers would be another slap in the face to the 1.4 million sport anglers.
- 4 This proposal would benefit a handful of a privileged class, that for some reason, are allowed exclusive rights to a Wisconsin State natural resource.

Sincerely:

Carlton H. Alt

President and Chairman Action Committee  
Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Yellow Perch Conservation Groups

Cc All Members of the Senate's Committee on Environmental Resources

All members of the Assembly's Committee on Natural Resources

All Natural Resources Board Members c/o Linda Jahns

Bill Horns

Dr William Horne Salem, Va  
Madison, Va 5-9-03

I am a Sport Fisherman

The Michigan Zone 3 & 4 boundary  
opens the Revised WDRR  
Sheet for FH 4603

As per the rule & the Season  
Extension on Zone 3 Board on  
user conflict SFD, the  
Sport Fishing & Boating Council

negotiate Economic Impact on

large no Run in place any Sport Fish

or their equipment it will be used

Commercial fishermen when these

some Commercial fishermen are not

looking then enter allowed season

Fall Season, a quota is not the

market sales. I do regard

that the rule is for the

remaining area in Zone 3. With  
these rules being changed between  
time 25th & 30th day we do also  
support the uniform trap net market

Spiller which should have  
been brought forth on its own  
part. don't want  
Commercial matters to completely  
kill the lake.

5-9-03  
843 3153 Clifford D. Dusterius

consider the Sport Fishermen  
fee then in the Commercial  
fishermen fees and the  
tourism impact if that  
should be possible

I don't know why I'm taking time to write this letter because it don't seem to do any good or do you even read them.

1<sup>st</sup> putting out nets in lake michigan during the time most sportman are out there trolleying is stupid. I would like to bet that you are getting 100 to 500 letters or some kind of input against it from sportman to 1 for it from other people. And YOU ARE STILL GOING TO DO IT! IS THAT LISTENING  
Let them put there net out there from Oct 1 to April 1!

nd Smelt fishing is about the same. A couple of years ago the sportman and DNR agreeded to close the smelting fishery. But what happen it's still open + the sportman are not getting any. We Should Get HALF of The HARVEST!

1 During the Spring did any one go from Seboygan to Two Rivers to Kewaunee, Algoma, Sturgeon Bay and back along the east shore of Bay.

How many sportman did you see try to catch smelt. On that 150 miles shoreline did you fine any? there use to be 50, 100 or more at Kewanna along in one night!

PLEASE Close it TOTALLY!

rd When the DNR started selling trout stamp, the dept. said that 100% of the stamp money would go to restocking fish. each to its own!

I would like to see those figures on stamp sales and where the dollars went.

"PLEASE send"

Creel survey are not a part of fish stocking cost!

I would think that all the hatcherys should be in top notice shape if all the money got used just for that fisherys

So until you can show the sportman those figure, I'm total agains any increase in fees

Bernie Skaletski = 1121 Grignon st  
Green Bay Wis 54301

## Horns, William H

---

**From:** cory crandallseibert [ccrandallseibert@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2003 7:27 AM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02

We, the Sport Fishermen of Lake Michigan's Zone 3, are STILL in opposition to the Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3, based on "User Conflict, Safety, Lake Trout Mortality and the Negative Economic Impact on Sport Fishing and Boating Tourism." We see no reason to place any sport fishermen in Zone 3, or their equipment at risk for several commercial fishermen, when these same commercial fishermen are not fishing their entire allowed season (FALL SEASON). A Quota is not a guaranteed catch. We do request that the Whitefish Trap Net Season remains "AS IS" in Zone 3 with their nets being removed between June 28th and Labor Day. We also support the "Uniform Trap Net Marking System", which should have been brought forth on its own merit.

## Horns, William H

---

**From:** trolling@excel.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2003 2:26 PM  
**To:** Horns, William H

Dear Dr. Horns, Fisheries Team, and WDNR Board,

We, the Sport Fishermen of Lake Michigan's Zone 3, are STILL in opposition to the Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3, based on "User Conflict, Safety, Lake Trout Mortality and the Negative Economic Impact on Sport Fishing and Boating Tourism." We see no reason to place any sport fishermen in Zone 3, or their equipment at risk for several commercial fishermen, when these same commercial fishermen are not fishing their entire allowed season (FALL SEASON). A Quota is not a guaranteed catch. We do request that the Whitefish Trap Net Season remains "AS IS" in Zone 3 with their nets being removed between June 28th and Labor Day. We also support the "Uniform Trap Net Marking System", which should have been brought forth on its own merit.

Thank you,

Joshua J. Swanton 5/13/03

N7739 County Hwy A  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

920-699-2980

## Horns, William H

---

**From:** Jeffrey Yax [jtyax@lsol.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2003 6:13 PM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** Whitefish Season Extension

Dear Mr Horns,

At the last meeting of the Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited we the members decided to support the Sport Fishermen of Lake Michigan's Zone 3 opposition to the Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3, based on "User Conflict, Safety, Lake Trout Mortality and the Negative Economic Impact on Sport Fishing & Boating Tourism. We see no reason to place any sport fisherman in Zone 3, or their equipment at risk for several commercial fisherman, when these same commercial fishermen are not fishing their entire allowed season (FALL SEASON). A Quota is not a guaranteed catch. We do request that the White Trap Net Season remains "As Is" in Zone 3 with their nets being removed between June 28th and Labor Day. We also support the "Uniform Trap Net Marketing System", which should have been brought fourth on its own merit.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Yax

Secretary

Trout Unlimited- Lakeshore Chapter



**Horns, William H**

---

**From:** kwmcintyre@ra.rockwell.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2003 12:12 PM  
**To:** Horns, William H  
**Subject:** Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02

Dear Dr. Horns, Fisheries Team, and WDNR Board,

We, the Sport Fishermen of Lake Michigan's Zone 3, are STILL in opposition to the Revised WDNR Green Sheet Item FH-46-02. We reject the Whitefish Season Extension in Zone 3, based on "User Conflict, Safety, Lake Trout Mortality and the Negative Economic Impact on Sport Fishing and Boating Tourism." We see no reason to place any sport fishermen in Zone 3, or their equipment at risk for several commercial fishermen, when these same commercial fishermen are not fishing their entire allowed season (FALL SEASON). A Quota is not a guaranteed catch. We do request that the Whitefish Trap Net Season remains "AS IS" in Zone 3 with their nets being removed between June 28th and Labor Day. We also support the "Uniform Trap Net Marking System", which should have been brought forth on its own merit.

Thank you,

Kenneth W. McIntyre 5/13/03

W262 S1175 Amherst Pl.

Waukesha, WI 53188

(262) 524-0526

May 13, 2003

Dear Dr. Horns, Fisheries team, and WDNR Board,

We oppose the proposed whitefish trapnet season extension, because it is unnecessary, unsafe for small boaters, and will negatively affect the sale of trout and salmon stamps, and negatively affect so many small businesses that depend on trout and salmon fishing.

I feel so strongly about my own personal safety, and the harm this change would cause that I asked a few friends to sign. Most of them have small boats and occasionally buy trout & salmon stamps, but are not involved enough to even know about the proposed change.

Thanks for your wise consideration,  
Scott Haberman and Friends  
Scott Haberman  
3622 Cass Lake Rd  
Manitowoc WI 54220  
920-758-3238

May 13, 2003

State of Wisconsin  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
Secretary Scott Hassett  
P. O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RE: Revised NRB

Dear Secretary

**Mr. Vander Logt is a Convicted Felon - Presently  
Serving Time at the Sturtevant Correctional Facility.**

H240

Due: 6-3-03

**IVED**

**OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY**

6 2003

...hearings dealing with the rule proposal  
...ing a letter I mailed to former Sec. Bazzell  
...ing a letter I mailed to the Governor.

...to protect our Commercial fishery at all cost! Whole  
...jobs, the communities in these areas depend on the commercial  
...tax base. These businesses pay taxes, support local government,  
...and all at a risk of losing one's life while fishing on Lake  
Michigan... provide a food source for the Consumer.

First of all, the season for Whitefish needs to be longer, because at this time of the year, the winds are mostly out of the Northeast, so you have high waves, cold water and NO Fish. Their season runs until June 28th, and that's not long enough to fill their quotas. I also support the use of 12 trap nets due to the problems the Commercial are experiencing with the weather at this time of the year to meet their quota. Second problem, is the restriction to allow them to fish only between the 75 foot to 150 foot depths. Why not allow them to do as the fishermen in Door County are allowed to do?

Third, in all my years living on the Lakeshore back in Manitowoc and Two Rivers, I have never heard of or seen any sport fisherman lose his life or boat to the commercial fishing nets. I have seen sport fishermen run into the nets, because they were not paying attention as to where they were on the lake. Every morning at Seagull Marina before we left the docks to start our Sport Fishing reports for the CUB Sport Fishing Network, we would check at the dock for the placements and locations of the nets, which are posted by the Commercial. Today we all have GPS units and it will make the locations easier to find, therefore we can stay away from them. On top of that, most boaters need to be looking out for the Marker Flags if they know they are out there.

The bottomline to all of this is, the sport fishermen do not want the Commercial Fishermen in business, and that seems to be the goals of the Wis. Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs, and my club, the Northeastern Wis. Great Lakes Sport Fishermen. Don't get me wrong, I support both groups, because Lake Michigan is BIG enough for all of us, Sport Fishermen and Commercial!

Please grant the commercial fishermen a chance to stay in business and a way to support their families and communities. I would appreciate your input and please accept my comments for the hearings. Please pass along to Mr. Bill Horns these copies so he sees the other side of the story. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

  
Roger Vander Logt

P. O. Box 900  
Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900

cc: Copies to Manitowoc County Legislators

Council Manager Government Since 1924



Office of the City Manager  
1717 East Park Street  
Post Office Box 87  
Two Rivers WI 54241-0087  
Telephone..... 920/793-5532  
FAX..... 920/793-5563

April 22, 2003

**RECEIVED**

APR 24 2003

**OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY**

Mr. Scott Hassett  
Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 South Webster  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: City of Two Rivers Resolutions Opposing FH 12-03 and Supporting FH 46-02

Dear Secretary Hassett:

Enclosed are resolutions adopted by the Two Rivers City Council at its regular meeting of April 21, 2003. In these resolutions, the City Council:

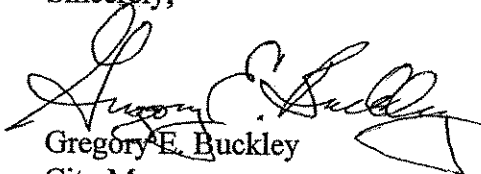
1. States the City's opposition to FH 12-03, which would close Green Bay to commercial smelt trawling for the next five years. The Council instead expresses support for maintaining current regulations. We would appreciate this resolution being read into the record and given fair consideration at the April Natural Resources Board meeting, where we understand this new regulation will be considered for adoption.
2. States the City's support for FH 46-02, which would extend the commercial trap net season for whitefish in an area of Zone 3 off Two Rivers. This slight easing of the regulations, to allow placement of a limited number of trap nets during the period from June 28 to Labor Day, would help increase the harvest of this commercially viable, native species, which would benefit our area's remaining commercial fishing operations. This change would also help assure the availability of fresh lake whitefish during the summer months, when fish boils are enjoyed by area residents and visitors alike. Please see that the resolution on this proposed regulation is provided to the Natural Resources Board when this regulation is presented for its action.

Mr. Scott Hassett  
April 22, 2003  
Page 2

Also with regard to FH 46-02, the City Council is aware of an April 8, 2003 letter sent to this office, with copies to your agency, by Louis Kowieski of the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs. In that letter, Mr. Kowieski questioned whether letters to your agency from myself and City Economic Development Supervisor Dan Pawlitzke back on January 28, 2003 represented the "official" City position on FH 46-02. Please consider the enclosed City Council resolution an affirmation that Mr. Pawlitzke's letter and mine correctly conveyed the position of the City of Two Rivers.

Thank you for your consideration of our City government's positions on these proposed regulations. Please feel free to contact this office if you have any questions regarding the enclosed resolutions.

Sincerely,



Gregory E. Buckley  
City Manager

CC: City Council  
Dan Pawlitzke, Economic Development Supervisor  
William Horns, DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management  
Louis Koweski, President, Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs





**RESOLUTION OPPOSING FH 12-03, CLOSING THE  
COMMERCIAL SMELT SEASON**

**WHEREAS**, the City has consistently advocated regulation of the Lake Michigan fishery in a manner that assures the long-term viability of both commercial and sports fishing, while also protecting Lake Michigan as a resource for drinking water, recreation and other human activities; and

**WHEREAS**, such regulation must include time to catch harvest quotas based upon biological and scientific data; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has consistently advocated regulation of the Lake Michigan fishery in a manner that assures the long-term viability of both commercial and sport fishing without change and;

**WHEREAS**, the Commercial Fishers are the only source in providing valuable data on the smelt population and other fish composing the bio mass in Green Bay and;

**WHEREAS**, the trawling for smelt in the Green Bay Bay is self-regulating and;

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is currently considering based upon public hearing, FH 12-03, a regulation that would close the Smelt Fishery on the Bay of Green Bay for five (5) years until July 1, 2008 unemploying approximately 175 citizens permanently; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Two Rivers hereby is opposed to FH-12-03 and requests no changes to current regulations

Dated, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2003

William P. Hand

James Smith

James Stone

A. Murray

Neal D. Novacheck

John F. M... ..

Glenn J. Englund

Herb Bunker

Allan Lemmer



Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries Association

---

Charles W. Henriksen, *President*  
1597 Birch Road, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202  
Phone 920/839-2103 Fax 920/839-2650

Dr. Wm. Horns  
Bureau of Fisheries Management

5/15/03

Re: FH-46-02

Dear Bill,

It has come to my attention that some technical corrections regarding the net-marking provisions of this rule need to be addressed before our voluntary marking system (which is working very well) is codified. In particular:

Floats - Should be 5 inch diameter

Flags- the TOP flag shall be 4-6 feet above the water (in normal conditions)

The flag itself should be approximately 6 inches by 10 inches

These rules shall not apply when ice conditions exist.

I hope that the color range is explained to all fishermen.

I hope the final rule incorporates these parameters which are currently the norm.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Henriksen



H138  
To Fish Mgt. (H131)  
Reply for me

Mr. Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to remind you of the position of the Great Lakes committee of the Conservation Congress pertaining to proposal FH-46-02.

The great lakes committee was in agreement with the position taken by the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs and that position was reflected in the minutes of our committee meeting.

The statewide hearings produced additional input from the public on this issue and as I read the hearing notes reflect the overwhelming concurrence to our position.

I have received a copy of a communication from Louis Kowieski, President WF/GLSFC (dated 3-19-03).

This letter echoes the position that the Great Lakes committee had taken and speaks for it self.

I too am concerned that the department keeps adjusting this proposal.

Please share our thoughts with the Committee.

Yours in conservation,

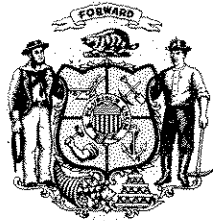
Dale C. Maas Chairman  
Great Lakes Committee  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

**RECEIVED**

MAR 26 2003

**OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY**

Dale Maas  
W9449 Breezy Point Rd.  
Fox Lake WI 53933



# Alan Lasee

## *Senate President*

### 1st Senate District

State Capitol • PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Tel 608 266 3512  
Fax 608 267 6792

email: [sen.lasee@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:sen.lasee@legis.state.wi.us)  
web: [www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen1/news/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen1/news/)

To: The Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chairman  
Members, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Senator Alan Lasee

Date: July 10, 2003

Re: Clearinghouse Rule 02-143, relating to commercial fishing in Lake Michigan.

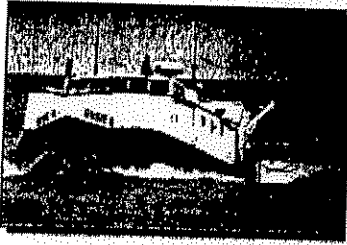
I am writing to ask for your support for CR 02-143. If approved in its current form, the rule will allow several of my constituents – two full-time and one part-time fishermen – to leave their trap nets in the Lake Michigan waters outside of Two Rivers from June 28<sup>th</sup> until Labor Day starting in 2004.

The whitefish season in Two Rivers and Sheboygan (Zone 3) is about 9 weeks in length and commercial fishermen are allowed to only use trap nets. They are given a whitefish quota by the Department of Natural Resources based on the department's in-depth analysis of the whitefish population in the area, but have not reach it in years.

The area they fish comprises only .1 percent of over 200 miles of shoreline. I believe Lake Michigan is big enough for both commercial fishermen and sports fishermen.

CR 02-143 has gone through an extensive review by the Department of Natural Resources. Please approve the rule as soon as possible, so that the commercial fishermen in my Senate District can be assured of an extended whitefish season next summer.

JUL 14 2003



# Central Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing, Inc.

1810 East Street Two Rivers WI. 54241  
Phone: 920-794-8434 Fax: 920-793-3263

## Important Info on Summer Trap Net Issue

Dear Honorable Senate Resource Members:

I attended your long session on Thursday, July 10, and I need to answer some key points that were not put forth to your people.

- 1) All fish that are not harvested from our allocated quota is a wasted resource, since they don't live to be 15 to 20 years old.
- 2) Tom Hansen, head warden and Jim Jung, our local warden, plus Ryan Volenbory, our new warden have all stated that these 3 trap nets are no hazard, since they are marked with bright orange flags and have 6 buoys to a net and are visible from at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away.
- 3) I also talked to our local Chief at our Two Rivers Coast Guard and Milwaukee and Ohio coast Guards and they say if the net is a legal net and legally marked, there is no way it should have to be removed, because of a safety hazard. These nets are fished on all the Great Lakes and they have never heard of any complaints from sport fishers. Darrel Benjamin, from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington D.C. can't believe that this is being suggested that these nets be removed. No people in his department ever heard of such a request if legally marked. Phil Moy, from Sea Grant, who is Chairman of the Fisheries Forum is strongly in support of this summer trap net fishery. There are 11 members from many different agencies that are on this fisheries forum of which Bill horns has appointed.
- 4) We have made a VHS tape of a trap net operation with the cooperation of our local law enforcement people as to the markings, which explains the net under the water and what all the buoys mean. This will be shown and explained to all conservation Clubs in the state and this will educate most of the sport fishers on Lake Michigan.
- 5) Dwaune Johnsrud has told these same sport fishers that are opposing this summer trap net season that these charter boats are also commercial fishermen, since they charge and make a living off of this fishery resource. They should also pay this \$900 license fee. This is the truth.
- 6) Chamber of Commerce, Tourist info Centers and all other businesses that depend on tourist business, not one of them have opposed this trap net issue. Sound like a few radicals speaking for their strong memberships, which we know don't all agree with what these radicals are trying to do. We have very good relations

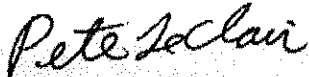
Senator Neil Kedzie  
313 South, State Capitol

with many sport fishers and we smoke their fish for them to take home and we never hear a complaint from these so called out of state fishers.

- 7) As I stated at the Senate hearing that I have records showing where most sport fishers fished in year 2002 and so far in 2003. I have actual newspaper clippings for 2002, but they are on many pages. This is their summary. This proves again our trap nets are not in the area they all fish.
- 8) Our local Kiwanis Club runs the biggest derby on Lake Michigan, 7-18 to 20th. No one has ever complained that these trap nets would be a problem. How come N.E. Great Lakes Sport Fishers have all these problems. They have a personnel problem. They have stated many times that there is no need to have commercial fishery at all. This is a political and navigators problem, not a DNR problem. Let the Coast Guard decide, if these nets are a hazard.

Thank You for your time and hopefully we continue to supply fish to the Fish Consumers of this State of Wisconsin. Remember we compromised from 12 nets to 6 nets, then to 3 nets. We can't give no more.

Sincerely



Pete Le Clair

*Herald-Times reporter*

7-3-03

# Active pockets kic

Year 2003

Fishing action along the shores of Lake Michigan, between Two Rivers and Manitowoc, is just like reading a boring book. The first five chapters, or weeks, seem to make a little sense, with little action. As the story progresses, and the action picks up, it gets a lot more interesting.

Last week we had our share of west to northwest winds, which pushed the warm water we had on shore, out to a little deeper water.

Right now the surface water temperature ranges from 52-53 degrees from the shore, to 150 feet of water. Then it gradually warms up to 57.2 out around the 300-foot mark. Without any defined temperature breaks, the fish are really scattered.

When you get into an active pocket, the action is great with action around the Manitowoc-Two Rivers rated as good. Most boats reporting in are getting an average catch of three to eight fish per boat.

Cool City Charters made it out five times this past week, with some respectable catches of at least eight and as many as 14 fish per trip. Our boxes consisted of 15 Lakers, 17 Kings, 8 Rainbows, and 8 Cohos.

With the surface water tempera-

**JOE LECLAIR**  
*Fishing Report*



tures holding fairly steady, anywhere you went, it was hard to find any one good hot spot. Cool City fished anywhere from North of Two Rivers, to as far as 16 miles South, with depth ranging from 70-300 feet of water. You really had to hunt for those scattered fish.

Aboard the Cool City Charters, we worked hard to give our people a good time and hopefully put a few fish in the box. On this past Friday's charter, reality sure hit us hard.

We had the opportunity to take Frank Wetsel, who fished with me many times, his brother, Steve, and his son, Loren, all from Dixon, Ill.

The big pond greeted us with light winds and calm seas, which made it seem like a perfect day for fishing. It started great with a few hits, then a big four-year-old hit a pump handle (a suspended wire line with a 16-ounce ball on it) and the fight was on.

It was Steve's turn. The big King gave him a great battle,

*note depths fished.*

*These charters and others are no where near where our trap nets are.*



## Action

Light winds, calm seas and perfect water temperatures gave us some of the best fishing action we had all year.

It's been a long wait along the lakeshore area from Two Rivers to Manitowoc, and for the first time this year, I can rate the fishing action as good to very good.

The conditions we're facing right now, is typical of what we would expect in mid-June. There are some great areas along the lakeshore and others to avoid. Areas to avoid are anywhere north of Rawley Point Light, where water temperatures are hovering around the low to mid-40's (unheard of in mid-July), and south of Rawley Point Light to a little north of Two Rivers from 30-140 feet of water.

Surface temperatures are perfect and the fish are there, but the problem is weeds floating everywhere.

Best spots to try are 140-240 feet of water a little north of Two Rivers, where we found 53-56 degree surface temperatures. Also, anywhere from Two Rivers, south to Manitowoc from 50-300 feet of

7-10-03

B4 • Thursday, July 10, 2003

## OUTDOOR CALLING

### Archery

The Manitowoc County Archery Club will hold its annual Kids Archery Day 2003 on July 12 at the Reedsville Sportsman's Club.

The event will feature performances by Byron Ferguson, a back-stroke artist with a long bow, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The day will also include giving participants ages 4-14 a chance to learn archery skills on the practice range, get a chance to go through an outdoor archery course and have a chance to shoot for prizes at colored balloons, a moving 3-D target, numbered cards and colored darts. The archery courses will be open from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

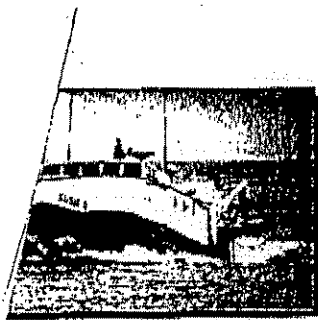
For more information about the event, call (920) 755-3813 or (920) 754-4884.

### Events

The Brilliant chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its second annual GreenWing Club on August 2.

The programs being put on will be wood duck house building, duck and goose calling, gun safety, taxonomy demonstrations, pointing and retrieving dog demonstrations and duck blind building. Registration is 8:30-9 a.m.

The cost prior to Aug. 2 is \$2 for members and \$12 for non-members, while the cost on



# Central Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing, Inc.

1810 East Street Two Rivers WI. 54241  
Phone: 920-794-8434 Fax: 920-793-3263

*Year 2002 - Sportfishers  
Depths fished*

FOR YEAR 2002:

Log of areas and depths fished by Charter boats in Two Rivers and Manitowoc Areas. *During July and August*

July 5--South of Manitowoc Clay Banks. Depths 70 to 100 feet. *no trap nets*

July 4--20-40- foot water 40 to 120 feet, fish top 60 feet. *no trap nets*

July 8--Fished in 50 feet water, caught fish in to 15 feet. *no trap nets*

July 11--Manitowoc Salmon Derby, 2,500 fish registered. Fished North Two Rivers, Depth 40 to 120 feet. Fished in top 50 feet. Fished off Peir Heads, 10 to 25 feet water. Summer Patterns 6-11 miles North of Two Rivers in 90 to 130 feet. No trap nets in this area at any time.

July 17--36 fish caught in 40 to 60 feet one trip, South of Manitowoc breakwater. Never any trap nets in this area.

July 18--Fished Lake Trout Pawley's Point to nuclear Plant in 85 to 120 feet water. No traps were fished their.

Aug. 8--Cool City Charters fished in 30 to 50 feet water off Two Rivers. Fantastic fishing. No trap net areas.

Aug. 14--Fished off Two Rivers and Manitowoc Peir Heads. Good Fishing Kings, Browns and Rainbows, few cohos. Cub Radio report. *no trap nets*

Aug. 15--Excellent fishing. Lakers, Kings, Rainbow and Coho. 200 to 400 feet water 25 to 80 feet down. Data Two Rivers Fishing Report. *no trap nets*

Aug. 22--Fishing report. Fished from 15 to 250 depths in top 50 feet. Good Catches, Cub Radio Report. Many limits caught in water less then 70 feet. Again no trap nets in area.

Aug. 30--Fishing Report: Fished between 120 to 300 feet water. 50 feet down, average 10 fish per trip. *Trap nets not a conflict*

These are all the areas that these Sport Fishers can fish during July and August and be in a trap net free area. Our Whitefish fishermen have to be able to fish somewhere to catch our quotas. Many Sport Fishers still fish around our nets because of good catches along side of the trap nets. Sometimes their lead balls sink our nets and we loose many days of fishing. No one ever mentions that fact.

There is room for both fisheries, we just got to approve this New rule so that allows us more fishing time, which will allow

## INTRODUCTION

In 1977 the Wisconsin State Legislature completed a major revision of the commercial fishing regulations. As part of the record the legislature included a section of legislative intent to explain the purpose and intent for the law revisions. The legislative intent for Chapter 418 laws of 1977 is as follows:

(d) *Revision of sport trolling and commercial fishing laws; legislative intent* 1. The legislature recognizes that the fish resources and fisheries of this state's outlying waters contribute to the economy, food supply and recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state. The primary responsibility for the protection, development and wise use of these resources rests with the state, which must provide proper management to maintain and develop fish resources and fisheries in the face of increasing demands.

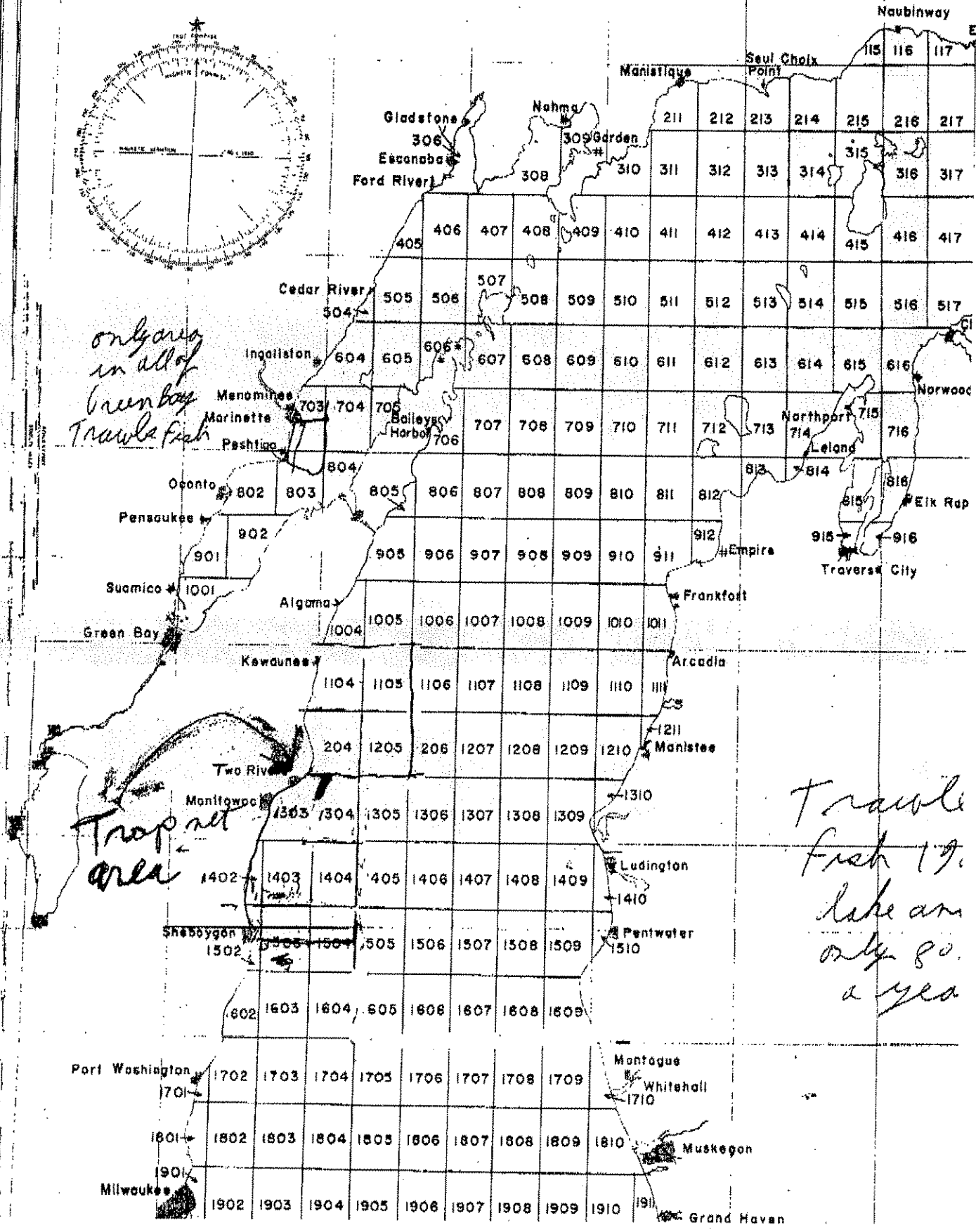
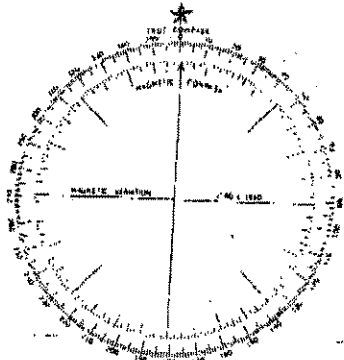
2. The fish resources of the state are capable of being managed scientifically to maintain an adequate and stable resource for all uses. Past management of the Great Lakes has been unable to prevent depletion of the fish resources.

3. The intent of the legislature in revising commercial fishing laws is to provide for multi-use management of the Great Lakes fishery, including an economically viable and STABLE commercial fishery and an active recreational fishery. To reach this management objective, the legislature recognizes that it may be necessary to limit participation in the commercial fishery and to limit the harvest of commercially fished species through proven scientific management techniques.

4. The intent of this legislation in revising commercial fishing laws is further to assure those persons currently participating in and earning the majority of their income from the fishery the opportunity to continue to do so for a period of 5 years and to further provide those persons with the opportunity to demonstrate their intent to meet criteria established by the commercial fishing boards for continued fishing in an orderly transition from the fishery as presently administered.

The legislative intent gives guidance to the citizens of the state and to the department on the intent and purpose of the commercial fishing laws. In the first paragraph the legislature stated, "The primary responsibility for the protection, development and wise use of these resources rests with the state." This statement by the legislature exemplifies why the department has produced this document. It is the department's responsibility to identify the problems and search for solutions that will provide protection and ensure wise use of the fishery resource.

Two recent undercover commercial fishing investigations involving the illegal harvest of lake perch have shown that Great Lakes fishery resources are not being adequately protected. A brief review of recent investigations gives insight into the magnitude of the existing problems and feeling for the type of changes that need to be made. The investigations revealed the existence of numerous conspiracies between commercial fishers and wholesale and retail buyers to violate state commercial fishing laws. The use of sophisticated schemes to hide illegal perch sales made detection and tracking of illegal perch difficult, and in many instances, impossible for law enforcement. For instance, the parties to the illegal transactions used fictitious identities, conducted cash transactions not reflected on books and records of the corporations, forged and destroyed invoices, laundered proceeds, and conducted counter surveillance when catching or selling perch. In most instances "terms of



*only area  
in all of  
Green Bay  
Trawls fish*

*Trap net  
area*

*Trawl  
fish 19.  
like an  
only 80.  
a year*





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 MANITOWOC, WI 54220  
 PHONE 920-683-5940  
 FAX 920-683-5950  
 www.leede.com  
 mike@leede.com



Date: July 15, 2003  
 To: Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair JUL 17 2003  
 From: Mike Rusch  
 Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes  
 Sport Fishermen

Dear Senator Kedzie,

I just want to thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter. As you heard, over 1,400 individuals provided some sort of testimony to keep the Whitefish Trap Net Season in Zone 3 "As Is" and Rejected FH-46-02. The original season was put in place to "Remove User Conflict" and protect the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen from loss of equipment and even death, but the Commercial Fishermen are once again breaking the agreement, just like they did back in 1994. These nets are a real danger to sport fishermen, especially in rough water, fog or darkness as was pointed out in the hearings. According to the sale of Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamps, (6,128 in 2002) Manitowoc County is presently one of the busiest sport fishing ports in Wisconsin. All the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen ask for is "2 Months of Net Free Water" in which to fish, which we have had for the past 15 years. **Fog, on Lake Michigan, is a common occurrence all summer, looking out for other boats is one thing, looking for the small flags of trap nets is a whole different matter.**

At the hearing on July 10<sup>th</sup>, Senator Wirch asked Mr. Mike LeClair, one of the Trap Netters, just how much money we were really talking about. Mr. Mike LeClair indicated that Whitefish sell for approximately \$1.00 per pound and he was down approximately 12,000 pounds in the 2002-2003 season. In the 2000-2001, Mr. LeClair did place a few trap nets in the fall portion of the season and harvested an additional 9,972 pounds of Whitefish. If he would have done this last year he would once again been over 98% of his harvest quota.

The Manitowoc/Two Rivers area already has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state because of plant closings, including the Mirro Cookware Plant and now the WDNR, with this rule, may destroy much of our Sport Fishing Tourism Dollars with a Whitefish Season Extension for the sake of 3 Commercial Fishermen who are already catching almost 100% of their present quota without fishing their entire season or all of the gear allowed. We believe that sport fishermen pulling their boats over from Minnesota or western Wisconsin, will probably go to the ports with the least number of trap nets in the water, since **fishing in fog is a common occurrence and safety does come into the situation, especially in low light or reduced visibility.**

Dr. Richard Bishop of the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant, back in 1989, did an Economic Impact Study regarding the **Importance of the Trout and Salmon Fishery** to local communities. This 1989 study, was later expanded to include the years of 1989-1992. We understand these are old calculations, but it is the best we have since the WDNR has not agreed to do or fund a new economic impact on this issue. Therefore, if we use Dr. Bishop's multipliers for the following categories, Boats, Gas, Oil, Electronics, Lodging, Food, Beverages, Charters, Licenses, Equipment and Other Miscellaneous Recreational Activities, and insert Manitowoc Counties the 2002 license and stamp sales, (which is 76.8% of the 1992 license and stamp sales,) the Estimated Value of the Great Lakes Sport Fishery in Manitowoc County in 2002 was approximately **\$5,571,136 or 76.8% of the estimated value of the 1992 fishery which was placed at \$7,254,084.** We all know that all costs have gone up since 1992, but no inflationary values of any type were used in the above calculation for 2002, everything was based strictly using the old 1992 values.

Therefore in summary, if FH-46-02 (Clearing House Rule 02-143) is passed, we are looking at not only creating yet another "Real Safety Hazard" for the 1,000's of sport fishermen of our area, we are also looking at jeopardizing a part of the **\$5,571,136** estimated value of the sport fishery to Manitowoc County.

We are not "Unreasonable", but see no real need for this season extension. If we, the 1,000's of sport fishermen in the area, are "Forced" to accept some type of whitefish season extension, we at least hope that you will vote to send it back to the WDNR to work out an area where the nets would create the least amount of conflict. The last WDNR Green Sheet for FH-46-02 did have 3 additional proposals listed, but these were never discussed by the WDNR Board nor was the letter from Sec. Hassett ever mentioned, which we read into testimony, indicating the WDNR may drop the entire Season Extension if the negative response was too large.

The Sheboygan trap net area has already been moved to start at least 4 miles south of their harbor. Why did the nets off Manitowoc and Two Rivers get placed directly in front of our harbors to create the maximum safety hazard for inexperienced fishermen traveling from across the state to fish our area?

We understand that you are receiving pressure from the Lasee's and Rep. Bies, but we hope you see our point of view. 1,000's of sport fishermen have voiced their opposition on this issue. Thank you for your consideration and please vote to send FH-46-02, (Clearing House Rule 02-143), back to the WDNR because of the safety and economics reasons presented above.

Sincerely,

Mike Rusch  
 Northeastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen

JUL 28 2003



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 28, 2003

Representative DuWayne Johnsrud, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
323 North

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
313 South

Dear Representative Johnsrud and Senator Kedzie:

As members of the Senate and Assembly environmental resource committees, we are writing to ask that you allow our committees to request modifications to Clearinghouse Rule 02-143, relating to commercial fishing in Lake Michigan.

As long-time members of the natural resources committees in our respective houses, we are well aware of the conflicts between commercial fishers and sport fishers on Lake Michigan. We are both fully aware of the inherent difficulty in satisfactorily addressing these issues. But the problems raised by CR 02-143 call for action by our committees.

As was stated in the public hearings on this matter, the proposed compromise addressed in CR 02-143 really creates the worst of all situations. The area the DNR has proposed to allow whitefish trap nets in the Manitowoc/Two Rivers area is the prime location for sportfishing. The safety concerns surrounding the use of these nets were well-documented at the public hearings, where it was pointed out that experts state that sport trolling is NOT advisable near or above trap nets.

CR 02-143 also contains a trap net area for Sheboygan, which was altered to accommodate sport fishing concerns, and we believe there may be room for a similar compromise in the Two Rivers/Manitowoc area.

Representative Gunderson has had first-hand experience with these nets, having been the victim of one himself. He knows all too well the very dangerous position an angler is in once his equipment has snagged a net. We should place the highest priority on keeping our waters safe, and not endangering our sport fishers further.

Sport and charter fishing brings in \$2.3 billion to our state each year. It is very likely that if this rule goes into effect, tourists will opt not to face the dangers of fishing around trap nets and decide to fish elsewhere. Any loss of tourism dollars will have a direct impact not only on our state, but especially on the local economy that depends on those tourism dollars during the summer months. Commercial fishers are having no trouble meeting their quota now, and the safety and tourism concerns here are just too great.

Please allow the committees to consider a vote on a modifications request to CR 02-143. We appreciate you consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT W. WIRCH  
State Senator  
22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

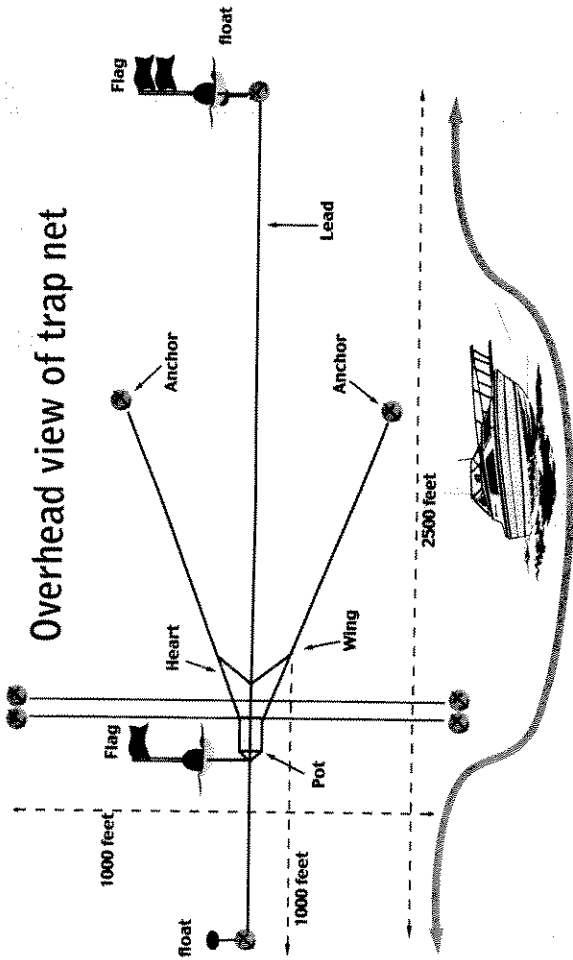


SCOTT GUNDERSON  
State Representative  
83<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



1975 Willow Drive  
2nd Floor  
Madison, WI 53706-1177

## Overhead view of trap net



### If tangled in a trap net:

- Keep the bow of the boat facing into the waves.
- Shut off engine if prop becomes tangled.
- Snagged downrigger cables can be dangerous—release any tension on cables and cut.
- Do not enter water to untangle nets.
- If you need assistance, radio the U.S. Coast Guard.

If you've lost fishing gear, contact the commercial fisher. If possible, identify downrigger balls with your name and phone number so they can return your equipment.

For more information, contact  
University of Wisconsin  
Sea Grant Institute  
(920) 683-4697  
[www.seagrant.wisc.edu](http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu)



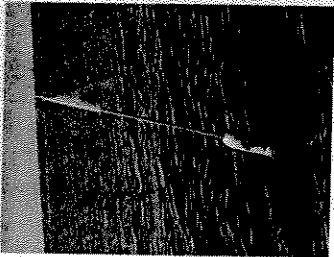
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Adapted with permission from "Don't Get Trapped!"  
© 2002 Michigan Sea Grant



# What Anglers and Boaters Should Know About Commercial Fishing Trap Nets





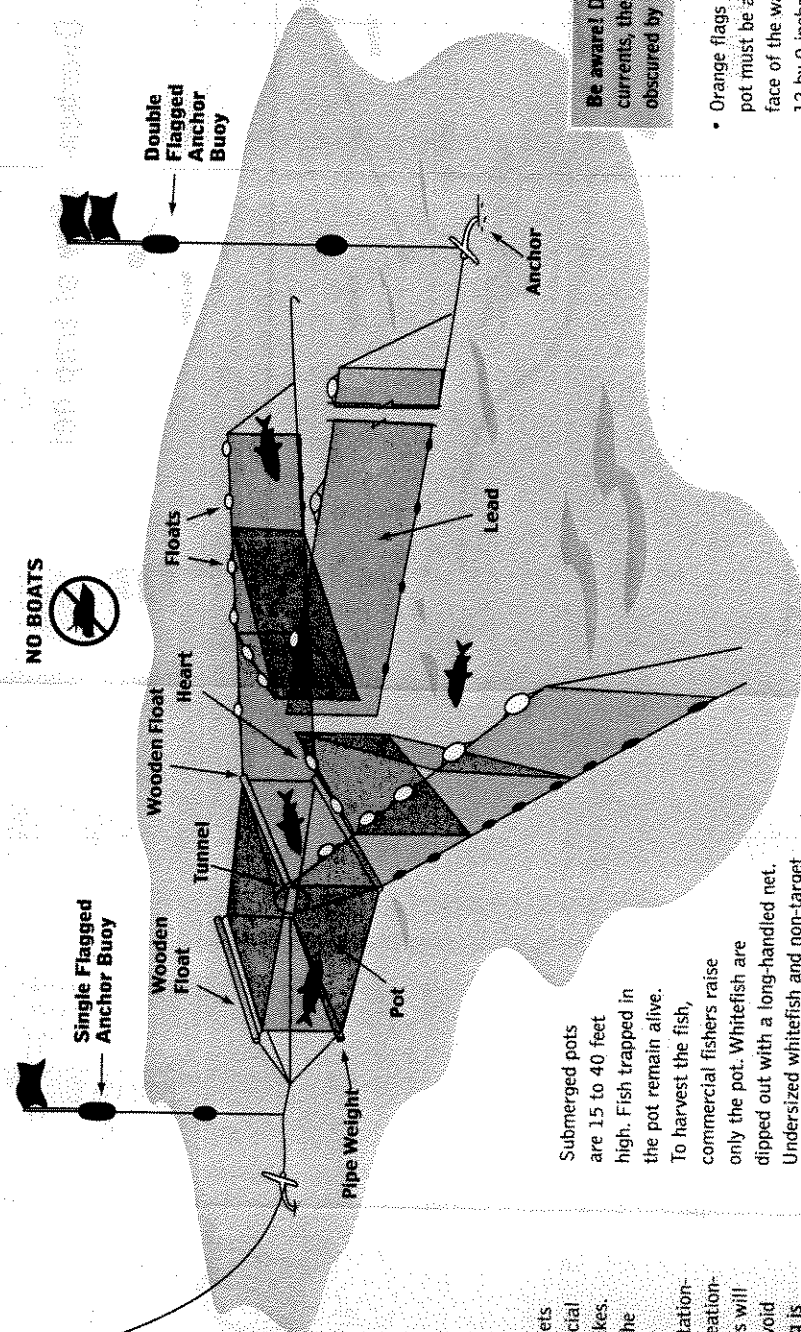
The pot-end of the net is marked with a single flag buoy.

## What are trap nets?

Trap nets are large, commercial fishing nets used by state licensed and tribal commercial fishers to catch whitefish in the Great Lakes. Trap nets are increasingly being used in the Wisconsin waters of Lakes Michigan and Superior. With many components, these stationary nets can pose a potential risk to recreational boaters and anglers. The following facts will help anglers and boaters recognize and avoid trap nets on the open water. **Sport trolling is NOT advisable near or above trap nets.**

## How do trap nets work?

Trap nets sit on the bottom of the lake. They have long leads, or sections of net, made up of thick 14-inch mesh that can be as long as 1,250 feet. These leads are visible to schooling whitefish and divert the fish into an enclosure called the heart. The heart has wings or net sections that form a V-shape and are supported by floats and anchors. Once inside the heart, fish swim through a tunnel and become trapped in a box-shaped pot.



Submerged pots are 15 to 40 feet high. Fish trapped in the pot remain alive. To harvest the fish, commercial fishers raise only the pot. Whitefish are dipped out with a long-handled net. Undersized whitefish and non-target species are returned to the water unharmed.

Bottom net placement and fish behavior of many species enables the trap net to be selective for whitefish. These nets seldom trap sport fish, such as salmon and trout. As a result, state and tribal management authorities prefer to see this type of gear in waters where sport and commercial fisheries overlap.

Trap nets are typically fished in water up to 150 feet deep. Leads on shallow-water trap nets are generally set in water 15 feet deep or less and may extend to the surface. For deep-water trap nets, leads may be 45 feet high.

**Be aware!** During rough water or heavy currents, these flags may tip down or be obscured by high waves.

- Orange flags attached to a staff buoy at the pot must be at least four feet above the surface of the water. Flags will be approximately 12 by 9 inches.

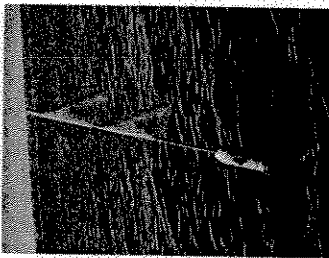
Once set, repositioning a trap net is a complicated process because the nets are anchored in place for extended periods of time—sometimes an entire season. On a typical fishing ground, trap nets are fished shallower in the fall and spring than in summer.

## How to identify trap nets:

- Trap nets are generally fished perpendicular to the shoreline (from shallow to deep water). A double flag marks the lead, or shoreward end, of the net and a single flag marks the pot, or lakeward end, of the net.

## How to avoid trap nets:

- Look for the flag markers and buoys marking the nets.
- Give wide berth when passing trap net buoys and flag markers, as nets have many anchor lines extending in all directions.
- Do not pass or troll between trap net buoys, as propeller blades and/or fishing gear may easily snag net lines.



The lead-end of the net is marked with a double flag buoy.

NO BOATS



- The cause of  
mending fish nets  
was dropped out  
of the rule. Showed  
So back in.

---

Louis

Discussion Netting  
FISA - tie meetings  
Marking 13

Net ~~work~~ is

not in the rule

NOOO -

Gary Sogor - (Fears)

Whitefish Fishermen  
Commercial

-1-

CR2-02-143

2 Rivers, Mainhouse

issue -

1994 Compromise

Reached. Was

Agreed to remove

nets by mid June prior

Nov, Nets out JUNE 28.

Geo. Meyer - send back

rule, at least 2. River

Part.

-2-

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO BE HELD

DATE	TIME	ROOM
January 21, 1976	(Listed)	(Listed)
January 22, 1976	(Below)	(Below)

CHAIRMAN  
 REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE DAY, ASSEMBLY  
 SENATOR JEROME A. MARTIN, SENATE

COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE HEARING OF THE ASSEMBLY & SENATE  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S

The Committee Chairman has announced public hearings as follows:

PROPOSAL NO.	INTRODUCED BY	RELATING TO
Senate Bill 694	(Senate Committee on Natural Resources by request of the Northeastern Wisc. Great Lakes Sport Fisherman)	AN ACT relating to issuing contracts for commercial fishing, increasing license fees for wholesale fish dealers, establishing a Great Lakes fisheries council, granting rule-making authority and creating penalties.

JANUARY 21, 1976  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Kenosha County Court House  
Room 310  
912 56th Street  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

JANUARY 22, 1976  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Manitowoc County Office Building  
County Board Room  
1701 Michigan Avenue  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

*Jerome A. Martin*  
SENATOR JEROME A. MARTIN, CHAIRMAN, SENATE

*Laurence Day*  
Representative Laurence Day, Chairman, Assembly

*The summation of the bill 694 does not include the BAN of all size gill nets - But it is in the bill itself.*

F.T





# Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

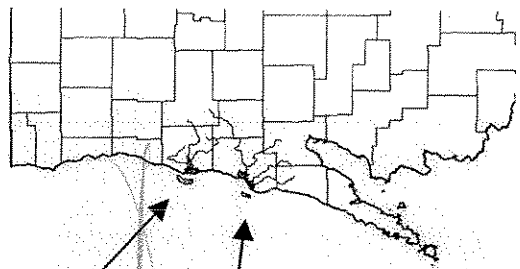
720 ST. CROIX ST., SUITE 101, PRESCOTT, WI 54021 • (715) 262-9279 • 1-800-897-4161

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

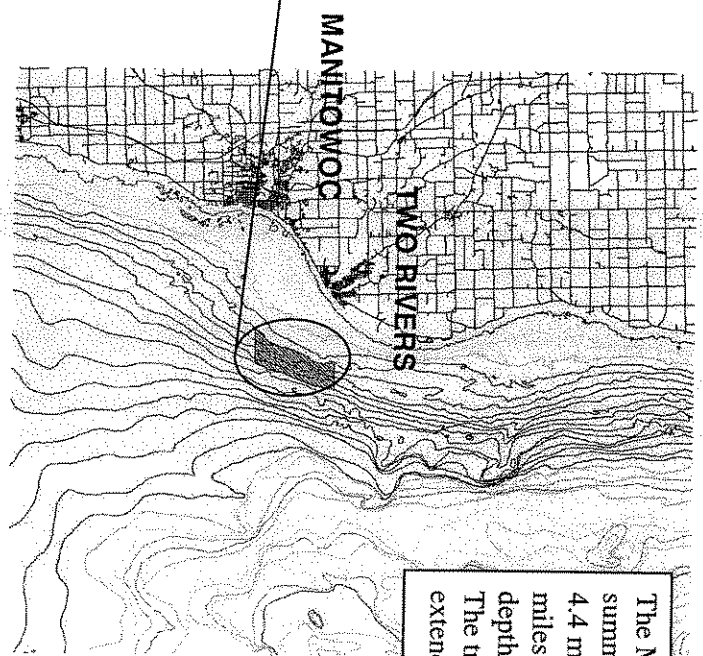
## Legislative Rule Hearings on DNR Rule FH-46-02---Trap Nets off The Two Rivers Harbor-----(Clearing house Rule 02-143)

1. There is a long history of continual conflicts between sports and commercial fisherman on Lake Michigan. To resolve some of the conflict of use and still promote commercial fishing, in 1994 commercial fishermen were authorized to use 1500 foot long trap nets for white fish in Zone 3, (below Kewaunee). However as part of the compromise, the nets had to be removed June 28<sup>th</sup> and not be put back in until after Labor Day. This was to allow sports fishermen two months of trolling in the area without the conflict with commercial nets.
2. DNR Rule FH-46-02 reneges on that compromise and allows up to 24, 1500 foot long trap nets be placed in a 4.4 mile area directly off the harbor at Two Rivers, an area that is a prime sports fishing area used by 1000's of local and tourist small boat fishermen. **This sets up a direct conflict of use between commercial and sports fishermen.**
3. Many of the sports fishermen that fish in the area come from throughout Wisconsin and from out-of-state and come to fish in the area for a weekend or some other limited period of time. They often are not very familiar with the area and the potential conflicts with commercial fishing nets. Often the fishing takes place in totally fog bound conditions in which it would be very difficult for sports fishermen to observe the commercial nets even if they are properly marked.
4. A similar conflict between sports and commercial fishermen off the Sheboygan Harbor was avoided by DNR in the rule by allowing the placement of the commercial nets in a location that was acceptable to sports fishermen in the area.
5. The overwhelming testimony at the public hearings was against the rule. The rule is opposed by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs, the Conservation Congress, the Northeast Wisconsin Great Lakes Sports Fishermen, Manitowoc County Fish and Game Association and the Green Bay Area Great lakes Sportsfishermen.
6. **Please send Rule FH-46-02 back to the Department of Natural Resources requesting them to convene the sports and commercial fishermen groups to work out a compromise that will avoid the conflict of use in the Two Rivers area similar to the situation in the Sheboygan area. There is sufficient time to do so since the current rule would not have application until July, 2004.**

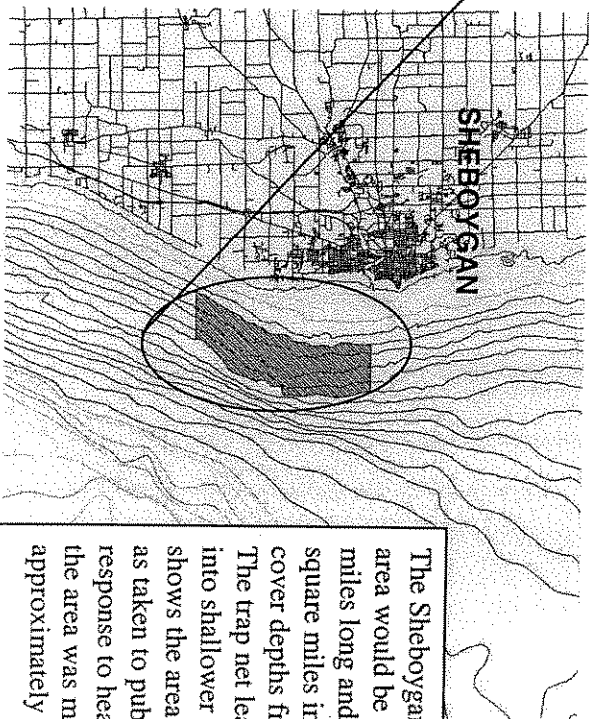
*George E. Meyer*  
Executive Director



White Fish Habitat  
Fishery  
N. of Sheboygan



The Manitowoc/Two Rivers summer trap net area would be 4.4 miles long and 5.84 square miles in area. It would cover depths from 75 to 150 feet. The trap net leads could extend into shallower water.



The Sheboygan summer trap net area would be approximately 7.3 miles long and approximately 15 square miles in area. It would cover depths from 75 to 150 feet. The trap net leads could extend into shallower water. This map shows the area defined by the rule as taken to public hearings. In response to hearing comments, the area was moved approximately four miles south.

SUMMARY OF CR 02-143

- Supports extending Commercial fishing all summer vs. June 28 - Sept 1 removal

According to the Report to the Legislature, commercial trap nets must be removed from Wisconsin waters south of Kewaunee from June 28 to Labor Day (Sept. 1).

That is done in order to minimize physical interference during the summer between commercial nets and sport trollers.

However, commercial fishers have repeatedly asked that the trap netting season be extended to allow fishing during summer months. The proposed rule allows for that by opening two areas south of Kewaunee: one near Manitowoc and one near Sheboygan.

The rule reduces the number of allowable nets, however, during those summer months.

From statewide public hearings

SUPPORT: 37

- sport fishermen

OPPOSE: 158

- Commercial Fishermen

75 ft. depth limit

\* Geo. Meyer feels the NR Bd. is tipping the scales too far one way."