WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 287 [2005 Assembly Bill 486]	Management of Double-Crested Cormorants

2005 Wisconsin Act 287 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to administer a program that is designed to control and manage double-crested cormorants in order to reduce wildlife damage caused by these birds. The Act defines wildlife damage to mean "adverse impacts on fish, including fish hatchery stock, wildlife, plants, and their habitats."

The U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a "depredation order" for double-crested cormorants. This depredation order is found in 50 C.F.R. 21.48. The express purpose of the depredation order is to reduce the occurrence and minimize the risk of adverse impacts to public resources, such as wildlife, plants, and their habitats caused by double-crested cormorants. The depredation order applies in specific named states, including Wisconsin. The depredation order includes such requirements as notice to the fish and wildlife service, specification of the methods that may be used to control double-crested cormorants, limitations on such control, methods for avoiding harm to other species of birds, and reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

The depredation order authorizes state fish and wildlife agencies and federally recognized tribes to prevent depredations on public resources by taking various actions as specified in the order. Act 287 requires the DNR to cooperate with federal agencies and to administer a program for control and management of double-crested cormorants that complies with the U.S. depredation order.

Effective Date: 2005 Wisconsin Act 287 takes effect on April 21, 2006.

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