

# WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL (WAIAC)

June 21, 1996 Marshfield Wisconsin

Resolution 1

## Fish Rearing and Stocking State Waters

### Summary

In 1986 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) unveiled a plan called "Fish Wisconsin 2000" which was to guide the fisheries' management program during the next decade. They stated they were working toward their goal of making Wisconsin sportfishing the best in the nation.

The private aquaculture industry was to be a partner in accomplishing this goal. Now it is ten years later and it seems the goal has been forgotten. In the plan the DNR was to shift its focus on producing wild stocks to keep strains pure in some areas and the private producers would raise domestic strains for stocking so as to provide fish for the sports fisherman. This has not been the case.

The DNR has used the excuses for their failure to enhance fishing by stocking by blaming it on the environment, genetics, and strains, but none of this has been proven. Especially, the walleye stocking program is a disaster. The bag limit on walleye has been reduced down to one, two and three and some five, depending on the lake, also the size limit has been manipulated. The truth is that too many small fingerling are stocked and do not survive compared to larger fingerling. These fish need more forage in order to survive and grow. Private aquaculture could work together with the DNR in providing fish for stocking and forage fish.

The Governor has increased the advertising dollar for promoting Wisconsin tourist industry and in order to accomplish this we must improve fishing.

### Resolution

Be it resolved that the state of Wisconsin privatize fish rearing for release in state waters and utilize current public hatcheries to meet new and expanding needs.

- Whereas, the private aquaculture sector has the ability to provide the highest quality fish stocking state waters at a significant saving to the citizens of Wisconsin.
- Whereas, there is a need for expanded industry driven research that public hatcheries could perform effectively.
- Whereas, there is a need for expanded production of specific and genetically pure streams of fish for specific location release which could be effectively done by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with the private sector rearing the fish from egg, fry or fingerling to stocking size.
- Whereas, there is a need to create a new vision and mission for both the public and private sectors allowing each to perform function that they each can do best.
- Whereas, growth and development of the private aquaculture industry will increase investment, employment and generally enhance Wisconsin's economy.

Action By WAIAC: Pass

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