

Resolution to Oppose Commercial Rearing and Sale of Lake Sturgeon and Other Sturgeon Species in the Aquarium Industry In Wisconsin

10 January 2001

Whereas, Wisconsin has actively managed its lake sturgeon resource for the benefit of the general public for nearly 100 years, and

Whereas, under state law Wisconsin has prohibited the sale of lake sturgeon flesh, caviar or live fish for nearly 100 years, and

Whereas, as a result of sound regulation and effective biological management, including the only sale prohibition among states and provinces with remaining native lake sturgeon stocks, Wisconsin has the largest remaining lake sturgeon populations in North America, and

Whereas, current proposals from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association would allow commercial or pilot commercial rearing and sale of lake sturgeon flesh, caviar or live fish, and

Whereas, these proposals, if implemented, would pose a serious threat to Wisconsin's native lake sturgeon stocks through illegal sale of wild fish, and the possible introduction of disease or parasites, or genetic dilution, and

Whereas, the sale of other sturgeon species through live fish sales for the aquarium trade also present the same serious risks, as listed above, to the state's native lake sturgeon stock, now therefore be it

Resolved that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society opposes any change in the current State statutes that would allow any Wisconsin commercial aquaculture activity to include the possession, rearing and/or sale of lake sturgeon flesh, caviar or live fish, and be it

Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society strongly recommends that the Legislature and Governor pass laws prohibiting the sale and distribution of all other sturgeon species for trade in the aquarium industry in Wisconsin.