

Public Comment Period on Permanent Rule FH-02-20 (Lake Michigan Whitefish Management and Great Lakes Commercial Harvest Reporting)

The department accepted written comments on this rule through 11:59 p.m. on January 4, 2022. One hundred thirty-two comments were received during the comment period, with 60 in support of the rule, 62 opposed to the rule, 7 in support of parts of the rule and opposed to other parts, and 3 not explicitly stating a position. Copies of the written comments follow.

(Note: If an individual submitted follow-up comment(s) during the comment period, all comments from that individual were counted once in the totals above).

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S POSITION ON FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:36 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Quota Increase Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Meredith,

It is my understanding that you are taking comments/opinions concerning the increase in commercial whitefish quota in Zone 1. I support the increase to 800,000 pounds as this will have a huge benefit for our community and state. This will create jobs and help a struggling industry survive. Because of this, I do not support the closing of grids 901, 902, and/or 1001 without scientific data. That would hinder those fishermen/women from catching and providing a valuable resource to citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank You,

Amy Maricque

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: General Manager <earlssisterbaybowl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Meredith Penthorn:

The following comments pertain to the public hearing on a permanent rule to revise ch. NR 25, relating to Lake Michigan whitefish management and Great Lakes commercial harvest reporting to occur on Jan 4, 2022.

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

We are a long standing family restaurant located in the heart of Sister Bay, WI. We rely heavily on the local, commercial fisherman industry to supply the whitefish on our menu. We take pride in being able to tell our customers that we offer FRESH, LOCAL whitefish - a highly sought-out, food item in our area. We support the commercial fisherman. Please take our opinion into consideration.

Thank you,

Paula Anschutz, General Manager
Sister Bay Bowl
10640 Bayshore Drive, Sister Bay 54234
(920) 854-2841
Earlssisterbaybowl@gmail.com

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Commercial Whitefish Harvest for Lake Michigan

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Hi Meredith,

I am a sport fisherman that enjoys taking family and friends up to the sturgeon bay area to ice fish for Whitefish. We have been doing it very several years now.

We are renting a house or hotel at a local resort or VRBO, we are eating at the restaurants and shopping at the grocery stores and boat shops. We fill up with gas at the gas stations.

We are also hiring local fishing guides to fish with.

We always look forward to our outings on the frozen water to fish for whitefish in the Sturgeon Bay area.

We are very concerned with what this proposed commercial limit change will do for the guys like me and my family and friends who enjoy the sport , will the sportfishing be ruined by this? Not only that , if it is ruined that is loss of tourist revenue for all the businesses in the area, especially the small businesses that have look forward to the oce fishing season to stay open year round.

Please take the sports fishermans point of view when considering this drastic change.

Why does it have to be such a big change at that?

I think there could be a way for both sport fisherman and commercial fisherman to be successful if planned and structured correctly.

Thank you for the time,

Tim Ball

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 8:47 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Commercial fishing support

Please see the comment below related to FH-02-20.

We are committed to service excellence.
Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Emma G. Esch
Department Administrative Rules Coordinator – Bureau of Legal Services Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Office: (608) 266-1959
emma.esch@wisconsin.gov

dnr.wi.gov

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 8:53 PM
To: DNR Administrative Rules Comments <DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Commercial fishing support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We wish to show our support for our local commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

Thank you,
Mike & Carrie Becker

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 5:46 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: support for Commercial Fishermen's position on FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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As a homeowner and part-year resident in Door County, Wisconsin, I regularly seek out and purchase local whitefish from restaurant menus as well as commercial fishing operations that have retail establishments, such as Henriksen Fisheries and Baileys Harbor Fish Company.

I support the proposed permanent rule to revise ch. NR 25, relating to Lake Michigan whitefish management and Great Lakes commercial harvest reporting.

This rule will give commercial fishers fair access to the abundant whitefish resources, while providing protections against unnecessary bycatch. The rule also improves data collection that will enable protection of these resources into the future. This will allow these businesses to continue providing health, sustainable, local and fresh food to consumers.

Respectfully,

Gregory Beckett
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Ms. Penthorn,

I grew up in Wisconsin and have always enjoyed going to the local fish markets along the Eastern shore line of Lake Michigan for my fresh and smoked fish. From Washington to Door County. It has disturbed me to see the struggle the local fishermen have gone through. Some have lost their businesses over the years. I don't appreciate the sport fishermen complaining on their own behalf. Most tourists are NOT catching their own fish. I have met tourists in restaurants and fish markets, and even at the farmers markets. Also at charity fundraiser fish boils!

So...

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

Sincerely,
Arnold and Margaret Birkett
Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment Re: FH-02-20
Attachments: 20200804_014141000_iOS.png

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Meredith,

On behalf of the Lake Superior Commercial Fishers, we have expressed our concern regarding the mandatory electronic reporting that is being lumped into the new Rule. The Lake Superior Commercial Fisheries Advisory Board has expressed these same concerns to local DNR Management, yet they are not adequately captured in the economic impact comments since this is an add-on Rule being lumped into Lake Michigan Whitefish Harvest changes.

Our concern is simply, poor/no service in the remote areas that we fish in amongst the Apostle Islands. Please see the attached photo for proof of such areas with No or Poor service zones. This map is from after the most recent tower was installed. We are infrastructurally underserved in the Northwoods as it is, so please don't put additional burdens on us to use the inferior cell phone coverage in our area of Lake Superior. Furthermore, adding an additional reporting duty to the boats as they head back into the areas with cell phone coverage will create a dangerous situation for the fish boats, as well as all of the other mariners near the more crowded shoreline in sailboats, excursions and fishing charters, pleasure boats, sport fishermen and kayaks. If Wisconsin State Patrol can pull over people for texting while driving, why does entering in catch reports with driving a boat seem like a safe or prudent idea? Until service can be greatly improved, the economic impact and rule imposition should be tabled in a "line item veto" type redaction of this portion of the rule.

Thanks.

Bill Bodin
Bodin Fisheries



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Local Commercial Fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I am writing you to express my support for our locally caught fish. It's a part of our community and is a sustainable resource.

Thomas Brown

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I'm asking you to support FH-02-20. It is important for the survival of our local Door County commercial fishing businesses and also for the many local restaurants that rely on their fresh fish. I'm also a direct consumer of their fresh fish, fish dips, fish cakes, & more. These are hard working people that are historically part of our local cultural origins.
Thank you
Lynn Brunsen
Ellison Bay, W

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see the comment below related to FH-02-20.

We are committed to service excellence.
Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Emma G. Esch
Department Administrative Rules Coordinator – Bureau of Legal Services Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Office: (608) 266-1959
emma.esch@wisconsin.gov

dnr.wi.gov

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 9:34 AM
To: DNR Administrative Rules Comments <DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FH-02-20

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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I'm asking you to support FH-02-20. It is important for the survival of our local Door County commercial fishing businesses and also for the many local restaurants that rely on their fresh fish. I'm also a direct consumer of their fresh fish, fish dips, fish cakes, & more. These are hard working people that are historically part of our local cultural origins.
Thank you
Lynn Brunsen
Ellison Bay, W

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support of FH-02-20 !!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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We support our Commercial Fishermen's position on FH-02-20.
We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food!

Chris and Kirsten Bungener Ephraim WI

Kris Bungener

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 6:56 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Fisherman rules

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support the fishermen's idea on the rules, so we can continue to enjoy fresh caught fish every week from our local fishermen's business (Hendrickson) Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 7:53 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Kristie Moss-Henriksen
Subject: FH 20 22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please support local fishermen's ideas on this rule. We would like to continue to eat fresh fish on a weekly basis from local fishermen.

Thank you

Ingrid and John Kretzmann

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:37 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

I have been following the proposed permanent rule FH-02-20 for a couple of months now and as a Wisconsin taxpayer and avid sportfisher would like to submit a few comments on my behalf.

To begin, I live just south of Fond du Lac but fish the bay all year around. Typically, my family and/or friends will overnight in Green Bay or Door County 8-10 times a year to fish for Walleye, Smallmouth and Whitefish. We will also do several "day trips" throughout the year. These trips serve multiple purposes. Firstly, as a sportfisher I love the act and challenge of catching fish. One weekend you'll have success and a couple weeks later you'll spend all day trying to find them or find out what they want to eat. Secondly, those successful trips allow us to bring home a nutritious meal for my family. We practice catch and release at times as well. The last and most important reason is making memories. I can't tell you how many hours I've spent on the bay with friends and family (and pets) or how many pictures we've taken of our catch or other activities in the area.

As I read the proposal, it's pretty straight-forward...Follow the fish, so commercial fisherman can reach a quota. While I don't want to see a commercial fisherman go out of business I wonder if this permanent proposal should take a slower trajectory. My concern is with the increased quota, by catch and the role of whitefish as a food source for predator fish. The DNR is doing an excellent job of gathering data from commercial fisherman, but a few more years of information from the sportfishing side could be very helpful in determining a plan going forward that validates the change in quota for zone 1.

I've heard the financial impact of sportfishing to the area is \$264.3 million, which is substantial, but I haven't seen the impact for commercial fisherman. I believe their response is, "we provide access to the whitefish resource". That does make me wonder, based on supply and demand, could they temporarily raise the price of their catch to remain profitable if the quota was reduced. There are many groceries that are experiencing price increases. In this case, I'm assuming their business costs are not rising.

In conclusion, there are many factors to consider when making the correct decision. I would ask that you also take into consideration my last reason why I come to the bay to fish. Making memories won't show up on an economic study or a quota increase proposal, but the wrong decision will affect the community of sportfishers which you can't attach a dollar amount.

Thank you,
Paul Cochran



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: 'cochran gmail'
Subject: RE: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello again,

I would like to add one additional comment...

After reading the FH-02-20 Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis, I see the dockside value to commercial fisherman would be a maximum \$875,630 to commercial fisherman (not including wholesale and retail values). Taking that value and dividing by the Sport fishing contribution of \$264.3 million in direct and indirect impacts to the Green Bay-area economy annually through fishing expenditures, you arrive at a 0.33% commercial economic impact to sport fishing economic impact. Meaning, if you think the FH-02-20 will impact sport fishing usage negatively on Green Bay by more than 0.33% Rule FH-02-20 would not be an good overall return on investment. I find this to be a very slim margin to begin increasing quotas to the magnitude proposed.

Thank you

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 6:40 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish quota

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Last year the commercial quota was nearly doubled to 561,000 lbs. As a sport fisherman, I feel this number should stay here and not increase until there has been a few years of study on it. Please respect WI sport fishermen and study this for a while before raising the commercial quota again. We should never be hasty. Study what we have, then make a smart determination so we don't cripple the whitefish sport.
Thank you

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:23 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Lake Whitefish commercial quotas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Meredith,

I have spent almost 40 years fishing Lake Michigan. It involved boats, piers, shore, and tributary streams and rivers. I fished (and still do)-mostly for salmonids, but also caught perch, bass, carp, and smelt(years ago when they were plentiful).

As for my comment on the potential decision to increase the commercial take of whitefish in Green Bay, and level the take on the Lake Michigan side, I feel that would be OK on the Bay side since there appears to be a significant increase in whitefish numbers. I would be concerned about how to "monitor"the take, especially including the incidental catch of sport fish. This is an obvious issue for a "sports" fisherman like me.

The Lake Michigan side, according to the DNR data, has steady or slightly decreasing whitefish numbers. In my opinion, keeping the commercial take the same should be the upper limit of the quota. Again, monitoring would seem at least as important on the Lake Michigan side.

A question I would like to ask is there any data or concern about incidental salmon/trout catch in the whitefish nets, especially on the Lake Michigan side?

And finally, is there possibly going to be any public forum on the Lake Michigan salmonid fishery this year? I would especially like to see the extreme drop in overall success of pier, shore, and particularly stream anglers be addressed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Couston

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 6:54 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Our fight to save our whitefish in Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good morning Meredith,

The DNR raised the commercial netters quota from 300,000 to 561,000 on an emergency rule last year in Zone 1, which is Green Bay where we fish for our whitefish. Now with no studying what this increase would do, they are proposing to virtually double the quota to 800,000 lbs. We need for them to stop at 561,000 lbs and study it for two or three years. Then after they've studied it, they could make decisions to leave it the same, increase or decrease.

Sport fishing Green Bay creates a \$254 million boon to Door County. One of the best winter fisheries in all of ice fishing no matter what state you pick.

The DNR doubled the commercial take last year, great, hold off on any other changes till you see what this impact will do. Don't do anything stupid that could harm this tremendous sport fishing resource by doubling again with no study or data.

Thanks for listening. Merry Christmas.

Bob Crikelair

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:22 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish meeting 01.04.2022

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Good evening Merideth,

My name is Rachel Cromell. I have been a resident of Door County for my whole life and a guide for Sturgeon Bay Charter Fishing. My soon to be husband and I have been professionally fishing whitefish for 5 years and I have been personally targeting whitefish since 2012. My fiance has been a licensed charter captain for roughly 15 years targeting salmon and walleye before we took to the ice.

As I am sure you have heard enough voices strongly opposing this new quota for commercial whitefishing, I feel the need to echo every guide's and recreational sportfishermen's opinion. I fear for the population of whitefish and the local businesses future. In the 2000s and before, "the sidewalks would roll up" in November as door county doesn't have much to offer with the lack of snow for snowmobiling tourism. It has been such a delight to see stores, restaurants and hotels staying open recently because of the boom of visitors coming up here to go whitefishing, whether with a guide or on their own. I fear for my personal future, as it is hard to survive up here without having income in the wintertime. Door County needs this income in the winter to survive, especially with this hit we survived with covid 19.

My point to all of this is this. I am sure you have heard about the numbers and how this directly affects people like me. My personal concern is the lack of data throughout the whitefish guide community. Kyle and I took forwarding our catch logs very seriously. I am sure you have been in contact with Scott Hanson, and are up to speed with that "mess". From what I understand, is this year there will be more guidelines to hold ALL guides responsible for forwarding all their data to the dnr. As I believe this should have been a priority all along, I feel hope that this year will really shed some very up to date and reliable data to the dnr. I do understand the commercial fishing side of this as we attended and were interactive with all of the previous meetings. My wish is to see that this final decision is made after at least 1 more year of data from the guiding community. I am very excited to see these new rules being made for the guiding community and now having rules that will hopefully be more enforceable. I just don't understand how anybody can judge the status of the whitefish population without seeing how guiding and sport fishermen affects the future of whitefish here. It seems that the statistics pushing this quota change, though well researched and educated, in my opinion seem skewed, as unfortunately there was not enough data of what was harvested from the sport fishing community collected. I personally would like to see a baseline made from a sport fish standpoint to use to see the effects of a commercial quota change.

I hope my letter of opinion finds you respectfully and you consider my ideas, as I want this fishery to forever thrive and see the bay of Green Bay stays a destination for fishermen. Please feel free to carry on with this conversation via email or phone.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Cromell
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Comment re Whitefish quota - DeJardin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Ross, Laurie J - DNR <Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Bill Bruins <bbruins47@gmail.com>; Frederick Prehn (dr.frederick.prehn.nrb@gmail.com) <dr.frederick.prehn.nrb@gmail.com>; Greg Kazmierski (GregKaz.NRB@gmail.com) <GregKaz.NRB@gmail.com>; Marcy West <marcywestnrb@gmail.com>; Ross, Laurie J - DNR <Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov>; sdnaasnrb@gmail.com; Adams, Sharon - DNR <sharon.adams@wisconsin.gov>; Terry Hilgenberg (tnhnr@gmail.com) <tnhnr@gmail.com>; Smith, William H - DNR <william.smith@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR <Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Comment re Whitefish quota - DeJardin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 2:59 PM
To: meredith.pentherhorn@wisconsin.gov; Ross, Laurie J - DNR <Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Whitefish

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Meredith and Laurie,

I am a resident of Green Bay and avid fisherman and I enjoy fishing for Whitefish. I am 100% against increasing any quotas for commercial fishing and against the use of gill nets in the Bay of Green Bay.

When I was a kid, my father and our next door neighbor used to fish for Eelpout and for Whitefish on the bay using gill nets through the ice. It was fun and that I will admit, however later in life I realized that they caught a lot of other fish, trout, salmon and Northern Pike in those nets. The amount of fish that they pulled from the Bay was substantial and this is all prior to anyone ice fishing for Whitefish. Lots of incidental fish die as a result of this practice.

Take a ride along the Bay of Green Bay on the east and west shore and look at the amount of people enjoying themselves and having fun. As far as commercial fishing goes, those guys take and do not give back. Go to a fish market and buy some Whitefish or Lawyers and see what that cost is, they are enriching themselves at the cost of others.

I have invested quite a substantial amount into fishing, I buy licensees, food, gas, bait and a huge amount of money into equipment.. Just purchased a snowmobile yesterday for the sole purpose of fishing for whitefish, with that I have to

pay sales tax, license and registration to the WI DNR. If there is a chance of not catching fish or the amount of fish not being in the Bay then you can not support the new quotas. Currently the limit is 10 fish for a limit, after a year or so that limit will be 5, then 3 and this resource will be gone after that.

I have never sent emails like this before and I hope that the DNR takes a stand against increased quotas.

Thank you,
Todd

Todd DeJardin



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Meredith,

I visited Sturgeon Bay last year, for the first time, in order to fish for whitefish on the ice in Green Bay. I drove from Iowa, spent two nights at a local motel, bought bait and tackle from 2 separate bait shops, ate and drank at local bars/restaurants and purchased fuel at a local gas station.

The abundance of whitefish in this area has created an annual fishing trip for me and many others. I stand firmly against the proposal to increase commercial harvest of whitefish in zone one. Thanks.

Jeff Dellitt

Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors

Licensed in IA & IL



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Re: Increased whitefish proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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On Jan 2, 2022 8:27 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

I firmly object to the increase harvest of whitefish.

Whitefish have become a increasing sportfishing winter sport bringing hundreds of thousands of dollors to local economies surrounding Green Bay.

Trap nets would also kill thousands of walleye each year.walleye fishing in Green Bay brings millions of dollors to Green Bay and the surrounding area.

Ken Deprey
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 18, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: proposed permanent rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Horrible idea! Way to much bi- catch will happen! You will ruin Green Bay. Commercial fishing should not be aloud at all in the bay of Green Bay. You all tell us to practice catch and release on walleyes and bass. But it's ok for commercial fishermen to use gill nets and kill all those big walleyes and other fish. So now you wanna let them keep more white fish. So your gonna kill more bi catch. Leave it the way it is! Or stop commercial fishing in the bay.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 7:42 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Quota increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I totally oppose the increase in Green Bay Commercial Whitefish Harvest. This is being done without waiting to see how the current increase has effected the fishery. There is no way that a few DNR drag nets can determine whitefish harvest increases of this magnitude. I live in Sturgeon Bay and fish Larson's Reef all winter long. We have millions of dollars in revenue from sport fishing over the winter months and don't want to ruin or diminish the fishery over increase in commercial fishing for a couple of families.

Please here all of our concerns and turn this quota increase down! Thanks for your time.



January 3, 2022

Submitted Electronically To: Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov

RE: Commercial Fishermen's Position on FH-02-20

Dear Ms. Penthorn,

Commercial fishing, whitefish in particular, is critical to Door County's economy. In Door County the industry provides good jobs with employees making above average wages. Our data shows industry employees' wages are higher than the average worker, making \$33,000 a year.

The impact on tourism is even greater as visitors from across the country come to Door County for the famous fish boils. Many businesses rely on the whitefish industry for their revenues, and antiquated rules which unjustly impact our fishermen's ability to supply restaurants, processors, and smokers with that product will have a critical negative impact on Door County's tourism economy, impacting the multipliers for those industries as well.

We support equitable rules, based on sound research, and therefore support commercial fishermen's position on FH-02-20. This well researched rule provides for an equitable and sustainable approach to fish harvesting and management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Jenkins", is written over the word "Sincerely".

Steve Jenkins
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Schmelzer", is written above the name.

Julie Schmelzer
Director of Business Development

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:40 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Rule Change Hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Ms. Penthorn,

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Daniel Dufek. I am president of Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association. For over 100 years one organization has protected the resources of Manitowoc County and represented the rights of sporting men and women. Founded in 1907 Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association continues to fulfill its mission of "Conservation and Education Today for Tomorrow's Sportsman." The organization is recognized as one of the oldest conservation organizations in the U.S. and has been a model for groups across the country. **Twenty-five individual clubs work together** to make Manitowoc County Fish and Game one the premier sportsmans organization in north-eastern Wisconsin.

Our organization has taken some concerns with the proposed commercial quota revision for Zone 1 (Southern Bay of Green Bay) increase to 800,000 pounds from the 362,185 pounds in the previous rule. This would equate to an increase of over 120% in one year. We have concerns with the impact to the thriving sport fishery in southern Green Bay. As documented in a 2019 UW-Whitewater study, this fishery has contributed **hundreds of millions** of dollars to the areas economy. We stand behind the thousands of sports fishermen and oppose the commercial quota increase.

Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association also stands with the Walleyes For Tomorrow organization's concerns with the gamefish bycatch numbers. Our organization agrees that increasing the number gamefish bycatch numbers are not an acceptable result of increasing the commercial quota on white fish. Again, our organizations oppose the commercial quota increase.

We thank you for your time and persistence in protecting our Wisconsin Fisheries.

Best regards,
Daniel Dufek
Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association - President



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 3:25 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support Commercial Fishing.

Johann Dumsick
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish quota expansion in Southern Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Meredith: It is my position that I am opposed to allowing expanded Commercial Whitefish fishing opportunities for this region in Southern Green Bay. The economic impact study supporting sport fishing in this region coupled with the potential increased by-catch if expansion is allowed in this region seem to make this a pretty clear decision against this proposal. It doesn't make sense that just because the other zones have declining Whitefish numbers that this quota should be transferred to a thriving region. The potential impact of affecting current and projected whitefish populations, along with by-catch would allow a proactive approach to fish management rather than a reactive approach should this proposal be enacted and create issues at a later date. All other by-catch issues could substantially affect management of this ecosystem as a whole and potentially affect years of rehabilitation by State and private fish management partners. It is with these concerns that I oppose expansion of Whitefish commercial fishing into the Southern Green Bay Zone.
Sincerely, Dr. Dan Farah

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: In support of commercial fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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My good friend Charlie Henricksen has been a commercial fisherman for as long as I can remember and I completely support the commercial fishing industry as they support all of the individuals in restaurants that love eating the product they provide. Please include this message in support of my commercial fishing friends.

Brian Frisque PLS-2429
Brian Frisque Surveys Inc.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Green Bay Commercial White Fish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I've been a guide on Lake Michigan and Green Bay for 40 plus years. I find the Wis. DNR always likes to lean towards the Commercial Fishing guys. Charlie Hendrickson is the biggest problem. I want more!!!! More of Lake Michigan More of Green Bay. I want to be able to put my nets every where. I want more pounds and when the fish are all gone or depleted he just moves on to the next place. He reminds me of the movie (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) and the little Kids yelling I Want More I Want More.

This is not a joke he says the Sport Industry is a Hobby I say Bull Puckie. Ice Shacks cost \$2,000.00-\$4,000.00 per unit, Crew Cabs are \$25,000.00/unit plus all the other equipment we use. The Sport and Charter Industry generates Hundreds of Thousands of dollars for the State of Wisconsin every year.

People like to get out and catch their own fish plus getting out with their families. I think Charlie needs to rethink is thinking. Those fish out there belong to all of us and further the Sport fishing licenses give more money then the pittance the Commercial Licenses give the Wis.DNR to operate!!

I say the Commercial nets should stay North of Larson's Reef!! The damage they are doing to the Walleye Fishery in Southern Green Bay is not good. I know this won't happen because the DNR have always been buddy buddy with the Commercial Industry. Now Charlie and the other Commercial guys want the Quota raised from 561,000 pounds to 800,000 pounds no 2 or 3 years study done to see what this is going to do to the fishery. It was at 300,000 pounds but the DNR used an emergency rule to raise it to 561,000 pounds last year. What's the deal don't the thousands of Sport Fisherman get a say in this anymore!

I think the Quota should be dropped back to 300,000 or even 350,000 pounds till there is a 2-3 year study done to find out how this is going to affect the numbers of fish plus damage to the Walleye Fishery. You will never satisfy Charlie till he has it all remember the Chocolate Factory More More.

Respectfully
Capt. Fritz Peterson
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 24, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish netting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I'm an avid walleye fisherman in the warmer months and whitefish fishing in the winter months. I feel the DNR should buy out the commercial fishing permits. The walleye is a great fishery here in the Bay of Green Bay. The perch was good years ago, then commercial fishing came in with high quota and just about wiped out the perch in the Bay. The Bay is a World class fishery. It brings in Millions of dollars every year to the various communities. It would be a shame if the commercial fisherman would take too many or just their quota and deplete the fish population. Then the next question would be. Will the Native Americans get the rights to spear or put nets up our waters. I would greatly appreciate voting against the increase in commercial netting.

Thank you
Jerry Gardner

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 12:52 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: we support Local fishermen!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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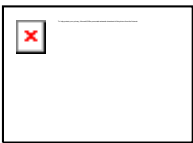
Dear Meredith,

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food! Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community! Please help us support them!

Kindly,
Sayard

--

Sayard Geeve
Store Manager



Waseda Farms Country Market
7281 Logerquist Road, Baileys Harbor
(920) 839-2222 Market
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 7:31 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: POSITION ON FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food:

The commercial fishermen are diligently working on a rule change that will protect commercial fishing into the future. Please understand the importance of the industry to consumers, restaurants, tourism, and related businesses, all of which are essential to our local economy. These direct impacts have not been adequately considered.

After 7 years of effort, DNR and United States Fish and Wildlife Service population studies and 4 years of a massive study by UWGB, Sea Grant and the DNR and commercial fishermen are moving forward with a very conservative rule, to give ALL of the people of Wisconsin access to their fresh, healthy, local, sustainable resource.

VIP: there is nothing in that report, or the information within the UWGB study that indicates that commercial fishing will have a negative impact on recreational fishing.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FISHERIES.

Respectfully,
Jude Genereaux
Sarona and Ellison Bay, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Whitefish regulations

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Bradley T. Eggold
Phone: (414) 303-0138
Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR <Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Whitefish regulations

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I apposes the increase of commercial white-fishing in the Great Lakes. Look what happened to the perch population In the Great Lakes because of over harvesting. Plus with global warming the Great Lakes are a fragile eco system that could collapse in the near future if we start to over harvest of any species of fish.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Fishermen's Position on the FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please note that this email is in support of the commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20.

This industry is vital to consumers, restaurants, tourism, and related businesses, all of which are essential to our local economy.

Thank you for your consideration...



Julie L. Gilbert
CDME CTP
President & CEO
Destination Door County
[REDACTED]
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
[REDACTED]
[Learn About the Door County Pledge](#)

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Kristie Moss
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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“We support commercial fishermen’s position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.”

~Gail and Scott King
Egg Harbor, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Opposition to Increase Whitefish Harvest on Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Good Afternoon,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the zoom meeting regarding the increase in whitefish quota to tonight where I planned to share my thoughts so wanted to send my opposition to an increase in commercial harvest of whitefish on Green Bay in writing.

It has always been my long time belief that the DNR strived to better the resources for sportsmen and women across the state. Sometimes they get it right, sometimes they get it wrong, and when lucky they are able to make corrections to the mistakes. Unfortunately some things, this being one of them, after the damage is done there may be no coming back. After watching this process unfold I am taken aback at the gross bias towards an increase in commercial harvest by the small group of DNR biologists working on this. This is a very serious measure, the "Emergency" rule almost doubled the harvest in Green Bay the last two years and we haven't had the time to study the impacts. The ink hasn't dried on that measure and we are now pushing to not only make that increase permanent but raise it to almost three times the pre "emergency" rule quotas. I have a question, what's the "emergency" in this rule?? Is it that the commercial fishermen who have been allowed to harvest millions of pounds on the lake for decades and now, surprise surprise, the population collapsed and they can't fill the quota on the lakeside? We now say that the lake population collapsed because of changing lake conditions? Where was the DNR to see these changes coming and cut back on the harvest, or eliminate all together to protect that fishery? Green Bay has changed dramatically also, just like the mussels on the Lake filtering green bay underwent similar changes. It seems we are potentially creating a real Emergency, rather than preventing one as Wisconsin sportsman have entrusted the DNR to do. My prediction is that after we mess this up, whitefish are diminished, we will blame their demise on ecological "changes" similar to what has happened on Lake Michigan. A smart approach would be to use Green Bay as a refuge, and if they truly are so plentiful they could repopulate the diminished moonlight bay stock.

As a guide that has fished the same area for over a decade on Green Bay, it is obvious the impact of sport fishing, combined with commercial harvest, the population, at least where we fish is not what it was 10 years ago. The DNR data does not reflect what we are seeing in reality on Green Bay. I have grown up in this area, I speak to multiple commercial fishermen that all fear this push to over harvest by a small faction of the commercial fishing community has the potential to collapse the system. These guys have spent their lives fishing that water and are dead set against this push for an increase. In fact many of them had to fish harder, in new areas and get more creative last summer to put fish in their nets. If you watch the slides, listen to the data, look at the countless pie charts and bar graphs you may think this is not a big deal and Green Bay can support this increase. But what if these numbers are wrong? What if the data is not an accurate representation? This should be a simple risk reward analysis, the risk of being wrong far outweighs the reward if they are right. At best, let's say the numbers are right, 8 commercial fishing operations on the bay stand to gain substantially financially. That money doesn't support our state's economy. Nobody travels or vacations to a destination to eat a whitefish, if they are on the menu they may eat them but if not they will order something else. That's not the

case for the sport fishing aspect of Green Bay's whitefish. This makes up the largest part of winter tourism in northeast wisconsin contributing to the 260 million dollars of revenue created by green bay sport fishing. The risk clearly far outweighs the reward. Some may even ask why on earth we even allow commercial fishing at all? Even non-fishers are plagued by the numerous nets scattered all across the resource. An increased quota means even more gear littering the resource. I took a boat ride from Sturgeon Bay to Washington island and was disgusted by what I saw. It is a literal minefield of nets the entire trip. I am on the water 7 days a week in the summer and listen to pleasurecraft express their disgust all summer on the VHF radio. I can't imagine what the Bay will look like with 3 times as many fish to catch.

Guide reporting for whitefish and the creel surveys are highly flawed, the creel senses are taken at the wrong landings, at the wrong time and it almost looks like they are trying to get bad data. While they have made some modifications to the creel studies its accuracy is highly questionable at best. Guide reporting was just made law this year, we have had zero accurate data on guide harvest to date. That will change and I am supportive of the measure to collect accurate data from the guides, but we don't have the data right now needed to make this ruling. I strongly believe many of the inputs are bad, they get plunked into pie charts and bar graphs and are treated like science. That is not science. The boots on the ground, both sport and many commercial fishermen feel they don't add up. Like many things, mistakes happen and the DNR has a history of missteps in game management over time. Let's not mess this up, the stakes are too high. It is my hope that there are enough on the board that can see this for what it is and vote to squash this gross over harvest.

It may even be time to evaluate the entire commercial fishing arrangement. It's outdated, dangerously flawed and clearly the greed of a small faction is heavily slanting the narrative. If the walleye population was elevated or even the deer population is perceived to be high, it would be unimaginable to allow a handful of people to harvest them for profit. Why are these fish that are the lifeblood of our winter economy looked at any differently?

I strongly oppose this measure and hope common sense prevails with a vote to not allow an increase in commercial harvest of whitefish on Green Bay.

Thanks,

Dean Gordon



Hooked Up Sport Fishing Charters

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for Commercial Fisherman

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Dear Meredith,

I am writing in to communicate my support of DNRs proposed bill and commercial fisherman in northern Wisconsin. The commercial fishing industry and the businesses it supports are vital to the health of Wisconsin's economy and communities.

Thank you,
Kevin Green

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Local Fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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To whom it may concern:

We support commercial fishermen’s position on the FH-02-20. It is beneficial to eat locally, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and small town, both economically and financially.

Best,
Kathy Guckenberg, Owner
Wagon Trail Campground
Ellison Bay, WI

--
Kathy Guckenberg
www.wagontrailcampground.com

[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Charles Henriksen; Kristie Moss-Henriksen
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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To whom it may concern -

"We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community."

Henrickson's fisheries are a vital company and component to the economy and food business it's Door Count.

We wish to support them and all efforts to allow them to maintain and grow their fishing operations.

Sincerely,

Joel and Krista Gunnlaugsson

Owners:
Townliner Motel



Sent from Joel's iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Habermann Comments

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Meredith Penthorn

Policy Specialist – Bureau of Fisheries Management

Phone: (608) 316-0080

Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:27 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR <Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: The several hundred member, North Eastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Organization, opposes the whitefish quota increase. Geen Bay has the only robust sport fishery for whitefish in the country. Robust in terms of both numbers of fishermen an...

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We will send a member to speak, at the DNR board meeting, far more eloquently than this last minute email.

The real time electronic catch data reporting is necessary. However the requirement needs to be strengthened even more. The paper reporting loophole needs to be removed and the electronic report needs to be done before any fish reach shore. Reports crafted after the fish are landed are easy to cheat on.

It may be appropriate to enlarge a no commercial fishing area that includes the entire lower bay, especially regular walleye areas.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Dear Ms. Penthorn,

I have vacationed in Door County since the late 1970s and have now been a permanent resident of the Village of Sister Bay for more than four years.. During that time I have been both a sport/recreational fisherman and a consumer of locally caught and processed fish. Having some understanding of the situation, I fully support the local commercial fishermen's position on FH-0220. While I understand the position of the recreational and sport fishermen, I think that the availability of locally caught healthy, fresh and sustainable lake fish is invaluable to our communities and cannot be underestimated. And from all that I have read, protection of the local commercial fishing industry is in no way incompatible with the continued viability of the sport and recreational fishing business. Accordingly, I strongly urge you to support our local commercial fishermen on this important issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Tom Halloran

Thomas G. Halloran | Attorney at Law | Halloran Law Offices

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is a transmission from Halloran Law Offices and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, and protected by the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges. If you are not the addressee, note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please destroy it and notify us immediately at (920) 854-8065.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From:
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 7:19 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We are receiving a lot of questions regarding the quota increase for the Commercial fishermen on the Bay of Green Bay and wanted to respond to a few of them. Please let us know if you have any other questions and respond to the DNR survey if possible.

The economic impact of sportfishing on the region is \$264.3 million each year and employs roughly 2800 people. The commercial boats operating on the Bay are 8 and the limited economic impact to the region has not been released. I wonder why?

WFT has also asked the DNR for any information where Commercial fishing has had a positive impact on any fish species and has not received a response.

There are many species of fish that have had a significant decline upon an increase in Commercial netting. Data regarding decreases in Perch, alewives, Smelt and Chubs have been asked for and also not received from the DNR.

Regulation of Commercial fishing is funded in part by license fee's from Sport fishermen, the last figure I have seen is that \$800,000 in our license fee's are used to regulate them.

The restricted or protected area in the lower Bay is still being netted by special permit, we are not sure why this is allowed in one of the biggest Perch spawning areas.

We do not have the numbers of the Perch harvest by the Commercial fishermen, that number has changed and we are still waiting...

The By-Catch study the Commercial fishermen have provided is something we are getting questions on and also have a lot of questions ourselves. The study is a very limited snapshot from one boat and is far from complete.

Why was data not collected from the river mouths when netting was the heaviest?

Why are the long-term effects of Baro-trauma not being studied? Fish are not watched for a longer period of time as the by-catch does not all die instantly.

Why were only limited grid areas sampled?

Why does the By-Catch study not list all species of fish collected?

WFT has concerns not only because of a number of Walleye, Whitefish or Perch wasted but because nobody has any idea of how big that number could be and why the harvest quota should be increased. The DNR is entrusted to protect the Natural Resources of our State and unfortunately they are not doing so! We continue to ask questions and the DNR representatives in charge of this are not responding!

Sincerely,
Matthew Harp

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 4:51 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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I support this bill to help commercial fisherman supply us with fresh fish and to continue to be able to operate in the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you,

David Harris
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Fwd: Whitefish rules hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: December 30, 2021 at 10:21:45 AM CST
To: Meredith.penthorn@wisconsin.gov
Subject: Whitefish rules hearing

Allowing an increase in commercial whitefish harvest is irresponsible and shows a total disregard for sport fishermen and their \$264 million impact on the area! As far as I know there is no state mandate that commercial fishermen have a right to harvest whitefish. The whitefish belong to the public and shouldn't be governed by, or for, special interest groups.

Regarding the decline in whitefish at Moonlight Bay, one only has to go there in the fall and see the entire mouth of the bay closed off by commercial nets. Is it a wonder to anyone that the stock would decline? This practice should be illegal not only at Moonlight but anywhere the whitefish use as a spawning area!

To better manage the whitefish fishery, there should be a reduction in sports harvest to 5 fish per day and a minimum size restriction of 15".

The economic impact on the area from commercial fishing doesn't account for 10% compared to sports fishing. Do the right thing and restrict the commercial harvest, don't increase it! Don't coddle to special interest groups!!

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 6:24 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Subject: Re: White fish netting

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Brad

I watched your presentation on White Fish. I can see there has been a lot of work put into the presentation. I have some questions to help me better understand the graphs and data presented.

How many total white fish were harvested on the Bay in 2021?

How many were harvested on the Bay using live trap nets?

How many were harvested on the Bay using gill nets?

Are there any rules the commercial fishermen have to follow using both type nets to reduce the number of by catch and Dead fish?

How deep of water do they set their nets?

Do the bycatch fish survive being brought up from the deep?

Thanks for your time. Looking forward to listening in on next Tuesdays presentation

Thanks

Bruce Hernke.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 7:55 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: proposed permanent rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Meredith,
I wish to submit my written comments on proposed rule FH-02-20.

Like in other rules, there are sections I fully support which include: developing two models to manage Green Bay and Lake Michigan whitefish populations and placing them into code to allow a quicker response to changing conditions; increasing the quota in the bay and decreasing the quota on the lake and requiring the use of electronic reporting. Although proposed increases seem high, I support them based on model estimates.

However, there are areas in the proposed rule that I do not support. First and foremost I can not support trap net fishing for whitefish in management zones 901, 902 and 1001 for a number of reasons. First, no data was collected from these areas during UWGB studies so it is unknown what the catch of legal whitefish and bycatch would be. Although this area is shallower than other areas so barotrauma may be lower, other environmental conditions such as low DO and warmer water temperatures will likely increase mortality of all released fish. Secondly, the rule is written:

SECTION 7. NR 25.10 (4) (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 25.10 (4) RESTRICTED AREA PERMITS. Permits allowing commercial fishing in restricted areas as described in subs. (1), and (2), and (5) or as required in s. NR 25.09 ~~will~~ **shall** be issued as follows:

SECTION 8. NR 25.10 (5) is created to read:

NR 25.10 (5) RESTRICTED AREA PERMITS FOR TRAP NETS IN GREEN BAY. No trap nets may be used for taking whitefish in that portion of southern Green Bay south of the line at 44o 50' N latitude, except nets by permit issued under sub. (4) may be used, set, placed, or operated for the taking of whitefish in that restricted area.

Note: This area is commonly known as Lake Michigan Statistical Grids 901, 902, and 1001.

When I see SHALL in text, it appears that if asked for, the permit shall be issued. This was case for closed area permits issued in the mid-1990's.

They asked, and permits were issued. Thirdly, historically rule changes reflected the data collected. Since new data was not collected in this area and historically not fished, DNR should not allow entry into these zones with whitefish trap nets, unless there is a contract between the fisher and DNR to collect data needed for management purposes.

Finally, I believe there should be requirements in this rule that require fishers move their whitefish trap nets if they catch 10% in numbers or weight bycatch compared to harvested whitefish.

The sport fishery of Green Bay brings in thousands of anglers from around the Midwest and the US to fish for walleye, musky, northern pike and yellow perch. Although this rule is intended to help commercial fishers and the consumers of their projects, greater efforts should be taken to protect sport fisheries by limiting whitefish trap net bycatch.

Steve Hogler



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 3:37 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: whitefish harvest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

A wise man once said, "stupidity is coming up with the same results, over and over, using the same criteria , and trying it one more time to see if the results will change".

Zones 2,3,and apostle islands, Keweenaw bay area, same results when commercial , especially the tribes, were all aloud to fish with gill nets and so called monitored by DNR.

OVER FISHING RESULTED,WITH THE POPULATION NEVER,NEVER COMINGING BACK.....DHA.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial whitefish harvest proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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I and several of my friends travel to the Sturgeon Bay area from southwest Wisconsin a few times each year to fish whitefish and we're very concerned with the new limit being proposed for the commercial industry. I know you're aware of the economic impact the sportfishing community has on the communities from Green Bay and north. I'm suggesting you increase the commercial limit to 500,000 pounds for 3 years to see what kind of impact the new limit would have on the fishery and increase the sportfishing limit to 15 per day. You know that the sportfishing limit has no impact on the total harvest of whitefish and this would be a kind offering for our sportfishing community. I'm sure that we would make the trip more often if our limit was increased further increasing the economic benefit to the area. If after 3 years the whitefish population is thriving and not level nor declining, then raise the commercial limit to 800,000 pounds but only if the sportfishing limit has been increased.

I appreciate your reading my email. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Steve Holmes

[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:17 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial whitefish regs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I adamantly oppose any increase in commercial fish harvest on the Bay of Greebay. It's a know fact that the vast majority of bycatch ends up dead. Its simply unethical and wrong for the DNR to even consider such a change. With the world class walleye and excellent perch fishery no way should it be considered. Please for the well being of the fishery DO NOT INCREASE ANY COMMERCIAL HARVEST QUOTAS!

Eric Horswill



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: We Support FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hello Meredith,

We are writing to let you know that we support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community here in Sister Bay and the broader Door County community. Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Louise Howson
Community Coordinator
Sister Bay Advancement Association

[REDACTED]
www.sisterbay.com



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see the comment below related to FH-02-20.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Emma G. Esch

Department Administrative Rules Coordinator – Bureau of Legal Services
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Office: (608) 266-1959
emma.esch@wisconsin.gov



From: Hügel Haus <hugelhauseb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 4:50 PM
To: DNR Administrative Rules Comments <DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FH-02-20

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We support commercial fishermen on FH-02-20. We wish to eat, local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. —Hügel Haus Restaurant and Bar.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Commercial harvest of Whitefish on the Great Lakes

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Bradley T. Eggold
Phone: (414) 303-0138
Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:59 PM
To: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR <Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Commercial harvest of Whitefish on the Great Lakes

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Let it be known I am in opposition of the DNR allowing Commercial fisherman to increase their catches of Whitefish on the Great Lakes. There are other game fish species that are negatively impacted by these netting practices of Commercial fisherman. The DNR has the obligation to protect our states resource,s for the general public as well as the Private businessman. Thank You !

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Southern Green Bay

We are committed to service excellence.
Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Bradley T. Eggold
Phone: (414) 303-0138
Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR <Bradley.Eggold@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Southern Green Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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There should Not be a whitefish area for netting whitefish in Southern Green Bay. It is bad enough that you allow commercial perch netting. DNR should buy out the commercial perch better.

The side effects of netting is damaging a vital resource.

Dr Hook
Jerry Isaacs
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Bill Bruins; Frederick Prehn (dr.frederick.prehn.nrb@gmail.com); Greg Kazmierski (GregKaz.NRB@gmail.com); Marcy West; Ross, Laurie J - DNR; sdnaasnrb@gmail.com; Adams, Sharon - DNR; Terry Hilgenberg (tnhnr@gmail.com); Smith, William H - DNR
Cc: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Subject: FW: Comment re Commercial Fishing on Green Bay - Isaacs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Ross, Laurie J - DNR <Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Commercial Fishing on Green Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Ross

Commercial fishing is negatively affecting the health of the fragile ecosystem of Green Bay.

The By Catch alone should be reason enough to curtail netting in Green Bay. Certainly no increase in netting should be allowed especially in The Southern Bay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald Isaac |
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support For Commercial Fisherman

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We love our commercial fisherman and completely support them and this proposed bill!!

Jennifer Jorns

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support for Commercial Fishermen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hello Meredith, I'm emailing you to communicate my feelings toward the DNR's proposed bill regarding fishing regulation in northeastern Wisconsin. I am in support of our local commercial fishermen and the businesses they run.

Thank you for your time,

Emilie Jorns-Frisque

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: whitefish commercial netting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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As i understand last year you raised the netting limit double an with no study being done over time you want to do even more netting quota, This is the craziest thing i have ever herd, There is no way a complete study on reproduction can be done in one yr, especially going through covid crisis, with government working hrs were at a minimum. I'm completely against this action of offering more quota to commercial fishing...

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 6:26 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: support for commercial fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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i support the rule change for commercial fishing to increase the quota in the bay. I love to eat whitefish!

--
Kathy Enquist
Dogma LLC
[REDACTED]
Sister Bay WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Kristie Moss
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20.

We think it is important and vital to the sustainability of our community to eat local, healthy, and fresh food.

Considering the circumstances of the last years and the spread of known and unknown viruses, we consider it is even more critical to our welfare and our families to know where our food comes from and being aware of the transparency of its origins and its processing.

Please support this new rule and help our local commercial fisheries survive.

**Sincerely,
Karen and Joseph Kidd**

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
Karen Kidd

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2022 9:00 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hello, I just wanted to take a moment to share a few thoughts with you regarding the increase for commercial fisherman.

I am ok with an increase. My main concern is that the increase is excessive initially. You're job is to protect our resources and I hope you make the right call to "walk before we run".

Lets start with a small increase and let's see what happens.

Thank is all I have.

Thank you,

Ryan Kryzanek

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 9:10 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR
Subject: Comment on Proposed Rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Dear Ms. Penthorn,

This email is in response to the request for public comments on the proposed Permanent Rule FH-02-20. I am a sport fisherman with a passion for ice fishing for Whitefish on Green Bay. I am opposed to the proposed large increase in the commercial harvest in Zone 1 to 800,000 pounds per year.

I understand you have been charged with studying the economic impact of the commercial harvest and you are aware of UW Whitewater study on the economic impact of sport fishing on Green Bay; therefore, I will not dwell on the economics. Instead, I would like to comment on the recreational importance of ice fishing for Whitefish on the Bay. This is an activity enjoyed by thousands of anglers. Many do not own boats, so the short winter season is their chance to enjoy this resource. I am concerned that this opportunity is maintained for future generations of sport anglers.

I understand that studies show an excellent population of Whitefish in Zone 1 that may be able to handle an increase in the commercial harvest, but why take the risk? I understand the commercial harvest in Zone 1 was already increased in 2021 under the Emergency Rule, but we have not had a single sport ice fishing season since that time to see the impact. I understand that guide reporting will be mandatory this year. Does it make sense to see a year of guide harvest data before making a Permanent Rule? Why the rush?

You probably know the uniqueness of the sport ice fishing for Whitefish... the chance for anglers to go out on their own or with a guide and enjoy catching 10 large hard fighting fish in a single day! I have been ice fishing for Whitefish on the Bay since 2009 and my own non-scientific observation is that they are often challenging to catch, and it has not gotten any easier despite the reported increase in population. Even if the population is not endangered, I am fearful that if

numbers are reduced it will make catching fish more difficult and hurt the recreational participation.

The DNR is entrusted with managing this resource for the public. I am asking you to proceed more slowly and cautiously with the commercial harvest increase in Zone 1 to prevent harming a recreational activity enjoyed by thousands of sport anglers.

Steve Lapin
Sturgeon Bay

Green Bay Zone 1: Comparison of Sport* and Commercial** Whitefish Harvest Benefits

Jobs



- Sport Ice Fishing
Estimate 337
- Commercial Harvest
Estimate 30 to 60 (based on about 8 groups/families commercial fishing in Zone 1)
- Difference **5 to 10X**

Economics



- Sport Ice Fishing
\$48 m/yr
- Commercial Harvest
\$1.6 m/yr (\$2/lb x 800,000 lbs)
- Difference **30X**

Public



- Sport Ice Fishing: enjoyed by thousands including many non-boat owners
- Commercial Harvest: fresh Whitefish in restaurants. (Restaurants not dependent on Whitefish... other menu items available)

*Source: UW Whitewater/WFT Report (assumes 23% ice fishing and 80% of ice fishing targets Whitefish)

**Rule FH-02-20 State of Wisconsin Economic Impact Analysis (11/17/21 update)

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:29 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Whitefish-lake Michigan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see the comment below related to FH-02-20.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Emma G. Esch

Department Administrative Rules Coordinator – Bureau of Legal Services
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Office: (608) 266-1959
emma.esch@wisconsin.gov



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 1, 2022 12:11 PM
To: DNR Administrative Rules Comments <DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Whitefish-lake Michigan

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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It would be nice if instead you increased the limit for sports fisherman. If commercial fishermen take all the whitefish. I won't be coming up to Sturgeon Bay any more. And I normally do 2 trips a year with 4-5 guys, that area is going to lose a lot of revenue. Hotels and houses we rent, restaurants and bars, gas stations and bait shops. I'm sure there are a lot of others that feel the same way.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. "

"It is vital for our business and community." •

This is an extremely complete rule that makes long overdue changes to fish management and is the most expansive rule since FM-40-88 (Full limited entry – 1988)

- It uses the new models of abundance that have been researched over the past 10 years and enables decisions to be made separately for the bay and lake and ties quotas to a quicker adjustment process.
- -It fully implements EFHRS (Electronic Reporting) use that has been in development for over 20 years.
 - It gives commercial fishers fair access for this abundant resource and allows our responsible businesses to supply healthy, sustainable, local and fresh food to consumers.
- -It builds on massive research that has provided as much data as any study and give us a baseline for future decisions. Monitors were on our trap net boats for 23% of the harvest in the last two years. In addition, monitors were on gill net boats for over 33 miles of lifted nets and have shown that intelligent use of gill nets can, and have been, very successful and efficient.

DNR analysis of the comprehensive study indicates that bycatch concerns are minimal.

While we appreciate the sport fishing interests and the Walleyes For Tomorrow funded economic presentation, there is nothing in that report, or the information within the UWGB study that indicates that commercial fishing will have a negative impact on recreational fishing.

Kate Lindsley
Broker Associate
Kellstrom-Ray Agency, Inc.



Web:

www.doorcountydreamhomes.com





Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board
Advisory to the Wisconsin DNR



The Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board is a statutorily created entity charged with advising the DNR on Commercial Fishing.

Members are recognized experts and include licensed commercial fishers, fish wholesalers and representative of the general public, and have decades of experience navigating the issues of fish management.

RE: FH (02) 20 The Whitefish Rule

WE have been working towards this rule for many years and on much of it the LMCFB has led. Throughout the process the DNR has sought sport and recreational fishers input

-As we realized the immense population explosion that was occurring as whitefish recolonized Green Bay in record numbers some fishers proposed utilizing this amazing resource as our state laws and management policies call for.

-Questions were raised and studies were proposed to answer them.

-**WE** tagged fish at our expense with DNR and UWSP help in Lake Michigan during November of 2017 and 2018 to augment DNR tagging in the rivers.

- **WE** proposed a catch composition study to show how little interaction we had with sport fish and fishermen. We also began detailed reporting of every fish that came on our boats by net.

-**WE** recommended that the DNR manage separately for the bay and lake which led to the modeling now being used that has been peer reviewed and vetted by experts.

- After Sea Grant and the DNR had difficulty supplying a monitor in 2018 and 2019 **WE** approached Dr Forsythe at UWGB to become involved. He proposed a graduate student who would combine our monitoring as a basis for a thesis. As this idea progressed **WE** committed funds to augment travel, expenses and eventually a helper.

-While 2020 was slow for gillnets because of the pandemic a large number of trapnet lifts were monitored with expected minimal negative results. Because of the glacially slow pace of the process **WE** suggested a 200,000# increase for 2021 by emergency rule to enhance the study and give us real time information about increased effort and harvest. Even though we received this increase after prime spring fishing, much of it was harvested. In fact over the last 2 years **WE** have had a monitor on board for over 23% of the Zone 1 Whitefish harvest. This will be our Quota for this year as the earliest this rule will go into effect is mid to late 2022. The DNR will meanwhile be running their model and can make quicker adjustments if warranted.

The part of this rule we object to is the large new restricted area in the lower bay. It is proposed differently than other restricted areas with no input or forethought and has no data to support it. As we have shown throughout this process the commercial fishery can be trusted to minimize bycatch, avoid user conflict and be good stewards of this resource that belongs to all the people of Wisconsin.

Our other issue is that the often cited study that Walleyes for tomorrow funded, does not indicate in any way that the commercial fishery is a detriment to sport fishing. In fact it strongly suggests that they can coexist and thrive together. So far this process has ignored the importance of strong whitefish harvests to the economy and culture of Wisconsin. Failure to include an updated EIA in the latest release is puzzling as many strong comments were received. The reason for an early period for the EIA in the state administrative code should not have been ignored.

This is an extremely complete rule that makes long overdue changes to fish management and is the most expansive rule since FM-40-88. (limited entry, allocated quotas and zone control-1988)

- It uses the new models of abundance that have been researched over the past 10 years and
- It fully implements EFHRS(electronic reporting) use that has been in development for over 20 years
- It gives commercial fishers fair access for this abundant resource and allows our responsible businesses to supply a healthy and sustainable food to consumers.
- It builds on massive research that has provided as much data as any study and gives us a baseline for future decisions. Monitors were on our trap net boats for 23% of the harvest in the last 2 years.
- It shows that intelligent use of gillnets can be very successful and efficient.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Cole, Preston D - DNR; Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Subject: Commercial Whitefish Rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the rapid (proposed) increase in commercial harvest quota.

I am a sport angler and enjoy spending my winter free-time in Door County targeting Whitefish through the ice. I have seen first hand that the Whitefish fishery is drawing people to Door County in droves during the winter months. Ten years ago it wasn't nearly as busy but each year it grows and more people come to participate in this unique ice fishing experience. While much of the arguments and justifications have been economically based, and I can go on and on about how much tourism this fishery is bringing to the area during the "off season" I would like to focus more on the resource itself.

What I find concerning is this rule is being driven by a commercial fisherman, the research conducted has been on his vessel and he stands to gain a lot if the rule passes as proposed. It is a conflict of interest. The basis of the emergency rule is Covid-19. I struggle to understand how closed down/limited capacity restaurants would require 2x the amount of Whitefish. Plus, Covid-19 is still causing shutdowns. There is nothing in the study that I have seen that indicates there is an emergency with the Whitefish population and that more need to be removed from the ecosystem to prevent adverse effects.

The passing of this rule is being rushed to meet certain deadlines as I understand it. This is also very concerning. We have the raw data, but we don't have a picture of how the current emergency order increasing the quota from 362,185lbs to 569,788lbs is impacting the Whitefish population. The life cycle of a Whitefish is much longer than other species. It can take seven years for a Whitefish to reach spawning age - in contrast, a King Salmon only takes four years. If too many fish are taken out at one time there will be a significant delay in recovery. Also, the Whitefish recruitment is very vulnerable to weather events. Given the recent history of weather on Green Bay, I fear we will have a couple year classes that will not produce as modeled. The mild winters give less ice cover and leaves the Whitefish eggs more vulnerable to wind events causing high mortality.

The DNR is now imposing mandatory guide reporting which should provide a sample of what is actually happening on the sportfishing side. Why wasn't this guide reporting rule put in place before the research for increasing the quota to 800,000lbs concluded? This is a very important data set that could show a different picture that may influence the modeling. Now with the emergency rule in effect it will be interesting to see the numbers put up by the guides this ice season and get feedback as to whether they feel there has been a change in the population.

The quota in Zone 2 is 2,166,329lbs and commercial fishing hasn't even come close to meeting that. What model was the quota for Zone 2 based on? And what happened since that quota was established? I understand the DNR is looking

to re-allocate that number with Zone 1 to balance it out, but it is alarming that the Zone 2 quota was that far off from reality.

I hope you can understand why I am concerned. I would like to see the effects of the emergency rule on the fishery for a couple years before moving forward with the proposed permanent rule amount. I understand there are deadlines to meet and a process to be followed, but it would be a blunder for the DNR and other parties of interest to put the commercial economic value of the Whitefish in front of the conservation.

It's also been stated that the new rule making process allows for quicker changes in quotas so why not start smaller and raise in increments instead of starting higher and try to back off on the numbers once an adverse affect is seen?

Thank you for your time,
Lauren Phillips
Whitefish Anonymous

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 18, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial quotas for whitefish GB zone 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hi Meredith,

I'm a resident from Sturgeon Bay and have been involved in the sport whitefish fishing industry since it's inception probably 15 years ago. I have many friends in the commercial and sport fishing industries and need to share my thoughts on your new proposal to virtually double the commercial take out of zone 1 in a 2 year period.

I was OK with your emergency rule increasing the zone 1 catch to 561,000. But it amazes me that now 1 year later you want to make that a permanent rule and at the same time virtually double the take for the commercial guys to 800,000!!!

Your at 561,000, our thoughts are leave it there and study the impact for the next 2 or 3 years. Then when you have seen the results over this increase you can increase, decrease or leave it the same.

I don't talk to one sport fisherman who wants this increase and you see the economic impact disaster it could cause if your numbers are wrong and you take too many and collapse this fishery.

Also talk with the commercial guys, most of them who hold quotas in zone 1 do not want this doubling. They are out there day in and day out and they are working harder now to even catch the 500,000. There is only one guy on the commercial side that wants this doubling, one guy, do your diligence and see that I'm right on this.

Talk with the sport fishing guides. I know that everyone will tell you that the catch rates are much less these last few years, much less. A few years ago you could be off the ice early with limits, that does not happen anymore. That's why a lot of us sport fisherman want to reduce the limit to 5 per day. Right now with it being 10 the clients take little fish because they need 9 more.....If the limit was 5 they would sort and only take the larger fish that would let the little ones grow up. As we know they don't have a swim bladder so they can make it back down and live to grow for another day.

I asked all of the DNR folks at the various meetings I attended "Why is the sport fishing limit set at 10?" Not one of them had an answer for me, so I went looking for an old salt on the commercial side and asked him. He said that one of the hired hands working on the boat years ago asked if he could take some whitefish home for supper. The answer was yes, you can take up to 10. Thus the sport fishing limit is set at 10. We will work hard to get that reduced to 5 so we can help save this fishery at the same time you want to double???

Any questions please feel free to call, text or email

Capt Bill Luer



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To whom it may concern:

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

As Door County residents we make use of the local fish harvest through our local businesses such as restaurants and direct sales. Buying local is our first priority closely followed by eating fresh, healthy foods.

Please support our local fishermen with this legislation.

Lora and Jeff Lynds
Ellison Bay, WI

Lora

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support Local Fisherman in Door County

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Meredith, I am the Chef at Husby's Food and Spirits in Sister Bay, Wi. I am contacting you in support of Henrikson Fisheries in Ellison Bay and the service they provide to every Hotel, Tavern, Bar and Restaurant in our area and Door County as a whole. Family operated for over 35 years they have been my source of Whitefish Fillets since they have been in operation. With the exception of November Charlie and his son Will, with their small fleet & crew fish year round and adhere to DNR regulation to the letter. I and I'm sure every operation that uses their service in Door County backs Henrikson Fisheries wholeheartedly! Thanks for your time! Sincerely Chef Matt MacMillen

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Capt. JJ Malvitz



Public Comment
Rule FH-02-20

I am writing in request to the public comment on proposed rule FH-02-20 that affects the lake whitefish catch in the bay of Green Bay. I am opposed the the large increase in commercial harvest in zone 1 on Green Bay.

I am a native to Door County and am a professional ice fishing guide based in Sturgeon Bay. I began guiding whitefish when I was 18, over 12 years ago. The whitefish bite on Green Bay is like no other fishery in the country. There is no place you can catch the quantity and size of these fish other than on the bay of Green Bay. This is truly a one of a kind fishery.

The popularity of this unique fishery continues to grow exponentially among recreational anglers from across the country. I have been privileged to take thousands of anglers from across the country to experience this fishery. They all comment on how fun, unique and engaging the whitefish angling is compared to targeting other species of fish. This fishery also allows anglers of all ability levels to participate, its a great way to introduce children and first time anglers to ice fishing.

There are numerous studies that document the dollars spent by recreational anglers. There are numerous businesses that prior to the "whitefish boom" would not open their doors during the winter months. This fishery has provided new incentives for hotels, restaurants, and other small businesses to keep their doors open during a slower time of year. Simply put when anglers come to the area their dollars travel further through the local economy, which helps sustains local businesses. There is no doubt that if the fishery began to falter anglers would not come to area and support the local economy. Simply put if whitefish numbers crash, anglers would not return.

My great Grandfathers were commercial fisherman and I understand the livelihood associated with that profession. Whitefish are relatively in good shape in the bay of Green Bay, however this resource has only been in great abundance in Green Bay for a little over a decade. I am asking the DNR to abandon the additional emergency increase to 800,000 pounds. This increase would almost double the allowable commercial harvest on Green Bay in under 24 months.

Sincerely .
Captain JJ Malvitz

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Proposed whitefish and electronic reporting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Meredith,

I think the idea of having electronic reporting will be great you will be able to know if real time what is happening out there with catch and bycatch.

Look forward to what you guys come up with.

Happy New Year!

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: rule change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in support of the Commercial Fisherman's position in regard to the proposed rule change. The resource belongs to all state residents, not just the sportsman. Commercial fishing allows all residents to benefit from this resource. The commercial fishing industry needs all the support it can get.
Jeffrey and Paula McDonald

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please know I support the commercial fisherman's position on FH-02-20. Thank you . James Mc Dowell

[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: proposed permanent rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

I am absolutely **opposed** to the proposed commercial harvesting increase on Whitefish in Door County.

Due to the Covid pandemic, many, many businesses have experienced a major loss in income - or worse yet, a complete loss of income and the shuttering of their businesses. This is heartbreaking to the families - and the tax payers - of my state, Wisconsin.

The sport of winter fishing for whitefish has increased noticeably in the past few years providing a lifeline to the many workers who support this activity - motels, gas stations, restaurants, bars, sporting goods stores, fishing guides, tackle equipment manufacturers, grocery stores, liquor stores, equipment rental operators, fish cleaning businesses- and so many more !

Wisconsin is getting national attention for winter whitefish fishing - drawing visitors from all over. It's a huge economic boon for the state. Not just for the businesses listed above but for the DNR and license sales. Many tv shows are being filmed here during winter whitefish season - many articles are written and published in fishing magazines. The potential for this to continue to grow is fantastic. Don't ruin it by massively increasing the commercial harvest.

Thank you,

Kathy McGee
Madison, Wisconsin

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We support commercial fisherman's position on FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh & sustainable food

Peter & Sally McNamara

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S POSITION ON FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh, and sustainable food.

This is needed today and for the future!!!

Best regards,

Michael J. Smith
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Lake whitefish and electronic reporting rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Meredith

I am in support of increasing the commercial whitefish quota in zone 1 to 800,000 pounds. This increase is long over due. However i do not think that closing grids 901 902 and 1001 is not warranted without any scientific data whatsoever. This proposed area closure will severely limit fishermen's ability to harvest the public's resource.

Mark Maricque

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Kristie Moss-Henriksen
Subject: Support for FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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> Dear Ms Penthorn -

>

> My husband & I are Door County transplants from Missouri. We came to Ellison Bay for vacation in the summer of 2019, fell in love with this gorgeous area & bought a home. We have since launched a small flower farm & embraced all the wonderful aspects of Wisconsin life. One issue that is important to us regards our wish to eat local, healthy, fresh & sustainable food. We strongly support commercial fishermen's position on FH-02-20.

>

> Thank you -

> Jane Mohit

> [REDACTED]

>

>

>

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 9:21 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: We support commercial fishermen- so should you

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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"We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community."
Norma Moore

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support commercial fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We support the DNR recommendation to more than double the commercial harvest of whitefish in southern Green Bay.

Bill & Pat Moren
Egg Harbor
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 7:52 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support for Whitefish Quota Increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good Morning Meredith,

Please accept this email as my support for increasing the quota of the whitefish commercial harvest to 800,000 pounds in zone 1. However without more scientific data, there should be no consideration for closing grids 901, 902, and 1001. Fishermen/women in those areas would be negatively impacted and limited to catching whitefish that Wisconsinites have grown to enjoy throughout the state.

Best Wishes,

Nick Maricque

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Commercial Quota - Green Bay Zone 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hi Meredith,

I am writing to let you know that I am extremely concerned about the recent talks of increasing the commercial quota for whitefish. The recent increase, which already almost doubled the commercial quota from what it was prior, has not had enough time to allow for proper research to understand truly what that increase has done to the population. In my opinion, we need to keep the quota at the 561,000 pounds it was recently raised to, and study the effects of that for at least 2-3 years, before making a decision to almost double it again.

The recreational fishing that this brings to the Green Bay/Door County economy is huge. I personally enjoy bringing up big groups of friends each year to enjoy fishing for whitefish. Supporting local guides, restaurants, hotels/motels, bait shops, gas stations, etc.....It would be a shame to see this fishery ruined by an over increase of commercial fishing, potentially putting an end to the sport fishing we have enjoyed for years, and look forward to continuing to enjoy for years to come.

Please consider my request before making this next quota jump, as I understand may be coming soon.

Thanks!

Dan Nier

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 12:58 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support for FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.

Thank you,
Sern Olson

--

Buck Olson
ES Olsson Construction
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

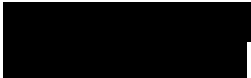
From: Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Bill Bruins; Frederick Prehn (dr.frederick.prehn.nrb@gmail.com); Greg Kazmierski (GregKaz.NRB@gmail.com); Marcy West; Ross, Laurie J - DNR; sdnaasnrb@gmail.com; Adams, Sharon - DNR; Terry Hilgenberg (tnhnr@gmail.com); Smith, William H - DNR
Cc: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FW: Comment re Lake MI commercial fishing Zone 1 Quota Increase - Orsted

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 24, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Cole, Preston D - DNR <preston.cole@wisconsin.gov>; Ross, Laurie J - DNR <Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov>; Ambs, Todd L - DNR <todd.ambs@wisconsin.gov>; Hasz, Justine R - DNR <Justine.Hasz@wisconsin.gov>; Kalish, Todd G - DNR <Todd.Kalish@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Zone 1 Quota Increase

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Mark Orsted



December 24, 2021

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Staff:

Preston D. Cole - Department Secretary, Laurie J. Ross - Office of the Secretary, Todd Ambs - Deputy Secretary, Justine R. Hasz - Bureau Director, Todd Kalish - Deputy Bureau Director

Please submit this email to Laurie Ross to distribute to the Natural Resources Board.

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to express my concerns with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's proposed permanent Whitefish Rule Package. An increase of the harvest quota for the Zone 1 Whitefish fishery beyond the current level of 590,000 lbs, as set forth in the Emergency Rule, is something of concern to me.

Growing up in a fishing family, I spent many summer days fishing whitefish with my father on my grandfather's commercial fishing boats. Once out of high school I got a job fishing commercially on Lake Michigan. Fishing in the late 70's and early 80's I got to experience the peak in Whitefish on Lake Michigan, and the ensuing dramatic decline in the stocks. The current Lake Michigan Whitefish fishery is a shadow of its former self, barely 4-5 boats fishing the fall run where once there were 15-20. Similarly, I was present when the Lake Chub fishery was re-opened in 1979. The boom years following the re-opening of the Chub fishery were followed, much like the Lake Whitefish stocks, by a dramatic drop off. The Lake Chub fishery is all but gone, one or two boats out of two ports fishing where once Chubs were fished from the ports of Racine to Ellison Bay.

The Whitefish stock in the Bay of Green Bay is the one and only robust population of Whitefish in Wisconsin waters. I do not doubt that fisheries management wishes there to be a continued healthy stock of Whitefish in the Bay of Green Bay. While I understand the need to use some kind of model to manage natural resource populations, I do not feel enough data has been gathered to justify an increase in commercial production. We are in the first year of the Emergency Rule increase, what effect has that had? There is little to no data gathered on the ever increasing sport fishery harvest of Whitefish. A model can only be as good as the data which it incorporates. As a commercial fisher, I have seen in recent years a decrease in the catch. We are having to set more gear, in more locations to catch the same amount, or less, as in previous years. Is this a prelude to a decline in stocks similar to that of Whitefish and Chubs in Lake Michigan?

Having been in, and around, the Whitefish fishery for over 50 years I write this as someone concerned about the future of the Zone 1 Whitefish fishery should the proposed increase go forward in its current form. Please know that not all commercial Whitefish fisherman see an increase in Zone 1 quota as beneficial to the long term health of the Zone 1 Whitefish population. I encourage you to reconsider increasing the harvest quota without further data gathering and analysis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Orsted
Baileys Harbor Fish Company LLC

FH-02-20

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THIS FORM
BEFORE THE START OF THE HEARING.

Personally identifiable information collected on this form is used for administrative purposes
and may be provided to requesters under the public records laws, ss. 19.31 to 19.39, Wis. Stats.

HEARING APPEARANCE
Form 8300-014 Rev. 4-10

PLEASE PRINT:

Date: December 17th, 2021	Do you wish to make an oral statement? (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
----------------------------------	---

Name: Wade H Paffenroth	Telephone number (include area code): [REDACTED]
--------------------------------	---

Street or route (mailing address): [REDACTED]

City, State and zip code: [REDACTED]

1. Representing (If you are the authorized representative of some other person or organization, identify who you represent and your title.):

2. Regarding rule proposals only: Small business representation -- Are you representing the interests of a small business as defined by s. 227.114, Wis. Stats., as "a business entity, including its affiliates, which is independently owned and operated and not dominant in its field, and which employs 25 or fewer full-time employees or which has a gross annual sales of less than \$5,000,000"?

Yes No

3. Comments:

I would like to go on record as being STRONGLY OPPOSED to the MASSIVE increase to the quota of whitefish proposed for commercial fisherman on the lower bay. What is the nature of the emergency? As a dedicated sport fisherman who has fished the bay for years, I can tell you that both the the quantity and quality of whitefish stock has declned over the last decade. Adding a MASSIVE amount of quota for a handful of commercial fisherman will only serve to further interfere with sport fisherman and our ability to recreate on the bay. Why is the conservative approach to the additional MASSIVE increase not being taken? There has NOT been enough time since the last MASSIVE increase to study it's long term effects. Why the rush? One only need look at commercial fishing on the bay and it's over harvest of perch to see that once a fish stock is gone, it is gone for good. The same will happen to whitefish if this proposal is enacted. From an economic standpoint, your own data shows that the proposed increase will only generate an additional \$875K in revenue for a handful of commercial fisherman, while current (not increased) sport fishing of whitefish contirbutes \$264M in revenue. spread across a wide arrav of Wisconsin businesses. This proposal must not move forward!!!!

4. Position:

(Check one)

In support

In opposition

As interest may appear

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Comments: Commercial Whitefish Rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I am writing in opposition to the permanent rule for expansion of commercial whitefish harvest.

Our goal should be a sustainable fishery for all.

Since 2010 the Commercial quota for Lake Michigan and Northern Green Bay has been 2.88 million pounds of dressed whitefish. The commercial fisherman have not been able to reach that goal for many years. That is a good indication that whitefish in zone two have been over fished.

This proposed Permanent Rule sets a commercial quota for zone 1 Lower Green Bay, from Chambers Island South at 800,407 pounds of dressed whitefish. I believe that we do not have enough data, following the one-year emergency rule to justify a permanent expanded quota.

This expansion will mean more nets in the lower Bay of Green Bay creating potential conflicts with sport fisherman.

Initial monitoring of nets by Taylor Hrabek at UWGB indicate up to 20 - 25% of commercial catch to be BY Catch including under sized whitefish, walleye, pike and assortment of other fish. These fish are either dead or stunted to be scavenged by seagulls cormorants and pelicans.

The DNR does not have ability to closely monitor commercial fishing on board harvest. There are good apples and some bad apples. Initial discussions included requiring on board video monitoring. The DNR should consider random drone monitoring of net lifts

The Bay of Green Bay is a rich sport fishing location, with an annual economic impact of \$264.3 million dollars and 2711 new and retained jobs.

The DNR has established restricted areas within zone 1, to protect high concentrations of spawning walleye. However Commercial Fisherman can request and previously have been granted authorization to set nets in restricted areas, without public notice??

The commercial whitefish catch in northern Green Bay and Lake Michigan has been in decline for over 8 years, yet this rule does not reduce the commercial quota in those zones to see if over fishing may be the cause.

Thank You for the opportunity to provide input

Keith A. Pamperin
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Yahara Fishing Club <yaharafishingclub@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 8:48 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Proposed permanent rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Meredith Penthorn,

I am writing as a concerned sport fisherman in request of public comments for the proposed permanent rule FH--02-20. I belong to the Yahara Fishing Club in Madison, WI and each year our club has a whitefish ice fishing outing in Sturgeon Bay. This outing is attended by an average of 30 club members over an entire weekend supporting an excellent local guide and his staff, hotels, restaurants, bait shops, fish cleaning and packaging services and gas stations in Sturgeon Bay. In addition we have many other club members including myself who fish several other times there during the ice fishing season providing even more money to the local economy. Our club has been doing this for the last 10 years and our observation has been that this is a growing sport fishing industry within our club, in fishing magazines promotion and countless fishing shows on television and Youtube. This observation also includes a growing number of hundreds of sport fishermen on the ice at any given time in Sturgeon Bay and every access point on the bay starting from Green Bay and going up. I know you are aware of the UW Whitewater study on the economic impact of sport fishing on Green Bay but I am certain that if a study was done annually that it would show an increase every year.

It makes no sense to increase the commercial fishing harvest in Zone 1 to a very large 800,000 pounds per year when they have already increased their allotment the prior year under emergency rule by almost double the previous amount from 300,000 to 561,000. It especially makes no sense to do this before more data can be gathered from the upcoming mandatory guide harvest reporting. Why can't the DNR implement the modernization of commercial harvest reporting and other good features of FH-02-20 and hold off on increasing the commercial harvest further until more evidence is gathered to truly see if such an increase would be warranted. A few commercial fishermen who have already gained significantly from emergency rule passage versus the potential negative impact on thousands of sport fishermen and the gigantic impact that they have on the local economies seems like a very logical, easy decision to make.

My concern as a sports fisherman is that the whitefish population would be negatively impacted by the very large increase in the commercial harvest. I'm also concerned that the increased commercial harvest will have an increased bycatch and negative impact on other fish populations in Green Bay. Finally I'm worried that a decline in the whitefish population will have a devastating negative impact on the local economies and communities surrounding Green Bay which would surely happen without a robust sports fishing opportunity as we currently have.

Please protect this valuable resource and do not increase the commercial harvest of whitefish further. I am opposed to the increase of commercial harvest of whitefish in permanent rule FH-02-20.

Jim Pankratz


Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Public Hearing Notice for FH-02-20 (wisconsin.gov)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

“We support commercial fishermen’s position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.”

While we appreciate the sport fishing interests and the Walleyes For Tomorrow funded economic presentation, there is nothing in that report, or the information within the UWGB study that indicates that commercial fishing will have a negative impact on recreational fishing.

*Dennis Paschke
Sister Bay, WI 54234*

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Comment on whitefish rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Meredith,

Please accept my comment that I oppose any increase in the whitefish quota for commercial fishermen in Zone 1 (southern Green Bay). It should be kept at the current level.

Thank you,

Paul Smith
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:37 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: Charles Henriksen; Mike LeClair; Todd Stuth; Brett Schwarz; Rick Johnson; Mark Maricque
Subject: FH-02-20 Commercial Fishing Rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Meredith:

I am submitting comments on proposed permanent rule FH-02-20 as follows"

I have been on the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board for over 2 Decades. This rule makes long overdue changes to the Fish Management of the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan since sometime in the 1980"s.

This Rule uses update models, which have been researched over the last decade and enables decision making separately for Green Bay and Lake Michigan which ties quotas to a quicker quota adjustment process.

From a scientific standpoint, commercial fishing provides "real time" data on the health of fish in the Bay and the Lake. In this ever changing conditions on the Bay and Lake, we need ongoing data through commercial fishing. Monitors on the commercial fishing boats OR viewing film from Go-Pro cameras shows the care and compassion commercial fishers have for this renewable resource. Trap nets, gill nets used on the Bay are efficient and there is little by-catch. Similar results can be found with the trawlers on Lake Michigan.

This Rule also implements the electronic reporting system recommended from a Committee I served on back in the late 1990's.

This Rule gives commercial fishers fair access to the resource, 50/50 split between sports & commercial fishers, to supply healthy & sustainable food to consumers. As a side note, I like fish, however I am not going to go out fishing on Lake Michigan during the winter, thus I rely on commercial fishers to produce a product I desire.

I believe there is NOT enough data on the lower portion of Green Bay to create a restricted area. At the December 2, 2021 Lake Michigan Fishing Board meeting (LMCFB), DNR staff mentioned there was some data dating back to the 1980's! I mentioned at that meeting, the DNR should allocate quota, for research & data collection purposes, within the restricted area.

In conclusion, Commercial fishing and sports fishing have coexisted since the beginning of fishing, around the time of creation of Wisconsin Statehood. The State Legislature has agreed with the conclusion

requiring a 50/50 split of the fish resource for commercial and sports. I look forward to reviewing the updated EIA at the next LMCFB meeting.

I am thanking you in advance for your time and consideration.
Dan Pawlitzke

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 5:54 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Meredith,

I live in door County Wisconsin and I am from a commercial fishing family originally. Not only do we take great pride in our heritage our entire peninsula is connected to this industry.

It is vital that we have fresh, commercially fished and commercially cleaned, shipped and prepared fish in our community. Not only do our fish boils count on it but all of our restaurants do as well.

Please do whatever it takes to keep this livelihood and our access to locally harvested fish legal, safe and supported.

Respectfully

Peder Nelson

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: New DNR Fishing Regs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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As a newer resident of Door County, I often read of the on-going discussions concerning whitefish regulations. Full disclosure, I personally know several commercial fishermen and adjacent businesses. After reading information provided regarding the new regulations, I am hard pressed to see how this increase in commercial fishing quotas will harm sportfishing. Especially when the industry is so highly regulated. The commercial fishing industry supports an incredible number of businesses, most local to Door County, by providing fresh fish for both restaurants and private use, I had my introduction to whitefish in Door County. In my home state of Illinois, whitefish was a generic term, referring to the color and texture of fish. In Door County, I learned it's a species, and a delicious one at that! I love having blackened whitefish at Boathouse on the Bay, or smoked whitefish from Charlie's Smokehouse, or whitefish spread (Henriksen's) from the Pig. I often go to Farmer's Markets and buy fresh whitefish to prepare at home. These businesses are supported by commercial catch. Many, many people eat from commercial catch. Who benefits from sportfishing? The towns and villages through tourist revenue and the families of the sportfishers. Important, but, as important as commercial fishing? I think not.

Peggy Enquist
Sister Bay, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Supporting Commercial Fishermen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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My husband and I support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We choose to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community.

Regards,

Rick and Deanna Peterson
Superior, WI 54880

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Good Morning,

I feel that the change in whitefish harvest will impact the future of many other species . I have spent many hours and years fishing lake Michigan and areas attached. I feel , that life cycles of species go and change along with water levels and other weather factors. We have had higher water over the last several years. And we are seeing the positive impact. This level gives species the areas and food to live and thrive.

As we see this cycle in a positive. We need to not jump so fast without factors. I, for the record do not fish for whitefish! But the increased limits increase netting soaks and we know nets do not discriminate . The accidentally caught will increase also. Worst is the released accidentally caught mortality will increase with more netting and soaking times . Please do not increase this harvest qouta and wait and see what the future brings and see what happens naturally.

Sincerely,
Harold Petsch Jr

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support for commercial fisherman

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello Meredith

I want to let you know we support our local commercial fisherman's position on prop FH-02-20. Please help them continue to be a vital asset to the community.

Thanks

Bob Purman

Island Orchard Cider

Ellison Bay Wi.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support of FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We support commercial fisherman's position on this matter

Sincerely Linden Ray

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Netting of Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Meredith,

I am writing to you as a concerned sportsman. I have fished whitefish in door county for the past several years and enjoy it immensely! I recently found out about the increase to the commercial netters in fish to be caught. What research has been done prior to understand the affects of this change? What research will be done after this change to insure we don't ruin this resource? This brings in many fisherman/women to the area to buy and use accommodations and would be missed terribly if we misuse or over reduce the population. This brings in millions of dollars to the economy in this area and they have grown to rely on it!

Please reconsider or at least put a plan in place to review the affects of this change. More research is needed before we ruin this resource.

Thanks for your time,

Mike Reynolds, a concerned sportsman.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 24, 2021 5:59 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Eggold, Bradley T - DNR; Cole, Preston D - DNR
Subject: Comment of the quota increase for Commercial fisherman of Whitefish.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hello Ms. Penthorn,

I am writing to you this evening regarding the [permanent rule FH-02-20](#) and the effects it may have on our resources.. The basis for the rule change is to increase the income of a limited number of Commercial fishermen using our public resources. Unfortunately the lack of transparency by Mr. Eggold and the support from the DNR for the Commercial fishermen is very troubling. The information gathered in the By-catch study is miniscule at best and the truth is nobody has any idea how much harm increased netting will cause our fish populations. Requests have been made for information regarding the Commercial harvest and the response has been nill. The economic impact of Sportfishing on the Bay is well known and almost 3,000 have jobs that rely on that industry, unfortunately the Commercial fisherman have not released the amount of impact the increased harvest will have on the region or jobs created if any!

You can tell by now that I am against any increase in the Commercial harvest and find the DNR once again looking out for business interests in the State and not the resources you are to protect.

Sincerely

Randy Ritchie

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2022 10:35 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Fishing/Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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January 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand there will be a hearing soon on expanding the commercial fishing in the Bay of Green Bay. I have been in the tourism business in Door County for 46 years operating a motel, then a resort and marina and currently the owner and Captain of a tour boat. Many of my guests in my past businesses were sport fisherman and I understand their concern however in looking at all the studies by Fish and Wildlife, SeaGrant, DNR etc. I strongly support allowing more commercial fishing for Whitefish in the Bay. By all studies there is enough fish and then some for all concerned. Many of the sport fisherman who stayed with me agree on this.

A question I get every day aboard my tour boat and at the front desk in my past businesses is where can I go to eat some fresh fish or buy some. Door County and neighboring Counties on both sides of the Bay have numerous farm markets, delis, restaurants and fish markets where fresh fish is available. A commercial fisherman's catch is made available to all the public and reaches more people than an individual fisherman catching some fish and putting them in his freezer for his own use. I support the commercial fisherman's position on the FH-02-20. All the research and monitoring also support this decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Captain Jim Robinson

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:55 PM
To: Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Cc: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish of Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I'm against such a drastic increase in the Commercial quota for several reasons.

Many states and lawmakers are placing tighter curbs on commercial operations so sportfishing continues to thrive and grow. Here in Wisconsin we feel the risk shared by many sportsfishing, business owners and many others does not adhere to the purposed heavy netting.

Please acknowledge the below caption from Lansing, Michigan...

“Catching fish in our water is a privilege, not a right,” [Rep. Jim Lilly](#), R-Macatawa, said when introducing [House Bill 4569](#), part of the package also sponsored by [Reps. Jack O'Malley](#), R-Lake Ann, and [Pauline Wendzel](#), R-Watervliet on the Commercial fishing.

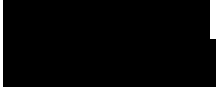
We were told prior to the Emergency order being in place, that the DNR would take time to study the effects on the fishery and move forward very slow before making any further decisions on quotas. We'll here we are not a year later and already moving forward..... this does not seem to hold true from Brad's words last year.

In the August meeting it sounded nobody had a real number of what the Sportfishing catch was on a yearly basis, but do know the models support more netting. I would think the Sports catch would be a valuable piece of info prior to such a large purposal.... Also in that meeting the DNR spoke that if the new EFHRS supports the catch being higher that what they expected it was, the only resolution to help the fishery would be to lower the Sportfishing daily bag limit. I think that would be very inequitable as you are drastically increasing the Commercial catch!! The recent economic study by UW Whitewater shows what an even 3% decrease means to our fragile small business owners. We (Whitefish Anonymous) currently have about three thousand members signed up and many from out of state. If the bag limit is

lowered, some or most will not make the trip to Green Bay as they do now. This would be tragic to many businesses that have now survived the winter seasons in Wisconsin.

This is a very special fishery that is a privilege to have in our state, this should be advertised and promoted just as Devils Lake, Cascade, Lake of the Woods etc. Currently the ice fishing has seen double digit increases amongst people visiting to fish, with minimal to no help from advertising, just word of mouth and great experiences.

Best Regards,
Randy Phillips



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: White fish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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To whom it may concern.

I own a restaurant in Sister Bay Wi. And a sport fisherman. With the growth of the white fish population in the bay of Green Bay I diffidently support the quota increase for commercial fishermen in Wisconsin. White fish is a big part of our Door County menu's and hope to see the tradition continue.

Also the sport fishing of whitefish is almost hard to believe that we never caught white fish by hook and line until about 10 to 15 years ago.

I fully support the commercial fisheries to their requested increases Thanks for your consideration John J. Sawyer Owner / Husby's Food and Spirits Sister Bay. Wi.

Home
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:06 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish commercial increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Why in this day and age are we even thinking that any increase in commercial harvest is a viable option? Whitefish have not reached numbers in Lake Michigan so that they have become a nuisance, in fact I would guess they aren't even at a historical high point. The wasteful aspects of commercial nets is not a prominent picture in most of the publics eye. But I have seen it first hand, having spent several seasons in Alaska and Washington state ,once robust salmon runs depleted down to mere shadows of themselves. I offer that as a warning, as once a law is passed for increase it will ballon from there and we'll be back to historic lows or worse. Thank you, Joe Schmitt

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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As an avid ice fisherman on the Bay of Green Bay, I am writing to voice my opposition to rule FH-02-20. The dramatic increase in the allotment of Whitefish on the Bay is concerning. Sport fishing is a big revenue stream in the area, and I would argue a more important revenue stream than the commercial fishery. It would seem to make sense to take a slower approach to increasing the quota, and to increase slowly over several years so the impact can be more closely monitored.

Thanks for your time,

Gus Schmoll
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: White fish quotas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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It is of great dismay to me when I hear that the DNR is considering increasing the commercial catch to 800,000 pounds. Last year it was increased from 300,000 to 561,000. There is no 3 year data to show the impact on the resource that decision has made. How can you just increase the quota. I am requesting this be tabled until further research on last years decision and its impact on the resource is completed. We cannot allow the resource to be blindly destroyed.

Ted Schroeder

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: henriksenfisheriesdoorcounty@gmail.com; chenricksen3@gmail.com
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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“We support commercial fishermen’s position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food.”

This is an extremely complete rule that makes long overdue changes to fish management and is the most expansive rule since FM-40-88 (Full limited entry – 1988)

- It uses the new models of abundance that have been researched over the past 10 years and enables decisions to be made separately for the bay and lake and ties quotas to a quicker adjustment process.

Paul and Paulette Schwengel

Gills Rock

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From:
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Cc: Greg
Subject: DNR/NRB Seeking Public Input On Proposed Lake Whitefish And Electronic Reporting Rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi,
I would like to go on record as being totally against any commercial quota increase on the Bay of Green Bay, for whitefish. I am sure you are aware of WFT's study completed in 2018, that reflects what Green Bay sportfishing represents to the area, and to the state as a whole:

Conclusion

The study region of Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, and Oconto counties in Wisconsin contains a world-class fishery including the Bay of Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Sawyer Harbor, the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal and related tributaries of Duck Creek and the Suamico, East, Peshtigo, Little Suamico, Oconto, Pensaukee, Menominee, and Fox (up to the first dam) Rivers. The economic output resulting from the recreational sport fishing in this region::

- Creates over \$264.3 million in annual economic benefits
- Generates over \$14.8 million in annual state and local taxes
- Supports over 2,711 full-time jobs

The DNR held four seminars on how to properly release caught walleye(s). But yet they are perfectly fine with walleye "bycatch" being wasted. The DNR is totally talking out of both sides of its mouth. No credibility whatsoever.

Electronic reporting: Do you really think the commercial fisherman are going to "accurately" report their catch? When no one is on board their vessels to monitor them, they will do/report as they please. So, electronic reporting is a total joke in itself.

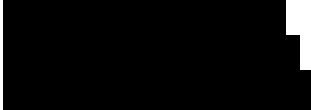
User conflict(s) with nets: This should be just great. Next the commercial interests will want certain areas blocked off from sportfishing. Should work out just great for the commercial interests. Ghost nets will be another story all in itself.

Covid Downturn: I saw on one of the DNR videos, concerning whitefish quota increases for commercial fishing, that the commercial people had a downturn in harvests and outlets for the whitefish. So, let's give them a 100% increase, to help make up for that. Again, no DNR credibility.

Speaking of the DNR videos: Maybe the person running the meetings should introduce himself, by name and title. That should be done with all of the speakers, DNR included.

The whole idea of doubling, or more, of the commercial catch is just sickening to me. Potential ruination of GB sportfishing, for the benefit of eight commercial interests. To my recollection sportfishing dollars are being used for monitoring of commercial catch, or something like that. Tell me what is fair about that?

Thanks,
Gregory Sipla



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From:
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 1:57 PM
To: DNR Administrative Rules Comments
Cc: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Subject: proposed permanent rule FH-02-20, Commercial Netting Quota increase for whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the adoption of the permanent rule covered in FH-02-20, Huge commercial netting increase for the Bay of Green Bay.

The historic allowable commercial catch on Green Bay was 300,000 pounds. Through an emergency rule that passed last year, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) increased the allowable catch to 561,000 pounds. The new proposal calls to increase the total allowable commercial harvest in Green Bay to more than 800,000 pounds. That's more than doubling the allowable catch in under 24 months.

- 1) Why cannot you wait for the effects of the 561,000 pounds of the allowable catch increase to be factored in?
- 2) WHY do you ignore very important information that Walleyes for Tomorrow has tried to enter in the record?
- 3) Why do you ignore the Green Bay Value Study, that WFT paid for in 2018?
- 4) Why are perch harvest numbers revised, but are not published?
- 5) You are supposed to represent all interests, but anyone can tell the WDNR is slanted in favor of the 8 or 9 commercial netters.
- 6) I understand there was a request in 2018 to recognize a sportfishing group that would be able to speak for sport fisherman. WHY has this not been acted upon? Very unfair for the WDNR to side with the "organized" commercial netters, against the "unorganized" sport fisherman.
- 7) I have been unable to verify this, but have been told if the commercial netting quota increase is approved and there turns out to be a crash of the whitefish population, that sport fisherman limits will need to be dialed back. That sounds about right, 167% increase to 800,000 pounds for the commercial fisherman, and the \$264.3 million annual sportfishing impact will have to take the hit.

Gregory Sipla
Stevens Point, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: January 4th public meeting on increasing commercial fishing quotas on Green Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to provide some comments in opposition to the proposed increased quotas for commercial fishing operations.

Green bay has become a world class fishing destination and increased commercial fishing threatens that status with additional bycatch. Whitefish have also become a targeted species by anglers through the ice. There are many guide services in the area that make a portion of their living during the short ice fishing season, the increased whitefish numbers have been good for these businesses.



Steve Slack
President/CEO



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Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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FH-02-22.. Hi my name is Joe. As a avid ice fisherman I'd like to give my comment on this. The white fish fishery has not been the same since the last quota when they bumped it up. It would be shameful to us avid ice fisherman and open water fisherman if this goes through. We would like our children and someday grandchildren to be able to experience the fishery. I do understand it's their way of living and making money. But what does it do to us avid fisherman's and our future fisherman's that want to experience the whitefish fishery. How about the revenue that out of state fisherman's brings into our state that pay for our Wisconsin fishing license every year just to experience it and enjoy it and bring their family to our state to enjoy and experience of the white fish fishery. So I believe and pray for all of us avid fisherman's that please do not let this go through..

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: permanent rule FH-02-20

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To: Department of Natural Resources
C/O Meredith Penthorn, Program & Policy Analyst

I am writing you to say I do **not** support the increase of the commercial whitefish harvest of the proposed permanent rule FH-02-20 relating to lake whitefish commercial harvest in Lake Michigan and Green Bay. This will severely decrease the walleye population especially the large walleyes that many of us sportspeople release so they can continue to grow and be caught again. The large walleyes get caught in the gill nets and then die and are thrown back in the lake to rot or be eaten by birds. The DNR is going to completely destroy this fishery for our future generations. Why does the DNR cater to the commercial fishing so much, when the sports industry brings in exponentially more revenue to the DNR than the commercial fishing. Now let's look at the tourism dollars brought into the area from lodging, gas stations, sport shops, food etc. The limit on this fishery should be reduced to 3 for walleyes, but not if you pass this new proposed rule. That would be fruitless. Do not do what the DNR did to the deer population in northern Wisconsin and now cannot figure out why the hunting population is continually decreasing.

Thank you, please do not ignore the general population.

Allen Spaeth
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello Meredith,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. I have been having a hard time finding a reason to support permanent rule FH-02-20. To me this rule generates more questions than answers, here are a few:

Questions

- I would like a little more clarification on if there will be public input on future quota adjustments or if the DNR will unilaterally make that call?
- Will future quota adjustments require the 50/50 split remain in place?
- How often will quota numbers be adjusted? Will this be done annually or will it take multiple years of increasing/decreasing population to prompt action?
- Can copy's of power points used in recent meetings be available in pdf format? It is hard to digest the information when it is only up for a few seconds.
- Is there a concern for overpopulation in zone 1?
- Lower whitefish populations are being seen around the entire Great Lakes. why exploit one of the few thriving fisheries?
- Could the lower effort/fish be due to the commercial fishermen learning where higher concentrations of fish are located more then higher fish populations?
- Are the current catch rates meeting the local demand for whitefish?
- Could the DNR require dead by-catch to be donated to local food pantries?
- Could future by-catch surveys be extended further into the spring and fall to see how high those numbers are?
- Can fish being trapped together in trap nets aid in spreading vhs?
- Does the smaller body size of Green Bay whitefish affect the egg production?
- Could future studies include a look into the sex ratio of commercially harvested whitefish?

Comments

- I read a study that a female whitefish can reach 17 inches up to a full year before a males. It would stand to good reason to think the majority of whitefish harvested are female.
- Whitefish is one of the least expensive fresh fish found in stores which would signal an ample supply available.
- Perch, lake trout, smelt, and herring are among past fish species that were once commercially harvested and all experienced population crashes.
- The by-catch mortality numbers are observed mortality but many times fish swim away looking healthy only to die a few minutes later.

- The young of the year numbers in DNR trawls seem to be fairly consistent since 2007 with the exception of the 2015 year class. That would seem to point to a consistent population more so than in increasing one.
- To my knowledge I don't know of any sport fishery in the state that has a quota.
- Walleye and Whitefish are two of the most sought after sport fish species in southern Green Bay and will be the most affected by the rule change.
- Sport fishing is experiencing higher effort/fish numbers, which is contradictory to what commercial fishing is experiencing.
- Southern Door, and Kewaunee counties experience much less summer tourism. Making the impact of ice fishing tourism even greater.
- Green Bay whitefish is a unique opportunity to catch a species that is not known for being caught on hook and line.
- Zone 1 appears to be about 1/3 the size of zones 2 and 3 making management of fish stocks more difficult.
- License sales increased approx. 18% in 2020.
- Many small businesses have started in recent years based on this fishery. The small bait shops that disappeared after the collapse in perch populations are starting to show back up!

Alternative Ideas

- Would the DNR consider a variance from the rules to allow the additional approx. 250,000 lbs of quota to be sport caught fish that can be sold to a processor?
- Extending the emergency rule another 2 years to gather more data.
- Require commercial fisherman to restock dead bycatch

I hope you find some of the questions and comments in this useful and don't support rule FH-02-20

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Re: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi Meredith

I would like to add another comment just in case I don't get to speak at the meeting on Tuesday.

Since the early 2000s the commercial harvest in all zones has not exceeded 1.6 million pounds. So why would a quota breakdown of: 500,000 in zone 1

800,000 in zone 2

300,000 in zone 3

Not be able to meet the needs of the commercial fishermen? I understand that the harvestable surplus model is higher than that but just because something can be done does not mean it should be done.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 7:26 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Re: FH-02-20

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hi Meredith

Here was my comment from last night's meeting:

While some of the data provided suggests a quota increase in zone 1 can be supported, there is also data that showed this may be a bad idea.

First thing I would like to point out is in the young of the year survey. While 2009 and 2015 did show strong recruitment, every other year since 2006 has been consistently between 200 and 400 fish per trawl hour. This would suggest the spawning population is not increasing.

Next let's talk about the size of the fish in 2000 the average whitefish was 3-4 lbs (before that they were even larger) today they are roughly a pound and a half. Which means commercial fishermen have to harvest at least twice as many fish to achieve the same weight.

Since the 2001-2002 season commercial fishermen have never harvested more than 1.6 million pounds and rarely caught 1.5 million. Obviously they are still in business 20 years later so why not put the quota around that level?

The scope statement reads "some commercial fishers would like the option to harvest more whitefish in lower Green Bay." If a handful of commercial fishermen cannot even agree on this why are we moving forward?

I understand that we need to take some of the commercial fishing pressure off of Lake Michigan, but adding commercial fishing pressure to Green Bay seems like a good way to diminish that stock as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak last night.

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I have observed the commercial fishing industry for many years and applaud their efforts to maintain viable fish stock for many years to come. The restaurant and tourist business along with folks like us depend on them. I totally support the stance taken by the commercial fishing group.

Regards
James Springer

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Increasing commercial whitefish harvest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Meredith;

As a lifetime Wisconsin resident and long time Conservation Patron license holder, I would like to register my objection to the proposed dramatic increase in the commercial harvest quota for whitefish in Zone 1 of Green Bay.

A phased or stepped approach to increasing harvest is the way to go while allowing the DNR adequate time to thoroughly study population trending and reproductive success. There is no reason to rush implementation of such a huge increase in commercial take.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Scott Taylor
Waupaca, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Whitefish Quota Increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello Meredith,

I would just like to write you in order to express my disagreement with increasing the commercial whitefish quota. I am from Ohio and travel to Green Bay with a group of friends to experience your world class fishery. Each year, our group spends thousands of dollars between lodging, fuel, dining, at bait shops, with guides, etc. traveling to wonderful waters such as yours. Without the abundance of whitefish, I'm not sure that we would make the trip to Green Bay. I know that there are many other groups just like mine that enjoy your resource and contribute to local economies.

Living on the shores of Lake Erie, I have seen first-hand how commercial fisheries can have a negative impact on a resource. Lake Erie has been overfished for a variety of species over the years. Blue Pike are now extinct. Walleye populations were in serious danger, and commercial fishing for them in Ohio waters was banned in 1970. Now, perch populations in the central basin (Huron to Fairport) are in serious danger. I remember just a few years ago (5-10 years), there would be hundreds of boats in large packs just offshore from Cleveland, and everyone was catching 30 fish limit catches of jumbo perch. Now, there are barely any fisherman even attempting to find perch in Cleveland due to devastating population declines. There are a variety of factors that lead to the population declines of all of these species, but commercial fishing certainly does not help. Commercial perch fishing in the central basin has been ceased at the moment to help populations rebound, which indicates that they are a negative impact to the resource.

Thankfully, due to some great hatches and prior conservations efforts, Lake Erie is again a world class destination fishery for walleye and I've seen first-hand how much benefit it provides to our local economy. I see similarities to the whitefish boom that the Door County regions is experiencing, and I would like to see that continue.

There are a significantly larger number of recreational anglers who get to enjoy the abundance of whitefish in your waters. The economic impact is also significantly larger when a larger amount of the population can enjoy the resource. I do not see the benefit to the large number of residents and tax payers by increasing the quota to a relatively small amount of commercial fishing outfits.

Please take consideration to all of the recreational anglers that you serve, and do not allow an increase in the whitefish quota.

Thank you from a concerned stakeholder,

Ralph

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am opposed to increasing the commercial quota in zone 1 of Green Bay. The modeling of the whitefish populations in the bay is tenuous. The population is in a state of change and data obtained in recent past may no longer be relevant today. I live on the bay and have fished regularly for white fish for decades. Based on recreational catch rates, my model would indicate a reduction in the whitefish population in the Dykesville area over the last 2 years. Numbers of recreational fishermen in the area had a dramatic decline last year. An increase in harvest will negatively impact the local economy. We have trialed the modeling system with walleyes in northern Wisconsin with a similar division of harvest between Native Americans and Sportfishermen. The model suggests a harvest limit divided between the two parties. After many years of working with this model we have seen a severe decline in walleye populations. I don't think anybody knows the true safe harvest rate and nobody really knows the actual rate. The lack of data creates large inaccuracies in the model. The accuracy in the Green Bay model is subject to the same problem. Recreation catch rates are dependent on voluntary reporting as is the reporting of commercial harvest. Making a reporting system a law does not guarantee compliance. There is insufficient money and manpower to insure compliance. I am also concerned with bycatch. I have witnessed massive walleye kills secondary to perch netting. I have discussed walleye bycatch with commercial whitefishermen. The walleyes are perceived as predators of young whitefish and the walleye is the enemy of the operations. Walleyes are released but they are not viable. Why would you want to put populations at risk to promote the profit of a small group and jeopardize the recreational economics of an entire region?

Lawrence Strelow DVM
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: Todd Stuth <stuthfishing@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:56 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Lake Michigan Whitefish Management - Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hello Meredith,

I would like to introduce myself, Todd Stuth and my wife Carin Hickey-Stuth, the owners of Baileys Harbor Fish Company, LLC formerly Hickey Brothers Fisheries a long standing commercial fishery located in Door County, WI. Carin's father Dennis Hickey has been commercially fishing the waters of Lake Michigan and bay of Green Bay since 1967 and this business spans four generations. Dennis has participated in the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission for the last two decades and has an inherit interest in maintaining a viable and sustainable whitefish fishery on the waters of Lake Michigan, Green Bay and the rest of the Great Lakes Basin. Carin has grown up in the industry and I have been an active participant in the fishery for the last 26 years and we too share the same interest in maintaining a viable and sustainable commercial Whitefish fishery.

Our sister company "Hickey Bros. Research, LLC" collaborates with several state, tribal and federal agencies conducting fisheries research and assessment across the country.

This correspondence is to provide public comment to the proposed permanent rule change as it relates to the management of the Whitefish fishery on Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

"QUOTA RE-ALIGNMENT"

In good faith our business believes and stands behind a quota reduction in Zone 2, landings have been in decline for several years and this is a factor of environmental phenomenon and invasive species not commercial harvest this has been evidenced throughout the studies conducted by the scientific community across all of the Upper Great Lakes.

With regard to Zone 1, the bay of Green Bay, we understand the 50/50 commercial and recreational rationale. The value of the commercial and recreational fisheries co-existing on this body of water create a very desirable economic impact and opportunity for not only the businesses along the coast line of Lake Michigan and Green Bay but further serve communities throughout our state and beyond.

The TAC or total allowable catch for this zone was adjusted in 2021 to provide increased opportunity to commercial fishers who commissioned and funded a scientific study with the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Emergency Rule FH-28-20 (E) added approximately 207,000 lbs of additional whitefish harvest, bringing the TAC to 569,000 lb for the 2021 open water commercial fishing season. This increase was to allow fishers to illustrate that an increase in harvest would not negatively impact the whitefish stocks or any of the by-catch encountered. This study illustrated that an increase in harvest and minimal increase in effort did not

significantly impact any of the fish stocks on the Bay of Green Bay. The study area were those areas of Zone 1 that historically and presently reflect areas actively fished with both live entrapment gear and gill nets.

From our business's perspective we feel as though a TAC of 569,000 lbs should be the new updated quota allocation for Zone 1 and after monitored over a span encompassing a couple of open water commercial fishing seasons and winter recreational fishing seasons followed up by an updated model run potential increases beyond that above could be made with sound scientific data and commercial landings to substantiate them.

"RESTRICTED AREA"

This study area was not expanded nor was it requested to be expanded for trap netting and trap net monitoring by the University of Wisconsin Green Bay or Department of Natural Resources in light of the "Recently Proposed & New Restricted Area" that has now been added to the permanent rule package. This recently added, minimally discussed and unsubstantiated over reach to encapsulate nearly a 100 square miles of Zone 1 and make it a "Restricted Area" is unacceptable.

Taylor Hrabak, the graduate student from UWGB, monitored and collected the data from the study area where trap nets and gill nets are/were historically fished, **but trap net data from outside of this area, or the "NEW Proposed Restricted Area" was never requested nor was it discussed anywhere during the 2 year study that was again commissioned and funded by the commercial fishery which was bringing transparency to all of the questions to be answered in Taylor's Thesis.** From the information collected within the study area as referenced in the NRB update, the commercial fisheries' bycatch is minimal and does not have any significant impact on Green Bay Whitefish or Walleye Populations. **I hope after reading this email you can see that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' statement that bycatch mortality increases moving South in the bay is undocumented and unproven.** Furthermore, any commercial fishing effort in these areas is seasonable and has the best interest of the fishery as a whole in mind, whitefish are targeted in these areas early and late in the year when water temperatures hold them in these areas, the remainder of the year when the majority of sport fishing takes place in these areas whitefish catches slow as they follow the colder water North. Scientifically speaking these areas when fished, predominantly during cooler water temperature periods coupled with shallower water actually increases survivability as barotrauma is removed from the equation.

Please remove the "Restricted Area" component of the permanent rule package as it is unsubstantiated by real scientific data in the proposed area and driven by ill represented misinformation!

The remainder of the rule package with regard to compliance with EFHRS and the identification and notification of locations where trap nets are set to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are acceptable measures.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J Stuth

Hickey Bros Research, LLC

Baileys Harbor Fish Company, LLC

Sales Manager-Owner

Billing Address: 4526 Bechtel Rd., Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

Fish House: 8099 Ridges Rd., Baileys Harbor WI 54202

Cell 920-493-4668

Office 920-743-4734

Retail/Workshop 920-839-2136

Fax 920-267-5105

stuthfishing@charter.net



Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Proposed Permanent Rule FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Please support the Commercial Fishermen's position that the fish eating public, restaurants and fish houses have a right to this public resource granting commercial fisheries fair access to this abundant resource and allowing our responsible businesses to supply a healthy, local and sustainable food to consumers.

Mary Beth Talhami

[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Quota in Green Bay zone 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello

I was recently made aware of the proposed increase of whitefish quota for the commercial fisherman in Green Bay. I am not in favor of this proposed increase because I believe it will negatively affect the amount of whitefish available to the sport fishermen.

Alex Tamble

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Fh-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am writing to express my concern over the whitefish rule being discussed. While I have no issue with commercial harvest and keeping the whitefish population in check I am however concerned about the large increase in quota for Green Bay. My understanding is there was a rather large increase in quota last year with the emergency rule and I don't feel that the effects of that would be known so soon . It seems to me that this increase is coming to soon after and increase last year. I am an avid sport fisherman and I don't want to see a negative impact to benefit a few individuals pockets in the commercial fishing industry. Again I am all for them making a living fishing but this seems to be getting pushed through pretty fast . Please reply with any questions or anything I can do to help. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We support Commercial Fisherman's Position on FH-02-20. My wife and I desire to eat local, healthy and sustainable food. Please do all you can to help our local commercial fishermen.

Thanks you,

Chuck and Lana Tencate
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial fishermen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Meredith,
I would like to show my support for the commercial fishermen in this matter.
Thank you,
Todd Nelson
Sister Bay, WI

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 2:50 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support local fishermen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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To all this may concern,

We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community.

Sincerely,

Stef Tuthill

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:27 PM
To: Eggold, Bradley T - DNR; Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Cole, Preston D - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good evening,

I am writing to share my concern & opposition to the proposed increased commercial harvest of whitefish in zone 1 of the Bay of Green Bay/Lake Michigan fishery.

As a lifelong WI resident, fisher & hunter, I've long enjoyed the natural resources of our state for the opportunity they provide to get outside for relaxation, camaraderie, & perspective. The natural resources of our state belong to each resident, not just a chosen few. As such, I find the financial interests of a relative few commercial fishers should not & do not supersede the right of recreational anglers to enjoy the same resource.

Lastly, I believe any financial benefit this proposal would create for commercial fishers is completely offset by the increased loss of bycatch species the commercial fishers methods create. It pains me to think thousands of walleye, musky, northern pike, smallmouth bass, perch, etc. will be lost so a relatively small number of commercial fishers can make a few more dollars.

Thank you for your time, & please contact me at your convenience with any questions

Luke Valitchka

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Commercial Fishing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I am a supporter of commercial fishing which is a necessary life stream for door County, Wisconsin. The must be a balance. Thanks.

Linda S. Vanden Heuvel



Attorney Linda S. Vanden Heuvel
Vanden Heuvel & Dineen, S.C.



Linda S. Vanden Heuvel
Attorney at Law
"LEADING LAWYER" —All Magazine
10.0
OFFICE LOCATIONS
• Germantown
• West Bend
• Appleton
• Sister Bay
V H & D VANDEN HEUVEL & DINEEN, S.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Meredith

I wanted to write a short note with concerns regarding the increase quota for the whitefish in the Bay of Green Bay. Have there been studies done to support the increase? Could what happened to the perch in the Bay a number of years ago with increase quota be a direction that the whitefish will go with increased quotas?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dan Vander Leest

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Whitefish Quota

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Meredith, my name is Tyler Vannetta. I am a florida native that visits your state to visit family and fish. My father in law is a fishing guide in Sturgeon Bay, fishing salmon on Lake Michigan in the summer and ice fishing on Green Bay in the winter. Raising the whitefish quota to 800000 lbs should not be done without studying the 561000 catch limit for a few years. Sport fishing will suffer immensely, in turn affecting food, lodging, etc. We don't know enough about the raise of the quota to 561000 lbs and if the fishery can sustain that size harvest.

Thank you,
Tyler Vannetta

Sent from my Metro By T-Mobile 4G LTE Android Device

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Support of local fishermen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We really do support local fishermen's position on FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh sustainable food. Once more, this stuff is delicious! Try their whitefish cakes or make whitefish chowder. Yum! And good for you too.

Give these guys a break. We need them up here.

Thomas M. Van Susteren
Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin 54202

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Concerns for the commercial fishing in Zone 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello Meredith, my name is Jacob Wagemann and I just read the article about the proposal of opening Zone 1 for commercial fishing and it raises some concerns for me the major one is that Green Bay is a big migration stop for greater and lesser scaup, which their population is on the decline and the Fish and wildlife services have implemented a reduced bag limit during the duck season and I'm mostly worried that the nets will catch a good amount of scaup and other species of ducks and it will negatively impact the migrating ducks using the bay and also it may negatively impact the winter white fishing thus losing money from tourism that's brought in for ice fishing for the white fish. Thank you for you're time and I hope my comments is useful

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi,

I am writing to you about my concerns for increasing the commercial whitefish intake. We all know that lesser and greater scaups arrive to Green Bay in large numbers during both the fall and spring migrations. Their populations are on the decline, and it is a concern that with a increase in commercial fishing may harm the populations of these birds. Duck hunters already have a reduced limit on scaups, and commercial fishing affects their habitat. The scaups also get caught in nets of commercial fisherman, harming their already reduced populations. Horned grebes, a protected species by the Fish and Wildlife Service also have an increased chance for their population to take hit as well due to the same reasons. While I understand there is a harvestable surplus of whitefish, increased commercial fishing has negative impacts on other wildlife. But in my eyes this will not only hurt the fishery but it will also hurt duck hunters and a large habitat for other wildlife in the years to come. That to me doesn't seem worth it for the state to lose out on sportsmen and women across the board buying licenses. I want to see this great area stay great for our youth to enjoy one day because that is our responsibility as conservationists to make sure happens.

Thank you,
Matt Wagemann

Sent from my iPhone

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: DNR fishing regulations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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We support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20. We wish to eat local, healthy, fresh and sustainable food. Our commercial fishing families are a vital asset to our businesses and community.

[REDACTED] Roger Ruggeri

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:04 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: In Support of Commercial Fishing visa vis FH-02-20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Greetings,

My name is Cathy Ward and I am writing to you to inform you of my encouragement and support of the view of Commercial Fishing's position on FH-02-20 and expanding access to harvest.

I write to you in many capacities:

Resident of northern Door County

Mother of three grown children, one of which makes a living working the seasonal tourist industry .

Worker since 1978, 43 years, in the restaurant industry servicing both the local and tourist communities.

Resident concerned with sustainability of natural resources and our local economy.

Elected municipal official.

Believer in the reliability of the data presented by the collections and studies from the last decade.

Commercial Fishing is one of the local businesses, dependent on local sustainable resources, which impacts economic activity across the spectrum in Door County. This business furnishes jobs in the immediate harvest, processing, and delivery of whitefish to area restaurants which in turns supports employment in numerous restaurants, both front and back of the house, and many retail outlets.

As noted above, I have worked in the restaurant industry in northern Door County for over 40 years, the last 22 years at an establishment overlooking the waters of Green Bay. As with any tourist area along any coast line in the country, our visitors come not only for the therapy of relaxing natural scenes, but also for the availability of fresh, locally sourced food. Repeat visitors to the county and seasonal residents are interested in sustainable practices on the waters and land.

I believe in the integrity of the local commercial fishing industry to create a harvest schedule and routine which will maintain sustainable practices, safeguarding both the fish resources and the local economy. I trust the revelations of the data collected to support their position in this matter.

Please affirm the position of the commercial fisheries with regard to FH-02-20.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Ward

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR; Ross, Laurie J - DNR
Subject: Whitefish

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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To whom it may concern,

This email is in response to the request for public comments on the proposed Permanent Rule FH-02-20. I am a sport fisherman with a passion for ice fishing for Whitefish on Green Bay. I am opposed to the proposed large increase in the commercial harvest in Zone 1 to 800,000 pounds per year.

At this point we know that the economic impact shall be studied and taken into account so I will give you a my comment on the recreational aspect. This is a fishery that is relatively new in the grand scheme of things and is considered by many to be a world class whitefish destination. I am concerned that this opportunity is maintained for future generations of sport anglers to enjoy.

I understand that studies show an excellent population of Whitefish in Zone 1 that MAY be able to handle an increase in the commercial harvest, with fishing guides having to abide by mandatory reporting this what is the reasoning to increase harvest without any of the data? Why such a dramatic increase in harvest of more than double the pounds (disregarding the emergency ruling) without taking in account all data points?

I make it a point to visit green bay to visit friends up there and have these "expeditions" on the ice as often as we can. Each year I find myself bring more people to enjoy time on the ice and make memories that all revolve around these fickle fish. There's not many places in the world (if any) where you and 7 of your buddy's can go out and wrestle 10 of these hard fighting fish out of an 8" hole in the ice.

For reference I'm 23 years old, I always hear of my older family members and friends talk about the good old days. I would be dishearten to have to tell my kids some day about how great of a whitefishery we once had through a "good old days story.

The DNR is entrusted with managing this resource for the public, as a plumber it's a department I work along side with frequently. I am asking that you take in every aspect of Impact, both big and small when making this decision. This fishery is important to more than just the commercial fisherman, it's important to sport anglers from across the country as well as the locals who live within walking distance to the bay.

Caleb Warnke
Oconomowoc

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: Fwd: Proposed increase in Whitefish Commercial harvest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I am writing to express my opposition to increasing the commercial harvesting of whitefish in Green Bay. Green Bay's gamefishing, as well as Lake Michigan's, have been in flux with invasives like the Goby, and diseases. Whitefish is now becoming more available as a gamefish, which helps the economy as well as adds the fun for everyone, not just a couple of commercial operators. Green Bay's gamefishing is just coming into balance from the invasives and is again trending toward being an important fishery. Commercial fishing will just harm that by catching many of the walleyes, smallmouth, musky, catfish and other gamefish people like to fish for.

I oppose this change because it will harm our enjoyment as sportfisherpeople, and also because it will harm tourism. Fishing tourism is important to a larger number of people and a larger part of our economy.

Mike Weigand He, Him
[REDACTED]
Oshkosh, WI

My name is Will Henriksen. I am 30 years old and a second-generation Commercial Fisherman. I have grown up seeing firsthand the changes to the Whitefish population and movements. As a successful evolving creature the Whitefish has adapted to the changes of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. I have spent the last 12 years fishing full time and plan to continue for the next 30-40 years. This rule would help myself and multiple other generational fishing families and businesses do the same.

My Business is a large processor of Whitefish in Door County. Supplying nearly 30 businesses with a variety of Whitefish products, I am speaking in support of FH-02-20. My Company has harvested nearly 1/3 of the caught quota in the past few years. With that we have also spent a vast amount of time and money acquiring the quota allowing us the fish in Zone 1. With the increased quota it would give me improved access to the resource. With the 800,000 lb. quota it is going to give the commercial Fisher community the ability to fish. I know that there is concern that the biomass won't sustain this increase but I have personally observed the population grow and have been a part of the multiple studies that have been conducted over the past 7 years and having the WDNR confirming that the population of whitefish is huge and completely healthy so there shouldn't be any angst in passing this rule. I care as much if not more than any other fisherman, whether commercial or sport, about the Whitefish because it is my livelihood and I want to see it thrive for the future Whitefish fisherman, and these rules will make that happen.

Thank you.

Wisconsin Federation

of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs



January 4, 2022

RE: Written Testimony for Public Hearing on a permanent rule to revise ch. NR 25, relating to Lake Michigan whitefish management and Great Lakes commercial harvest reporting,

Ms. Penthorn,

I am writing this testimony against the implementation, at this time, of ch. NR 25. Recently, through the process, a temporary increase from 200,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds was made permanent. Before the ink was dry, there was a second temporary rule implemented to increase the authorized commercial harvest from 400,000 pounds to 800,000 pounds. While I've been told this is necessary, I feel it has been a "rushed" process. Many questions remain about potential overharvest, bad year class reactions and excessive bycatch poundage.

The fish and game of Wisconsin are held in Public Trust for all residents to enjoy according to law. As I have been informed by DNR Legal Counsel, The DNR is charged with advocating for Wisconsin Sportsmen and women, as the Commercial Entities are represented by their own State-sponsored Board.

Of particular concern in this hearing process, is that the Commercial harvest has been increased from 200,000 pounds to 400,000 and yet increasing the Sport Whitefish harvest has not even been mentioned. If you double commercial harvest, doesn't common sense suggest that you go back and double the Sport Fishing Harvest? Why hasn't the DNR advocated for Sport Fishermen and women and insisted that the Sport catch be increased from 10 fish per person per day to 20 fish per person per day? Isn't that part of a shared resource definition?

Now we are looking at the new Temporary Rule increasing from 400,000 pounds to 800,000 pounds of whitefish. Aside from the fact that we have no concrete proof how the first doubling is going to affect the base population, once again, we are attempting to double the Commercial harvest while ignoring the Sport Whitefish harvest. Again, under a shared resource understanding, doesn't doubling the commercial harvest warrant doubling the Sport Harvest, too? By my math, if we double commercial; harvest to 800,000 pounds, we should also be increasing the Sport harvest proportionately, to 40 fish per person per day.

Let talk about the "Bycatch." Yes, the commercial fishermen have been funding a graduate student who is helping them with their bycatch data. They are on "their best behavior" during lifts and have even provided short video clips showing lively bycatch being released over the side of their vessel. My questions deals with policing the Commercial efforts once they are made permanent. Has the new Marine Warden Unit been brought up to speed on the expectations on how often they must monitor trap net lifts, monitor trawls, or monitor gill net retrievals. I admit some Sport fishermen are inclined to violate and "we" welcome the enforcement of the rules and laws by our Wardens. I fear that some commercial fishermen may have similar issues. As the rules become permanent, how is enforcement going to be accomplished, or violations going to be resolved. Additionally, new science findings are showing that fish suffer traumatic injuries while being handled, often resulting in death 3-7 days after being released. Has this been added to the equation?

Next up, is a little math question. If acceptable bycatch is 10% at the old 200,000-pound limit, this amounts to 20,000 of bycatch which may or may not survive being released. It's a substantial amount for sure. When the quota was increased to 400,000 pounds, the bycatch 10% now equates to 40,000 pounds, twice as much as 20,000. Now, when we double the

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

Harvest again to 800,000, the 10% allowable bycatch number becomes 80,000 pounds, an unrealistic number as it approaches the initial commercial fishing harvest before recent increases.

If the DNR is advocating for Sport Fishermen, wouldn't it make sense to make the bycatch amount a variable value. Truly 80,000 pounds of bycatch seems to be an excessive amount.

In the world of sport fishing with 3 lines/lures per fisherperson, if you exceed your quota, you must return all extra fish back to the water immediately and stop fishing for that specie. The impact is small as you can only catch 3 fish at a time. Using nets, under optimum conditions, exceeding your legal harvest could easily happen. How is overharvest enforced and protected while commercial fishing? Where does the "extra" catch go?

Sport Fishing in Wisconsin, particularly on the Great Lakes, including Green Bay, has been gauged to generate somewhere over \$1 billion per year, in licenses, lodging, guide and captains' fees, food, fuel, bait, gear and yes, even fishing vessels. On top of this, there is also the Dingell-Johnson Federal tax that is collected on all fishing related sporting goods, which is then proportionately returned to the individual states. In 2021, Wisconsin benefitted with about \$23 million from Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson funds.

The Federal Government has already hampered Northern Wisconsin's efforts in attracting Walleye and other large gamefish Anglers through generous Spring spearing harvests allowed in the "Ceded Territory." What happens to Wisconsin and its shared resources, if the gamefish population on the Great Lakes begins to falter?

In closing, I'd like to suggest a 24-month moratorium on increasing the Whitefish Harvest of Zone 2, lower Green Bay, past the 400,000-pound quota, while the effects of the current changes are tested and evaluated before moving ahead. At the same time, as a show of good faith, I think the sport whitefish limit per person per day, needs to be increased to 20 fish per person, with a 40 fish possession limit in keeping with current rules and regulations, asap.

Thank You,

Bob

Bob Wincek – President - Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs
President and Webmaster, Milwaukee - Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Foundation
bob@glsfclub.com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Penthorn, Meredith C - DNR
Subject: FH-02-20 Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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We here at Door Peninsula Winery support commercial fishermen's position on the FH-02-20.

Thank you!

Rayne Wodzinski

[REDACTED]
Retail Manager
Door Peninsula Winery