

# Citizen Resolution # 060123



## Restrict Guided Ice Fishing With Airboats

Many recent days of ice fishing the Mississippi River backwaters near Nelson WI I have encountered ice fishing guides taking out as many as 20 people every day by airboat. They transport them out and charge \$200/day/person. 20 people/day is \$4000/day per airboat that they are making off a public resource. Should we let guides make this much money off public resources at the expense of our future generations of fishermen? People are not allowed to log trees off public ground to make money.

I am 58 years old and like to fish. I don't care if I catch any more fish but I am worried that there will be no fish left for future generations! The guide that I encountered is booked almost every day throughout the winter. If these guides take 20 people per day and the fish are biting they will take 300 fish per day (15 per day limit on perch) and over 7 days that is 2100 fish. At that rate it would not take long to severely wipe out the fish population in an area. The guide will move on and ruin the next lake. What would happen if other guides started up in that area? I saw a guide spread out tip downs for 20 people and cover a huge area leaving no place to fish. The fish there will be gone before long. I saw the guide get in a disagreement with a fishermen because the fishermen went in between his tip downs of his customers. The fishermen complained he couldn't fish anywhere because of the huge area the guide covered.

Do we want our lakes to be depleted of fish populations for years to come as a result of these guide practices?

Summer guided fishing means boat fishing. You can usually only get about 4 people in a boat. So you are only guiding 4 people a day. Ice fishing you can take as many as you want. Just keep hauling people out and making lots of money at the expense of a public resource.

We are letting ice fishing guides ruin a public resource and our fish populations for future generations by not limiting the number of people they can guide per day.

**Do you support the WCC work with the DNR and other agencies to limit airboat ice fishing guides to guide up to 4 people a day per guide business; except on Lake Winnebago, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior?**

Additional Information provided by author:

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