

Citizen Resolution # 410523



The DNR should implement NRB order FM-42-96

The DNR should implement the 1996 Natural Resources Board Order FM-42-96 (1) regarding commercial lake trout harvest on Lake Superior. Per FM-42-96 the DNR entered into agreement with the public to reduce the number of state commercial licenses for issuance for Lake Superior lake trout from 21 to 10 and lower their annual nontribal harvest limit to 7,140 (revised from 6,480), in exchange for \$1.4 million dollars paid to 11 lake trout commercial fishers retiring their commercial licenses and trout quota allocations with the goal to 'enhance lake trout restoration in Lake Superior' as described top of page 2 FM-42-96.

Starting in 2002 the trout limit was raised to over the agreed upon 7,140/yr. Since then the commercial trout limit has ranged from a low of 7,320 to a high of 12,500 and now stands at 10,330, a violation of the agreement concerning a fishery still being stocked with lake trout. DNR stocking 99.9+% of ~542,000 of trout in Lake Superior for last 6 recorded years (paid for by the public).

Statements like, (2) "The idea behind the agreement was as restoration occurred, everyone's limits would increase." and "... resulting in some additional opportunity for commercial fishers" are inconsistent with FM-42-96 goal, as stated.

Should the DNR permanently reduce the annual state licensed commercial lake trout harvest in Lake Superior to the agreed on 7,140 trout per the 1996 Natural Resources Board Order FM-42-96?

Additional Information provided by author:

(1) https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/misc/chr/lrb_scanned/cr_96_098_final_rule_filed_with_lrb.pdf

(2) https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/About/WCC/2021/210920_GreatLakes_M.pdf

(3) <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/documents/rules/FH1717EFinalEmergencyRule.pdf>

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