

# Citizen Resolution # 670123



## **Eliminate the use of submerged artificial light sources that attract and school fish and other aquatic life in the waters of Wisconsin**

Numerous submersible light sources are sold as fish and aquatic life attractants. Manufacturers tout the effectiveness of these products up and down the food chain, as their lights create unnatural swarms of plankton, bait fish, and, ultimately, game fish.

One manufacturer claims, "As an underwater light is left fixed in a single location, more and more fish will discover the light and come back to feed. This process will continue all the way up the food chain until all sorts of aquatic life are congregated around the light."

These lights, whether used for angling purposes or mere observation, are unregulated in Wisconsin. When left to operate for hours, often unattended, these lights artificially attract newly hatched fry and young-of-the-year fish by the hundreds and thousands. Larger, predatory fish drawn to this unnatural mass of young fish threaten to significantly impact the year class survival of various species. Younger and smaller fish of all species become more vulnerable to predation. The larger game fish themselves become easier targets for human anglers and victims of methods that can hardly be called sporting or fair chase.

At least two states, Minnesota and North Dakota, and the province of Ontario outlaw the use of artificial light to lure, attract, or spot fish.

This resolution would not apply to hand-held or body attached lights used by scuba divers when simply diving, but not fishing, nor would it apply to glowing or luminous hook-and-line fishing lures and lights attached to underwater camera systems that support camera function without the intent to attract fish.

**Do you support making it illegal to use submerged artificial light sources for the purpose of attracting and schooling fish and other aquatic life in the waters of Wisconsin?**

Additional Information provided by author:

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**Washington County**

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