



## DRAFT AGENDA

### Michigan United Conservation Clubs Conservation Policy Board Meeting

Perch Point Conservation Club, Casco

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Contact Vice President Rob Miller at [rob@rmillerelectric.com](mailto:rob@rmillerelectric.com) or  
Policy Assistant Justin Tomei at [jtomei@mucc.org](mailto:jtomei@mucc.org) for questions

**Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its air, soil, and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.**

MUCC Mission Statement: Uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

10:00 a.m.	<b>Committee Meetings-</b>  Education (Dawn Levey), Fisheries (Eric Braden), Wildlife (Leonard Shaner), Parks, Recreation and Trails (Allen Kasdorf), Shooting/Ranges (Jack Ammerman)
11:30 a.m.  Or when Committee meetings end.	Conservation Policy Board  Welcome and Opening Remarks  Role of Conservation Policy Board  <i>Vice President Rob Miller</i>
11:40 a.m.	The Pledges (Allegiance & Conservation)  <i>Vice President Rob Miller</i>
11:42 a.m.	Introduction of Executive Board, Past Presidents, Staff and Special Guests <i>Vice President Rob Miller</i>
11:45 a.m.	Introduction of Voting Conservation Policy Board Members, MUCC Members, and Visitors in Attendance <i>Vice President Rob Miller</i>
11:50 a.m.	Vacancies Filled on the Conservation Policy Board -Region 3 Club position filled by Paul Petrovich, Big Bear Sportsmen's Club <i>Vice President Rob Miller</i>
11:52 a.m.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> <b>Discussion of Minutes:</b> August 26, 2023 Meeting <b>Approval of Minutes:</b> August 26, 2023 Meeting <i>All</i>
11:58 a.m.	<b>Welcome from Perch Point Conservation Club President</b>
12:05 – 12:35 p.m.	<b>BREAK-Lunch Available</b>
12:35 p.m.	Policy Committee Reports
12:45 p.m.	<b><u>Emergency and Proposed Resolution Discussion</u></b> · Resolution Read by maker or their designee · Resolution explained by maker or their designee (5-minute time limit) · Without objection, this resolution is consistent with the mission and purpose of MUCC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Committee inputProtecting the High-Quality Lake Trout Fishery of Stannard Rock</li> <li>· Discussion on the resolution (2-minute time limit with 2 opportunities to speak on an issue/person)</li> <li>· Motion for disposition of the resolution</li> <li>· Discussion of the motion</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proposed Policy Resolutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed Resolution A: Tree stands on public lands</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution B: Global Climate Modification</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution C: Support of year round coyote hunting</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution D: Include crop damage and DMAP take in harvest reporting</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution E: Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Fishing Seasons</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution F: Support For Expansion of Venison Donation Programs</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution G: Fluoride in Water</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution H: Boat Registration Fee Increase</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution I: Protecting the High-Quality Lake Trout Fishery of Stannard Rock</li> <li>• Proposed Resolution J: DMU Level Antlerless Harvest Goals</li> <li>• FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Emergency Resolution #1 The Nyberg Amendment</li> </ul> <p><i>Vice President Miller</i></p> <p><u><i>Motions that are in order:</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Pass resolution as is on to 2024 Convention</i></li> <li>2. <i>Amend and Pass to Convention</i></li> <li>3. <i>Postpone action and refer back to writer (or MUCC Committee) with Comments</i></li> <li>4. <i>Discard as inconsistent with MUCC mission</i></li> </ol>
1:45 p.m. (Or when proposed resolutions are finished)	<p>Policy updates from MUCC</p> <p><i>MUCC Staff</i></p>
2:05 p.m.	<p>Executive Board Report</p> <p><i>Amy Trotter</i></p>
2:25 p.m.	<p>Moment for the Mission</p> <p><i>Amy Trotter</i></p>
2:30 p.m.	<p>Announcement of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Annual Convention March 8-10, 2024 Sault. Ste. Marie.</li> </ul> <p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>Vice President Miller</i></p>

## **August 26, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting DRAFT Minutes**

President Muir called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

President Muir gave the opening remarks.

President Muir led the pledge of allegiance and conservation pledge.

President Muir introduced the executive board, policy board, staff, and guests.

President Muir notified there is a club vacancy in Region 3.

Motion to approve the agenda. David VanLopik(Joe Sommers) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2023 policy board meeting. Bruce Levey(Steven Lomonaco) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

Guests Frank Krist and Jim Johnson spoke on the consent decree.

Justin Tomei spoke on emerging issues, or issues where MUCC does not have policy.

Break for Lunch 12:05 pm

Meeting Resumed 12:45 pm

### **Committee Reports**

Wildlife: 4 Resolutions, mostly on APR's.

Fisheries: 1 Resolution, Consent Decree, Lamprey treating.

Education: Hunter education instructor issues. Have recertification at one location, MUCC HQ or Rose Lake.

Shooting: Federal funds withheld from schools with archery/shooting programs. Other gun control issues in the state.

Parks: Still addressing the scope and charge of the committee.

### **Proposed Resolution #A Support Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions**

The author spoke on the resolution.

The Wildlife Committee recommends moving to convention.

Discussion on the resolution.

Motion to pass the resolution to convention. Jack Lehto(Bryan Reynolds) MOTION CARRIES

### **Proposed Resolution #B Elimination of Hunters Choice in the UP**

The author spoke on the resolution.

The Wildlife committee recommends bringing it back at the December meeting.

Motion to send back to the writer. Bruce Levey(Steven Lomonaco) MOTION CARRIES

### **Proposed Resolution #C Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Stream Classification**

The author spoke on the resolution.

Fisheries committee recommends sending back to the writer to improve with biologist recommendations.

Motion to send back to the writer. Tim Muir(Rick Okerjhelm) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

**Proposed Resolution #D Recommend Michigan DNR to allow transfer of “remaining” points to those who qualify**

The author spoke on the resolution.

The Wildlife committee recommends sending to convention.

Discussion on the resolution.

Motion to pass the resolution to convention. Abe Downer(Mark Spencer) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

**Proposed Resolution #E Opposing Mandatory Antler Point Restrictions**

The author spoke on the resolution

The Wildlife Committee recommends sending back to the writer.

Discussion on the resolution.

Motion to pass to convention. Bruce Levey MOTION FAILS FOR LACK OF A SECOND

Motion to send back to the writer Todd Johnson(Taylor Renton) MOTION CARRIES

**Proposed Resolution #F Michigan Moose Hunt**

The author spoke on the resolution.

Wildlife Committee recommends amendments.

Motion to amend line 1 to read “the western UP” line 21 to read “limited bull moose hunt” line 21 strike everything after Michigan through “hunt”

Motion to adopt amendments David VanLopik(Steven Lomanaco) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion on the resolution.

Motion to pass to convention as amended. Erik Schnelle(Bryan Reynolds) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

Justin Tomei gave MUCC policy updates.

Amy Trotter gave an executive board report.

Steve Windom gave the moment for the mission.

The next meeting will be on December 2, 2023 at Perch Point Conservation Club.

Motion to adjourn. Bruce Levey(Bryan Reynolds) MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 2:28pm

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**  
**Proposed Resolution #A**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Rob Miller, Vice President, Mark Tarman, Individual Member  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Treestands on Public Lands

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) states that if you hunt on public land,
2. your tree stand must be portable and your name and address, Michigan driver's License number,
3. or DNR sports card number must be affixed in legible English that can be easily read from the
4. ground, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** WCO lays out the dates a blind or stand can be left on public land, which varies by
6. season, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** WCO also states if you leave a tree stand or blind in the woods overnight on public
8. land, that stand becomes public domain, and therefore, anybody can use it, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** To purposefully use another hunters setup is arguably an unethical choice that most
10. often creates immediate conflict between all parties involved, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has +/- 8.2 million acres of public land available between state and
12. federally owned, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** Michigan offers more public land opportunities than any other state
14. east of the Mississippi, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** There is a genuine concern of liability should someone get hurt while using someone
16. else's equipment, NOW;
17. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC supports NRC action to change the current regulation
18. that allows an individual to utilize another individual's legally placed hunting equipment, such as a
19. tree stand or other portable blind on public property and make it illegal to knowingly use a legally
20. placed stand or blind that does not belong to you or one of your immediate hunting party, without
21. written permission to do so.

**REFERRED BACK TO WRITER**

**Proposed Resolution #B**

**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Chrissie VanDyke, Muskegon Conservation Club  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Global Climate Modification

1. **WHEREAS:** skies have been contaminated by solar radiation, and;
2. **WHEREAS:** NASA satellite images revealing microwave transmission manipulation of aerosolized
3. clouds, and;
4. **WHEREAS:** geoengineering, defined as the deliberate large-scale manipulation of an
5. environmental process that affects the earth's climate, in an attempt to counteract the effects
6. of global warming, is further fueling record drought, deluge and overall biosphere disintegration,
7. and;
8. **WHEREAS:** research has indicated that possible consequences of climate engineering
9. operations are fueling the warming of Earth; contributing to extreme weather changes;
10. devastation of flora and fauna; accelerating degeneration and neurological diseases; and
11. contributing to species die-offs, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** historical documents and data support that there has been a ramp-up of said activity
13. since WWII and geoengineering is supported by the governmental, agencies, experts, NOW;
14. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with
15. the Michigan legislature to stop all geoengineering in the State of Michigan from the ground out to
16. outer space, above the land of Michigan, and above the land and waters of the Great Lakes
17. directly connected to Michigan. The action aligns with the pledge we take as Conservationists,
18. and;
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that entities associated with geoengineering operations be
20. directed to cease and desist from further geoengineering within the State of Michigan including its
21. land and water.

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**  
**Proposed Resolution #C**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Merle Jones, MTPCA  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Support of Year Round Coyote Hunting

1. **WHEREAS:** MUCC has long supported controlling the coyote population via hunters and trappers
2. in Michigan passing resolutions supporting nighttime predator hunting with centerfire firearms
3. (2016), allowing the use of #3 and #4 buckshot at night (unanimous vote 2013), expanded
4. hound hunting opportunity at night (2012), and the taking of coyotes during deer season (2010),
5. among others, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** Coyotes are abundant in all 83 Michigan counties, coyotes have expanded their
7. populations into all major urban areas and Michigan communities continue to struggle with coyote
8. population issues, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** Coyotes have no natural predators in the majority of their range, coyotes carry
10. diseases like rabies and mange and coyotes have a virtually limitless capacity for population
11. expansion, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** Coyote population management benefits the ecosystem, coyote health, all MUCC
13. stakeholders, and the residents of Michigan, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** Hunting is one of the most efficient methods of population management, and modern
15. coyote hunting has experienced participation growth statewide, and;
16. **WHEREAS:** Damage or nuisance control regulations during any restricted seasons do not allow
17. for the continued statewide take required to effectively keep coyote populations in check, NOW;
18. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs support “Year Round”
19. Coyote Hunting, and stand in opposition to any limitations, restrictions or bans that would reduce
20. the opportunities for the vital management of coyote populations, lacking any significant biological
21. justification.

**PASSED TO CONVENTION AS AMENDED**

**Proposed Resolution #D**

**Requires Simple Majority**

**Submitted by:** UP Whitetails of Marquette County, Region 1  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Include crop damage and DMAP take in harvest reporting

1. **WHEREAS:** with the implementation of the mandatory registration of whitetail deer harvested, a
2. much improved system of estimating our deer numbers and harvests are in place, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** the numbers of harvested whitetail deer reported in 2022 by the DNR do not paint
4. the total picture of animals harvested, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** Crop Damage permits, **culls**, **tribal harvest**, and Deer Management Assistance
6. Permits (DMAP) harvested animals are not included in the total deer numbers harvested. See
7. report summary below. [www.mdnr-elicense.com/HarvestReportSummary](http://www.mdnr-elicense.com/HarvestReportSummary), and;
8. **WHEREAS:** these crop damage and DMAP animals are harvested by landowners and
9. designated hunters and these programs are a management tool. The numbers should reflect on
10. the yearly harvest report totals for the entire state by each county, or DMU, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** as an example. In 2022, the DNR reported that in Menominee county there were
12. 3354 antlered and 2052 antlerless whitetail deer harvested. These numbers on the surface
13. show that hunters in Menominee county harvested substantially more antlered animals, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** if the crop damage (734) and DMAP (448) harvest numbers for 2022 in Menominee
15. county are added in, the totals would look like the following, 3354 antlered and 3234 antlerless,
16. and;
17. **WHEREAS:** the conclusion in 2022 by the DNR and posted for Menominee county show that 1/3
18. more antlered deer are being harvested than antlerless when in reality the numbers are almost
19. 50-50 antlered and antlerless, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** for some counties of the state, these crop damage and DMAP numbers are not as
21. significant. IE in Marquette County for 2022 there were 13 Crop Damage and DMAP antlerless
22. harvests. Other counties like Menominee and counties of lower Michigan will show significant
23. number changes, and;
24. **WHEREAS:** to fully understand and manage our whitetail deer the sportsmen and women of our
25. state needs to have the best information possible to better manage the resource, especially on
26. private lands, NOW;
27. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the DNR, to better show the public a more detailed picture



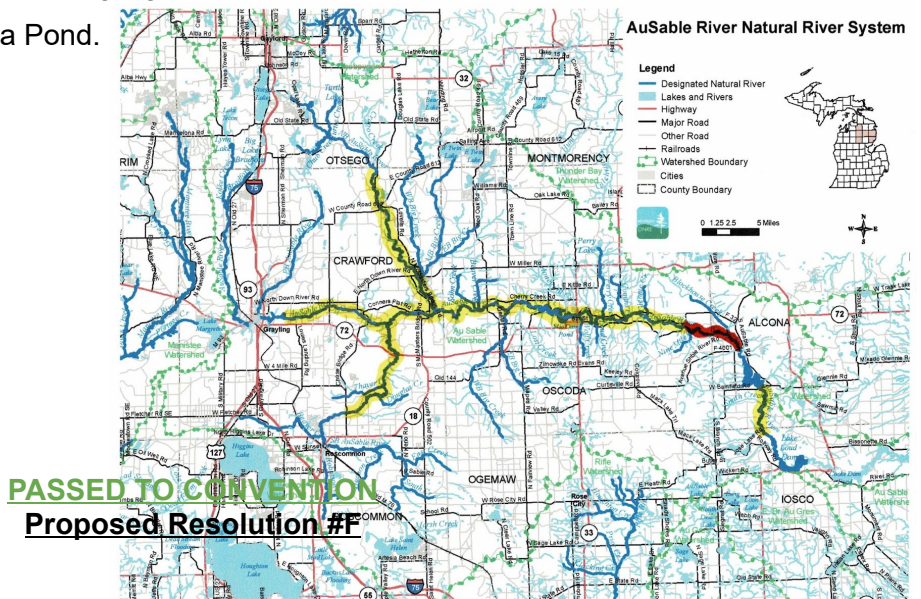
28. of our whitetail deer harvests, add a column to the yearly harvest reports with Crop Damage,  
29. culls, tribal harvest, -and DMAP numbers listed, and use these numbers in the total yearly  
30. harvests.

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**  
**Proposed Resolution #E**

## Requires 2/3 Majority

**Submitted by:** Patrick Murphy, Individual Member  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Consistency in Au Sable River Trout Fishing Seasons

1. **WHEREAS:** Downstream of the headwaters of major trout streams in central and northern
2. Michigan including the Pere Marquette, Muskegon, and Manistee Rivers are regulated as Type 3
3. or Type 4 Trout Streams and/or have Special Gear Restrictions, making them open for fishing
4. opportunities year-round, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** All portions of the Au Sable River system downstream of their headwaters,
6. including the North Branch, South Branch, and Au Sable mainstream above Evans Road
7. (McKinley Bridge) are regulated as Type 4 or Special Gear Restriction streams, making them
8. open for fishing opportunities year-round, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** The Au Sable mainstream from Mio Dam to Alcona Pond is approximately 24-
10. mile uninterrupted, continuous stretch of river, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** The Au Sable River below Alcona Pond extending into Iosco County is classified
12. as a Type 4 Trout Stream, making it open for fishing opportunities year-round, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** The final portion of this uninterrupted, continuous stretch of the Au Sable
14. mainstream from Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) to 4001 Bridge is regulated as a Type 2 Trout
15. Stream in which fishing is closed from October 1 until the last Saturday in April, NOW;
16. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Club shall work with the
17. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the NRC to change the classification and/or
18. fishing regulations of the stretch of the Au Sable River from Evans Road (McKinley Bridge) to
19. 4001 Bridge to provide year-round trout angling opportunities consistent with the remainder of the
20. Au Sable river system above Alcona Pond.



**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council – National Deer Association  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Support For Expansion of Venison Donation Programs

1. **WHEREAS:** Sportsmen and Sportswomen as well as non-hunters in the state of Michigan have
2. supported the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) organization and its program since its
3. inception in 1991, and;
4. **WHEREAS:** the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is one of the founding groups who
5. fostered the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization and continues to be involved and
6. represented on the board of directors for the MSAH, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** the mission of the MSAH is to provide ground venison to state-recognized non-profit
8. food banks, shelters and pantries providing food assistance to the hungry of the state of Michigan
9. through donated deer from hunter and deer management programs and the processing of those
10. deer by MSAH participating processors, and;
11. **WHEREAS:** from 1991 to 2020 an estimated 831,519 pounds of ground venison has been
12. provided to Michigan-based non-profit food banks, shelters, and pantries to create up to
13. 3,326,076 hot and high in protein meals through the combined effort of the MSAH and the
14. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has a need to harvest more antlerless deer in many parts of the state yet
16. 75% of the states hunters won't shoot an antlerless deer, only 17% of the states hunters take one
17. antlerless deer and 8% of Michigan's hunters take more than one antlerless deer, and;
18. **WHEREAS:** Most hunters have a freezer and annual venison eating capacity, and;
19. **WHEREAS:** Hunter numbers have declined for over 20 years, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** Antlerless harvest has declined by about 28% over the last 20 years, and;
21. **WHEREAS:** The state's remaining hunters will need to harvest more antlerless deer than they
22. ever have to manage our deer herd at healthy levels, and;
23. **WHEREAS:** the wild game processors working with the MSAH are being paid at rates far below
24. current market rates, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** On September 14, 2023, the Michigan DNR mandated that all deer donated to
26. MSAH that were harvested from counties with known Bovine Tuberculosis or Chronic Wasting
27. disease and found negative for those and that all venison donated in Michigan must be tested for
28. lead, and;
29. **WHEREAS:** Disease testing timeframes can vary from 2 to 6 or more weeks and most processors

30. do not have adequate freezer space to hold donated deer or venison while waiting, NOW;  
31. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR and legislature to ensure that  
32. MSAH, or any other state-sponsored venison donation program have the funds and policies  
33. necessary to efficiently test and distribute venison to the states-hungry, to expand the program to  
34. processors in every county in the state, to compensate processors for donated venison at  
35. annually adjusted market rates, ensure that processors have adequate storage space for donated  
36. venison while waiting for test results, (in some cases this may mean providing seasonal  
37. refrigerated trailers or freezers), and that they are compensated for the necessary additional  
38. mandated lead, CWD and bTB testing work, and;  
39. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC continue to work for programs, which could include  
40. license fee rebates, to encourage venison donations from hunters and donations from culling  
41. programs.

**DISCARDED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION**

**Proposed Resolution #G**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Chrissie VanDyke, Muskegon Conservation Club  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Fluoride in Municipal Water

1. **WHEREAS:** industrial companies have tried to offload a known neurotoxin, fluoride, which is
2. waste, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** various studies show fluoride has negative effects to the body, diminishing the
4. kidneys and liver function and a decrease in IQ, contributing to arthritis, due to the neurotoxicity of
5. fluoride, accelerating degenerative and neurological diseases, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** there is data to support the negative effects as well as the minor positive effects of
7. fluoride, NOW;
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with
9. the Michigan Legislature to stop all use of fluoride in all municipal water in the state of Michigan,
10. and;
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that entities associated with fluoride be directed to cease and
12. desist from further adding any fluoride to any Municipal or any drinking water available for
13. consumption within the State of Michigan.

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**  
**Proposed Resolution #H**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Eric Braden, Executive Board  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Boat Registration Fee Increases

1. **WHEREAS:** The Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) Resolution No. 10-2023-02
2. indicates boat registration fees, along with a portion of the gasoline tax, support the Waterways
3. Funds available for operation and maintenance of recreational boating facilities and water safety
4. law enforcement, these fees have remained unchanged since 1993, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** a 2019 Waterways Facilities needs assessment concluded that there was a high
6. priority need of \$92M just to improve state-administered recreational boating facilities including
7. Harbors and Boating Access Sites in addition there are critical infrastructure needs for the Grant-
8. in-Aid harbors, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** A recent Interoffice Communication from Ron Olson, the Chief of Parks and
10. Recreation Division reiterated that "Inflation, the costs to operate, and an aging infrastructure
11. remain critical needs with insufficient funding", and;
12. **WHEREAS:** In March of 2023 MUCC membership approved a resolution to bring pontoon
13. registration fees in line with other vessels of a similar size, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** The MSWC recommends that the fees be gradually increased to bring them in line
15. with inflation, NOW;
16. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the legislature, DNR, and stakeholders to
17. increase boater registration fees to ensure that the revenues generated will continue to augment
18. the resources required to operate and maintain the Michigan State Waterways Program, including
19. the public DNR-owned and Grant-in-Aid harbor facilities and boating access sites and the overall
20. infrastructure and operations needed to support a sustainable, statewide recreational boating
21. program.

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**

**Proposed Resolution #1**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Travis White, Individual Member  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** Protecting the High-Quality Lake Trout Fishery of Stannard Rock

1. **WHEREAS:** Stannard Rock is an isolated reef complex in Central Lake Superior, comprising 9
2. square miles or 0.03% of Lake Superior, which is home to a finite population of wild, native lake
3. trout with unique population dynamics of higher quality (particularly a broad size distribution),
4. compared to other parts of Lake Superior [1]. The reef complex features rock formations and
5. bathymetric characteristics that concentrate fish in certain areas, making vertical jigging and
6. shallow water casting effective and preferred angling methods, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** Stannard Rock has the highest catch rates measured in Lake Superior for lake trout
8. [2], and the catch rate of trophy-size fish (Michigan's Master Angler Program defines this as lake
9. trout greater than 34 inches in length) is markedly greater at Stannard Rock than elsewhere in
10. Lake Superior [1], and;
11. **WHEREAS:** Michigan's state record lake trout, weighing 61.5 pounds at 49 inches in length, was
12. caught jigging at Stannard Rock in 1997. For these reasons, Stannard Rock is a world-renowned
13. fishery for trophy lake trout, described by many anglers as the best lake trout fishing destination in
14. the Great Lakes, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Although the status of Stannard Rock lake trout is healthy, a modest increase in
16. mortality could threaten sustainability [3]. Progressive anglers have voiced an interest in
17. developing protective measures for offshore Lake Trout, and establishing a special status for
18. these sites would be logical [2], and;
19. **WHEREAS:** at Stannard Rock the water temps are very cold during most of the year and the lake
20. trout are a slow-growing, late-maturing species with generally low reproductive potential [5].
21. Though long-lived, both males and females, on average, do not reach sexual maturity until six to
22. eight years of age [6]. Length-at-age studies have found that lake trout at Michigan's Master
23. Angler minimum size of 34 inches range from 15 to more than 40 years of age in Lake Superior
24. [7]. The population of lake trout at Stannard Rock is one of few in Lake Superior that presently
25. includes fish of this caliber; the high relative abundance over a small geographic area results in
26. high catchability of this caliber of fish at Stannard Rock, surpassing other fisheries around the lake
27. [1], and;
28. **WHEREAS:** the Stannard Rock Lake Trout are wild, native strains, including all four major
29. ecotypes found in Lake Superior (lean, siscowet, humper, and redfin). Stannard Rock has ample
30. suitable spawning habitat and supports natural reproduction. Tagging studies have shown that

31. there is little migration of fish between Stannard Rock and nearshore fisheries [1]. If stocking  
32. is needed in the future this would alter the genetic makeup of the population at this fishery, and;  
33. **WHEREAS:** the Stannard Rock Lake Trout population is largely isolated from other populations in  
34. Lake Superior and has experienced significant increases in exploitation by charter and  
35. recreational anglers in recent years, resulting in higher angling effort and harvest [1]. Non-charter  
36. angling effort is increasing, but to what extent is largely unknown [1]. External factors such as  
37. social media, improved marine forecasting, and fishing technologies such as live sonar  
38. (LiveScope) have made this fishery more accessible than ever before. The mortality rate for lake  
39. trout at Stannard Rock has been found to be higher than popular nearshore fishing areas, which  
40. points to the impact of concentrated angling pressure [1], and;  
41. **WHEREAS:** DNR tagging studies have found a higher tag return rate from fish tagged at  
42. Stannard Rock compared to nearshore fisheries, suggesting a high level of fishery exploitation [1].  
43. Charter boat reporting data has shown a concerning trend in the past 5 years of a rapid decline in  
44. lake trout catch rates at Stannard Rock [1]. This brings into question this population's ability to  
45. sustain the qualities that make it unique, including the size and age distribution of its members,  
46. and also its total population, and;  
47. **WHEREAS:** In a recent DNR survey of more than 1100 anglers, 85% of charter and 79% of non-  
48. charter favored stronger regulations to protect the fishery at Stannard Rock [1][2]. The current  
49. Michigan DNR lake trout fishing regulations have the Stannard Rock area lumped inside a zone  
50. that is part of the highest limit of lake trout, the 5 fish a day limit area, and currently allows for  
51. harvest of any size fish (limiting each angler to one fish over 34 inches; per day). High catch  
52. rates at Stannard Rock are possible, thus significant harvest is allowed under current regulations,  
53. and;  
54. **WHEREAS:** High catch and release mortality suggests that a length-based regulation may be  
55. ineffective in reducing harvest because of this mortality; lowering possession limits could be more  
56. effective in protecting the fish population [1]. The same recent DNR survey found that of those  
57. that targeted Lake Trout, anglers preferred to harvest Lake Trout between 20-25 inches (62%),  
58. followed by 15-20 inches (25%), 25-30 inches (11%), and 30+ inches (2%), which could help  
59. inform potential changes to size limits or the design of slot limits to reduce harvest [2]. Party  
60. fishing is difficult or impossible to enforce here, and as such party limits might also be considered  
61. as an alternative to individual angler limits. This could afford the opportunity to reduce total  
62. harvest and harvest of many trophy fish by a single party, and;  
63. **WHEREAS:** recent studies have shown that hooking mortality is a high factor on the survival of  
64. released lake trout [4]. Total mortality rates are comprised of not only angler harvest but also



65. delayed mortality post-release. This combination of harvest and practicing catch and release  
66. angling might yield excessively high mortality rates for lake trout at Stannard Rock. To date, no  
67. studies have been done to evaluate catch-and-release methods (such as the use of deep-water  
68. release devices) to reduce catch-and-release mortality, and;

69. **WHEREAS:** Jigging and shallow water casting are preferred fishing methods over trolling, and the  
70. average water temperature is cooler year-round at Stannard Rock. Angler education and  
71. behaviors may prove to be important to achieving goals to manage the Stannard Rock fishery, in  
72. light of our current understanding of factors contributing to catch and release mortality, and;

73. **WHEREAS:** there are other unique offshore fisheries across the Great Lakes that might also  
74. benefit from special designations as “trophy fishing areas”. There are already areas in Lakes  
75. Huron and Michigan have special “lake trout refuge”; designations in place that completely  
76. restrict fishing. Lake Superior has none of these areas but could benefit from having areas with  
77. special regulations to conserve its historic lake trout fisheries. “Refuge” areas that are closed to  
78. fishing are not being advocated for on Lake Superior as part of this resolution but rather an  
79. alternative designation that allows fishing while also conserving the high-quality fishery, and;

80. **WHEREAS:** The DNR conducts periodic surveys of its lake trout stock and fisheries across Lake  
81. Superior. Stannard Rock was most recently surveyed between 2011 and 2015, and prior to that  
82. the most recent survey was conducted circa 1975. The more recent survey found a slightly lower  
83. relative abundance of lake trout than the prior survey, but overall the population metrics  
84. indicate that Stannard Rock is a high-quality lake trout fishery, exhibiting broad size distribution  
85. and high relative abundance of lake trout [3]. Many fish were sampled that would meet or  
86. exceed Master Angler size, including individuals greater than 40 inches in length (a benchmark  
87. widely accepted by the North American fishing community as trophy size for lake trout). This  
88. caliber of fish has been captured at a much lower frequency in other sampling areas across Lake  
89. Superior[1]. DNR sampling does not effectively capture the largest fish in a population due to gear  
90. limitations, and;

91. **WHEREAS:** the draft Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan 2023–2033 establishes  
92. “Objectives for Lean Lake Trout: Maintain populations of Lake Trout that support high-quality  
93. recreational fisheries at Stannard Rock, Big Reef, and Isle Royale; Management Actions and  
94. Evaluations: Continue to survey and assess the status of offshore Lake Trout populations (Isle  
95. Royale, Stannard Rock, Big Reef, and Klondike Reef-Caribou Island complex). Work with  
96. anglers and citizen advisory committees to develop appropriate regulations to achieve  
97. population objectives.” [2], and;

98. **WHEREAS:** the 2023 Great Lakes Decree resolves that the portions of Lake Superior Grids

99. 1130, 1131, 1230, and 1231 known as Stannard Rock will be closed to Commercial Fishing,  
 100. specifically, the area that is east of a line of longitude at -87.28 degrees, south of a line of  
 101. latitude at 47.27 degrees, west of a line of longitude at -87.11 degrees, and north of a line of  
 102. latitude at 47.13 Degrees, NOW;  
 103. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR to educate the public on  
 104. Catch and Release to protect the high-quality Lake Trout fishing destination that is the  
 105. legendary Stannard Rock fishery, and;  
 106. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC encourage and support the DNR to conduct more  
 107. frequent, regular biological assessments in addition to social science to better understand and  
 108. quantify the attributes that make Stannard Rock a unique fishery on the Great Lakes, and;  
 109. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR to study the effectiveness of  
 110. deep water release methods to increase survivability over surface release and explore other  
 111. methods of maintaining the Stannard Rock lake trout population dynamics. This might include  
 112. defining baseline population metrics and establishing management criteria to maintain or  
 113. improve on those metrics over time through available management tools, regulations, and  
 114. angler behaviors, and;  
 115. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR and NRC to create a zone and  
 116. designation to recognize and protect the Stannard Rock fishery, potentially with different  
 117. regulations informed by science, to protect its high-quality status against increasing angling  
 118. exploitation, consistent with the management objectives established by the draft Lake  
 119. Superior Fisheries Management Plan 2023–2033.

## References

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- [3] Sitar, S.P. 2023. Life on a seamount: lake charr at Stannard Rock, Lake Superior, 2011-2015. Journal of Great Lakes Research 49:888-900.

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- [5] Shuter, B., M. Jones, R. Korver, N. Lester. 1998. A general, life history based model for regional management of fish stocks.... Canadian Journal of Fishery and Aquatic Science, 55: 2161-2177.
- [6] University of Wisconsin, S. 1999. "Fish of the Great Lakes by Wisconsin Sea Grant" (On-line). Accessed December 13, 1999 <http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/communications/publications/fish>.
- [7] Carl, D. (2023). (rep.). Lake Superior Fall Lake Trout Assessment Report 2022. DNR Lake Superior Fisheries Management Team. Retrieved November 27, 2023, from [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/LS\\_LakeSuperiorFallLakeTroutAssessmentReport2022.pdf](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/LS_LakeSuperiorFallLakeTroutAssessmentReport2022.pdf).

**PASSED TO CONVENTION**  
**Proposed Resolution #J**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, Michigan State Council – National Deer Association  
**Proposed:** December 2, 2023 Conservation Policy Board Meeting  
**Title:** MUCC Support For DMU Antlerless Harvest Goals

1. **WHEREAS:** under-harvesting or overharvesting antlerless deer can have a damaging effect on
2. deer herds, deer hunting and wildlife habitat, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** achieving an appropriate level of antlerless harvest is necessary to responsibly
4. manage deer densities, deer health and wildlife habitat quality, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** the appropriate level of antlerless harvest will vary for every DMU in the state of
6. Michigan, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** harvest goals are widely used and a successful tool for managing wildlife and
8. fisheries, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has successfully implemented a mandatory reporting system for deer that
10. enables hunters to track harvest in near real-time throughout the deer seasons and alert hunters
11. on progress toward goal achievement via email, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has a need to harvest more antlerless deer in many parts of the state yet
13. 75% of the state's hunters won't shoot an antlerless deer, only 17% of the state's hunters take one
14. antlerless deer and 8% of Michigan's hunters take more than one antlerless deer, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Antlerless harvest has declined by about 28% over the last 20 years, NOW;
16. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that MUCC work with the DNR and NRC to implement annually
17. adjusted DMU level antlerless harvest goals, educate and inform hunters regarding those goals,
18. provide in-season information to hunters on goal achievement, and in cases of significant
19. overharvest allows for the closing of seasons or limitation of additional harvest.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**  
**Proposed Emergency Resolution**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Eric Braden, Executive Board  
**Proposed:** November 1, 2023 Executive Board Meeting  
**Title:** MUCC Opposition to the Nyberg Amendment

1. **WHEREAS:** The Nyberg Steelhead Amendment – Presented during the October NRC Meeting
2. Amends proposed Fisheries order 200.23A, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** MUCC supports equal access and opportunity of take for all Sportsmen &
4. Sportswomen, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** MUCC Supports the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) management of
6. Michigan's Fisheries & Wildlife populations utilizing "Principles of sound scientific Management"
7. as noted in Public Act 377 of 1996 "Proposal G", and:
8. **WHEREAS:** MUCC Supports the 2014 Michigan Ballot Initiative (Scientific Fish & Wildlife
9. Conservation Act), where 374,000 sportsmen and sportswomen's signatures initiated an indirect
10. state statute. The initiative empowered the NRC to be the sole designator of game species and
11. gave exclusive authority to the NRC to regulate sportfishing, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** The "Michigan Steelhead Management – Large River Creel Surveys to inform Status
13. of the fishery", presenters Seth Herbst and Jay Wesley NRC Fisheries Subcommittee Meeting
14. September 14, 2023, indicated that the steelhead management goal is to provide year-round
15. steelhead angling opportunities to diverse user groups with differing ability levels and preferred
16. fishing methods in Michigan Great Lakes and connected waters. The presentation also included
17. "Steelhead Regulatory Recommendations" to retain existing steelhead regulations, continue to
18. collect information and reassess as the 2027 regulatory sunset approaches as the perceived
19. benefit of the restricted seasonal harvest wouldn't be realized for several years. Additional
20. "Steelhead Regulatory recommendations" were made under the "Natural Steelhead – Summary of
21. Status" to Provide time to assess fishery dynamics as the Biological evidence does not indicate
22. changes are warranted, and;
23. **WHEREAS:** The proposed changes within the Nyberg Amendment would represent a restriction
24. of take mid-season creating confusion among anglers, NOW;
25. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC strongly opposes the proposed Nyberg Amendment
26. based upon information provided by MDNR Biologists, as outlined in the "Michigan Steelhead
27. Management – Large River Creel Surveys to inform Status of the fishery", Presenters Seth Herbst
28. and Jay Wesley NRC Fisheries Subcommittee Meeting September 14, 2023, and;
29. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the NRC work with the MDNR Biologist, State Universities,
30. Organizations and the many Citizens Fisheries Advisory Councils to provide and assess

31. information for the “Science-based” management of Michigan’s Fisheries.