

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, sport fishing is a great industry, recreation, and occupation in Missouri; and

Whereas, hand fishing, which is also referred to as "noodling", for channel, blue, and flathead catfish is one of the ultimate challenges in the arena of sport fishing; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service survey in 2001 found that there are approximately 467,000 catfish anglers in Missouri over the age of sixteen and by Missouri law, they can catch five flathead fish, five blue catfish, and ten channel catfish a day 365 days a year or 7,300 catfish for each permit sold; and

Whereas, Dr. Mark Morgan at the University of Missouri-Columbia conducted a study and found that there are approximately 2,000 hand fishers in Missouri, who are asking the Missouri Department of Conservation to allow them to hand catch five channel, blue, or flathead catfish in a sixty-day statewide season for each permit sold, which would be 0.000685 percent of the 7,300 catfish now allowed each catfish angler in Missouri; and

Whereas, the Missouri Department of Conservation is responsible for all Missouri state fishing and game regulations and should provide hand fishers with appropriate information and regulations; and

Whereas, recognizing and respecting the Research Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation, they should continue balanced research on hand fishing for channel, blue, and flathead catfish; and

Whereas, it is the desire for some sport fishers to participate in hand fishing of channel, blue, and flathead catfish in Missouri; and

Whereas, hand fishing is a legalized sport in 14 States, 6 of which surround Missouri; and

Whereas, the legalization of hand fishing is supported by the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Farmer's Union, MoFED, and the Missouri Trappers Association; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Senate of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly encourage the Missouri Department of Conservation to have a regulated statewide hand fishing season for channel, blue, and flathead catfish from June first to July thirteenth beginning in 2007 to allow hand fishers to take five of these fish by hand; and

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Commissioners of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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