

2016 MUCC CONVENTION
CONSERVATION POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Approved Resolutions

(Summaries of Resolutions; full text to follow)

#01: ISLE ROYALE MOOSE MANAGEMENT

MUCC supports culling moose on Isle Royale National Park to manage the population and protect the island's vegetation and that the public be permitted to do the culling through a limited entry drawing from groups of two to four participants that would purchase a moose culling permit; and MUCC supports such measures as an alternative to artificial relocation (human placement) of predator species to this island, such as wolves.

#02: TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF CHOCOLATE AS BEAR BAIT

MUCC resolves to help educate bear hunters about the danger of using chocolate in bear bait.

#03: CHOCOLATE IN BEAR BAIT

MUCC supports banning the use of large quantities of chocolate in bear bait.

#04: URBAN BOWHUNTING AND DEER MANAGEMENT

MUCC supports the creation of a statewide urban deer management plan emphasizing bowhunting and venison donation.

#05: NEUTRAL ON CROSSBOWS

MUCC adopts a position of no longer opposing the use of crossbows during the archery season as they have not resulted in any significant conflict to the archery deer season.

#07: TO SUPPORT ATV/ORV APPROPRIATE USE WITHIN THE MICHIGAN DESIGNATED MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM AND GROUSE ENHANCEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROGRAM AREA IN THE UPPER PENINSULA

MUCC supports the designation of a 1.8-mile stretch of county road in a Grouse Enhanced Management System in Marquette County, currently open for ORV use, as a multi-use ORV route to allow funding allocation for signage as a pilot program.

#09: NIGHTTIME HUNTING WITH CENTERFIRE FIREARMS

MUCC supports the use of centerfire rifles at night for coyote hunting.

#12: CHANGING THE STARTING DATE OF THE EARLY SPRING TURKEY SEASON

MUCC supports moving the start date of the early turkey season in southern Michigan (private land unit ZZ) up from a Monday to the prior Saturday.

#13: WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON COUNTY PARKS IN MICHIGAN

MUCC resolves to work to increase waterfowl hunting opportunities in county parks and supports the extension of liability protection to local government units which allow hunting on their properties.

#14: INCREASED PENALTIES FOR HARASSMENT OF ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND TRAPPERS

MUCC supports increased penalties for harassment of anglers, hunters, and trappers engaged in legal activities.

#15: PURPLE PAINT TRESPASSING LAW

The MUCC supports the use of purple paint in place of “No Trespassing” signs.

#16: RECOGNIZING DIVERSITY

The MUCC encourages the DNR to recognize Michigan’s diverse landscape in management decisions.

#17: DESIGNATE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY AS THE STATE INSECT OF MICHIGAN

MUCC supports the designation of the monarch butterfly as the official state insect.

#18: DEFINING “PNEUMATIC” GUNS THAT LAUNCH ARROWS

MUCC resolves to support the definition and regulation of “airbows” as pneumatic firearms, not archery equipment.

#19: FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE DISEASE TRUST FUND

MUCC supports the creation of a Federal Fish and Wildlife Disease Trust Fund.

#23: WISE UTILIZATION OF ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

MUCC supports the utilization of rough fish harvested during bowfishing tournaments by donation to rendering facilities.

#24: BASS TOURNAMENTS ARE LEGITIMATE, LEGAL FISHING STYLE

MUCC supports the legalization and equal regulation of bass tournaments

#25: BASS FISHING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 2016

MUCC supports the use of adaptive management for bass by the DNR

#26: LIMITING KILLING AND REMOVAL OF AQUATIC PLANT HABITAT

MUCC recognizes the importance of aquatic plant habitat to Michigan's natural resources, supports a reduction in the use of chemicals in native aquatic vegetation management, and supports work on appropriate recovery plans for native aquatic plants.

#27: RESCIND MUCC CHUMMING BAN

MUCC resolves to use the best available science to determine where, what, and in what quantity chumming should, or should not, be regulated, and the previous ban has been lifted.

Failed Resolutions

#06: SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING CROSSBOWS DURING THE LATE ARCHERY SEASON IN THE UP

The MUCC will support the legalization of crossbows during the late archery deer season in the UP.

#08: COYOTE BOUNTY

MUCC will work with the DNR to start a bounty on coyotes in Michigan.

#20: NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

MUCC supports legislation to allow the NRC to meet as often as necessary to accomplish their duties, as long as it is no less than eight times per year.

#21: BEAR BAITING DURING DOG TRAINING SEASON

MUCC will work with the NRC and the DNR to allow bear baiting to begin July 8th, during dog training season.

POSTPONED FOR FUTURE CONSERVATION POLICY MEETING

#10: YOUTH HUNTER SUPERVISION—REQUESTED BY THE MAKER TO POSTPONE UNTIL POLICY MEETING

MUCC will work to change the statute to allow hunter safety trained youth with some level of experience in the woods to hunt further away from their adult mentor.

#11: ALLOW HUNTERS TO POSSESS AND USE MULTIPLE TYPE LEGAL WEAPONS WHILE HUNTING MORE THAN ONE LEGAL SPECIES DURING OVERLAPPING SEASONS

MUCC will work with the DNR to remove the prohibition against using more than one legal weapon while hunting multiple species during overlapping seasons.

#22: BAITING WITH BARRELS—WITHDRAWN BY MAKER FOR A REWRITE

MUCC will work with the NRC and the DNR to allow the use of barrels for baiting bears.

MUCC's 2016 CONSERVATION POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #01

Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MUCC Wildlife Committee

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016, unanimously

Title: **ISLE ROYALE MOOSE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the moose population at Michigan's Isle Royale National Park is currently estimated at a minimum of 1,300 animals and that moose population is expected to continue to increase with only three wolves remaining on the island; and

WHEREAS, the growing moose population on Isle Royale will soon reach a point where they damage the island's vegetation, reducing favored winter moose browse along with the capacity of the habitat to support as many moose; and

WHEREAS, should science-based research determine that moose populations have exceeded, or are likely to exceed, the carrying capacity of the island to the detriment of the overall herd health, vegetation and bio-communities of the island then a culling system should be implemented; and

WHEREAS, considering the wilderness designation of Isle Royale National Park, culling moose is the best way to manage that population and reduce damage to the island's vegetation and maintain a healthy moose population; and

WHEREAS, involving the public in culling moose at Isle Royale through a limited entry drawing can generate revenue to help cover the cost of that type of management through the sale of moose culling permits; and

WHEREAS, MUCC supported naming moose a game species in Michigan and is always in favor of scientifically based, regulated hunting opportunities rather than culling; however, it is understood that Isle Royale National Park expressly prohibits hunting at this time. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC supports culling moose on Isle Royale National Park to manage the population and protect the island's vegetation and that the public be permitted to do the culling through a limited entry drawing from groups of two to four participants that would purchase a moose culling permit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MUCC supports such measures as an alternative to artificial relocation (human placement) of predator species to this island, such as wolves.

Resolution #02

Submitted by: Richard P. Smith, MUCC Life Member
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016
Title: **TO DISCOURAGE USE OF CHOCOLATE AS BEAR BAIT**

WHEREAS a 43-pound black bear cub died of theobromine poisoning during the fall of 2010 in Alcona County from eating too much chocolate at a bear bait; and

WHEREAS theobromine is an ingredient in chocolate that can be toxic to bears and other wildlife in large quantities, with the highest concentration of theobromine contained within unsweetened baker's chocolate; and

WHEREAS milk chocolate has a much lower level of theobromine; and

WHEREAS chocolate is sometimes used as bear bait by hunters who do not understand that chocolate can be toxic to black bears and other wildlife in large amounts; and

WHEREAS some raccoons have also died of theobromine poisoning from eating too much chocolate at bear baits; and

WHEREAS baits for bear hunting have been beneficial to pine martens and fishers by helping them become re-established in the UP after they were reintroduced; and

WHEREAS coyotes and wolves also visit bear baits and benefit from the food they provide without any known negative consequences; and

WHEREAS the DNR recommended a ban on the use of chocolate as bear bait during 2011 in response to the death of the bear cub and raccoons; and

WHEREAS concerned sportsmen and women who belong to various organizations in the state, including bear hunters, agreed that educating bear hunters who use bait about the dangers of using chocolate was the best way to address this issue; and

WHEREAS hunters are the original conservationists and are concerned about the welfare of black bears and other wildlife that visit bear baits; and

WHEREAS bear hunters who understand the dangers of chocolate to wildlife are willing to voluntarily limit or eliminate the use of chocolate as bear bait; and

WHEREAS educating bear hunters about the threat that large quantities of chocolate pose to wildlife is working since no deaths of wildlife to theobromine poisoning have been documented in Michigan since 2010; and

WHEREAS small amounts of chocolate are often mixed with bear bait purchased in bulk; and

WHEREAS bear hunters can sometimes unknowingly use small amounts of chocolate that is mixed with other baits; and

WHEREAS small amounts of chocolate do not pose a risk to wildlife; and

WHEREAS a total ban on chocolate as bear bait is unnecessary to protect wildlife from theobromine poisoning since hunters are willing to limit their use of the substance on a voluntary basis and that approach is working; and

WHEREAS a law banning the use of all chocolate as bear bait could pose a hardship for hunters by subjecting them to being ticketed when small amounts of chocolate are used when those small amounts do not pose a risk to wildlife; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MUCC will work with affiliated organizations and the DNR to educate bear hunters about the danger of using too much chocolate, and especially dark baker's chocolate, as bear bait to eliminate the potential of bear bait harming any wildlife

Resolution #03
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and Michigan Bear Hunters Associatio

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016

Title: **CHOCOLATE IN BEAR BAIT**

WHEREAS, Chocolate contains theobromine, which can be toxic to bears and other wildlife in high quantities; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife biologists have shown that two raccoons (2002 and 2005) and one bear cub (2010) have been found dead from theobromine poisoning in Michigan, related to chocolate in bear bait; and

WHEREAS, When examining this issue several years ago, our organizations agreed to do additional education with our member bear hunters about the concern with using chocolate as a source of bait rather than adopt a regulatory approach; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, four bears in New Hampshire died from chocolate toxicity near a 90-pound bait pile containing chocolate. In May 2015, the New Hampshire Game and Fish Commission banned the use of chocolate in bait. NOW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC work with the DNR, and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to adopt a wildlife conservation order in 2017 that would ban the use of solid chocolate in bear bait; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this regulation should balance the relative risk of solid chocolate bait compared to bait with trace amounts of chocolate. As we understand, large

quantities of chocolate are a much higher risk to wildlife compared to a food source that might contain chocolate as a minor component as in trail mix.

Resolution # 04
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tomahawk Archers

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016, unanimously

Title: **URBAN BOWHUNTING AND DEER MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Deer Management Plan contains an action item for the development of an urban/suburban deer management plan that provides specific, consistent guidelines and recommendations for dealing with urban/suburban deer issues; and

WHEREAS, this urban/suburban deer management plan has not yet been created; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Deer Management Plan contains an action item to pursue policies that allow and encourage the use of recreational hunting, including archery hunting in urban/suburban areas, to address urban/suburban deer issues; and

WHEREAS, communities such as Meridian Township have implemented successful organized urban/suburban archery programs to manage urban/suburban deer issues; and

WHEREAS, in other communities, such as Ann Arbor, deer management has become a highly controversial issue; and

WHEREAS, anti-hunting organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States have seized upon the controversy and lack of wildlife management knowledge in urban/suburban communities to advocate for the artificial drugging and sterilization of Michigan's free-ranging white-tailed deer through the use of Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP), for which the effects on animals (including humans) which consume drugged deer is unknown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor has stated its intent to explore the option of using PZP on deer with HSUS and the DNR in future years after approving a paid cull this year; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the 150-yard no-hunting zone around buildings for bowhunting has eliminated a barrier to urban bowhunting programs; and

WHEREAS, a lack of access is often cited as the top reason why people quit hunting; and

WHEREAS, urban and suburban bowhunting has the potential to attract new people to hunting by providing access close to populated areas; and

WHEREAS, an average white-tailed deer can provide 30 to 50 pounds of free-range, organic, all-natural, high-protein and low-fat venison which can be consumed or donated to local food banks. NOW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Commission, the Legislature, local communities and affiliate clubs to develop a statewide urban/suburban deer management plan per the Michigan Deer Management Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide urban/suburban deer management plan emphasize bowhunting as the primary means of managing urban/suburban deer populations, and provide guidance for establishing venison donation and archery proficiency programs.

Resolution # 05

Submitted by: Elden Montross, District 7 Chair
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016
Title: **NEUTRAL ON CROSSBOWS**

WHEREAS Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has been on record since 1983 to support *“the establishment of a crossbow season which would not conflict with existing archery seasons in Michigan”*; and

WHEREAS, for several decades in Michigan, crossbows were allowed only within firearm seasons or with a permit for hunters with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, at least 24 states now have included the use of crossbows during archery hunting seasons; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Michigan’s Natural Resources Commission (NRC) adopted rules to allow hunters age 10 and up to use a crossbow for the entire deer archery season, except for the late archery deer season and muzzleloading season in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ 2014 Deer Harvest Survey, “about 174,558 hunters used a crossbow during the archery season, and they harvested about 59,266 deer with the crossbow. The number of archers using a crossbow increased significantly by 7% from 2013 (162,728 archers in 2013). Harvest of deer by archers using a crossbow was nearly unchanged from [the previous] year (58,772 deer taken in 2013). About 30% of these archers using a crossbow in 2014 harvested a deer with a crossbow”; and

WHEREAS, crossbow harvest now accounts for more than 50 percent of the total archery season harvest statewide. NOW,

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC adopt a position of no longer opposing the use of crossbows during the archery season as they have not resulted in any significant conflict to the archery deer season.

Resolution #07

Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tim Kobasic, Region I Director at Large, on behalf of Hiawathaland Trail Association

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016

Title: **TO SUPPORT ATV/ORV APPROPRIATE USE WITHIN THE MICHIGAN DESIGNATED MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM AND GROUSE ENHANCEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROGRAM AREA IN THE UPPER PENINSULA.**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The DNR strives to:

- Protect natural and cultural resources.
- Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment.
- Enable strong natural resource-based economies.
- Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships.
- Foster effective business practices and good governance; and
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WHEREAS, Michigan offers many trail riding opportunities. Michigan's public Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) trail/route system provides four types of riding opportunities: motorcycle trails, all terrain vehicle (ATV) trails, ORV routes which are open to ORVs of all sizes including Secretary of State licensed vehicles, and scramble areas; and,

WHEREAS, with the help of hunters and partners, the DNR continues to develop a series of intensively managed, walk-in access ruffed grouse hunting areas across the northern Lower and Upper Peninsulas. The areas are called GEMS - Grouse Enhanced Management Sites, and are managed for young forests, primarily aspen; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs was founded in 1937 with a simple purpose: harness the combined strength of Michigan's outdoors community to protect conservation from politics; and,

WHEREAS, we must recognize that there is no recreational superiority within the State of Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, it remains the obligation of all conservationists and recreational users of our natural resources to mutually engrain the safe and ethical use; and,

WHEREAS, there are times when resources and recreational opportunities will overlap and compromise for use must be employed; and,

WHEREAS, a 1.8 mile segment of gravel road within the GEMS in the Gwinn area of Marquette County does share land use and is open for the motorized sports of snowmobile and ATV/ORV and is under consideration for designation as a multi-use route; and,

WHEREAS, that special efforts regarding using slower speed, reduced noise and not going off (trail) route is of utmost importance and should be considered in not pursuing or harassing wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, special signage should be installed prior to and along this designated route system as a pilot program to enhance and emphasize importance that riders are approaching and within a game management program area; and,

WHEREAS, this multi-use adaptation of our natural resources would serve to increase awareness mutual respect between recreational disciplines.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) recommends that the 1.8 mile segment of gravel road with the Gwinn, Marquette County GEMS be made a designated route as a pilot program to test the compatibility of the multi-use recreational disciplines, with inclusion of appropriate signage; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC recommends that this pilot program be reviewed after the third year of use to make final determination as to the success or failure of the merged use, at this location.

Resolution #09
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Chris Kettler, Michigan Trappers & Predator Callers Association

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016

Title: **NIGHTTIME PREDATOR HUNTING WITH CENTERFIRE FIREARMS**

WHEREAS, MUCC has long supported controlling the coyote population in Michigan by passing resolutions allowing the use of #3 & 4 buckshot at night (unanimous vote 2013), expanded hound hunting opportunity at night (2012), and the taking of coyotes during deer season (2010); and

WHEREAS, current Michigan regulations allow centerfire firearms for predator hunting during the day but restrict night hunting to “only a bow and arrow, crossbow, a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug, or cut shell”; and

WHEREAS, the common rimfire ammunition (.22LR, 22 mag, & 17 HMR) is adequate for small furbearers but not effective at quickly killing a coyote. These animals often run off making them difficult to find, especially at night; and

WHEREAS, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, & Wisconsin all allow the use of centerfire firearms at night for the taking of coyotes. Illinois rules state “Coyotes may be hunted on private property using dogs, archery devices, any type and caliber of handgun, any type of legal rifle including large capacity semiautomatic rifles, and shotguns using any type of shell”. Indiana rules state “There

are no restrictions on hunting hours or firearms for hunting fox and coyote”. Ohio rules state ‘Handguns: any caliber, Rifles: any caliber, Shotguns: 10ga and smaller’. Wisconsin rules allow any rifle, handgun, or shotgun with only barrel length restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, & Wisconsin have no reports of increased poaching activity, safety issues, or property damage attributed to night time coyote hunting with centerfire firearms; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to remove the nighttime centerfire firearm restriction and permit their use for predator hunting anytime, day and night.

Resolution #12
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Millard H. Holton, MUCC IM Representative, Regent III, District 6

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016

Title: **CHANGING THE STARTING DATE OF THE EARLY SPRING TURKEY SEASON**

WHEREAS, the Early Spring Turkey Season currently starts on the Monday that falls between the 17th and the 23rd of April; and

WHEREAS, most hunters are either working, attending school or college, therefore are not able to participate on the opening day of Turkey Season without absorbing loss of wages or incurring other penalties; and

WHEREAS, adding two more weekend days to the Early Spring Turkey Season in Unit ZZ (for a 16 day season) would not harm the Natural Resources, nor would it negatively impact the breeding process; and

WHEREAS, in many years the starting date backed up to Saturday, would not cause the season to start any earlier than it presently does in the Early Turkey Season of Unit ZZ; and

WHEREAS, the Early Spring Turkey Season experiences many dramatic, unpredictable shifts in the weather patterns from year-to-year; and

WHEREAS, there is much support among turkey hunters for changing the season opening week day from Monday to the previous Saturday in Unit ZZ which would include three weekends; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of left over, Early Spring Turkey Licenses (in Unit ZZ) unapplied for each year; and

WHEREAS, increasing the weekend, hunting days from 4 to 6, could recruit more hunters, especially those who are pressed for available time; and

WHEREAS, Hunt Unit ZZ contains large numbers of turkeys; and

WHEREAS, the starting date of the Fall Turkey Season was changed (backed up) from the 1st Monday in October to the 15th of September without any perceived harm to the resource (hunters can harvest a turkey per day of either sex, for 60 days or until the quotas are met (4,500 in Unit YY)). **NOW**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and frame a Wildlife Order that would change the opening day of the Early Spring Turkey Season from Monday to the appropriate, previous Saturday of April in Unit ZZ that would increase the season to 16 days.

Resolution #13
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association and Jack VanRhee, MUCC Statewide Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016

Title: **WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON COUNTY PARKS IN MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, many counties in Michigan have parks in rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, Many of these parks have an abundance of water in the form of lakes, rivers and ponds; and

WHEREAS, These water resources attract a large variety of waterfowl as resident species and during migration flights; and

WHEREAS, Many of these parks can provide additional opportunities for waterfowl hunting. **NOW**,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with country parks commissions and boards and any other appropriate county officials to expand the opportunities for waterfowl hunting on county parks in the state of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC explore legislative changes to offer the same liability protection that state government has to local governments that allow hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Resolution #14
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region IV Vice President

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016, unanimously

Title: **INCREASED PENALTIES FOR HARASSMENT OF ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND TRAPPERS**

WHEREAS, Sportsmen and sportswomen in Michigan have the right to enjoy their sport free from unreasonable and deliberate interference from those opposed to fishing, hunting, or trapping as a legitimate use of public land and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Anti-hunters and animal rights activists have been harassing hunters through photography, video recording, and other electronic means; and

WHEREAS, Michigan law prohibits individuals from obstructing or interfering with the lawful taking of game and fish. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports fishing, hunting and trapping as a legitimate form of recreation and as a useful tool in the management of game and fish. Michigan Conservation Officers are committed to protecting anglers, hunters and trappers from the disruption of their outdoor endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Harassment of an outdoorsperson enjoying their sport is only a misdemeanor offense and harassers are not deterred. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, work with the Michigan Legislature to enact stiffer penalties against harassers, with the penalties to be:

- a first time offender be imprisoned for not more than 93 days and be fined a minimum of \$1000 plus the costs of prosecution.
- 2 time offender be punished with a 9 month imprisonment and a fine of \$3,500, plus the costs of prosecution.
- A 3rd time or more offender would receive 1 year imprisonment, a fine of \$ 10,000, plus the costs of the prosecution.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the legislature to include photographing, videotaping, audio-taping, and other electronic means of monitoring or recording the activities of a person engaged in legal hunting, fishing and trapping, without their consent, in the definition of hunter harassment.

Resolution # 15
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, MUCC Region IV VP
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **PURPLE PAINT TRESPASSING LAW**

WHEREAS, Michigan landowners are continually placing and replacing No Trespassing signs because trespassers do not want to acknowledge them, tear them down, or use the signs as target practice; and

WHEREAS, people hunting or fishing without landowner's consent is a common issue; and

WHEREAS, signs are easily taken down; and

WHEREAS, other states have enacted the “Purple Paint Law.” In 1989 this was incorporated in Arkansas and currently 8 other states have this law which allows landowners, as an alternative to a No Trespassing sign, to use a purple vertical paint line of at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide and between 3 to 5 feet from the ground to make it easily visible. The No Trespassing purple holds the same weight and same law violations as a No Trespassing sign. It pays to know what the color purple means, as a first-degree trespassing charge is a misdemeanor in most states; and

WHEREAS, the purple paint has been chosen because most color blind people can see purple and paint on a post or a tree is much more difficult to take off and will save landowners money. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and the Michigan Legislature if needed to enact the “Purple Paint Law”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an explanatory sign could be included with the purple stripe for one year until the new law is securely in place.

Resolution # 16
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream and Tom Heritier, MUCC Statewide Vice President
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **RECOGNIZING DIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan possesses a wide range of demographic, geographic, and atmospheric diversity; and

WHEREAS, The Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan is a prime example of this diversity; and

WHEREAS, Hunting, fishing, trapping and other regulatory rules, regulations and considerations are often formulated in a one size fits all type format; and

WHEREAS, The ice up, or freeze over average date is already in use by the Michigan Department Natural Resources (MDNR) in determining waterfowl seasons. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with and urge the MDNR and other regulatory agencies to recognize this diversity and adapt their management practices accordingly.

Resolution #17
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Tomahawk Archers, 2085 W. Erie Road, Temperance, MI 48182
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **DESIGNATE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY AS STATE INSECT OF MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) mission is “Uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.”

WHEREAS, MUCC supports non-game species that are critical to healthy ecosystems

WHEREAS, the loss of any species weakens the ecosystem that all species rely on for survival, including humans. (National Wildlife Federation)

WHEREAS, Michigan is one of three states that does not have an official state insect;
WHEREAS, The Monarch Butterfly, a native of Michigan, has declined by more than 90% in the last 20 years due to loss of overwintering habitat and 1/3 loss of breeding habitat (Including here in Michigan.)

WHEREAS, Pollinators, including the Monarch Butterfly, account for 1/3 of our food supply, which generates \$20 billion in annual U.S. agricultural production and \$217 billion worldwide

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program supports the CP42 *Pollinator Habitat Initiative*. Pheasants Forever, a partner of Monarch Joint Venture and MUCC, utilizes this program for upland game cover as well.

WHEREAS selecting the Monarch Butterfly as Michigan’s State Insect will increase awareness for the need to grow more additional pollinator habitat, which will also benefit Michigan’s rich small game and upland hunting heritage by providing improved habitat for all species.

WHEREAS the Monarch's migration attracts numerous tourists annually to the shores of the Great Lakes to witness one of the world’s great migrations as the Monarchs begin their 3000 mile journey to their wintering grounds in Mexico increases public awareness, participation and enjoyment of Michigan’s natural resources and provides a higher quality of life with economic benefits through ecotourism. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs (MUCC) use the strength of its 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the state to support proposed bill and have the membership contact their state representatives and senators in support of making the Monarch Butterfly the official state insect of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by supporting this resolution, MUCC will help build relationships with numerous diverse conservation groups, hunters and non-hunters alike, by coming together to support vital Monarch Butterfly conservation and its state designation as Michigan’s state insect

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support Senator Jim Marleau future bill to make the Monarch Butterfly, a native to Michigan, the state insect of Michigan.

Resolution # 18
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan Bow Hunters Association
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **DEFINING “PNEUMATIC GUNS THAT LAUNCH ARROWS”**

WHEREAS, since Michigan’s first separate bow hunting season in 1937 technology experimentation has enabled the ability to make more reliable bow hunting equipment and efficient crossbows to date; and

WHEREAS, legal archery season hunting equipment in our state to hunt big game with are longbows, recurves, compound bows and crossbows, including modified bows by permit; and

WHEREAS, a bow is defined in part as a device that launches an arrow quarrel or bolt via string contact with projectile; and

WHEREAS, the heritage and history of Michigan’s archery season are more than just additional days afield to hunt big game with archery equipment, it is a lifestyle and passion to many sportsmen, sportswomen and their families; and

WHEREAS, there are products on the market which fire an arrow utilizing air pressure, OR an arrow launching rifle utilizing the pressure of blank ammunition as means of propulsion; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan law, "Pneumatic gun" means any implement, designed as a gun, that will expel a BB or pellet by spring, gas, or air. Pneumatic gun includes a paintball gun that expels by pneumatic pressure plastic balls filled with paint for the purpose of marking the point of impact; and

WHEREAS, there is rising controversy towards increased technology and its use in hunting and during Michigan’s archery deer season which could limit recreation time or harvest for archery hunters; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support legislation to add to the definition of pneumatic gun, pneumatic guns that launch arrows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Commission in the regulation of pneumatic guns.

Resolution #19
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MUCC Wildlife Committee and District 20
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016, unanimously
Title: **FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE DISEASE TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife diseases presents a serious risk to Michigan’s native and naturalized wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, responses to outbreaks of fish and wildlife diseases require the mobilization of people, resources, and communications assets by the state and its partners; and

WHEREAS, the funding for fish and wildlife disease response is primarily borne by hunters, anglers, and trappers through their license dollars; and

WHEREAS, no funds have been set aside to provide for fish and wildlife disease response; and

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife disease outbreaks are becoming regional and at times national events. NOW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the National Wildlife Federation, other non-governmental organization partners and our congressional delegation to establish a federal fish and wildlife disease trust fund and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal fish and wildlife disease trust fund be available for state agency response to fish and wildlife disease outbreaks and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fish and wildlife disease trust fund be established outside of the discretionary spending framework established by Congress so that the funds are not subject to appropriation by Congress.

Resolution # 23
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller, Bowfishing Association of Michigan (BAM)

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016, unanimously

Title: **WISE UTILIZATION OF ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, Bowfishing can and often is used as a method to rid our waters of unwanted, destructive nonnative species; and

WHEREAS, More often than not the harvested species are of little to no value as table fare; and

WHEREAS, Many bowfishing events and tournaments result in hundreds to thousands of these rough fish being harvested; and

WHEREAS, the best use of this resource has been donating these to a rendering company to either be made into fertilizer or animal feed; and

WHEREAS, starting last year, the Bowfishing Association of Michigan (BAM) has been told that they can no longer donate these fish to a rendering company because that company *may* be making a profit from this donation and it is illegal to use fish harvested from a sports fishing license for profit.

WHEREAS, this only leaves the option of paying a waste hauling company to bring this resource to a landfill and completely waste it; and

WHEREAS, this action goes against the very fundamentals of wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, this action goes directly against the Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC) pledge which reads in part “defend from waste the natural resources of my country.” NOW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MUCC works with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resource Committee (NRC) and any other necessary entities to make a clear statement allowing harvested rough fish to be donated to a rendering or similar facility allowing them to be put to good use without any stipulations related to profits to the company that may or may not come from this donation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This issue is to be made a priority issue as the bowfishing season will be in full swing at the time of convention with the current interpretation of our laws resulting in the intentional waste of one of our natural resources.

Resolution # 24

Submitted by: Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **BASS TOURNAMENTS ARE LEGITIMATE, LEGAL FISHING STYLE**

WHEREAS, fishing tournaments are legal in Michigan and not regulated differently than any other fishing during the harvest season for that species; and

WHEREAS, the main difference between most anglers and bass tournament anglers is that bass tournament anglers tend to fish in groups during a set time at a set place; and

WHEREAS additional recreational enjoyment and economic benefit could be had in Michigan with more bass tournaments more often; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has over 1,000 bass tournaments per year already, but we have the resources and public access sites available to handle many more bass tournaments similar to other states that have several thousand bass tournaments per year and consistently attract national and televised events; and

WHEREAS, bass fishing is the 2nd most popular type of fishing in Michigan and Michigan's bass fishing is rated as good to excellent in part because of the high voluntary catch-and-release ethic that bass tournament anglers have made popular since the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, public access sites are first-come, first-serve to all boaters and anglers all the time; and

WHEREAS bass tournaments have been unfairly limited access to boat ramps by time, place and number of events regardless of actual supply and demand of parking spots and public access sites. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports bass tournament fishing as a legal, legitimate form of fishing that is good for Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with bass tournament groups and anglers to investigate and promote more bass tournament opportunity in Michigan as long as there is a sustainable and resilient bass population available.

Resolution # 25 **Requires 2/3 Majority**

Submitted by: Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016, unanimously
Title: **BASS FISHING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 2016**

WHEREAS, bass fishing is the 2nd most popular type of fishing in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s bass fishing is rated as good to excellent in part because of the high voluntary catch-and-release ethic that bass tournament anglers have made popular since the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, bass fishing has been liberalized 3 times in Michigan with zero new opportunity given to catch and delayed release or catch and keep bass fishing despite any definitive studies showing these limits to only certain types of fishing are necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has suggested that Michigan bass populations are different from other states and provinces so that not all or any studies done elsewhere might apply; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources says Michigan-specific studies to look at the impact of certain bass fishing opportunities would be prohibitively costly and time-consuming and they do not have the resources, or have not prioritized the effort using the revenue from the increased fishing license fees; and

WHEREAS In Michigan, we already have an abundance of resources and public access sites available to handle many more bass tournaments similar to other states that have several thousand bass tournaments per year and consistently attract national and televised events; and

WHEREAS, an accepted management technique – Adaptive Management – has been successfully used to save money and time in other major, complex resource management practices such as the Florida 10-year bass management plan and the national wildfowl management program; and

WHEREAS, adaptive management is experimental manipulation of a system under management, to learn something new and useful about its behavior, such that it can possibly be managed in the future to provide greater benefit than possible without that information on its behavior; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports urging the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division and the Natural Resources Commission to use Adaptive Management to learn by doing as the Wildlife Division has done; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs support Adaptive Management as an acceptable alternative to conducting Michigan-specific research studies on bass populations and instead of not collecting any data on what an expansion of bass fishing opportunity may do to the population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs promote Adaptive Management as an acceptable solution to providing more bass fishing opportunity to anglers who are asking for that additional opportunity – to learn how much more bass fishing opportunity our resources can handle by liberalizing bass fishing fairly for other bass anglers besides only catch-and-immediate-release anglers.

Resolution # 26
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016, unanimously

Title: **LIMITING KILLING AND REMOVAL OF AQUATIC PLANT HABITAT**

WHEREAS, aquatic plants are important habitat in most Michigan waters for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, a balance of healthy aquatic plants can improve fishing productivity in most Michigan waters; and

WHEREAS, even some exotic invasive aquatic plants have been in Michigan for decades allowing Michigan fish to adapt to using them as productive habitat; and

WHEREAS, many lake chemical treatments and mechanical harvest actions fail to have any follow-up work that assists native aquatic plants in recovering or mitigates the loss of habitat; and

WHEREAS the public waters of Michigan support a recreational fishing economy that annually generates \$4.2 billion in economic effect, \$1.4 billion in salary and wages, 38,000 jobs, \$287 million in state and local tax revenue, is ranked #3 in angler expenditures among states nationally, and #2 nationally in number of non-resident visiting anglers (only behind Florida); and

WHEREAS, killing all or most of the aquatic plants in a body of water can cause harm to the fishery in affecting fish health, removing critical habitat for young and adult fish, even artificially increasing the harvest of fish due to loss of cover; and

WHEREAS aquatic plants provide an important chemical service to the water and the organisms in them in the form of removal of carbons and addition of oxygen; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the necessary partners in the permitting and regulatory process such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality and others as necessary to bring about wiser and more restricted use of chemical, biological and mechanical aquatic plant treatments to allow a more balanced approach for healthy lakes and rivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the treatment of native aquatic plants be much more limited than it is now; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the appropriate parties to work towards requiring proper recovery plans for native aquatic plants, and other remediation or mitigation when large treatments of invasive aquatic plants occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs officially supports the importance of Michigan's aquatic plant habitat to providing a health fishery on many Michigan lakes and rivers.

Resolution #27

Submitted by: Adam Trenz and Metro-West Steelheaders Board of Directors
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 19, 2016
Title: **RESCIND MUCC CHUMMING BAN**

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) passed a resolution in approximately 2002 to restrict chumming to only whitefish, carp and catfish in Michigan's Public waters; and

WHEREAS, Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports the protection of Michigan resources, and diverse methods of angling, trapping and hunting; and

WHEREAS, chumming with bait is one effective technique in attracting various game fish to lures or baits, not only locally, but practiced widely around the world for centuries; and

WHEREAS, most anglers discard or waste fish eggs as refuse when cleaning fish; and

WHEREAS, the opposition to chumming of all species was in large supported based on the premise of a hazard from the introduction of exotic diseases such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS); and

WHEREAS, Fisheries Biologists indicate that there is no adverse effect upon the fish or fishery from chumming, when using salmon eggs which are disease free; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources deemed in April 2012 that salmon eggs were not a vector for VHS transmission and felt the probability of spread by this method was low enough to not be an issue of concern, as such reversed the previous restriction against chumming with Salmon eggs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Natural Resources concluded that VHS is still out there and continue to test hundreds of inland and Great Lakes locations, but a very low number of occurrences have been observed; and

WHEREAS, the volume of chummed eggs is a small percentage in contrast with the volume naturally occurring in rivers by way of salmon spawning; and

WHEREAS, the use of the sole chemical found in commercially available egg cures, scientifically proven to detrimentally impact juvenile salmonids (sodium sulfite) has been addressed by commercial cure manufacturers selling the vast majority of cures in Michigan.
NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Michigan United Conservation Clubs Ban on Chumming is no longer valid based on the original premises; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MUCC should use the best available science to determine where, what, and in what quantity chumming should, or should not, be regulated.