

**Emergency Board Resolution**  
**Requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority**

**Submitted by:** Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club  
**Passed:** February 1, 2023, Executive Board Meeting  
**Title:** Add Cormorant Control to the DNR Budget and Implement Cormorant Control

1. **WHEREAS:** as of 2021, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized the State of
2. Michigan the authority to control cormorant populations by allowing a take of 11,050 cormorants
3. on a depredation permit; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** the lack of funding and manpower has the state of Michigan applying for less than
5. one-half of our authorized amount of cormorants on the depredation permit. As a result, last
6. year (2022), only 2800 birds were dispatched, roughly 25% of our permit allowance, which
7. allows the cormorant numbers to keep increasing; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** a recent 2022 Cormorant Consumption Study by Michigan State University shows
9. a significant impact cormorants have on free-swimming fish; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** uncontrolled cormorant numbers in the early 2000s depleted the perch population
11. in what was known as a premier perch fishing destination, the Les Cheneaux Islands; the
12. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) perch creel surveys went to zero at that time. But with
13. control, it has since recovered somewhat; and.
14. **WHEREAS:** Michigan has over 1.1 Million anglers that spend over 2.3 billion dollars annually,
15. with over 45,103 jobs created by anglers; and,
16. **WHEREAS:** The Michigan DNR spends millions of dollars stocking gamefish in Michigan
17. Lakes. Just last fall, they stocked 7.8 tons of gamefish; and,
18. **WHEREAS:** we have more than 12,000 nesting pairs of cormorants in Michigan and
19. approximately 2640 single immature/Juvenile birds; and,
20. **WHEREAS:** one breeding pair of cormorants and their resulting fledglings for one breeding
21. season will consume 670 pounds of fish biomass. 2640 juvenile birds will consume an additional
22. 464,820 pounds of fish biomass, resulting in a total loss of over 8,504,820 pounds of fish
23. biomass or 4,252 tons of fish; NOW,
24. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the Michigan DNR to find the annual
25. funding, a minimum of \$250,000.00, and re-implement the very successful United States
26. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program of cormorant control utilizing volunteers.