

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.