

**Proposed EUPCAC Resolution:**  
***Add Cormorant Control to the DNR Budget and Implement Cormorant Control***  
(Proposed to the full EUPCAC Council at their April 26, 2023 meeting)

**Submitted by:** Gary Gorniak, Vice Chair of EUPCAC & Lead of EUPCAC Fisheries Committee

**WHEREAS,** as of 2021, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized the State of Michigan the authority to control cormorant populations by allowing a take of 11,050 cormorants on a depredation permit.

**WHEREAS,** the lack of funding and manpower has the State of Michigan applying for less than one-half of our authorized amount of cormorants on the depredation permit. As a result, last year (2022), only 2,800 birds were dispatched, roughly 25% of our permit allowance, which allows the cormorant numbers to keep increasing.

**WHEREAS,** a recent 2022 Cormorant Consumption Study by Michigan State University shows a significant impact cormorants have on free-swimming fish.

**WHEREAS,** uncontrolled cormorant numbers in the early 2000s depleted the perch population in what was known as a premier perch fishing destination, the Les Cheneaux Islands. The DNR perch creel surveys went to zero at that time. But with control, it has since recovered somewhat.

**WHEREAS,** Michigan has over 1.1 million anglers that spend over \$2.3 billion annually, with over 45,103 jobs created by anglers.

**WHEREAS,** The Michigan DNR spends millions of dollars stocking gamefish in Michigan lakes. Just last fall, they stocked 7.8 tons of gamefish.

**WHEREAS,** we have more than 12,000 nesting pairs of cormorants in Michigan and approximately 2640 single immature/juvenile birds.

**WHEREAS,** one breeding pair of cormorants and their resulting fledglings for one breeding season will consume 670 pounds of fish biomass. 2,640 juvenile birds will consume an additional 464,820 pounds of fish biomass, resulting in a total loss of over 8,504,820 pounds of fish biomass or 4,252 tons of fish.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The DNR Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council requests that the Michigan DNR find the funding of approximately \$250,000 annually and reimplement the very successful USDA Wildlife Services program of cormorant control utilizing volunteers.