

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION
ANNUAL MEETING

September 11, 2016

Resolution #7

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Support a USFWS/DNR 15-year restoration program for recovery, management, and monitoring of Minnesota-origin American white pelicans and common loons that were negatively impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

WHEREAS, Minnesota's white pelicans and our state bird the common loons have been affected by oil spills in the Gulf Coast including both direct mortality and long term contamination, and

WHEREAS, costs to the DNR and other organizations occurred in the studying the effects of contaminants, and

WHEREAS, additional sub lethal impacts on white pelicans and common loons are unknown and may be negatively impacting these species on a long term basis, and

WHEREAS, BP, the largest oil company in the world, has been found to be responsible for the Gulf Coast oil spill and caused short and long term impacts on birds that migrate from Minnesota to and from areas in the Gulf of Mexico that were contaminated by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on September 11, encourage the Department of Natural Resources to deliver a comprehensive recovery work plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Deepwater Horizon NRDAR Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive recovery plan provide for the funding of a conservation plan that would include long term conservation and monitoring of American white pelicans, preservation and management of shorelines and water quality of Minnesota's deep water cisco lakes which are most resilient in the face of potential climate change impacts on loons, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DNR works toward the development of cooperative management plans with Minnesota lake associations for conservation, management, and monitoring of loons resulting in increasing loon survival and production, and implementation of a "get the lead out" campaign to encourage anglers to use nontoxic jigs and sinkers so that lead fishing tackle does not cause lead poisoning in loons.

Submitted by Keith Blomstrom