

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 13, 2015

Resolution #5

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Support strong state effort to encourage the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to temporarily stop gill netting in Mille Lacs Lake until the walleye population has been restored.

WHEREAS, Mille Lacs Lake has a long history of being a destination for walleye fishing that thousands of Minnesotan's have enjoyed, and

WHEREAS, the walleye fishing on Mille Lacs Lake has an enormous economic impact for local businesses, and

WHEREAS, the dramatic decline in the walleye numbers has forced the Department of Natural Resources to issue a walleye quota that was the lowest ever and has already had to suspend walleye fishing this summer, and

WHEREAS, this suspension had dramatically affected the businesses around Mille Lacs Lake that rely on people fishing walleyes, and

WHEREAS, placing gill nets in prime walleye spawning areas decreases the amount of walleye fry that could be produced, and

WHEREAS the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has already announced that they will not net in Mille Lacs Lake in the spring of 2016 due to the low walleye population:

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting in St. Cloud, Minnesota on September 13 strongly urge and support the Governor, the legislature, and the Department of Natural Resources to encourage the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to temporarily not use gill nets in Mille Lacs Lake until the walleye population has been restored.

Sponsored by the Rice Area Sportsmen's Club