

Proposed Resolution #1
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: David Van Lopik, Region 7 Executive Board

Passed: May 31, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Request DNR to form Panfish Committee and/or specific management plan

1. **WHEREAS:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is responsible for fisheries
2. Management, and;
3. **WHEREAS:** The DNR has nine (9) citizens advisory committee's focusing on fisheries
4. management in Michigan, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** The DNR has a variety of fish management plans including Walleye,
6. Salmon, Regional and Waterway specific management plans, and;
7. **WHEREAS:** Michigan does not have a committee, management plan or strategic plan
8. specifically for panfish and crappie. Other midwestern and Great Lakes states have
9. specific management plans for panfish and crappie in various forms, and;
10. **WHEREAS:** The majority of sportsmen and sportswomen start fishing for panfish. Ease
11. of catching panfish and crappie make this species ideal for introducing children and
12. others into the sport of fishing. Equipment for pan fishing is simple and inexpensive,
13. allowing all individuals to participate, and;
14. **WHEREAS:** Inland Michigan lakes are ideal for panfish due to access and location
15. close to population centers. This includes fishing from shore, from kayaks and canoes,
16. and small boats. Many state, urban, and local parks offer access sites which include
17. fishing piers and launch ramps for kayaks, canoes and small boats, and;
18. **WHEREAS:** A specific management plan would examine areas such as habitat,
19. predator fish, stunted fisheries, slot size, daily limits, etc. to improve fish size and
20. numbers, NOW;
21. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) should
22. work with the Warmwater Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee to encourage the
23. Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division to develop, staff and maintain a
24. specific management plan for panfish and crappies in Michigan.

Proposed Resolution #2
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Carl Roeller, MTPCA

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Support of hunting bobcats at night with calling methods

1. **WHEREAS:** MUCC has a long-standing position of opening opportunities for hunters if
2. they are not to the detriment of the resource. Allowing hunters more opportunities or
3. abilities to get more hunters involved as well and making sure the population and
4. ecosystem of our great state is not compromised, and;
5. **WHEREAS:** Michigan currently has 57 counties where bobcats can be harvested. The
6. best available data collected by the Department of Natural Resource (DNR), shows
7. bobcat populations are on the rise. The numbers of harvested bobcats, numbers have
8. been steady, and;
9. **WHEREAS:** Bobcats continue to move farther south within the state, and the Michigan
10. Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in early 2022 expanded its bobcat management
11. units to include nine new counties in southern Michigan. Authorizing an expansion of
12. bobcat take into places where it has historically not been permitted, and;
13. **WHEREAS:** All four surrounding states (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin) have
14. now either a season or has put a season into place to allow for hunting/ trapping of
15. bobcats. Of these four states, Illinois is the only one currently that allows nighttime
16. hunting for bobcats, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** The current harvest tags for bobcats allow one bobcat to be taken in either
18. peninsula, and a second tag to only be allowed in the upper peninsula. With new
19. counties in the lower looking to be added in the near future, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** The DNR biologists are very open to allowing this additional opportunity.
21. They have stated that they will be getting new ways to track and better estimate the
22. current population allowing them to help watch the rise of the bobcats. In turn, also
23. watch for potential downfalls. They have also stated that there are measures in place to
24. look at this every year to make sure that the population is not affected. Currently, the
25. bobcat population is monitored and controlled by season date lengths ranging from 10
26. days to two whole months for both hunting and for trapping, NOW;
27. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Michigan united conservation club supports nighttime
28. bobcat hunting with calling methods.

Proposed Resolution #3
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MTPCA

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Bear Trapping

1. **WHEREAS:** Michigan's overall black bear population has increased 29% from 2012-2023 with the lower peninsula growing 37% during the same time frame as part of a 160% increase in the lower peninsula since 1992, which has created a population distribution increase of 74% in the lower peninsula, resulting in a 300% increase in lower peninsula activity reports since 2012 (MDNR, Norton, 2023), and;
6. **WHEREAS:** There has been a 32% DECREASE in bear hunting licenses purchased during the same period (MDNR, Norton, 2023), and;
8. **WHEREAS:** The use of cable traps (foothold cable restraint) or cage-type live traps are acceptable means of take currently in use for bear by Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, many other government agencies, AND any licensed trapper in the state of Maine, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** Trapping of bear provides opportunity for another entire segment of Michigan hunters and trappers to participate in management of Michigan's largest furbearer, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** Trapping also provides much better ability for extreme selectivity and the ability to target SPECIFIC animals for management purposes, and;
17. **WHEREAS:** Increased participation opportunity, which in turn fuels the reciprocal causation of the consumptive sportsperson / resource relationship, is vital to the health of our natural resources, NOW;
20. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** MUCC will support the implementation of the trapping of black bears with foothold cable restraints and/or cage type live traps.

Proposed Resolution #4
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Abraham Downer, Individual Member

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Resolution to direct MUCC staff to lobby against the defunding of the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory

1. **WHEREAS:** the 2026 proposed federal budget includes cuts that would eliminate the
2. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), which is administered under the Department of the
3. Interior's United States Geological Survey (USGS), and;
4. **WHEREAS:** the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the killing, capturing,
5. selling, and trading of migratory birds and, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** the BBL issues permits that allow individuals and state agencies to
7. capture and band migratory bird species and, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** eliminating the BBL would result in no new banding permits to be issued to
9. the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and;
10. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR, Wildlife Division, requires a permit from the USGS BBL to
11. band migratory bird species in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** The MDNR relies on information from the USGS BBL to facilitate effective
13. bird management and conservation, set bag limits for hunting seasons, understand
14. population dynamics, understand species distribution and migration corridors, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR and BBL incur little cost for these programs based on the high
16. number of volunteers that are sub-permitted either under a MDNR biologist that holds
17. the master permit or the BBL directly, and;
18. **WHEREAS:** the USGS BBL is staffed by only about 15 employees, but have thousands
19. of volunteer banders, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** many migratory bird species, including game bird species, have been
21. facing population declines and habitat loss, and;
22. **WHEREAS:** residents and visitors of Michigan participate in a wide range of
23. recreational activities that revolve around migratory birds such as hunting, birding, and
24. research, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** there are many non-profits and groups operating in the State of Michigan
26. with direct interest in maintaining stable and sustainable populations of migratory bird
27. species, and;

28. **WHEREAS:** MUCC supports the utilizing "principles of sound scientific management" in
29. making decisions regarding the taking of game and to accomplish this supports the
30. gathering of the best available data for biologists to use. (i.e. Surveys, banding,
31. experiments, etc.), NOW;
32. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
33. support and advocate that the Department of the Interior cease any action that would
34. defund the USGS BBL.

Proposed Resolution #5

Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: George Lindquist, U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County Inc. Trustee

Proposed: December 6, 2025

Title: Balance Bear Numbers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

- 1. WHEREAS**, bear numbers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula have been intentionally
2. increasing for the last 12 years by tightly controlling the number of tags and length of
3. seasons, and may very well be at an all-time high, and
- 4. WHEREAS**, at the same time, deer numbers across the majority of the U.P. have been
5. on a decline due to quality habitat loss and a heavy predator load, and
- 6. WHEREAS**, the nine-year U.P. Predator/Prey Study found that bears are the second
7. largest predators of fawns, right behind coyotes. Other studies across the country have
8. shown similar results.
- 9. WHEREAS**, a study done in the Hiawatha National forest by Northern Michigan
10. University Professor Dr Terry DeBrian in the mid-1980s found that when a mother bear
11. caught a fawn, it would mame it and let her cubs play with it while she walked in
12. increasingly larger circles to actively search for the second fawn, and
- 13. WHEREAS**, deer and deer hunting are an important part of Michigan history and
14. culture, especially in the U.P., and are the state's number one game animal.
- 15. WHEREAS**, with such low deer numbers and high bear numbers, a better balance is
16. needed. Increasing the current number of bear tags would not hurt the resource one bit,
17. may reduce bear conflicts, reduce bear predation on fawns, and create more opportunities
18. for hunters. The current years-long timeframe to get a tag is ridiculous and a disservice
19. to all.

20. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC advocate for the number of bear tags

21. to be gradually increased in the Upper Peninsula. A bear population target of

22. approximately 9000 animals is to be held until the deer population shows signs of

23. sustained growth and stability.

24. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such measures fully recognize the importance of

25. maintaining a resilient, sustainable bear population, while encouraging a better balance

26. with deer.

Proposed Resolution #6

Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Bob Jones

Proposed: December 6, 2025

Title: Deer Management Flexibility Across Michigan

1. **WHEREAS**, Managing Deer in Michigan can be very difficult, and
2. **WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan has such a diverse landscape, with differences
3. Between the Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula, and
4. **WHEREAS**, Michigan's deer densities vary widely, with some areas facing
5. overabundance while others face scarcity, and
6. **WHEREAS**, there are predator load differences, climate differences, private land vs
7. public land, agricultural vs forested land differences, hunter density differences, and
8. **WHEREAS**, the Michigan DNR has tried to maintain regulatory uniformity statewide,
9. without success

10. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC support varying regulations for Deer

11. hunting. Including varying methods of take, bag limits, and season start dates, if
12. necessary, in different locations of the state.

Proposed Resolution #7

Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Bob Jones

Proposed: December 6, 2025

Title: Use of Crossbows

- 1. WHEREAS:** the Michigan deer herd is in crisis conditions in different parts of our state and
- 3. WHEREAS:** hunters under current regulations, bag limits, and harvest methods have not been able to reach the desired density levels, proper sex ratios and
- 6. WHEREAS:** the buck-to-doe ratio is causing biological issues, with an extended breeding season, through three estrus cycles, and
- 8. WHEREAS:** this has led to later-born fawns and our bucks being under nourished going into winter, and
- 10. WHEREAS:** last year's DMI and this year's DAT are pushing for a one buck regulation, there are other options, and
- 12. WHEREAS:** last year, there were approximately 20,000 hunters over a three-month period that harvested two bucks, there were 24,800 shot just during the month of October with crossbows, and
- 15. WHEREAS:** at the beginning of breeding (November 9, 2025), we had approximately 45,707 bucks were harvested that never reached breeding season, with approximately 36,500 harvested with crossbows, and

19. WHEREAS: we are at a point where the combined harvest of bucks prior
20. to the first doe being bred is reaching 50,000, with most of the harvest
21. coming from crossbow usage, and

22. WHEREAS: the crossbows of today are not the same tool as adopted
23. for full inclusion, and have led to overharvest of bucks before
24. breeding, NOW;

25. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Michigan United Conservation
26. Clubs (MUCC) supports specific time restrictions on the usage of
27. crossbows.

28. BE FURTHER RESOLVED: that MUCC supports the restriction on
29. Crossbows usage during the month of October in zones 1 and 2, and
30. opening on November 1-14, and

31. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that MUCC supports crossbow usage in
32. October in zone 3 for antlerless deer only, and for either sex starting
33. November 1 – 14,

34. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that exclusions for youth 15 and under,
35. and
36. Seniors over 65 and those with documented disabilities will still be
37. allowed to participate in the entire October bow season