

FUNDING
Great Lakes Commercial Fishing Programs
Expenses, Revenues and Yields

To manage the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior commercial fish species programs the Department of Natural Resources incurs expenses in two primary areas, Fisheries Management program expenses and Law Enforcement program expenses. For fiscal year 1996 the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection expended \$200,000 for Great Lakes commercial fishery management programs. This figure includes salary, supplies, travel and equipment.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement's current effort for commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer enforcement requires four (4) full time employee positions annually. The total annual law enforcement cost of this effort is \$318,564. This cost includes salary, squad, radio, equipment, travel, phone, office space and supplies. (It must be noted that the 1995 workload analysis showed that a minimum Law Enforcement effort should be 5.42 FTE positions).

The Bureau of Legal Services also has expenses for work accomplished specifically for the commercial fishing program and the Commercial Fishing Board. This expense amounts to \$23,180 annually.

Revenues received from activities directly related to Great Lakes commercial fish species are received from commercial fishing license revenues and wholesale fish dealer license revenues. There is a total of 116 licensed commercial fishermen on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan and each licensee pays \$900 (\$5,600.00 for non-residents) for his/her commercial fishing license. Additional revenues come from license transfers and multiple boats used under existing licenses. During fiscal year 1997 (July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997) the Department received \$127,975 in revenues from the Commercial Fishing licensee's. In addition, another \$15,800 was received from the 158 Wisconsin licensed Wholesale Fish Dealers.

The revenue vs. expenses ratio for the commercial fishing programs are:

Revenues		
Commercial Fishing Licenses and Transfers	\$127,975	(97-98)
Wholesale Fish Dealer License sales	\$ 15,800	
Total Revenues	\$143,775	
 Expenses		
Fish Management Programs	\$200,000	
Law Enforcement Expenses	\$318,564	
Legal Services Expenses	\$ 23,180	
Total Expenses	\$541,744	
 Total Program Deficit		 (\$397,969)

Shortfalls in commercial fishing revenues are covered primarily by hunting and sport fishing license fee revenues.

*The department does receive nonmonetary support from commercial fishermen through voluntary assessments in studies and statistical data. This monetary value has not been determined and is not included in these figures.

The commercial fishing industry in Wisconsin harvested 5,449,512 pounds of commercial species of fish during the 96/97 quota year (July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997). The breakdown of poundage by species and relative estimated wholesale value of these commercial species of fish is as follows:

Table 1: Breakdown of Poundage by Species and Estimated Wholesale Value

Species	Lake * Michigan	Lake *** Superior	Wholesale Value/lb	Estimated Value
Whitefish	1,695,435		\$1.25	\$2,119,293.75
Whitefish		350,000	\$.60	\$210,000.00
Whitefish Roe	41,889		\$5.00	\$209,445.00
Menominee	669		\$.70	\$468.30
Chub	2,187,565		\$.85	\$1,859,430.25
Chub		51,000	\$.30	\$15,300.00
Chub Roe	151,530		\$5.50	\$833,415.00
Smelt	664,406		\$2.00	\$1,328,812.00
Smelt		8,000	\$.50	\$4,000.00
Perch ****	204,437		\$2.40	\$490,648.80
Lake Trout		35,000	\$1.50	\$52,500.00
Siscowet		59,000	\$.30	\$17,700.00
Herring		194,000	\$.20	\$38,800.00
Herring Roe		5,562	\$2.50	13,905.00
TOTAL	4,945,931.0	702,562.00		\$7,193,718.10

* Round Weight

*** Jan 1 - December 31, 1996 (Dressed Weight)

**** Green Bay

Funding

1. Current funding is inadequate to support fisheries management associated with the commercial fishing industry.
2. Current funding is inadequate to support law enforcement programs associated with the commercial fishing industry.

ail and Possible Solutions

1. **Current funding is inadequate to support fisheries management associated with the commercial fishing industry.**

Discussion: Current funding sources include State Segregated Funds and limited Federal funding. Segregated Funds include: hunting and fishing license fees, commercial fishing license fees, and wholesale fish dealers license fees. These fees are not generating enough revenue to meet our current needs. We anticipate that future needs will also suffer from insufficient funding.

Solutions to Problem #1:

- A. Increase license fees for commercial fishing licenses, wholesale fish dealers licenses; establish fees for commercial fishing crew licenses.
 - B. Charge a fee for fish harvested.
 - C. Increase the funding from GPR and other alternative sources.
 - D. Replace the quota fishery with a contract fishery based on sealed bids.
2. **Current funding is inadequate to support law enforcement programs associated with the commercial fishing industry.**

Discussion: Current funding sources include State Segregated Funds. Segregated Funds include: hunting and fishing license fees, commercial fishing license fees and wholesale fish dealers license fees. These fees are not generating enough revenue to meet our current needs. We anticipate that future needs will also suffer from insufficient funding.

Solutions to Problem #2:

- A. Increase license fees for commercial fishing license, wholesale fish dealers license, and crew licenses.
- B. Charge a fee for fish harvested.
- C. Increase the funding from GPR and other alternative sources.
- D. Revise regulations to improve compliance.
- E. Statutory revision to allow courts to assess violators and reimburse the Department for the cost of the investigation.