

**Resolution of the
Wisconsin Aquaculture Association
&
Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council
In Support of Funding Three Aquaculture Outreach Specialists Positions
by the State of Wisconsin**

Whereas Wisconsin Aquaculture is a small, diverse but an important agriculture industry raising food fish, baitfish and gamefish with over 2300 registered fish farms, contributing \$21 million in economic activity in the state, providing live bait for the \$2.7 billion sport fishing industry, and

Whereas Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry is mostly comprised of family run farms paying over \$1.2 million in taxes (excluding school districts), providing 441 full time jobs, which are extremely important to rural economies of the state, and

Whereas the Aquaculture Outreach Program started in 2007, has responded to critical requests of the industry, shown by 17,253 direct contacts, representing a 30% per year increase in contacts by established and prospective farmers, along with a total of 245 farm visits addressing specific concerns of individual farmers, and

Whereas the three Aquaculture Outreach Specialists in UW-Extension have been “the best asset ever made available to Wisconsin fish farmers”, providing an “overwhelming positive force” for the economic growth and sustainability of the industry, and

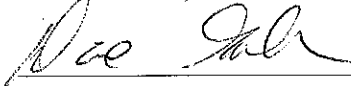
Whereas the Aquaculture Outreach Specialists, by research analysis, educational programs, and ombudsman duties, providing workshops, conferences, hands on farm visits and direct contact with the public, have been essential to helping the industry survive difficult challenges and for the industry becoming proactive in marketing a positive educational message for consumers, and

Whereas Federal funding for the Aquaculture Outreach program is ending

Therefore be it Resolved that WAA and WAIAC recommend that the three Aquaculture Outreach Specialists and Aquaculture Program be funded by the State of Wisconsin administered by UW-Extension, to ensure job growth, strengthen linkages, and therefore development of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry continues.

Signed:

Dave Gollon, WAIAC



Date: 12-10-10

Jeff Taylor, President WAA



Date: 12-10-10