

Originating Committee: Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries

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Intended Recipient: State legislators, university administrators, resource management agencies

Restoration of Fisheries Professors at Missouri's Universities

WHEREAS, declining state appropriations to Missouri's universities has caused Fisheries professor positions to remain vacant; and

WHEREAS, continued University budget cuts have substantially reduced the quality of fisheries education in Missouri and threatens to eliminate fisheries programs altogether; and

WHEREAS, since 1936 Missouri has been a leader in conservation, providing sound management of the state's forest, fish and wildlife resources by scientifically trained natural resource professionals; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishing is big business, serving both Missouri and non-resident anglers, supporting employment and contributing millions in economic benefits to the state annually; and

WHEREAS, research and training by aquatic resource professionals is needed to support future fisheries managers and scientists; and

WHEREAS, the educational system designed to train future aquatic professionals within the state, particularly undergraduate students, has been in decline for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's fisheries undergraduate students are being underserved, forcing employers to expend limited and valuable resources to recruit and train qualified employees; and

WHEREAS, a continued decline of funding and support for fisheries education in Missouri threatens Missouri's aquatic resources and jeopardizes Missouri's standing as a leader in fisheries and aquatic resource management; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 11th day of March 2018, believes scientific training and research by resource professionals are pivotal to healthy aquatic resources and great fisheries, and consequently encourages the restoration of public support for fisheries education at the university level; the Conservation Federation of Missouri strongly supports reinstating state funding for fisheries education at the university level and will send letters expressing their immense concern about the negative impact on fisheries and aquatic resources to state legislators, state governor, university administrators (MU, MSU, UCM and SEMO), and natural resource management agencies.

Searchable key words: fisheries education, aquatic resources, resource management

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