Press Release

Due to recent television coverage and controversy surrounding the online petition to ban muskellunge spearing on waters stocked with muskellunge, the Spearing Ban petition and request will not be distributed to the Michigan DNR district biologists. The effects of a public argument over muskellunge spearing would be detrimental to the public perception of muskellunge fishing and could have a more negative effect on the fishery than spearing. Michigan Muskie Alliance will not be dragged into name-calling and finger-pointing, it is our goal to work with other angling organizations, even those organizations that oppose our position to improve muskellunge fishing in Michigan. The number one concern of Michigan Muskie Alliance is the muskellunge fishery. Only through stocking, education and conservation will Michigan lakes provide type of muskellunge fishery that is enjoyed by anglers in states throughout the Midwest. Currently in Michigan, only Lake St. Clair provides a high quality muskellunge fishery, unfortunately, Lake St Clair is big water and not accessible to the average angler in Michigan. The president of the Michigan Darkhouse Anglers Association would have you believe that we are trying to exclude anglers, when in fact the exact opposite is true, we are trying to build a viable muskellunge fishery in Michigan that can be enjoyed by all anglers. I’m sure conservation organizations like; Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have had their share of criticism from opposing organizations. However, where would our Duck, Turkey and Elk populations be without the effort of these organizations? Through their education and restoration efforts these species are now thriving and are being restored to areas where they once existed but were exterminated by uneducated, non-caring and not so practical sportsmen.

Michigan Muskie Alliance will continue to provide stocking and education assistance through our cooperative efforts with the Iowa and Michigan DNR, our Know the Difference sign project and other educational materials. We would gladly work with other organizations that show the foresight and willingness to put their agenda behind them and work for the benefit of the resource and to improve muskellunge fishing for all the angling residents of Michigan.

Thank you,

Will Schultz, President
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