



# TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 913  
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage  
February 14, 2018**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Assembly Bill 913.

Senator Tiffany and I have authored this proposal to legalize the taking of catfish by hand (also known as noodling), as well as by bow and crossbow. This sport has been popularized in the southern United States but is gaining in popularity in Wisconsin. I am fortunate to have prime catfish water in and around my district, and this is a great way to generate new interest in fishing as well as increase tourism to the area.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this proposal.



# TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

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### **Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage**

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Thank you Chairman Kleefisch and members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage for allowing me to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 913.

Channel and flathead catfish are a newly emerging sport fishery in Wisconsin. In fact, Wisconsin's largest predatory fish, the flathead catfish, is quickly becoming a highly sought after trophy. Although Wisconsin's catfish do not enjoy the widespread glamour and status as in the southern United States, they are becoming more popular with Wisconsin's anglers, including those wishing to noodle.

The art of catching fish by hand, also referred to as noodling, has been well-documented in folk lore since our nation's birth. While noodling describes the capture of all fish by hand, catfish are the most commonly noodled fish. The sport of noodling has continued to gain popularity as its epicenter moves farther north up the Mississippi River. In Wisconsin, the angling methods of hand capture, bow and arrow and crossbow are restricted to only rough fish.

Assembly Bill 913 will expand on the current law by allowing the capture of catfish by hand or bow and arrow or cross bow. Assembly Bill 913 will not change any other current laws. All bag and size limits, season dates, or zoning restrictions will remain in place.

Thank you Chairman Kleefisch and members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage for hearing Assembly Bill 913. I would appreciate your support.

Tom Tiffany  
Wisconsin State Senator  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District