



TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 766

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry

Wednesday, February 14th, 2018

Thank you Members of the Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 766.

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.

Senate Bill 766 will expand on the current law by allowing the capture of catfish by hand or bow and arrow or cross bow. Senate Bill 766 will not change any other current laws. All bag and size limits, season dates, or zoning restrictions will remain in place.

Thank you members of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry for hearing Senate Bill 766. I would appreciate your support.

Tom Tiffany
Wisconsin State Senator
12th Senate District



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 766.

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.