

Russ Decker
State Senator

SB 412, NIGHT FISHING FOR ROUGH FISH

Senate Bill 412 passed the Senate last Thursday on a voice vote. At the April 1995 Spring Conservation Congress hearings, all five counties that were given the opportunity to vote on this proposal, supported allowing bowfishers to shine for rough fish at night. Marathon, Dodge, Sauk, Rock and Columbia counties overwhelmingly supported the Conservation Congress question.

The bill would allow bowfishers to shine for rough fish during the normal bowfishing season. In the southern part of the state, the season is open year round. In the northern part of the state the bowfishing season coincides with the angling season to avoid overlapping the spring spawning season.

Enclosed are letters of support from the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Bowfishing Association of America and the Bowfishing Association of Michigan.

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6 June 95

Chris Cass
1703 Excalibur Dr.
Janesville, WI 53546

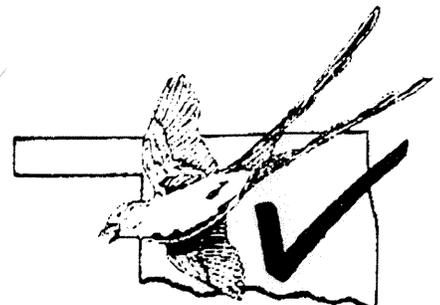
Dear Mr. Cass:

In response to your questions about bowfishing at night, Oklahoma's fishing regulations do allow bowfishing at night. A bow and arrow is a legal means of taking nongame fish, and it is not restricted to daytime only.

As for problems associated with this activity, we have not had any serious problems. I am not aware of any enforcement problems and Barry Bolton of our Fisheries Division concurs that nighttime bowfishing is a minor activity and presents no significant problems. If our agency can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kyle Eastham
Law Enforcement Division



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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
64 NORTH UNION STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 301456
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-1456

FOR JAMES, JR.
GOVERNOR

JAMES D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

June 8, 1995

DIVISION OF GAME & FISH
CHARLES D. KELLEY
DIRECTOR

M. N. "CORKY" FUGH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mr. Chris Cass
1703 Excalibur Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

Dear Mr. Cass:

Thanks for your interest in Alabama's Night Bow Fishing Regulations. Alabama's Bow Fishing Regulations have been in place long enough to be able to safely state that it is one of the least violated legal methods for taking nongame fish.

We have seen no need for any special concerns in using a light for night Bow Fishing. If we can be of further assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lt. Donald J. Brooks".

Lieutenant Donald J. Brooks
Enforcement Section

DJB/blmb



BOWFISHING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

619 Elm Court
Monticello, Arkansas 71655

Gentlemen.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the concerned bowfishermen of your state. But first off, let me introduce ourselves. The Bowfishing Association of America, (B.A.A.) was formed in 1990, to promote the sport of bowfishing, and it's been my pleasure to see bowfishing become more popular every year. Not only as a competitive sport, but as a recreational hobby.

Because of bowfishing growth, and the lack of communication between bowfishermen across the country, the B.A.A. helps serve as an information base, as well as a sanctioning body for bowfishing tournaments. This keeps us busy trying to keep ourselves informed, as well as our members.

We have been contacted by bowfishermen from your state, whom we understand are lobbying to open your bowfishing season to night shooting. And this letter is to show our support for this cause. Please understand that we realize you have many concerns, and we don't pretend to know all of your regional problems, but also understand that this is not the first time that bowfishermen as a group, have addressed this same issue. Here in my home state of Arkansas, in 1988, the Arkansas Bowhunters Association, lobbied the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to institute night bowfishing, on a trial basis, and found no reason to continue the ban of night time shooting of fish. This open minded attitude of our Game & Fish Commission, helped promote bowfishing to the point of bringing many new people to the sport, and insuring license sales for years to come, but it also helped promote the economy by the sales of new boats, motors, gas, sporting goods and money paid to resort areas.

We hope that you will take time to give this matter serious thought and assure that your bowfishermen will abide by whatever decision you make, hopefully things will work out that everyone can be pleased with this.

In closing, I would like to say how happy I am to see State law makers and sportsmen working together and would hope that if any of you have not tried bowfishing, you would ask the bowfishermen to take you along. It's an exciting sport that I'm sure you will agree deserves a fair break.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

LANCE SULLENTROP
B.A.A. PRESIDENT



Bowfishing Association of Michigan Inc.

March 28, 1995

Rick Sanders, Secretary
Bowfishing Association of Michigan, Inc.
10948 Range Line Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
tele. (616)-471-3823

Chris Cass
1703 Excalibur Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

Chris:

Thank you for sharing with us the limitations sportsmen in Wisconsin, in particular, bowfishing sportsmen face in your state. Bowfishing is regulated under Michigan spearing laws and as such, has allowed the taking of nuisance or rough fish twenty-four (24) hours a day during the spearing season. Unfortunately, this does not happen in Wisconsin.

Rough fish, such as carp, suckers, gar and bowfin have competed successfully against more popular gamefish such as bass, pike, perch, panfish and the like. Carp, in particular are not native to North America. They have no natural predators once they reach about three pounds and can begin spawning in two years with females laying as many as two million eggs. Their natural feeding habit of eating off the bottom of lakes in rivers depresses a body of water's ability to naturally cover up contaminants. Carp that exceed five pounds generally cannot be consumed due to the build-up of contaminants in their fat. And, again, carp are so prolific, they crowd out game fish from their habitat.

Beyond the negative effects these rough fish cause, the pursuit of these fish at night is highly more successful. With the use of lanterns or quartz lighting, the number of fish taken by night is considerably more than taken during the day. Aspects of this type of bowfishing are much more popular to the average sportsmen to the point where most bowfishing tournaments in Michigan are held exclusively at night. And, tournament bowfishing has become so popular that the creation of bowfishing clubs and organizations has grown tremendously in the past decade - making bowfishing the second fastest growing archery sport.



Bowfishing Association of Michigan Inc.

The Bowfishing Association of Michigan is such an organization. It is dedicated to enhancing, preserving and promoting the sport, competition and history of the sport of bowfishing within the state and nationally. Therefore, the Bowfishing Association of Michigan heartily endorses your efforts to secure night bowfishing in Wisconsin. The association also hopes your efforts to educate, inform and legislate the rules of bowfishing are done so under the highest of ethical and moral constraints. May we be of service at your beck and call.

Yours in Bowfishing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Rick Sanders', is written over a horizontal line.

Rick Sanders, Secretary
Bowfishing Association of Michigan, Inc.