

Monday, October 9, 2017

House Natural Resources Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Committee Members:

Please vote "no" on SB 316. SB 316 would repeal current Michigan law, which states that frog spearing with aid from an artificial light is illegal. Furthermore, it would allow the expansion of the hunting season of frogs in Michigan.

Frogs are an important indicator species in Michigan. SB 316 could harm local frog populations, thereby causing harm to our ecosystems.

Spearing frogs is extremely cruel. Ruth Marcec, DVM, the director of National Amphibian Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoological Society says, "Studies have shown that frogs feel pain, and that death in this manner is incredible slow and agonizing. While a frog may appear dead, it often takes many hours to actually die from spearing. It is important that protections against this inhumane practice remain in place in Michigan state wildlife policy."

I urge you to oppose SB 316.

Thank you,



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Here Today Gone Tomorrow

Vote NO on Unsustainable Frog Hunting SB 0316

Frog hunting, also called "gigging", targets large individuals for the consumption of frog legs. Amphibian populations are severely declining worldwide and falling by about 3.79 percent annually in North America.¹ This legislation has the potential to exhaust local populations of important bio-indicator species, impacting the water quality of a state known for Pure Michigan. Outdoor recreation ought to be enjoyed across generations but removing protections on these already declining species jeopardizes our natural resources for generations to come.

What will the bill change?

SB 0316 repeals legislation passed in 1929 and would permit:

- Hunting Frogs at night with the aid of an artificial light
- Hunting frogs during their migration and breeding season November 16-June.

How will this impact frog populations?

Many frogs are active at night where they are more likely to be seen floating along open water. Shining a light blinds frogs, making them easily approachable for a large unsportsmanlike harvest. This practice is illegal when hunting other animals, such as deer.

Most Michigan frogs breed during the spring. Hunting during this period aborts their eggs in addition to removing adults.



Bull Frog: Once common statewide, numbers have fallen due to overharvesting of frog legs.² Bull frog tadpoles mature into frogs later than other species and take several years to reach large breeding sizes capable of laying eggs.

Green Frog: Found throughout Michigan, are important in reducing nutrient pollution present in agricultural runoff. Nitrogen pollution is harmful to humans even at low concentrations.³



Leopard Frog: Once Michigan's most common frog, numbers have drastically fallen and are now locally rare.⁴ Leopard Frogs are insect predators that can be easily confused with Pickerel Frogs, a Michigan protected Species of Special Concern.



¹U.S Geologic Survey Website, "New Research Confirms Continued, Unabated and Large-Scale Amphibian Declines: Local Action Key to Reversing Losses", <https://www.usgs.gov/news/new-research-confirms-continued-unabated-and-large-scale-amphibian-declines-local-action-key>, retrieved 7-23-2017

²Department of Natural Resources website, "Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)", http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12145_12201-60118--,00.html, retrieved 7-23-2017

³U.S Environmental Protection Agency Website, "Nutrient Pollution: The Problem" <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/problem>, retrieved 7-23-2017

⁴Department of Natural Resources website, "Northern Leopard Frog (Rana pipiens)", http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12145_12201-60114--,00.html, retrieved 7-23-2017