

Senators Allen, Barcia, Cropsey, Van Woerkom, Pappageorge, Garcia, Kuipers and Jansen offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 54.

A resolution to request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extend indefinitely the depredation order for double-crested cormorants.

Whereas, The double-crested cormorants are dramatically depleting the public and private fishing industry throughout the Great Lakes and on inland lakes and streams. The destruction of the fisheries population is causing havoc to our recreational, tourist, and commercial industries; and

Whereas, The cormorants are also causing tree and vegetation destruction at an accelerated rate. The destruction is not limited to natural resources, but includes bridge and lighthouse deterioration. Public swimming beaches are being closed due to cormorant feces which poses a public health hazard in addition to its excessive and unpleasant odor; and

Whereas, The increase of the double-crested cormorant population has caused significant devastation to Michigan's Les Cheneaux Islands, destroying vegetation and depleting the yellow perch population. The cormorant population increase is being reversed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services reduction program which includes egg oiling. This program has led to improved fish reproduction and improvements in the fish populations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extend indefinitely the depredation order for double-crested cormorants; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Division, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.