

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5330L.031

2 **Whereas**, sport fishing is a great industry, recreation, and occupation in Missouri;
3 and

4 **Whereas**, hand fishing, which is also referred to as "noodling", for channel, blue,
5 and flathead catfish is one of the ultimate challenges in the arena of sport fishing; and

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7 **Whereas**, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service survey in 2001 found that
8 there are approximately 467,000 catfish anglers in Missouri over the age of sixteen and by
9 Missouri law, they can catch five flathead fish 365 days a year or 1,825 flathead fish for each
10 permit sold; and

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12 **Whereas**, Dr. Mark Morgan at the University of Missouri-Columbia conducted a
13 study and found that there are approximately 2,000 hand fishers in Missouri, who are asking the
14 Missouri Department of Conservation to allow them to hand catch five channel, blue, or flathead
15 catfish in a sixty-day statewide season for each permit sold, which would be 0.000012 percent
16 of the available catch of catfish anglers; and

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18 **Whereas**, the Missouri Department of Conservation is responsible for all Missouri
19 state fishing and game regulations and should provide hand fishers with appropriate information
20 and regulations; and

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22 **Whereas**, recognizing and respecting the Research Division of the Missouri
23 Department of Conservation, they should continue balanced research on hand fishing for
24 channel, blue, and flathead catfish; and

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26 **Whereas**, it is the desire for some sport fishers to participate in hand fishing of
27 channel, blue, and flathead catfish in Missouri; and

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29 **Whereas**, hand fishing is a legalized sport in 12 States, 5 of which surround
30 Missouri; and

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32 **Whereas**, the legalization of hand fishing is supported by the Missouri Farm
33 Bureau, the Missouri Farmer's Union, MoFED, and the Missouri Trappers Association; and

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35 **Whereas**, Dr. Donald Jackson at Mississippi State University says "A catfish taken
36 in June, July, or August during the spawn is no different than a catfish taken in December or
37 January.":

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39 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
40 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
41 concurring therein, hereby strongly encourage the Missouri Department of Conservation to have
42 a regulated statewide hand fishing season for channel, blue, and flathead catfish from June first
43 to July fifteenth beginning in 2007 to allow hand fishers to take five of these fish by hand; and

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45 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
46 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
47 Commissioners of the Missouri Department of Conservation.