**From:** George Meyer [mailto:georgemeyer@tds.net]
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 3:09 PM
**Subject:** DNR's Proposed General Permit for Dredging Will Cause Damage to Fish and Wildlife Habitat
**Importance:** High

All, I think virtually all of our groups opposed AB 600 in the last session of the Legislature including the provision to allow 30 cubic yards of dredging of any landowner on any inland lake and 100 cubic yards by a landowner on the Great Lakes. Substantively, the only difference with the DNR’s proposed General Permit is that the 30 cubic yards is reduced to 25 cubic yards….The damage both on individual sites and cumulatively on a lake will still occur. I have been working with our members and other conservation and environmental groups  to oppose this general permit. Here is the information that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been sending out to members and groups. It explains the above attachments and gives a simple message that the average sportsman and woman can share with the DNR. Numbers of responses will be critical.  I suspect that our organizations either individually or as a groups will likely send a more detailed letter to DNR like we did with AB 600. The only way to challenge this general permit approach is through the courts, the Legislature and the Natural Resources Board do not have a review of it. This process is the whole ball game. I will be at a CWD meeting in Nashville for most of this week but can be reached by phone or email.

**1.**     **Please get this out to all of your contacts. If they cannot make the hearings in Fitchburg on Tuesday on the 14th or Thursday on the 16th, please have them get as many emails to letters with comments, even if very brief, to the DNR by March 3 through these two contacts: , to****dnrwywrzguidance@wisconsin.gov****or by standard mail to: Waterway Policy Coordinator, Bureau of Watershed Management, DNR-WT/3,PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921.**

**2.**     **Regarding the attachments, the top two attachments in red are very accurate fact sheets put together by Clean Wisconsin regarding  proposed legislation (B 600)  defeated in the last session of the Legislature by outdoor recreationist and sportsmen and women and is almost identical to the same proposal as DNR is proposing as a general permit except the proposal was for 30 cubic yards in the legislation rather than 25 cubic yards in the proposed  DNR General Permit, otherwise the concerns are the same as the lower attachment which the WWF has put together regarding the current DNR proposal.**

**3.**     **This is the type of message that I am encouraging outdoor recreational users and sportsmen and women to send in their messages to DNR. They should put it in their own words and add their personal story and concerns to it.**

**I  that use our inland lakes for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The near shore areas of our lakes are vital habitat for fisheries, waterfowl and furbearers. I am greatly concerned with the DNR’s proposed General Permit to allow every landowner on every lake in Wisconsin to dredge 25 cubic yards of lakebed in front of their property over the next five years. This is vital fish and wildlife habitat which may be destroyed at the dredging location and together with other such dredging projects on the lake would seriously affect the lake’s fish and wildlife.**

**The permit allows the dredging of natural woody structure in the near shore area which provides habitat and while the proposed general permit indicates that the landowner cannot remove hard bottom material or native plants, many riparian landowners may not have the knowledge or the interest to disclose that information to DNR because it means that they would not get their permit.**

**DNR should not issue this general permit but if you do require it to 1. provide that no dredging can take place unless a DNR biologist does an evaluation to determine that there will be no damage to fish and wildlife habitat and 2. that DNR must do an evaluation of what fish and wildlife habitat impact would take place from multiple such dredging projects on the lake and 3. that DNR or the landowner be required to notify the adjacent landowners, the lake association and local sporting clubs about the project before DNR allows the project to go forward.**

**Please let me know if you need additional information. High numbers of responses to DNR are critically important.**

**Thank you,**

**George Meyer**

**Executive Director**

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**

**608-516-5545**