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Northwestern

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Report shows state must protect fishing assets

Thank you, Catherine Neiswender and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. For a survey that many people have been waiting for, for a long time. "The economic impact of fishing to a five county region."

In your Sunday July 2, Oshkosh Northwestern article it is stated that fishing is worth in excess of \$221 million, a year, to the area. This is the same thing that sportsman clubs like the Otter Street Fishing Club, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Walleyes for Tomorrow and many more have been saying for a long time.

The boating industry has made the claim that opening the Fox Locks could mean \$25 million to the area a year. This comes out about \$200 million short, in comparison to a fishery that could be decimated.

With the fact that there are over 4,000 exotic species in transit worldwide, at any given time. To name a few, European Rudd, spiny water flea, sea lamprey and white perch. Will the protection to the Winnebago system be up to the tats, when the fox locks are opened? Zebra mussels are the proof the exotics do transfer.

Lake Winnebago has one of the only lake sturgeon fisheries in the world. When it is found out that a mistake was made it can't be corrected! Alone with the upper river fishing, can Wisconsin afford to roll the dice?

With the Wisconsin DNR checking and giving out citations to people who do not clean their boats at landings to prevent the spread of exotic species. We shouldn't take the chance of opening the Fox Locks, a system that could increase the spread (of) exotic species.

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