

***Washington Island Sportsman and Conservation Club  
1635 Detroit Harbor Road  
Washington Island, Wisconsin 54246***

June 28, 2023

Bill Peterson  
Horicon NWR/Leopold WMD Complex Project Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge  
W4279 Headquarters Road  
Mayville, Wisconsin 53050

Mr. Peterson:

Based on our phone conversation, I am not sure what a “private” meeting between the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and a select group of Washington Island Sportsman’s Club members would accomplish. To date there have been no real answers to our Pilot Island and fisheries issues. I am requesting another FWS meeting this time with Charles Traxler in attendance. We do not want it to be a private listening session. It is the Sportsman’s Club policy these meetings be open to public access.

The devastation of Pilot Island and our fisheries has gone on over thirty one years. The WDNR recommended, years ago, FWS do something about the cormorant infestation in our area. This began with an endangered species that was brought back from near extinction. It was a bird we didn’t have in 120 years here. Is there a good reason to have 63% of these fish eating birds in the State of Wisconsin right here in our waters around Washington Island?

I am requesting FWS take action sooner than later to solve this problem. A fisheries study specific to our area is long overdue. The fisheries in Detroit Harbor are getting close to being wiped out. It is not just the cormorants, but the pelicans too, damaging our fish population.

Please take some affirmative action to resolve the environmental issues created by these birds!

Sincerely,



Martin Andersen, President  
Washington Island Sportsman and Conservation Club

CC: Charles Traxler  
Martha Williams  
Deb Haaland