



DOOR COUNTY

Resolution No. 2023-20

REQUESTING THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE REMEDIATE AND REMOVE FUTURE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF BIRDS RESIDING ON PILOT ISLAND

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

ROLL CALL Board Members	Aye	Nay	Exc.
AUSTAD	X		
BEARDSLEY	X		
BULTMAN	X		
CHOMEAU		X	
D. ENGLEBERT	X		
R. ENGLEBERT	X		
ENIGL			X
FISHER			X
GAUGER	X		
GUNNLAUGSSON	X		
HEIM PETER	X		
KALMS	X		
LIENAU	X		
MILLER	X		
MORKIN		X	
NORTON	X		
ROBILLARD	X		
RUSNAK	X		
THAYSE			X
VOGEL	X		
ZETTEL	X		

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st Gunnlaugsson Defeated

2nd R. Englebert

Yes: 16 No: 2 Exc: 3

Reviewed by: [Signature], Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: [Signature], Administrator

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution. STW

Certification:

I, Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 24th day of February, 2023 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

[Signature]
Jill M. Lau
County Clerk, Door County

1 WHEREAS, The Washington Island Sportsman's Club has requested the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 Service (FWS) to change the use of Pilot Island solely as a colonial bird sanctuary to an island
3 that benefits the public's best interest and considers local and environmental and ecological impacts; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The Town of Washington and Town of Liberty Grove have sent letters to FWS about the
6 issues associated with the use of Pilot Island as a colonial nesting bird site; and
7

8 WHEREAS, FWS has failed to satisfactorily address concerns about environmental impacts, impacts
9 to local fisheries, impacts to local wildlife and impacts to recreational activities; and
10

11 WHEREAS, In 2021 there were 9,765 Pilot Island cormorants eating an average of 1.25 lbs. of fish a
12 day (12,210 lbs. per day). This equates to the cormorants reducing our local fisheries through predation
13 by approximately 1,111 tons (2,222,000 lbs.) of fish each year (over 182 days). To understand how
14 many fish this is, let's assume that each car going to the ferry would hold 200 lbs. of fish in the
15 trunk. You would need 11,111 cars to carry the fish. If each car was 15 feet long, the line of cars would
16 span 31.56 miles if cars were bumper-to-bumper (FWS numbers were used in the fish calculations), and
17

18 WHEREAS, The fish spawning grounds that once thrived in the Pilot Island waters no longer exist
19 due to cormorant predation and the water quality issues from the bird guano; and
20

21 WHEREAS, The E. coli levels near and around Pilot Island, as determined by the University of
22 Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the Environmental and Innovation Research Center (ERIC), have made the
23 waters surrounding Pilot Island unfit for fishing, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and diving; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Testing will be performed in 2023 to determine if guano has infiltrated the Forest, J.E.
26 Gilmore, and A.P. Nichols shipwrecks (National Register of Historical Places #92000103) to
27 ensure divers will be safe in the potentially polluted waters; and
28

29 WHEREAS, The historic value of the active Lighthouse (built 1858) and Fog Signal Building on Pilot
30 Island (National Register of Historic Places #83004279) have been severely compromised since FWS
31 acquired the Island in 2007; and
32

33 WHEREAS, Tourists and visitors often ask, "what is that island that looks like it has been bombed."
34 Then, a local resident or ferry worker will explain the devastation that birds have had on Pilot Island.
35 Tourists, local residents, fisherman and boaters have complained about the smell emanating from Pilot
36 Island, as far away as Detroit Harbor on Washington Island and the Town of Liberty Grove; and
37

38 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Door County Board of Supervisors strongly disapproves
39 of the current use of Pilot Island as a colonial bird rookery, and asks that approval be given to the U.S.
40 Fish and Wildlife Service to the restore the local environment, wildlife, fisheries and historical structures,
41 removing the problems on Pilot Island that impact the surrounding Door County communities and its
42 citizens, and
43

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Door County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to
45 Martha Williams, Director of Fish and Wildlife, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington DC 20240.

SUBMITTED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

[Signature]
David Lienau, Chairperson

[Signature]
David Englebert

[Signature]
Daniel Austad

[Signature]
David Enigl

[Signature]
Elizabeth Gauger

[Signature]
Nancy Robillard

[Signature]
Todd Thaysse