

Comment from Quality Lakes Inc.

The is a Comment on the **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Proposed Rule: Migratory Bird Permits: Management of Conflicts Associated with Double-Crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus) Throughout the United States**

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

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Quality Lakes Inc.

Comment

We are happy the USFWS is reinstating a permit program to allow regulated removal of DCCs. However we have seen in SC how the public perceives these efforts and at least in our region expect enough uninformed public resistance to squelch any DCC population control on public waters. I manage hundreds of privately owned waterways from 0.25 to 185 surface acres. Winter predation by DCCs on young sportfish, such as bluegill, and prey fish species, such as threadfin and gizzard shad, has nearly rendered quality sport fish management a game that only the wealthy few can afford (due to annual restocking necessary after DCC presence all winter). We have had private freshwater fisheries rendered to nearly nothing in two winters due to fish consumption by DCCs. The ability for private water owners and managers to acquire depredation permits for DCCs is just as important as public agencies, and likely more effective at reducing numbers of DCCs. Please add private waters to this permit process. It worked fine before with USFWS and State oversight. At the moment owners of private waters have no tools for battling DCC predation on their sport fish populations. Scare pistols, riding boats around, none of that baloney works as the birds are extremely conditionable. Also as your research shows (freshwater angler surveys every 4-5 years), fishing with family is a significant pivotal deciding factor on whether you have new, young anglers being recruited into a life-long license purchaser and supporter of natural resource conservation (not preservation, conservation). Most kids start on small privately owned ponds. Hard to recruit new anglers when 40 cormorants sit on your 5 acre pond for three months, decimating your fish. Please add private waters to this permit. Thank you.

Attachments (2)

[20161129_101728_resized](#)

View Attachment:  
[cormorants horseshoe](#)

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