

CFM Supports the Enforcement of the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Crayfish Regulation

1 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Conservation passed a regulation due to go into effect
2 March 1, 2012 to limit the importation, sale, or purchase of live crayfish in the state to prevent
3 future invasions of crayfish into water bodies, where they are not native;
4 **AND WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Conservation decided to delay enforcement of the
5 regulation until at least September while gathering more public input;
6 **AND WHEREAS**, this regulation prohibits selling, buying, and importing live crayfish for uses
7 other than human consumption, scientific research, or food for confined animals;
8 **AND WHEREAS**, this regulation allows anglers to harvest up to 150 crayfish per day from
9 Missouri waters for personal bait fishing use;
10 **AND WHEREAS**, anglers are forbidden to release live crayfish in any water body other than the
11 one in which they were caught;
12 **AND WHEREAS**, 40% of Missouri anglers surveyed by MDC released live bait into fishing
13 waters;
14 **AND WHEREAS**, moving crayfish species native to one region of the state to new regions or
15 bodies of water in the state where they are not native poses threats similar to importing non-native
16 species;
17 **AND WHEREAS**, MDC confirmed 22 invasions of non-native crayfish and suspects other
18 invasions remain undocumented;
19 **AND WHEREAS**, these invasions resulted in declines of seven native species, including three
20 recognized as state “Species of Conservation Concern”;

21 **AND WHEREAS**, crayfish invasions pose threats to aquatic ecosystems such as: ecological
22 damage to food chains, economic damage to fisheries, displacement of native species such as
23 crayfish, insects, mollusks, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, declines in sport fish, and disruption to
24 fish spawning through habitat destruction and predation on fish eggs;

25 **AND WHEREAS**, nine states and Canadian provinces passed some form of regulation restricting
26 the sale or use of live crayfish as bait;

27 **AND WHEREAS**, the proactive enforcement of this regulation would aid in the prevention of
28 future non-native crayfish invasions that would be very difficult or impossible and costly to
29 control;

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri
31 assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012
32 supports the prompt enforcement of the Missouri Department of Conservation's Crayfish
33 Regulation.