

DNR Board rebuffs new bid by Navy

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With all hands at battle stations, the state Natural Resources Board reaffirmed its opposition Thursday to any construction within the state of Seafarer, the Navy's proposed underground communication system for nuclear submarines.

A smaller version of the torpedoed Sanguine project which would have buried thousands of miles of cables under northern Wisconsin, Seafarer, the Navy says, involves only 20 miles of Wisconsin landscape plus 130 miles of Upper Michigan.

"Among unanswered questions for us," observed Board Chairman Clifford Messinger, "is how wide will the scope of this project be? We in Wisconsin have been burned too often by the military: on the Kickapoo and on the Bong Air Base. I think what they're after now is whatever they can get now."

"If the Navy gets this start," DNR Secretary Tony Earl told the Press Connection, "I think they would try

to expand it. But give them a toehold now and they'll have an armlock on you later. They really should find another way of communicating with those submarines."

In other actions, the Board voted:

- Support of prompt federal deauthorization of the LaFarge Dam Project on the Kickapoo River to enable the department to pursue acquisition of project lands needed for DNR programs.

- To recommend the Governor's Clean Water funding program to the legislature for passage, with the specific recommendation that the Wisconsin law limit grants to municipalities that comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which calls for the installation of upgraded waste treatment facilities for municipalities by July 1, 1983.

- Not to initiate a moose stocking program in the state.

- To authorize a special beaver trapping season for selected watersheds in 21 counties from March 27 through April 16 of this year.

- To confirm the appointment of commercial fisherman, Jim Maricque, Green Bay, to the Great Lakes Fishery Advisory Council.

Proposed changes in 1979 fishing regulations were also accepted by the Board and will be presented at County Conservation Congress hearings on April 24.

One statewide change would permit the taking of 10 trout during the first month of the general inland trout season of which only five can be rainbows or browns. Current May bag limit is five trout in aggregate.

One local change would remove the 22-inch minimum size limit on northern pike in waters of Dane, Jefferson and Rock Counties and increase the bag limit from two to five fish of any size.

In another unanimous action, board members memorialized their friend and colleague, Victoria McCormick of Waukesha, first and only woman ever to serve on the Natural Resources Board. She had served four years and had been reappointed at the time of her death last month.