

Resolution #1
Required 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Region 8 Executive Board
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Support FOIA When it Does Not Interfere with Science or Fair Chase

1 **WHEREAS,** "Fair Chase," as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and
2 lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, big game animal in a manner that does not give the
3 hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals; and

4 **WHEREAS,** it may be possible to use on-going scientific research studies to unethically gain information
5 on wild game. This could hinder the scientific study, and general public support for fair chase hunting;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS,** MUCC was the driving force behind the successful voter passage of Proposal G: a
8 referendum on Public Act 377 of 1996, which amended the Natural Resources and Environmental
9 Protection Act (NREPA) to grant the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) exclusive authority to
10 regulate the taking of game in this state. The amendment also requires the NRC, to the greatest extent
11 practicable, to use principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking of
12 game; and

13 **WHEREAS,** because all State of Michigan Commissions such as the NRC are mandated by law to
14 adhere to the Open Meetings Act, the information from these meetings must be available for review; and

15 **WHEREAS,** it is important and necessary for our state departments to be as transparent and open as
16 possible and must respond to citizen requests for information through use of the Freedom of Information
17 Act; and

18 **WHEREAS,** anyone, at any time should have the freedom to file FOIA request in an equitable and
19 speedy manner.

20 **WHEREAS**, allowing anyone to hinder a scientific study involving the state's flora or fauna conducted
21 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), directly impacts the NRC's ability to use
22 sound science when making natural resource decisions; and

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure
24 continued access to state and federal information, and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure the end user will
26 not use any information to jeopardize the definition of fair chase, or hinder any scientific study involving
27 flora or fauna.