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## Resolution 1997-03-08 Information Requested under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 1997-03-08**

**INFORMATION REQUESTED UNDER  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)**

**WHEREAS**, State and Federal agencies have concurrent jurisdiction under the Endangered Species Act for the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, the conservation of such species relies on sound scientific information regarding species distribution, population status, and habitat needs; and

**WHEREAS**, these data often are provided by resource management agencies, including Natural Heritage Programs, state wildlife agencies, universities, and federal resource management agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, recent federal court rulings preclude the ability of federal agencies to control the release of site specific information about the locations of wildlife, fish and plants requested under the Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability of the federal agencies to control the release of these data jeopardizes the willingness of state and local agencies, tribal authorities, and private property owners to share such information with agencies that are subject to FOIA; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability of the federal agencies to control the release of these data may, in certain instances, create a significant risk to both the species and to cooperative management efforts with state and local agencies, tribal authorities, and private landowners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges Congress to take immediate action to ensure the ability of federal agencies to control, on a case-by-case basis, the dissemination of site specific data necessary for the purposes of conserving threatened and endangered species.