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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1998-01-09

IN SUPPORT OF RECREATIONAL FISHERY ROUNDTABLES

WHEREAS, President Clinton has issued Executive Order 12962: *Recreational Fisheries* requiring Federal agencies, "...to the extent permitted by law and where practicable, and in cooperation with States and Tribes, improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities...", and;

WHEREAS, the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council established by the Executive Order has developed a *Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan* in consultation with the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council of which the President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and at least one other State Director are members; and

WHEREAS, the strategies of the *Conservation Plan* are to: (1) Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining populations where feasible; (2) Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access; (3) Promote public education and support for aquatic resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety; and, (4) Work collaboratively with State and willing Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups to advance aquatic resource conservation, enhance recreational fishing opportunities, utilize cost-share programs, and assist private landowners with aquatic resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council has moved to further the *Conservation Plan* through Recreational Fishery Roundtables; and

WHEREAS, States have a primary interest in many recreational fishery resources and as such are essential partners in cooperative projects with Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS States have served as the catalyst for pilot Roundtables held in Arkansas and Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the continued use of Recreational Fishery Roundtables as catalysts for bringing together federal and state agencies and other willing partners to improve recreational fishing opportunities and that the state fish and wildlife agencies provide leadership to establish these Recreational Fishery Roundtables.