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## Resolution 2008-02-05 Protecting and Enhancing the Value of Our Nation's Lakes

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 2008-02-05**

**PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE VALUE OF OUR NATION'S LAKES**

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Lakes Program, Section 314 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), was developed to protect and enhance lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation revealed lakes, including reservoirs and ponds are the most popular fishing spots for the nation's 30 million anglers, hosting over 304 million days of fishing per year and supporting an annual angler expenditure of over \$17.2 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the CWA was designed to ensure that the water resources of the United States could fulfill a variety of beneficial, designated uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Lakes Program (section 314 of the CWA) has not been funded since 1994, and less than 5% of Non-Point Source Program (Section 319) funds have been used for lake restorations which is wholly inadequate for meeting the goals of the CWA; yet lack of stewardship has caused serious deterioration of a significant portion of these aquatic habitats, the result being reduced economic value and public use. Yet a major share of our nation's lakes are not meeting the "swimmable and fishable" goals set forth in the Clean Water Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) has advocated for comprehensive, watershed-based approach to lake management used in the Clean Lakes Program and advocates the use of this model in the pursuit of support and funding for lake and reservoir protection and improvement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the use of the Clean Lakes Program model to restore the water quality and enhance recreational opportunities in the nation's lakes and calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to include funding support for the Clean Lakes Program, of 100 million dollars, in its next budget request.

*Approved by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee on September 9, 2008.*