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Resolution 2008-03-05 Supporting Improved Reporting of Hunting Incidents in the IHEA Incident Clearinghouse

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2008-03-05

**SUPPORTING IMPROVED REPORTING OF HUNTING INCIDENTS
IN THE IHEA INCIDENT CLEARINGHOUSE**

WHEREAS, The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) realizes the importance of collecting, analyzing and assimilating accurate hunting incident data and annually calls upon agencies to provide accurate and timely information on hunter incidents; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA has made improvements to the incident database making it easier to submit and compile data, these improvements include: creating a central clearinghouse database; developing, along with our members and partners, standardized reporting forms; standardized definition of a hunting incident, developing additional databases for non-firearm incident databases; and periodically revising and improving these reporting forms; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA offers, and encourages all agencies to receive incident investigation and reporting training by attending the IHEA National Hunting Incident Investigation Academy; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA whole heartedly supports efforts to improve the accuracy, completeness and timely reporting of hunting incidents to the central incident database; and

WHEREAS, hunting incident reporting for IHEA's Incident Clearinghouse, though improving, often lacks consistency and the detail necessary to clarify and qualify the nature of each incident, even though a detailed incident investigation and reporting form is available on the IHEA Website; and

WHEREAS, even though incident data as recent as 2007 is partially reported, 2003 was the last year in which the incident clearinghouse was considered complete, although fewer than 35 states reported; and

WHEREAS, the incident clearinghouse is the only national repository of hunting incident information, which is vital to documenting the safety of hunting, as well as identifying, understanding and addressing incidents and trends; and

WHEREAS the IHEA offers a hunting incident investigation academy for the purpose of training investigators in consistent incident investigation and reporting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each state should strive to contribute information that is timely, consistent, accurate, detailed and complete for each hunting related incident that occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that incident reporting for each year should be completed no later than June 1 of the following year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that steps are taken to ensure that incident information is presented consistently and with the necessary level of detail to clearly convey how and why the incident occurred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the image hunters project to the public rests on the capability to access and provide timely, consistent, accurate, detailed and complete information regarding the level of safety associated with hunting, and because the future of our hunting traditions depends, in large part, on identifying and addressing incident trends, it is critical that action be taken.

This resolution was approved by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.