

9-12-2002

Resolution 2012-05-06 Commemorating the 7th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs: America's Greatest Conservation Story

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Recommended Citation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 2012-05-06 Commemorating the 7th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs: America's Greatest Conservation Story* (2002),
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Resolution 2012-05-06

**COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WILDLIFE AND SPORTFISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS:
AMERICA'S GREATEST CONSERVATION STORY**

WHEREAS, hunters, anglers and trappers were among the first conservationists who supported the establishment of agencies to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and help fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within their borders resides in the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers and trappers supported excise taxes on hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration; and

WHEREAS, this user pay- public benefit system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950; and

WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 Billion since 1939, which collectively constitute the American System of Conservation Funding, the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations throughout the country;

WHEREAS, the manufacturers of hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the cooperative partnership between America's hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife and other natural resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, in this the 75th anniversary year of America's greatest conservation story, supported by the American System of Conservation Funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, an official copy of this resolution to be provided to the members of the Association so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, hunters, trappers, recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's natural resources.

Submitted by the Executive Committee

Adopted September 12, 2012
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina