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Resolution 1966-06-23 Opposing Construction of Rampart Canyon Dam

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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5. Standards for use of chemical pesticides by governmental agencies should be beyond reproach. Kinds of pesticides and concentrations used, application methods, and disposal of waste materials should be such that damage to desirable fish and wildlife, and contamination of the environment will be minimal. Careful records should be kept in all pesticide operations as to kinds and quantities of pesticides used, and evaluation should be made as to the effectiveness of control achieved and undesirable side effects. Where evaluation is deemed desirable, necessary funds should be provided by the agencies making the application.
6. Each state or province should establish a pesticide control committee to review every large-scale application of pesticides by state or provincial agencies. Such a committee should include representatives of conservation, public health, and conservation and agricultural agencies.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

CLEAN WATER

Whereas, maximum production of fish and game populations and top quality opportunities for harvest of these populations is dependent upon an abundant supply of clean water; and,

Whereas, much of our country's original production potential of fish and game and many fishing and hunting harvest areas have been lost due to water pollution; and,

Whereas, the stated purpose of the Federal Water Quality Control Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-234) is to enhance the quality and value of our water resources and to establish a national policy for the prevention, control and abatement of water pollution; and,

Whereas, said act calls for water quality standards to be established for interstate waters in each state by June 30, 1967, and further provides for public hearings to be held prior to adoption by the state of these standards;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that each state is urged to appear at those hearings and request that standards be adopted which will in truth carry out the purpose of the act; and,

Be it further resolved that each member of the association should take a leading role in urging other state agencies and citizen organizations to appear and let their views on water pollution control be made a matter of record.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

MIGRATORY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Whereas, the policies and philosophies applied to the management, including harvesting, of migratory wildlife directly or indirectly affect every conservation agency on the American continent; and,

Whereas, such policies and philosophies establish principles of management that have an effect on the management of resident wildlife; and,

Whereas, it is recognized that agencies of the respective Federal Governments through treaties and other legal acts have the primary responsibility for the management of migratory wildlife, but that this responsibility must be associated and coordinated with the responsibilities of State, Provincial and other sub-units of government in the management of migratory as well as resident wildlife; and,

Whereas, there presently is no established policy or philosophy to guide agencies responsible for the management of migratory wildlife;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners directs its Migratory Birds Committee to work with Federal Government agencies, including the U. S. Department of the Interior and the Canadian Wildlife Service, to establish a broad policy for the guidance of all agencies responsible for the management of migratory wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF RAMPART CANYON DAM

Whereas, plans are being made by the Corps of Army Engineers for the construction of a dam on the Yukon River to be known as the Rampart Canyon Dam, and this dam, if constructed, will rise 525 feet and, by flooding an area of approximately 11,000 square miles, will create a reservoir larger than Lake Erie; and,

Whereas, approximately 8,000 square miles of this region is prime waterfowl producing area, and in a normal year waterfowl production in the Yukon Flats is at least one and one-half million (1,500,000) ducks, geese and cranes, which equals all of the waterfowl produced in the province of Manitoba, or two times the production of the total National Wildlife Refuge System, and includes production of nine percent (9%) of the North America population of canvasbacks; and,

Whereas, the Rampart Dam is of direct interest to the Western States because the resulting depletion of waterfowl will have an adverse influence on this waterfowl population of the Western States inasmuch as recoveries from banding studies show that over half the birds produced on the Yukon Flats enter the Pacific Flyway; and,

Whereas, big game habitat where at least 5,000 moose live would be lost, and caribou, furbearers and small game (snowshoe hares, ptarmigan and three species of grouse) will be affected; and,

Whereas, in 1961, from the dam site and upstream, 22,000 king salmon plus 114,000 chum salmon were counted, and these runs plus unknown numbers of coho salmon will be lost; and,

Whereas, annual flooding prevention will make downstream valleys poor in wildlife because of drying, and will also change fish migration patterns and numbers; and,

Whereas, no plan for prevention of fish and wildlife losses has been published, and no funds have been made available nor plans initiated for compensating for such losses;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is unalterably opposed to the construction of the Rampart Canyon Dam on the Yukon River in Alaska.