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Resolution 1965-18-26 Colorado River Channelization and Phreatrophyte Control Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 15

OPPOSING A NATIONAL FISHING LICENSE

Whereas, the management of fisheries is vested in the state governments, and
Whereas, the fisheries resource is best managed on a state basis because of widely varying habitats, species, and fishing opportunities, and

Whereas, license fees and season setting are an intricate part of proper resource management,
Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes any move for a national fishing license.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

PRESERVATION OF SAGEBRUSH HABITAT

Whereas, approximately 60 million acres of sagebrush are found in the Western United States, and

Whereas, sagebrush is an essential habitat requirement for many wildlife species including big game birds, and

Whereas, land treatment and management practices of Federal land management agencies and private landowners have not always given adequate consideration to the retention of sufficient amounts of sagebrush to meet the habitat requirements of wildlife,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends the following general guidelines to Federal land managing agencies and Federal agencies providing technical advice or financial assistance to private landowners:

1. In order to provide joint planning, coordination should be initiated with state game departments at least one year in advance of proposed sagebrush control projects on a site-by-site basis.
2. Planning should consider but not be limited to plant density, limiting the size of blocked areas, leave strips along streams and around mountain meadows, season of wildlife use, safeguarding key areas such as key winter range areas, sage grouse strutting grounds, and alternative methods for meeting project requirements.
3. A comprehensive long-range, multiple-use plan meeting project objectives and giving full consideration to wildlife should be formulated prior to treatment on Federal lands,

And be it further resolved that the Association gives full support to an accelerated program of research designed to provide specific guidelines for sagebrush control programs that will protect and enhance wildlife values.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

CONTROL OF FISH DISEASES

Whereas, certain critical fish diseases such as infectious pancreatic necrosis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, and whirling disease (*Myxoxoma cerebralis*) seriously threaten salmonid fishery resources of the United States, and

Whereas, modern methods of transportation facilitate the rapid dissemination of these diseases as a result of international and interstate movements of trout eggs and live trout, and

Whereas, these diseases, once established, cannot be effectively treated, and

Whereas, it is in the national interest to prevent their further spread;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that a nationwide voluntary program to control the critical diseases of trout and salmon be developed by interested states under the leadership of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Be it further resolved that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service review the status of critical salmonid fish diseases periodically and recommend standard methods for the detection, identification, and control of such diseases; and

Be it further resolved that it should become a goal of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent the introduction of critical salmonid diseases into this country from other parts of the world and to prevent their movement from state to state; and

Be it further resolved that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service assist state and commercial fish interests with salmonid fish disease problems which exceed the latter's technical capabilities; and

Be it further resolved that a national reporting system be established under the guidance of the commission to define the geographical areas of infection of critical salmonid diseases, such information being essential to their control.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

COLORADO RIVER CHANNELIZATION AND PHREATOPHYTE CONTROL PROGRAM

Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation has embarked upon a program of channelization, bank stabilization, and phreatophyte control to salvage water in the Lower Colorado river from Davis Dam to the International Boundary with Mexico, and;

Whereas, the channelization and phreatophyte program, as presently formulated will be detrimental to fish, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values, and;

Whereas, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values have not received adequate consideration by the Bureau of Reclamation in planning the channelization program as required by federal policy, and;

Whereas, additional studies and information are needed to reappraise and reformulate the channelization program with full consideration of fish, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values, and;

Whereas, the States of Nevada, Arizona, and California have repeatedly attempted to review and make recommendations for fish and wildlife protection with a complete lack of success, and;

Whereas, there is widespread public concern over the channelization and phreatophyte control programs on the Lower Colorado river, and;

Whereas, once destroyed the fish, wildlife, aesthetic and recreational values cannot be fully replaced even with new water imports into the Colorado river basin,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners respectfully requests the Secretary of the Interior to adopt the following recommendations relative to the programs of channelization, water salvage and water development on the Lower Colorado river:

1. The Secretary direct an immediate reconsideration and re-evaluation of all channelization and water salvage projects not already under construction on the Lower Colorado river, so as to achieve a comprehensive and balanced development of the total water and land resources of the Lower Colorado river.
2. Subject to the findings of these studies, that the Department of the Interior reconstitute the channelization and an anticipated phreatophyte control program on the Lower Colorado river to provide for optimum multiple purposes development, including fish, wildlife and recreation as primary purposes, and to make these programs as consistent as possible with the Lower Colorado river Land Use Plan already approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
3. Through invitation of the Secretary of Interior and cooperation of the states involved, that there be established a task force to advise and consult with the Department of Interior with respect to the replanning of the channelization and water programs. The task force's recommendations would be made to the Secretary of Interior.
4. The Colorado river front works and levee system be reauthorized to give it a broader resource development objective.
5. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Interior, Governors of the Colorado river basin states and the congressional delegations of the Lower Colorado river basin states.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACT OF 1965

Whereas, private farm lands always have provided most of the nation's small upland game hunting and will continue as the principal producers of upland game; and

Whereas, surplus croplands retired from agricultural production offer great potential for small game production and public hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation if specifically managed for these purposes, and

Whereas, the Food and Agricultural Act of 1965 provides incentive payments to landowners who allow public access to their land for outdoor recreation pursuits and will divert acres previously used for surplus production to a beneficial use rather than non-use,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the Cropland Adjustment provisions of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 and fully supports those provisions in Title VI of the Bill which:

1. Provide incentive payments to landowners who open their farms to public recreational use.
2. Permit the Secretary to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with state conservation agencies to assist in implementing the wildlife and recreation program.
3. Create a Wildlife and Recreation Advisory Board to assist the Secretary in promulgating regulations governing public use of retired land, as specified in the Senate version.

Be it further resolved that the House and Senate Conferees be immediately notified of the contents of this resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has, by resolution, previously expressed its concern over anti-firearms legislation which would impose unreasonable regulations on firearms acquired and used by sportsmen; and

Whereas, this year legislation has been introduced in the U. S. Congress which would deny to all sportsmen the right to purchase or acquire any firearm in interstate commerce; and

Whereas, this proposed legislation, S. 1592 by Senator Dodd, has been supported before the Senate Sub-Committee on Juvenile Delinquency by its sponsor and by powerful government agencies who openly view with alarm the "ready availability of firearms" in the United States; and

Whereas, the sport of hunting and, through hunting, the conservation of wildlife is dependent on the ready availability of rifles and shotguns to American sportsmen, and

Whereas, reasonable legislation to control the acquisition of pistols and revolvers by juveniles, felons and mentally incompetent persons has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Hickenlooper and in the House of Representatives by Congressman Cecil King.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that we reaffirm the position of this Association as expressed in our Resolution No. 17 of 1964 and our disapproval of S. 1592, however it may be amended, because the philosophy of this bill is to promote the unavailability of all firearms rather than to selectively limit the acquisition of firearms by felons, juveniles or incompetents as does the King-Hickenlooper bill.

Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution be sent to all members of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate and all members of the Ways and Means Committee of the United States House of Representatives.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

RETURN TO STATES' JURISDICTION OF CEDED LANDS

Whereas, many states have within their borders federal lands over some of which the states have ceded legislative jurisdiction to the Congress of the United States, and

Whereas, in many cases such federal jurisdiction is unnecessary, unwieldy and sometimes undesirable to the United States, and

Whereas, such federal jurisdiction prevents the states from carrying out many responsibilities which they can administer more efficiently and effectively than the federal government,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges passage of Senate Bill 1007 which contains provisions that will return to the states exclusive jurisdiction now held by the federal government where federal jurisdiction is no longer needed.