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Resolution 1964-14-20 Simplifying P-R and D-J Auditing and Administrative Procedures

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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fishing rods, creels, reels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies, under provision of 26 U.S.C. 4161; and,

Whereas, the resulting "D-J Program" which has been administered in the Department of the Interior by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under provisions of the Act, has proven to be both an efficient and a meritorious means of accelerating needed new fish conservation programs, and enjoys strong joint support both by the industry on whose products the tax is imposed and by the consumers (anglers) who purchase those same products by virtue of having provided substantial benefits in terms of improved fishing for the Nation's estimated 33 million anglers; and,

Whereas, the study of sport fishing completed in 1962 by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC Study Report 7) predicted that fishing pressures would nearly double by 1976 and triple by century's end, and recommended that supplemental sources of revenue be developed to meet future demands for increased sport fishing opportunities through improvement of fish habitats, by available management techniques that can be applied as new funds and personnel become employed;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby reaffirms its support of the "D-J Program" and urges that the Congress of the United States undertake to strengthen and expand this meritorious program by (a) amending Title 26 U.S.C. 4161 to extend the 10 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on the aforementioned items of fishing tackle so as to include additional classes of fishing tackle as well as presently taxed items, and (b) also amending Section 3 of the Dingell-Johnson Act (16 U.S.C. 777b) in appropriate related action so as to include corresponding dedication of the proposed new tax on these additional classes of fishing tackle to its approved and established purposes.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

INCREASED FUNDS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

Whereas, water pollution control is vital to the health and welfare of every American, as well as to fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation opportunities, and

Whereas, the construction grants program of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act has stimulated expenditure for construction of municipal waste treatment works of more than five local dollars for each dollar of Federal funds provided; and

Whereas, there currently is needed 5,672 municipal waste treatment works to serve a population of 35,000,000; and

Whereas, there is an annual need for treatment works construction of \$700,000,000 through 1970; and

Whereas, this rate of construction has been reached only in 1963, and then only with the assistance of \$112,000,000 in accelerated public works program funds added to \$90,000,000 appropriated for construction grants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and

Whereas, supplemental funds from the accelerated public works program no longer are available and construction again is dropping to the \$500,000,000 level; and

Whereas, utilization of the accelerated public works program funds demonstrated the necessity of \$200,000,000 annually in Federal construction grants funds to meet the necessary water pollution control needs during this decade;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urge the Congress of the United States to increase the construction grants authorization in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act from the present \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

COMMENDATION OF U. S. DEPT. OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS

Whereas, fish and other wildlife as well as all outdoor recreation are affected directly and indirectly by the sufficiency and the quality of our waters; and

Whereas water pollution has been termed the greatest single conservation problem in our Nation today; and

Whereas massive fish kills have occurred in the Lower Mississippi and many other waters during recent years, and

Whereas, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act directs the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to invoke the enforcement authority of the Act, whenever, on the basis of reports, surveys, or studies, he has reason to believe that pollution of waters in or adjacent to any state or states is endangering the health or welfare of persons in a state other than that in which the discharge or discharges is originating, and

Whereas, this agency has carried out these vital responsibilities with aggressive action in numerous cases to date,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the responsible officials of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the vigorous, competent, and fair manner in which they have pursued necessary enforcement action in the matter of the interstate waters, and especially of the Lower Mississippi River and its tributaries.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

SIMPLIFYING P-R AND D-J AUDITING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Whereas, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts providing Federal aid-in-wildlife and fish restoration and management programs have been in effect since 1937 and 1950 respectively, and have resulted in valuable achievements; and

Whereas, the United States Department of the Interior, in a commendable effort to make these programs even more productive, has promulgated regulations for auditing and administration requiring considerable administrative detail in submission of project documents outlining project proposals and in verification of expenditures; and

Whereas, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife initiated in January 1964, efforts to simplify its administration of these programs and recently their Director, in a letter to the President of this Association dated August 20, 1964, has set forth his intent to proceed promptly toward such urgently needed simplification in cooperation with all interested agencies;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for its receptive reaction to the Association's expressed concern over this problem; and

Be it further resolved that the Association accept the invitation to participate in the effort to improve the administration of these programs and directs the President of the Association to designate a working group to cooperate with the Bureau in developing such necessary revisions in procedure and general administration.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

CONSERVATION LIBRARY CENTER DEPOSITORY FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Whereas, conservation agencies and researchers often encounter difficulties in gathering data and facts concerning prior studies in the natural resource field which could be of great value in future investigations and planning in specific fields, and

Whereas, the Conservation Library Center, located at Denver, Colorado, now offers the opportunity to gather such records and facts into one location and make such information available to conservationists and thereby save time, costs and many errors; and

Whereas, the outstanding value of such a basic conservation reference institution is recognized,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners designates this library as its official depository of published proceedings and any other materials of historical value and urges all regional fish and game associations to do likewise and recommends that its members, officially and individually, actively assist in gathering into this central point, all available publications, reports, copies of manuscripts, field notes, photographic materials and like reference materials which may be deposited in this Conservation Library Center consistent with policies governing each agency; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to all the regional fish and game associations indicated herein.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

PRESERVATION OF THE SALMON RIVER FISH SPAWNING AREA

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has, by resolution, previously expressed its concern about protecting the extremely valuable anadromous fishery resources which depend upon the Salmon River remaining an unobstructed stream, and

Whereas, the protection of this spawning area is important because of both its national and international significance; and

Whereas, Congress has not acted on specific legislation such as S.1043 (Church, et al), or similar federal legislation which would be the surest method of protecting this valuable fishery resource;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urge the passage of a specific act of Congress which would permanently protect the fishery resource of the Salmon River so vital to the future of Columbia River salmon and steelhead populations.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

OPPOSITION TO ANTI-FIREARMS LEGISLATION

Whereas, proposals have been introduced in state legislatures and in the Congress which, if enacted, would impose greater restrictions on the purchase, possession and use of firearms ordinarily used in the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting or shooting; and

Whereas, such restrictive legislation, if adopted, would seriously hamper the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting; and

Whereas, such restrictive legislation would be inconsistent with the present and future programs of the states and of the United States in increasing and improving opportunities in the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting; and

Whereas, the cause of conservation would be seriously jeopardized if such restrictive legislative proposals were enacted into law, either by states or by the Congress; and

Whereas, statistics and studies have proven that such proposed restrictions with respect to firearms ordinarily used in hunting would in no way affect or reduce the crimes committed by the use of such firearms but, to the contrary, would unnecessarily disarm peaceful and law-abiding citizens to their disadvantage; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms has been considered a natural and basic right of citizens throughout the long development of the common law, and is guaranteed in such documents as the English Bill of Rights of 1688, the American Bill of Rights, namely the Second Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and the constitutions of about 35 states, the preservation of which is important to citizens as the primary rights of personal security, personal liberty, and of private property; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms is a personal one accorded to the individual and is not simply a collective right reserved to the militia as an organization;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that legislative proposals at all levels which require a license or permit to purchase or possess a firearm ordinarily used in outdoor recreation by hunting or shooting, or which leave the right to possess such a firearm dependent upon the whim or will of a public officer, or which require the registration of such a firearm, or which impose a confiscatory tax or unreasonable regulation on such firearms, or which totally prohibit the possession of such firearms all such proposals should be vigorously opposed and rejected; and