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Resolution 1946-13-18 Migratory Waterfowl Regulation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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as to the maintenance of favorable conditions of wildlife and public recreation and for protection of public waters against impairment from erosion and silting ;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, reaffirms its support for the carrying on by all federal and state agencies concerned of a comprehensive and adequate soil conservation program throughout the country.

10. **Retention of Public Lands**

Whereas the public lands of the United States have been retained or purchased by the people of the nation and so administered that the greatest public benefits have been derived therefrom ;

And whereas certain interests are constantly striving to have these lands transferred to private ownership ;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled, at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, opposes all proposals, including such measures as Senate Bill S-1945, intended to open the way to transfer public lands to private ownership.

11. **Withdrawals of Public Lands**

Whereas there are continual withdrawals and dedications of public lands by executive branches of the federal government without advance specific approval by Congress in each instance ;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association recommends that Congress pass Senate Bill 2394 which will amend the law to provide that such withdrawals shall be made only with prior congressional approval and consent in each case.

12. **Great Lakes Fisheries**

Whereas the Great Lakes Fisheries constitute a very important industry contributing the major portion of the fresh water fish to the markets of United States and Canada ;

And whereas the maximum production of the finer food fishes has greatly declined over the past several years, and such decline has been aggravated because of the lack of uniform management practices by the respective states and provinces ;

And whereas previous efforts toward uniformity of regulations, management practices, and research between the respective states and the provinces have been largely ineffective ;

And whereas action on an international basis is the only practicable means of managing, restoring and perpetuating the Great Lakes Fisheries ;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, hereby recommend that the governments of United States and Canada ratify as soon as possible the convention for the development, protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Fisheries, signed at Washington on April 2, 1946 ; and the Association further recommends the prompt adoption of the proper and necessary implementing legislation by the Congress of the United States and Parliament of Canada ; and

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Association send copies of this resolution to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S. Congress, to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, to the Secretaries of the Departments of State and Interior of the United States and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada and to the Minister of Fisheries of Canada.

Before I read resolution No. 13 may I say as a matter of information that there was presented to the committee a forward-looking proposal to set up additional fact-finding and coordinating machinery, but after discussing it at some length it was believed the resolution here presented will serve the purpose for the present, and until a broader concept has been developed and put into operation.

13. **Migratory Waterfowl Regulation**

Whereas the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has confidence in the integrity and ability of the U. S. Fish

and Wildlife Service to determine the prospective waterfowl supply and to fix such regulations annually as may be necessary for the proper management of migratory waterfowl;

And whereas we believe that a better understanding of conditions by the public in advance would be helpful in the framing and administration of such regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, makes the following recommendations:

1. That the migratory bird survey forces of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service be enlarged and expanded so far as may be necessary to make the annual surveys adequate for the purposes of effective regulation of migratory waterfowl and that Congress be urged to appropriate the necessary funds for that purpose.

2. That the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service supplement its own surveys by seeking the cooperation of all appropriate agencies of the federal government, of the several states, the governmental authorities in Canada, and interested private organizations in furnishing reliable information as to conditions affecting migratory waterfowl.

3. That the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, before framing the regulations for the taking of migratory waterfowl each year, hold a conference in each region constituting a major waterfowl flyway to obtain advice and recommendations from such conferences respecting the proposed regulations; each such conference to be composed of representatives of all state game and fish or conservation departments and other state agencies concerned; representatives of all sportsmen's and conservation organizations and other interested groups in the regions to be invited to participate in open forum discussions to be held in connection with each conference.

With regard to the second paragraph of this resolution, we believe that is already being done, but we thought it wise to include this reference as part of this particular recommendation.

Referring to the last paragraph of the resolution, the thought was that arrangements could probably be made for an open forum session, and that the Fish and Wildlife Service might desire to have a separate and restricted conference with the game administrators of that particular region only; but the committee felt it should be left open to their judgment.

14. **Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Whereas the special committee of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners met in Chicago on June 5 and 6, 1946, and in that meeting expressed themselves as opposed to the issuance of free permits to members of the armed services and discharged service men, which action the Executive Committee has submitted to this Association for consideration;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, opposes the issuance of free hunting and fishing licenses to any special group, including discharged veterans of the armed services.

That does not restrict the states in the matter of taking care of the people who are in service for the time being.

15. **Post-Season Storage of Game**

Whereas all indications point to increasingly serious problems with regard to post-season storage of lawfully taken game;

Therefore be it resolved that the Executive Committee of this Association and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service be requested to jointly study the problem of post-season storage, especially as related to the use of public and private cold storage lockers, and make recommendations to the next convention regarding coordination of game storage laws and regulations in the respective fields of federal and state jurisdiction.

At the present time, as you know, we have quite a hodge-podge of regulations on that, and there is no common guide by which any of us can proceed.