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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1998-05-09

USE OF FEDERAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS REVENUE TO FUND STATE-LEVEL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, state efforts for the conservation and restoration of many fish and wildlife species have proven to be successful under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux federal aid programs; and

WHEREAS, existing state efforts to conserve the diverse array of fish and wildlife known as (nongame) species and to provide conservation education and fish and wildlife dependent recreation are severely under-funded; and

WHEREAS, the Teaming with Wildlife initiative, spearheaded by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and supported by over 3000 groups would address this gap by extending a small user fee in the form of an excise tax on outdoor recreation equipment in order to fund comprehensive state conservation programs for these diverse species and to provide conservation education and fish and wildlife dependent recreation; and

WHEREAS, members of Congress are preparing federal legislation to enact a proposal known as the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1998 to use federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas revenue as a funding alternative to the Teaming with Wildlife user fee to address these needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the use of federal OCS oil and gas revenue to fund state-level wildlife conservation, conservation education and fish and wildlife dependent recreation.