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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2011-05-07

USE OF TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR REGULATED TRAPPING IN NORTH AMERICA (July 15, 2011)

WHEREAS, a principal objective of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is to encourage effective management of fish and wildlife resources using the best available scientific information; and

WHEREAS, modern regulated trapping in North America is consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, modern regulated trapping of furbearers, licensed and regulated by the states and provinces, is a necessary and beneficial conservation activity and is used to effectively manage furbearer populations and at times reduce human wildlife conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the trapping and utilization of furbearers in a sustainable manner is a sound basis for conserving furbearers as important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States (BMPs) have been developed to help sustain regulated trapping through a science based approach to determine and advocate traps and trapping techniques that meet current international standards; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Trap Testing certification program helps sustain regulated trapping in Canada through a science-based approach related to traps and trapping techniques and international standards; and

WHEREAS, a standards-based educational program that incorporates both a knowledge and skills component and that advocates the adoption of new traps, trapping techniques and trap modifications as described by BMPs and the Canadian Trap Certification Program will help sustain and support modern regulated trapping; and

WHEREAS, trapper education, though important, is not required or offered by all jurisdictions as a requirement for licensing; and

WHEREAS, the Association has developed a comprehensive trapper education program which defines the knowledge, concepts and skills students should acquire in trapper education and promotes traps and trapping methods described in BMPs; and

WHEREAS, the Association has previously endorsed the development and research of trapping BMPs and the development of trapper education materials, (including content standards) and encourages the use of Best Practices in education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies advocates the continued development of Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States as a means of improving traps and trapping systems; and similarly the continued implementation of the certification efforts under the Canadian Trap Certification Program in Canada to achieve these same aims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies advocates the use of the national trapper education program curriculum and educational information as developed by the Association, for use by state wildlife agencies, and the standardized trapper education curriculum as developed by the provinces and territories via the Fur Institute of Canada to meet the Trapper Education content standards and learning objectives toward the certification of trappers, and in the general training and education of trappers if not required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies BMPs' web-based trapper education modules and the Fur Institute of Canada's trapper education curriculum are recognized as core curriculum and content information that the states may affirm as basic courses for reciprocal training and where appropriate, licensing of trappers.

Submitted by the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee