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Resolution 1989-07-09 Introduced Organisms from Ballast Water

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution No. 7

INTRODUCED ORGANISMS FROM BALLAST WATER

WHEREAS, sport and commercial fisheries are resources of great economic and recreational importance; and

WHEREAS, these resources are threatened by the introduction of aquatic organisms from foreign ports brought in by means of the ballast water of freighters and tankers; and

WHEREAS, in recent years several planktonic and benthic organisms have arrived and become established, at least one of which is suspected to have caused a great decline in the abundance of an important striped bass food organism in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary; and

WHEREAS, similar introductions have probably occurred or will occur at other estuarine and coastal ports and they already have occurred in the Great Lakes with consequent harm to Great Lakes fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to protect fisheries and ecosystems of all sovereign States, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports prohibiting dumping of ballast water of foreign origin in any river, lake, estuary, bay or other coastal area.