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Resolution 1986-05-11 Computerized Fish and Wildlife Information Systems

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, over 30 million acres of wetland habitat secured for wildlife and natural area purposes are susceptible to purple loosestrife invasion in the Midwest region alone;

WHEREAS, this acreage represents over a billion-dollar investment by federal, state, and private agencies;

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent on purple loosestrife control and monitoring in the Midwest alone, with expenditures expected to increase in the near future;

WHEREAS, chemical and mechanical control measures are costly and currently ineffective in eradicating large infestations of purple loosestrife; and

WHEREAS, biological agents appear to be the only practical, long-term hope of controlling purple loosestrife in North America;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate committees of the U.S. Congress to provide funding for research on the biological control of purple loosestrife.

Resolution No. 5

Computerized Fish and Wildlife Information Systems

WHEREAS, wildlife, fisheries, and water quality biologists as well as other resource managers or administrators have a broad spectrum of informational needs;

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife enforcement officers also depend on similar information and cooperation between associate agencies in various states; and

WHEREAS, technology exists to develop a computerized fish and wildlife informational system;

WHEREAS, only a small number of states have successfully established such systems on a national or regional scale;

WHEREAS, such automated information systems would augment existing knowledge and communication within resource, scientific or management structure;

WHEREAS, such automated systems would greatly assist administrative and field enforcement personnel in the identification, apprehension and prosecution of violators and in the analysis, evaluation and prevention of wildlife crimes; and

WHEREAS, unification and coordination of similar efforts would be in the best interest of fish and wildlife resources and the success of an automated program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages and supports the continuation of the Multi-State Fish and Wildlife Information Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the project should provide technical assistance, fundamental or practical research data, training information and coordination to states and agencies interested in developing and using computerized Fish and Wildlife Information Systems.

Resolution No. 6

Economic Values of Fish and Wildlife Recreation

WHEREAS, the travel cost and contingent value methods provide commensurate valuation of wildlife/fisheries and marketed commodities;

WHEREAS, travel cost and contingent values have been published in the Federal Register (Principles and Standards, 1979; Principles and Guidelines, 1983; CERCLA 301, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1985);

WHEREAS, the travel cost and contingent value methods are used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Soil Conservation Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service is not using these valuation procedures, which is resulting in conceptually and empirically unsound values for wildlife and fisheries in RPA and Forest Planning;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the U.S. Forest Service to use travel cost and contingent value derived values, without downward adjustment, and to implement valuation studies using these two methods for the 1990 Resources Planning Act Program.

Resolution No. 7

In Support of "A Bill to Limit the Liability of Fishing Vessel Owners that Comply with Improved Safety Requirements"

WHEREAS, the Nation's fishing industry is experiencing serious problems in obtaining reasonable rates for Protection and Indemnity (P & I) and hull insurance for fishing vessels;

WHEREAS, fishing is a dangerous occupation, as evidenced by United States Coast Guard data showing that the death rate for fishermen is seven times the national average for all industry groups and that during 1981-1984 an average of 84 lives were lost each year;

WHEREAS, the cost of obtaining adequate P & I and hull insurance is reaching new heights, whereby fishing vessel owners have to pay large premiums for P & I and hull insurance to operate, or the vessel remains tied up in port or risks operating without insurance largely because of their inability to pay for the P & I insurance;