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Resolution 1984-03-12 Enhancement of Marine Fishery Habitat Programs

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, the ability of the states to participate in cooperative efforts for recovery of endangered species requires that they have a dependable source of cost-shared funds to plan financial commitments several years into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the Congress to reauthorize adequate grant-in-aid funding for an extended period in an amount not less than the \$6,000,000 currently authorized annually, and further urges the Congress to appropriate annually funds equal to the amount authorized.

Resolution No. 3

Enhancement of Marine Fishery Habitat Programs

WHEREAS, the protection and enhancement of habitat is essential to sustained productivity of marine and anadromous fishery resources;

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the Department of Commerce has primary federal responsibility over living marine resources, including their habitat; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous existing authorities covering habitat concerns in freshwater; and

WHEREAS, the NMFS recently has adopted a Habitat Conservation Policy that would integrate consideration of fishery resource habitat throughout all NMFS programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the new Habitat Conservation Policy will require the NMFS to allocate adequate resources, including increased funding, to their Habitat Research and Conservation Programs, as well as to other programs, for the purpose of Policy implementation; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal years 1982 through 1985 the Administration repeatedly requested that Congress reduce funding and personnel for the Habitat Research Program by more than one-half and reduce funding for the Habitat Conservation Program by more than one-third nationwide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly supports and commends efforts of the NMFS to develop the Habitat Conservation Policy and recommends immediate implementation of the Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Policy be implemented in coordination with and support of existing state and federal habitat authorities; and

BE IT LASTLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress continue to reject any Administration proposals to reduce funding within the NMFS budget, and instead augment funding for NMFS Habitat Research and Habitat Conservation Programs.