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Resolution 1973-17-31 Handgun Control

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 15

ALASKAN PIPELINE

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of the Alaskan pipeline will have important and potentially destructive effects on fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming clear that there are no present plans to establish day-to-day ecological surveillance of construction and operating practices, and

WHEREAS, without careful, responsible guidance, of construction operation, negligent operations by contractors and subcontractors and their untrained employees can multiply the hazards to the environments through which pipeline passes;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges that as a condition of construction, surveillance, and operations of the Alaskan pipeline all appropriate federal and state agencies be provided the means to develop specific regulations based upon the most up-to-date research and technology to minimize adverse wildlife and environmental impact.

BE IT RESOLVED, FURTHER, that adequate funds and manpower be provided all agencies charged with the enforcement responsibility of maintaining the highest standards of environmental protection at all locations during the periods of construction and subsequent operations of the pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the costs of assessment, development of regulations, surveillance, and regulation enforcement be borne by the pipeline companies as a cost of doing business.

Resolution 16

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR WILDLIFE INVENTORIES BY STATE AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the majority of States have statutory authority, and all States have responsibility to manage wildlife within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies have a habitat management or protection responsibility toward many of these same species as specified by law; and

WHEREAS, population information on the wildlife species involved is essential if habitat management or wildlife protection activities are to be effectively accomplished; and

WHEREAS, States have the technical ability but are not adequately financed to provide all such species inventories needed; and

WHEREAS, independent species-oriented Federal programs are an invasion of State integrity and responsibility, and create a strain on cooperative attitudes essential to accomplish the total job of wildlife management:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Federal agencies to adopt a policy of contracting species-oriented inventories through the respective State Wildlife Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that information collected through these studies be circulated by the State to all agencies having a responsibility toward the species or habitat involved.

Resolution 17

HANDGUN CONTROL

WHEREAS, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals has published "A National Strategy to Reduce Crime," Chapter Nine of which is entitled "Handguns in American Society," and

WHEREAS, the carefully regulated use of handguns for the sport of target shooting

and similar purposes is a major and legitimate interest for many people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the retention of regulations which permit the manufacture, sale, and possession of handguns for lawful purposes under appropriate regulations.

Resolution 18

U.S. FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, numerous resolutions were submitted to the Western Association of Game and Fish Commissioners questioning certain aspects of wilderness administration by the U.S. Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, Forest Service administration of wilderness lacks consistency, and in some cases appears more restrictive than the Wilderness Act of 1964 dictates; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act of 1964 contains the will of the Congress that "nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests," and

WHEREAS, several administrative decisions concerning wildlife management or the use of wildlife resources in wilderness areas, made through interpretation of the Act, appear to be in conflict with this statement of intent by the Congress:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service to establish a National Inter-agency Committee to review present areas of concern and to advise him with respect to development of future wilderness area management programs.

Resolution 19

STRENGTHENING DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S WETLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, there is a continuing urgent need to maintain existing wetlands in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the accelerated wetland acquisition program of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, is scheduled to terminate 30 June 1976, before the stated program goals are achieved;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to release its evaluation report of the program immediately, revise the program's acreage goals, seek extension of the accelerated wetland acquisition program beyond 1976, and strengthen it with more adequate funds and staff.

Resolution 20

CLASSIFICATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, the present procedure employed by the Secretary of the Interior to list threatened or endangered species does not allow state participation except in a cursory manner; and

WHEREAS, the red book listing does not clearly evaluate the status of the subject species throughout its range; and

WHEREAS, improvement in the classification of threatened animals and better liaison with the states are necessary to assure a meaningful definition of priorities and avoid public confusion; and