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Resolution 1971-10-27 Support for Present North Pacific Management Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, the management of these marine resources on a sustained basis can be effective only if a greater measure of jurisdiction is given to coastal nations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress and the President to take appropriate action with other nations to secure fishery jurisdiction off the U.S. coastline to such extent that we will be able to protect the anadromous, pelagic fish as well as shellfish and will also protect the rights of American fishermen to fish in all waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association urges the United States Government to attempt to develop such a position at the proposed Law of the Sea Conference in 1973; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if no meaningful agreement is reached at the proposed Law of the Sea Conference the United States Government unilaterally extend its fishery jurisdiction to protect the U. S. fishery resources and its fishermen.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration provides federal funds to the states for highway construction; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration does stipulate conditions under which federal highway funds are released to the states; and

WHEREAS, highway construction has often had a pronounced destructive impact on fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, it is common for highway construction agencies, including the states, to develop construction plans in relatively small segments rather than for the total projected highway construction; and

WHEREAS, one segment of highway development alone may not influence fish and wildlife habitat but other subsequent segments may have a substantial adverse effect; and

WHEREAS, many fish and wildlife agencies frequently have been forced to establish their position on a limited and somewhat innocuous segment without knowledge of the total environment impact of future segment construction; and

WHEREAS, it is repeatedly demonstrated that once a highway project has been initiated it is extremely difficult to prevent construction of subsequent segments or develop suitable construction alternatives from those of the initial phase to prevent habitat degradation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urgently requests the Federal Highway Administration and state highway administrations to require that appropriate state fish and wildlife agencies have an opportunity to evaluate highway construction in its initial design stages for the entire highway project and segments as they are proposed for construction before any segment is approved for construction and funds released therefor.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 SUPPORT FOR PRESENT NORTH PACIFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, North Pacific fur seals, which were once on the threshold of extinction, have been successfully managed by the U. S. Government since 1911, under the terms of the North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty; and

WHEREAS, the North Pacific fur seal population on Alaska's Pribilof Islands exceeds 1.3 million animals and is being sustained in excellent condition through a selective harvest program based on sound biological principles using humane methods; and

WHEREAS, in recent years a segment of the public has as the result of erroneous information opposed the harvest of fur seals essentially due to the methods employed in taking the animals, this emotional reaction has promoted the introduction of federal legislation such as H.R. 6554 and S. 1315 which is now threatening to curtail the annual fur seal harvest despite the fact that studies conducted by competent scientists have revealed that the harvest of fur seals is accomplished in a reasonable, safe, and humane manner; and

WHEREAS, halting the harvest of fur seals would seriously jeopardize the fur seal treaty, and could subsequently result in the resumption of pelagic sealing operations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby supports the present biologically sound sustained-yield fur seal harvest program conducted by the Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, on the Pribilof Islands of Alaska and urges the Secretary of Commerce to continue to manage the renewable North Pacific fur seal resource to the benefit of both the animals and the citizens of the United States and other signators to the fur seal treaty.