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Resolution 1964-01-20 Federal-State Relations and Invasion of State's Rights

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Friday Afternoon, September 18, 1964 ..	101
Report of Communications Committee—Osai B. Capps	101
Report of Auditing Committee—George B. Shields	102
Joint Report of Time and Place Committee—Wayne Kirch	102
Report of Resolutions Committee—Lester P. Voigt	103
Presentation to Retiring President Cox—Harold Crane	114
Remarks of Retiring President Cox	114
Report of Nominating Committee—Phil N. Schneider	115
Report of Hunter Safety Awards Committee—Merton J. Golden	116
Remarks of Franklin L. Orth, National Rifle Association	117
Report of North American Conservation Hall of Fame and Museum —Wayne H. Olson	119

Secretary's Mail Address	8
Honorary Life Members	8
Officers, 1964-1965	9
Past Presidents	9
History—Meeting Places and Dates	10
Resolutions	104
Convention Registration List	121
Number of Registrations by States, Provinces and Countries	128
Association Membership List, Governmental and Associate Members	129
Committees for 1965 as Appointed by President Lester P. Voigt	138
By-Laws of the Association	143

RESOLUTION NO. 1

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS AND INVASION OF STATE'S RIGHTS

Whereas, one of the most important subjects to come before this convention for consideration is the matter of federal-state relations and the actual or possible encroachment of federal controls and regulations into the area of state's rights such as setting of seasons on resident game species and similar matters; and

Whereas, the Association's executive committee recognized the seriousness of this problem involving more than a score of federal agencies by the appointment of a special ad hoc committee directed to report on the results of their efforts at this convention; and

Whereas, this special committee's report indicates cooperation can be expected from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as a result of the committee's first contact with administrators of this agency;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby recommends that this committee (or one similarly constituted by appointment of the president) continue this contact with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and also extend the scope to other federal agencies and related conservation associations thereby continuing the effort to gain acceptance of the Association's "Recommended Policies and Procedures" dealing with this subject and generally doing everything possible to preserve and restore to the several states their traditional rights and interests in wildlife and conservation matters which too frequently have been encroached upon by federal controls related to financial grants-in-aid.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL WATERSHED CONGRESS MEETINGS

Whereas, the National Watershed Congress is organized as a forum for the discussion of all phases of soil, water, forest and wildlife management in relation to outdoor recreation opportunities and especially through utilization of the Small Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 566 as amended; and

Whereas, the Small Watershed Program has not, at the field level, given adequate consideration to fish and other wildlife, to preservation of smaller streams, and outdoor recreation resources in general, and has, in fact, been detrimental in many projects; and

Whereas, these subjects usually have not received serious consideration at the Watershed Congresses in the past, possibly due in part to the fact that fish and game agencies have failed to attend and did not make their presence known by strong presentations from the floor in support of platform presentations;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly urges all state and federal agencies concerned with the management of fish and other wildlife to attend all Watershed Congresses in the future and impress upon the delegates the importance of cooperation on a local level in all states and of the need for deep interest in and concern for the sound management of fish and other wildlife, as well as all other outdoor recreation resources, in every watershed development project.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

NON-MATCHING FEDERAL AID GRANTS FOR PRAIRIE STATES WETLAND ACQUISITION

Whereas, the acquisition of wetlands essential to continued production of waterfowl and also of value to other forms of wildlife is moving very slowly, and

Whereas, some states are in good position to acquire such wetlands but do not have adequate extra funds available to meet their acquisition potential,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that steps be taken to secure, for management of waterfowl in the national interest, the appropriation by Congress of funds to be allocated to waterfowl producing states in the prairie pothole country as grants-in-aid on a non-matching basis for the purpose of acquiring, developing and preserving these valuable wetlands, and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior as well as to the appropriate committees of Congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

REPRESENTATION OF FISH AND GAME AGENCIES ON STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

Whereas, much of the nation's total small game and waterfowl population depends upon privately-owned lands, and private landowners and operators hold the key to small game production of such land; and

Whereas, these landowners continually face the problem of obtaining a satisfactory return on the land which they own and on which they have large investments; and

Whereas, there is considerable opportunity for mutual benefit through restoration of soil fertility and control of overproduction on certain agricultural crops while at the same time increasing production of wildlife which is in greater demand each year and of considerable financial value for hunting and other related forms of outdoor recreation; and

Whereas, various federal programs specifically aimed at solving these problems either are terminating (such as the Soil Bank Act in 1966) or are essentially failing in their purpose (such as the Conservation Reserve Practices) and other efforts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are not doing an adequate job to solve these problems on the land;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that in order to stimulate this program, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the U. S. Department of Agriculture to support a proposal for each state fish and game agency to be represented as a voting member on their local Soil and Water Conservation Committee and that every possible effort be made to continue and enhance any agricultural land management programs which also will preserve or restore wildlife habitat.