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## Resolution 1948-18-23 Merger of Regional Associations

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, therefore directs the officers and Executive Committee of this Association to take immediately whatever steps they deem necessary and advisable to bring directly and forcefully to the attention of the War Assets Administration or other proper authorities the sentiments of this body, and to proceed as they may find it desirable in an effort to accomplish such revisions in the interpretation and application of the act as will assure the carrying out of its original intents and purposes.

13. **Wildlife Conservation of National Defense Lands**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, urges the Secretary of National Defense to authorize the establishment and administration, by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or by state conservation agencies, in accordance with existing state and federal laws, of effective measures for the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources on all suitable lands under his jurisdiction, including the use of such lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes by the public, provided that such conservation measures and public uses do not conflict with the use of the lands for defense purposes. The Association further urges that no such lands be leased or otherwise devoted to private use for hunting, fishing, or recreational purposes.

14. **Miscellaneous Measures and Appropriations**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, urges adoption by Congress of the following measures, with adequate appropriations, as soon as possible:

- (1) Provision for a long-range rat and rodent control program;
- (2) Provision for the wildlife division of the U. S. Forest Service, with an appropriation of at least \$250,000 per year;
- (3) Provision for a comprehensive survey of waterfowl problems of the western hemisphere.

15. **Pollution Control**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, urges that adequate appropriations be made by Congress as soon as possible to give effect to the provisions of the Barkley-Taft Pollution Control Act, S. 418, passed at the last session of Congress. The Association further urges that all federal, state, and local agencies concerned with pollution exert their utmost efforts to carry out the purposes of this act, and to use all means at their command to eliminate water pollution in their respective jurisdictions.

16. **Soil Conservation**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, reaffirms its previous declarations of support for an adequate nation-wide soil conservation program as of paramount importance to the future welfare of the country. Recognizing that the National Soil Conservation Association has attained a position of leadership in this field and has rendered outstanding service in the advancement of soil conservation throughout the country, we urge all members of this Association to affiliate with that Association so far as they may be eligible, and to co-operate in the work thereof.

17. **Foot and Mouth Disease**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, reaffirms its previous resolutions emphasizing the serious menace to wild game and livestock in the United States caused by the foot and mouth disease prevalent in Mexico; the Association commends the responsible public agencies for the progress already made in dealing with this problem, especially the addition of big game technicians to the staff engaged in the work, and urges these agencies to redouble their efforts to cope with this problem and to speed up the construction of fences where necessary along the boundary and other effective measures for eradicating the disease and preventing the spread thereof among wild or domestic animals of this country.

18. **Merger-of Regional Associations**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, instructs the Executive Committee of the Association to study the problem of merging the various regional

associations of conservation or game and fish officials with this Association, to communicate with the regional associations and ascertain their views regarding such merger, and to report at the next annual meeting of this Association.

The Committee had in mind something comparable to what the American Fisheries Society is setting up—regional groups, if that is feasible; and merging a lot of these separate meetings we are called upon to attend.

19. **Congressional Hearings on Conservation Measures**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, instructs the Legislative Committee of the Association to keep in touch with all measures that may be introduced in Congress relating to the use of public lands or other conservation of wildlife or other natural resources, and to use their best efforts to see that the congressional committees to which such measures are referred include fair representation of all public conservation interests affected, and that full consideration of such interests is given in all hearings on such measures.

20. **Appreciation of Courtesies**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, expresses to the New Jersey Fish and Game Council, and particularly to Colonel Arthur F. Foran, its Chairman, grateful appreciation of the courtesies and hospitality extended and the delightful entertainment provided during the convention.

I move the adoption of these resolutions.

(The resolutions were adopted unanimously.)

(The resolution with respect to Federal Aid for Training of Conservation Personnel was laid on the table. The resolution and discussion appear below.)

21. **Federal Aid for Training of Conservation Personnel**

Resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Atlantic City, New Jersey, this 17th day of September, 1948, considers that the vocational training of state conservation department personnel is of vital importance to the advancement of all state programs and conservation of wildlife or other natural resources, and therefore urges that projects undertaken by the states severally or jointly to provide such training be recognized as eligible for federal aid under the Pittman-Robertson Act or any similar laws that may be enacted by Congress.

**Mr. Gordon:** Let me explain what was behind this resolution. A number of states, especially the smaller states, do not think they can afford to finance training programs, especially for new personnel, because their personnel is comparatively limited. They are of the opinion that by pooling their efforts they could set up a regional training program to which they would all contribute their respective shares. That is the purpose of the resolution.

**Mr. Rider:** I think that is going a long way from the original purpose of the Pittman-Robertson Act, which was to restore wildlife. It seems to me that any state in this union should be able to afford its proper share in a training program. We may endanger the whole structure, not only of the Pittman-Robertson Act but the chances of even getting through the Dingle bill, if we get to the point where we depend upon the Federal government to carry on all the activities of conservation.

**Mr. Morgan:** I agree with Mr. Rider. Let the states assume their own burden and do their own training with state funds, not with federal funds.

**Mr. Quinn:** I call the attention of Buck Rider and Ben Morgan to a situation we have in the commonwealth of Virginia. Recently my Commission