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## Resolution 1997-06-08 Increased Development of Shooting Ranges

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 1997-06-08**

**INCREASED DEVELOPMENT OF SHOOTING RANGES**

**WHEREAS**, 49 states require first-time hunters to successfully complete a hunter education course and hunter education programs often are the only opportunities for state wildlife agencies to directly interact with all new hunters; and

**WHEREAS**, this program graduates approximately 660,000 students per year; and

**WHEREAS**, studies and public opinion polls indicate strong support for legal hunting but serious concerns about the skills and ethics of some hunters; and

**WHEREAS**, shooting skills are an important part of hunting and hunting ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1981 study, *Hunter Education in the United States and Canada with Recommendations for Improvement*, and the 1996 study, *Review of the National Hunter Education Program with Recommendations for Improvement* both recommended that "hands-on live-firing experience should be required in each course, and facilities should be made available to do so"; and

**WHEREAS**, 15 states require "live firing" as part of their hunter education program, and "live firing" is an increasingly important component of hunter education classes in all other states and provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, an increasing proportion of Wildlife Restoration Act funds collected annually are derived from recreational shooting activities other than hunting, and estimates predict that the proportion derived from recreational shooting likely will continue to increase.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges its member agencies to enhance the training opportunities of new and existing hunters by conducting a comprehensive review of the current and future need for shooting facilities in their respective states and to implement, in cooperation with interested non-government organizations and user groups, an aggressive program of shooting facility development and enhancement to satisfy any identified needs.