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Resolution 1998-06-09 Regarding the Ongoing Divestiture of Responsibility for Water-Based Recreational Resource Management

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1998-06-09

**REGARDING THE ONGOING DIVESTITURE OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR WATER-BASED RECREATIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the United States is abundantly blessed with more than 160 million acres of public water suitable for a diverse spectrum of recreational pursuits including hunting, angling, boating, and associated activities such as camping, sightseeing, and nature study; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the regulation and management of many of those 160 million acres of public water is vested in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, public funds for the development of, and improvements to, these public waters, and their maintenance and management, were justified in significant part by the recreational benefits which accrue from their construction, maintenance, or management for the public good; and

WHEREAS, there exists a demonstrated pattern of (divestiture) of responsibility for recreation at federal water resource projects; and

WHEREAS, while these (divestitures) are widely portrayed as an enhancement of (partnerships) they do not serve the public's interest because they pose substantial fiscal burdens on local and state governments; and

WHEREAS, the public's right to access and enjoy federal water resource projects for their individual and group recreation is threatened by these (divestitures).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, does support a national policy assigning recreation as a primary project purpose at all federal water resource projects, and further, opposes divestiture of recreational resource responsibility which creates a financial burden on local or state governments; and which would limit the public's use and enjoyment of federal water resource projects; and that such divestiture is contradictory to Executive Order 12962 and is inconsistent with the National Recreation Lake Study.