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Resolution 2002-03-06 In Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Flyway Council System

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2002-03-06

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLYWAY COUNCIL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the wetlands and associated habitats of North America support a rich diversity and abundance of waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, the abundance and broad geographic distribution of this resource has given rise to a strong and varied heritage of waterfowl hunting, observation and other activities which have long enriched the economies and cultures of the continent; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the migratory nature of waterfowl, they are a resource shared among states, provinces, and nations; and

WHEREAS, stewardship of this shared resource requires a coordinated, international mechanism to facilitate population surveys, research, harvest management and other elements of responsible wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service, exercised leadership in 1952 in establishing such a coordinated system of Flyway Councils; and

WHEREAS, members and representatives of the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyway Councils and Technical Committees have for the last 50 years worked diligently and cooperatively among themselves, and with the federal agencies of the United States and Canada, to guide the responsible and forward-thinking stewardship of North America's waterfowl populations, and

WHEREAS, in the interest of improved and coordinated management of other migratory bird resources, the Flyway Councils have expanded their mission to include cooperative management of other migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, the example of the Flyway Council system has provided a successful model for management of shared natural resources through cooperation of the state, provincial, federal and public sectors which has been emulated and applied to many subsequent fish and wildlife resource management challenges; and

WHEREAS, each of the flyway councils has resolved and reaffirmed their commitment to the continued use of sound scientifically based management practices and polices for the betterment of migratory birds in North America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the 50th anniversary of the Flyway Council System that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies hereby recognizes and commends the many hundreds of professionals, among them scientists, managers, administrators and others who, through their ideals and by their actions, are responsible for the tremendous success of the Flyway Council System, and with their commitment to professional resource management have each contributed to securing the future of North American migratory bird populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reaffirms its support to the principles and ideals of the flyway council system and pledges a continued commitment towards finding solutions that ensure the future of waterfowl, and other migratory bird resources.