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Resolution 1970-07-21 Heavy Metal Contamination of the Environment

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governors of the states and provinces represented by this Association establish within their jurisdiction population advisory councils with ecological and demographic competence to treat adequately relationships of population to quality of our environment and to recommend solutions which will preserve an adequate quality of life.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4
LEGISLATION MODERNIZING THE P-R AND D-J ACTS**

WHEREAS, the state fish and game agencies recognize the value of clarifying and modernizing the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of S.3860 and similar bills will delete the engineering, maintenance and management limitations and effect other housekeeping changes which are desirable; and

WHEREAS, the bill's provisions would add the revenue of the federal excise tax of pistols and revolvers to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, one-half of these revenues would be apportioned among the states to, in part, support the cost of hunter safety programs; and

WHEREAS, the bill provides the option of documenting state-federal aid programs on the basis of comprehensive fish and wildlife resources plans which will encourage long-range, worthwhile planning and reduce the red tape in annual documentation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the principle of S.3860 (and similar bills such as H.R. 12475, S.3927, and S.3962) and urges its early enactment by the Congress.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5
FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSTRUCTION GRANTS**

WHEREAS, existing funding authority needed to continue vital programs of Federal-State-Local cooperation in improving the quality of water, one of our basic natural resources, will expire on June 30, 1971:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges that the provisions of Section 7, "Grants to States for Water Pollution Control Programs," and Section 8, "Grants for Construction," of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 84-660, as amended, be extended to June 30, 1975, by appropriate and prompt action by the Congress of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President, Secretary of Interior, and House and Senate Committees on Public Works.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6
INCREASE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP FEE**

WHEREAS, there is a current and critical need to accelerate the acquisition of critical wetlands for waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, the present fee of \$3.00 for a migratory bird hunting stamp has been in effect for many years; and

WHEREAS, due to increased acquisition costs additional funds are necessary to complete the wetlands acquisition program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners favors legislation to increase the migratory bird hunting stamp fee from \$3.00 to \$4.00 with the understanding that Congress will annually appropriate an additional amount from the General Fund equal to the revenue generated by this increase and to be used for continuation of the federal wetlands acquisition program, and none of these funds be rebated to the states.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7
HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, there recently have been recognized incidents of environmental contamination by mercury and other heavy metals which have had disastrous effects on fish, wildlife, public health and recreation, and food stocks; and

WHEREAS, incidents of such environmental contamination have been recognized in Japan and Sweden for many years, yet the significance of this information was not generally known to or recognized by environmental protection officials of the North American nations; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need to gather information on pollution problems throughout the world and to disseminate such information as may be pertinent, to alert federal, state, and provincial pollution control agencies to similar problems on this continent; and

WHEREAS, there still remain many unanswered questions as to the full impact of heavy metal contamination, its threat to human health, fish and wildlife, and its persistence once it has been introduced to the environment:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Council on Environmental Quality of the United States and its Canadian counterpart to take necessary steps to assure that (a) information on environmental pollution developed throughout the world be gathered and analyzed, (b) that analytical methods become standardized, (c) that funds for such work be made adequate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal governments of both the United States and Canada be urged to conduct research on mercury and other heavy metals to fully ascertain their effect on the environment and to explore ways that such effect can be reduced or eliminated.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

LOSS OF WETLANDS AND SPORT FISHERIES CAUSED BY STREAM CHANNELIZATION UNDER THE SMALL WATERSHEDS ACT, P.L. 83-566

WHEREAS, implementation of the Small Watersheds Act, P.L. 83-566 has involved considerable channelization of natural streams; and

WHEREAS, such channelization destroys the natural ecology of streams and floodplains and results in wetland drainage and loss of existing sport fisheries and wildlife resources:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Congress to enact H.R. 15850, or similar legislation, to amend the Wildlife Coordination Act to include all small watershed projects under P.L. 83-566.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

FEDERAL BUDGET CONTROLS ON MILITARY EXPENDITURES FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Public Law 86-797 (Sikes Act) was enacted by Congress to promote fish and wildlife programs on military lands; and

WHEREAS, beneficial fish and wildlife programs have been carried on by the military using special fees collected from the sale of hunting and fishing permits as provided in P.L. 86-797; and

WHEREAS, the programs have provided substantial recreational use for civilian and military personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of the Budget is making program decisions by restricting expenditures of funds collected and thereby seriously curtailing fish and wildlife conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the Act directs the Secretary of Defense to expend such funds in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and for no other purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Act exempts the Department of Defense from paying into the U.S. Treasury funds that are collected pursuant to the Act:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Administration to direct the Bureau of the Budget to rescind its restrictions and budget controls over funds collected by the military for fishing and hunting permits, under Public Law 86-797, and that these funds be appropriated for the purposes for which they were intended.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

FEDERAL-STATE LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

WHEREAS, for a number of years the question of authority for the management of wildlife, particularly resident wildlife and fish, on federally owned and managed lands, has been a divisive issue between the states, as represented by this Association, and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this Association has spent much time discussing this highly controversial question and has sought federal legislation to settle it once and for all so that conservationists in all agencies could get on with more important business; and

WHEREAS, Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, on September 9, 1970, issued an official Regulation to give force and relative permanency to a policy statement of his Department which quiets the reasonable concern of the states for their right to manage fish and resident wildlife within their borders:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends Secretary Hickel for his definitive action in implementing his recognition of the states' authority in the management, regulation, and control of fish and resident wildlife.

Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.