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Resolution 1970-21-21 Action on Legislation and Resolutions Adopted

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 18
ADMINISTRATION OF GRAZING AND CROPPING LEASES
ON U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS LAND

WHEREAS, certain federal lands surrounding water development projects administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are licensed to state fish and game agencies for wildlife refuges or public hunting areas while the administration of grazing on lands so licensed is retained by the Corps; and

WHEREAS, properly regulated farming and/or grazing on most of these areas is desirable as a game management tool while over-grazing, intensive cropping, absence of grazing or absence of cropping is poor wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the environment for wildlife and man on Corps land is being destroyed by widespread overgrazing and by allowing priority leases to overuse or otherwise abuse Corps lands from the time they are purchased by the Corps until they are licensed for public recreation, including fishing and hunting; and by permitting individuals to construct private access roads across lands licensed to fish and game agencies; and

WHEREAS, present Corps policy does not permit state agencies to retain receipts from grazing leases, agricultural leases and sale of surplus grains, even with the stipulation that all such receipts be used for development and management of the areas producing the income:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the Corps of Engineers to convey to the state fish and game agencies full authority and responsibility for the administration of agricultural and grazing contracts and granting of road easements on lands licensed to them, with receipts from agricultural leases, grazing leases, and sale of surplus crops on licensed lands retained by the fish and game agencies for defraying the expense of developing and managing such areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association requests that lands zoned for wildlife be licensed to the state management agencies as soon after purchase as possible to preclude environmental degradation which results from overgrazing or improper cropping now practiced by some lessees.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 19
COMMERCIAL FISHING BY FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS
IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, foreign fishing fleets have become active in the near coastal waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, some of these operations are being carried out as near shore as the 12 mile fishing boundary line; and

WHEREAS, some foreign activities have penetrated deep into the Gulf of Mexico to fish important near-shore areas off the Mississippi River Delta and the coast of Texas; and

WHEREAS, some indication is that long line fishing for sailfish and tuna by fleets is having a detrimental effect upon billfish population which supports important recreation fishing for saltwater big game species; and

WHEREAS, all such foreign fishing is indirectly competing with U.S. commercial and recreation fishing interests; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has no system of regulating the fisheries on our continental shelf beyond 12 miles:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Government, through Congress, develop a system for regulation and protection of all U.S. fisheries interests in the continental shelf either by means of statutes which extend the present boundaries of the U.S. fishing interests and regulatory powers, or by means of treaties and agreements with foreign governments.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 20
APPRECIATION FOR NEW YORK'S HOSPITALITY AND EXCELLENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 60th Annual Conference of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in New York City has been an outstanding and memorable event; and

WHEREAS, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation has arranged a well organized meeting and an excellent program, and has been a most gracious host; and

WHEREAS, the delegates and guests have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to share in a joint celebration with the American Fisheries Society of their first 100 years of service to the people of North America and the world:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners extend its appreciation to Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, to Mayor John V. Lindsay, to the fine City of New York, and to the many cooperating organizations and individuals who have made this a memorable "week at the Waldorf."

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21
ACTION ON LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Legislation Committee has prepared a detailed report favoring certain bills pending in the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee has made a number of recommendations in connection with pending legislation, projects and programs on conservation and natural resources subject which also received approval; and

WHEREAS, prompt action is needed to publicize these resolutions and positions on pending measures:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the Secretary-elect to follow through on distribution of copies of all resolutions as indicated therein or as may be deemed advisable to secure maximum effect and value from them, and that the Chairman of the Legislation Committee, both this year and the next, use these committee reports in preparation of position statements as necessary and desirable in expressing the Association's stand on pending bills in the United States Congress. Adopted by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners on September 18, 1970, at New York City, New York.

Editor's Note:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BUT NOT DISTRIBUTED BECAUSE BILL PASSED

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL WATER BANK

WHEREAS, drainage of marsh lands, wetlands, and potholes in the United States is continuing at a high rate; and
WHEREAS, these areas are valuable resources for water and nutrient retention, flood and sedimentation reduction, ground water recharge, wildlife habitat, and other purposes; and
WHEREAS, programs to maintain water on private lands presently are inadequate and must be expanded; and
WHEREAS, this International Association consistently has supported establishing a Water Bank program to maintain important wetlands; and

WHEREAS, legislation to preserve such areas through public support and incentives has been introduced into the United States Congress in the form of H.R. 15770; which is compatible with other government wetlands acquisition programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the United States Congress to enact into law a Water Bank Act with special emphasis on land and water retirement as provided in H.R. 15770, and also urges that sufficient funds be provided to insure reaching the objectives of protecting such wetlands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Representative John Dingell of Michigan be commended for his efforts in this regard.

