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## Resolution 1968-06-23 Wildlife Habitat in Public-to-Private Land Transfers

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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## RESOLUTION NO. 5

### WATER BANK

Whereas, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of prime wetlands in the United States; and

Whereas, these wetlands are essential for (a) holding runoff waters and nutrients within watersheds, (b) contributing to groundwater recharge, and (c) insuring the production and survival of wildlife, especially aquatic migratory birds; and

Whereas, there is presently no Department of Agriculture program for encouraging landowners to maintain existing wetlands; and

Whereas, many acres of these wetlands are being, and will continue to be, destroyed in the absence of an adequate incentive to encourage landowners to maintain them; and

Whereas, the proposed Water Bank has received widespread support by farm organizations, landowners, resource managers, and conservationists:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Departments of Agriculture and Interior:

- A. To continue exploring fully the application of the Water Bank and to encourage farmers and ranchers to maintain wetlands; and
- B. To implement, by legislation, the Water Bank through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture to maintain existing important wetlands and thereby help to hold runoff waters and nutrients within watersheds, maintain groundwater recharge, and insure production and survival of wildlife.

## RESOLUTION NO. 6

### WILDLIFE HABITAT IN PUBLIC-TO-PRIVATE LAND TRANSFERS

Whereas, fishing, hunting, and general enjoyment of public lands in the United States have long been important social and economic uses; and

Whereas, available habitat to support fish and wildlife resources is declining at an alarming rate in both quantity and quality; and

Whereas, proposed public and private development of public lands will further significantly reduce the amount of land available for fish and wildlife production and outdoor recreation; and

Whereas, reclamation project legislation and other laws transferring public lands to private ownership, such as the Homestead and Desert Land acts, do not provide for consideration of wildlife habitat or public recreational values of these lands:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests Congress to enact legislation which would provide for retention of a minimum of 40 acres in each section of public land which would otherwise be transferred to private ownership through reclamation, desert entry, or other public land disposal laws, and that these retained lands be managed and developed with the primary objective of achieving their maximum possible utilization as wildlife habitat; and

Be it further resolved, that the Congress retain adequate public access to said public lands to preserve the privilege of public fishing, hunting and other recreational uses.

## RESOLUTION NO. 7

### NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING AND HUNTING

Whereas, the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has sponsored national surveys of fishing and hunting in 1955, 1960, and 1965, which have proven to be vital aids in planning for state wildlife agencies as well as for federal and private interests; and

Whereas, it is desirable to continue to assess trends in fishing and hunting participation and the contribution made by these activities to the general economy:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is requested to undertake a Fourth National Survey of Fishing and Hunting for the year 1970 which will be comparable with the three previous surveys; and

Be it further resolved, that the Association expresses its approval of the use of funds from the federal-aid-in-fish-and-wildlife-restoration programs for this purpose.

## RESOLUTION NO. 8

### POLICY FOR USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES

Whereas, pollution of the environment with persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides continues unabated in many areas with detrimental effects on many desirable forms of wildlife; and

Whereas, the chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides are highly toxic chemicals known to concentrate in living organisms and to persist in the environment for long periods, and should not be used unless all alternatives have been explored and found inadequate; and

Whereas, a watershed or regional approach to the solution of any pesticide problem is likely to involve several states or provinces, rather than a single state or province; and

Whereas, restriction on the use of pesticides in any one state or province would put the farmers in that area at an economic disadvantage in competition with farmers residing in areas where no restriction existed:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners reaffirms its "Policy for Use of Chemical Pesticides" adopted on September 16, 1966, and restates its intent that this policy should serve not only for guidance of conservation agencies, but also an "example for governmental agencies around the world"; and

Be it further resolved, that member agencies of this Association continue to refrain from the use of the persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides unless all alternatives have been explored and found inadequate, and that the member agencies exert all influence possible on other governmental agencies, legislators, and the public in their respective states and provinces to halt or restrict the use of these insecticides wherever possible.