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Resolution 1967-10-21 State Control of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation of the U. S. Department of the Interior and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are now planning and propose to construct a massive system of dams and appurtenant facilities for a wide variety of purposes; and

Whereas, the proposed water developments will have a major impact on the existing fish and wildlife resource; and

Whereas, little information is now available regarding the magnitude, characteristics and requirements of these resources or resultant reservoir fisheries upon which to formulate sound recommendations for their protection and/or enhancement; and

Whereas, it is essential that biological studies be initiated promptly to keep pace with the engineering and other aspects of project planning so that the studies may be integrated into the formation of projects under the multiple purpose concept, or alternate solutions to water problems be investigated to preserve high value existing resources; and

Whereas, hunters and fishermen pay for basic fish and game studies on water development projects through their special license fees and excise taxes on their sporting equipment while the Bureau and Corps preconstruction studies are paid from the general fund;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby request the Congress of the United States to include sufficient funds in project costs to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the U. S. Corps of Engineers, to (1) study solutions to water problems, and (2) enable the states involved through direct Federal appropriation or funding to formulate and implement biological studies of existing resources which would be affected by water developments for the purpose of providing essential information to plan for the protection and/or enhancement of these resources in connection with said developments.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

STATE CONTROL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON FEDERAL LANDS

Whereas, by law, history, and tradition, in the United States the ownership of wildlife has been separated from ownership of the land; and

Whereas, all species of fish and resident wildlife are held in trust for the people of each state by the individual states through their official agencies; and

Whereas, authority of the federal government for the management of wildlife relates to migratory species which are subject to international treaties and to wildlife on lands over which the states have ceded jurisdiction; and

Whereas, contrary to Supreme Court decisions and sound fish and game management policies, a Solicitor of the Federal Department of the Interior has held that the federal government has full and exclusive power and control over fish and resident wildlife on all federally-owned lands;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners holds that the respective state governments have the basic right and responsibility for conserving, managing and regulating the fish and resident species of wildlife on all lands and waters within their boundaries, except where such jurisdiction has been specifically ceded to the Federal Government.

*Alaska abstained from voting.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

COMMON VARIETIES AND MATERIALS ACT

Whereas, S.B. 1049 (Common Varieties and Materials Act) has been introduced to change the mining laws on public lands; and

Whereas, there is need to retain federal land in public ownership for multiple use, including public recreation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to any changes in the law permitting the location of common variety minerals under the terms of any mining law.

Be it further resolved, that common variety minerals continue to be utilized under the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

INCREASE IN DUCK STAMP PRICE

Whereas, H.R. 482, containing a proposed increase in the Duck Stamp fees is before the U. S. Senate for consideration; and

Whereas, the last time the Duck Stamp fee was increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 the net income to the U. S. was decreased during the first 10 years and the number of duck hunters was decreased proportionately to the price increase; and

Whereas, duck hunters' interest is vitally needed to protect the nation's diminishing wetlands resource;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby oppose H.R. 482 and any other Bills providing for an increase in the duck stamp fee.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

RELATING TO LEASES ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

Whereas, H.R. 740 and H.R. 4882 have been introduced to change private leases on public lands which would provide for certain possessory rights for the lessee; and

Whereas, such changes and action would not be in the best long-term interests of the general public;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners goes on record in opposition to H.R. 740 and H.R. 4884 and the concept of such legislation.