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## Resolution 1966-03-23 Policy on the Use of Chemical Pesticides

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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## RESOLUTION NO. 1

### PRESERVATION OF VALUABLE WETLANDS

Whereas, wetlands constitute habitat of inestimable value for waterfowl and other birds, furbearers, and other mammals and fish; and,

Whereas, the maintenance of wetlands affects subterranean water tables; and,

Whereas, marshes along lake shore areas and rivers are being filled for a variety of purposes or drained through channelization for flood control, navigation, mosquito control, or other purposes; and,

Whereas, marshlands, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood areas of the nation are being drained or filled for agricultural and other purposes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby urges action in the following ways:

1. Support to obtain emergency wetlands funds on a non-matching basis;
2. Extension of the Wetlands Loan Act;
3. Commend the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for recommending that State Development Committees reduce their 1966 expenditures for drainage and propose continuation of this procedure;
4. Support amendments to the Agricultural Appropriations Act which include saline marshes and other types of essential wetlands; and
5. Oppose the drainage or filling of wetlands of value to wildlife and any federal cost-sharing in subsidies encouraging loss or destruction of these resources;

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the Senate Interior Affairs Committee, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2

### ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM

Whereas, primitive areas within national forests and roadless tracts within national parks and national wildlife refuges are being reviewed for possible addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

Whereas, recommendations of the administering agencies will be made to the President after field hearings are held in the local areas concerned; and,

Whereas, the President, in turn, will recommend necessary legislation to the Congress and public reaction again likely will be invited in hearings held by the body;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby declares its endorsement of the principle of adding suitable areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System for the protection of this great national heritage thereby assuring its availability for use by future generations; and,

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to all federal agencies administering such lands.

## RESOLUTION NO. 3

### POLICY ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES

Whereas, chemical pesticides, their use, and their effects on the environment are and should be a vital concern to agencies administering natural resources; and,

Whereas, such agencies in managing public lands frequently require the use of various chemical pesticides as management tools; and,

Whereas, the use made of such materials by governmental agencies should be exemplary; and, Whereas, Senator Gaylord A. Nelson of Wisconsin has introduced legislation to prohibit the distribution and sale of DDT anywhere in the United States;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby commends Senator Nelson for aggressive action on a vital problem; that this Association adopts the following policy on the use of chemical pesticides, for guidance of conservation agencies and as an example for governmental agencies around the world; and that the Executive Board of this Association take whatever steps are necessary to aid states and provinces in implementing this policy and to make annual progress reports in this area;

#### POLICY FOR USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES FOR CONSERVATION AGENCIES

1. Pesticides are chemicals or other substances used to kill or control animals and plants. Employed with knowledge, skill, and restraint, they are important tools in the management of natural resources. Used unwisely, they may harm desirable forms of wildlife and contaminate the environment for years to come. Governmental agencies should lead the way in wise and safe use of such substances.
2. Pest control problems must be viewed ecologically. Consideration of control programs must include both short-term and long-term effects on the entire environment. Because of these involved ramifications, pest control programs must be demonstrated as absolutely necessary before being approved.
3. Biological or non-chemical controls should be used in preference to chemical controls even if the cost is greater. If chemicals are necessary, non-chemical methods should be used in conjunction, if possible, to reduce the amount of chemical applied. Chemicals alone should be used only when there is no satisfactory alternative, and then only the least toxic and least persistent effective chemicals, in the smallest effective concentrations, applied in the safest possible manner, should be used. Selective rather than broad-spectrum pesticides should be used.
4. Highly toxic chemicals known to concentrate in living organisms and to persist in the environment for long periods should not be used unless all alternatives have been explored and found inadequate. Even relatively safe, short-lived pesticides should be used carefully and judiciously to avoid injury to desirable forms of wildlife.

5. Standards for use of chemical pesticides by governmental agencies should be beyond reproach. Kinds of pesticides and concentrations used, application methods, and disposal of waste materials should be such that damage to desirable fish and wildlife, and contamination of the environment will be minimal. Careful records should be kept in all pesticide operations as to kinds and quantities of pesticides used, and evaluation should be made as to the effectiveness of control achieved and undesirable side effects. Where evaluation is deemed desirable, necessary funds should be provided by the agencies making the application.
6. Each state or province should establish a pesticide control committee to review every large-scale application of pesticides by state or provincial agencies. Such a committee should include representatives of conservation, public health, and conservation and agricultural agencies.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 4**

##### **CLEAN WATER**

Whereas, maximum production of fish and game populations and top quality opportunities for harvest of these populations is dependent upon an abundant supply of clean water; and,

Whereas, much of our country's original production potential of fish and game and many fishing and hunting harvest areas have been lost due to water pollution; and,

Whereas, the stated purpose of the Federal Water Quality Control Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-234) is to enhance the quality and value of our water resources and to establish a national policy for the prevention, control and abatement of water pollution; and,

Whereas, said act calls for water quality standards to be established for interstate waters in each state by June 30, 1967, and further provides for public hearings to be held prior to adoption by the state of these standards;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that each state is urged to appear at those hearings and request that standards be adopted which will in truth carry out the purpose of the act; and,

Be it further resolved that each member of the association should take a leading role in urging other state agencies and citizen organizations to appear and let their views on water pollution control be made a matter of record.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

##### **MIGRATORY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Whereas, the policies and philosophies applied to the management, including harvesting, of migratory wildlife directly or indirectly affect every conservation agency on the American continent; and,

Whereas, such policies and philosophies establish principles of management that have an effect on the management of resident wildlife; and,

Whereas, it is recognized that agencies of the respective Federal Governments through treaties and other legal acts have the primary responsibility for the management of migratory wildlife, but that this responsibility must be associated and coordinated with the responsibilities of State, Provincial and other sub-units of government in the management of migratory as well as resident wildlife; and,

Whereas, there presently is no established policy or philosophy to guide agencies responsible for the management of migratory wildlife;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners directs its Migratory Birds Committee to work with Federal Government agencies, including the U. S. Department of the Interior and the Canadian Wildlife Service, to establish a broad policy for the guidance of all agencies responsible for the management of migratory wildlife.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 6**

##### **OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF RAMPART CANYON DAM**

Whereas, plans are being made by the Corps of Army Engineers for the construction of a dam on the Yukon River to be known as the Rampart Canyon Dam, and this dam, if constructed, will rise 525 feet and, by flooding an area of approximately 11,000 square miles, will create a reservoir larger than Lake Erie; and,

Whereas, approximately 8,000 square miles of this region is prime waterfowl producing area, and in a normal year waterfowl production in the Yukon Flats is at least one and one-half million (1,500,000) ducks, geese and cranes, which equals all of the waterfowl produced in the province of Manitoba, or two times the production of the total National Wildlife Refuge System, and includes production of nine percent (9%) of the North America population of canvasbacks; and,

Whereas, the Rampart Dam is of direct interest to the Western States because the resulting depletion of waterfowl will have an adverse influence on this waterfowl population of the Western States inasmuch as recoveries from banding studies show that over half the birds produced on the Yukon Flats enter the Pacific Flyway; and,

Whereas, big game habitat where at least 5,000 moose live would be lost, and caribou, furbearers and small game (snowshoe hares, ptarmigan and three species of grouse) will be affected; and,

Whereas, in 1961, from the dam site and upstream, 22,000 king salmon plus 114,000 chum salmon were counted, and these runs plus unknown numbers of coho salmon will be lost; and,

Whereas, annual flooding prevention will make downstream valleys poor in wildlife because of drying, and will also change fish migration patterns and numbers; and,

Whereas, no plan for prevention of fish and wildlife losses has been published, and no funds have been made available nor plans initiated for compensating for such losses;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is unalterably opposed to the construction of the Rampart Canyon Dam on the Yukon River in Alaska.