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## Resolution 1966-16-23 Development of Waterfowl Production Habitat

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas, the continuation of this important program is dependent upon continued financial support;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that a letter be sent by the Association to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife expressing appreciation for past support and asking for renewal of the Annual Contract to ensure continued funding so that work by the Conservation Library Center can be effectively continued.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 13**

##### **OPPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP FEE**

Whereas, legislation providing authority to the Secretary of the Interior to increase the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp fee from its present \$3 up to \$5 is being considered by the Congress; and,

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners favors an increase in the rate of acquisition and development of waterfowl habitat, but not this method; and,

Whereas, the current \$3 fee for Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps is equal to or greater than the fees charged by many states for small game hunting licenses; and,

Whereas, hunter license fees have historically been the primary source of revenue for the support of state programs designed to manage all species of small game; and,

Whereas, any increase in federal fees required of hunters could seriously jeopardize the use of this source of funds to support state conservation programs;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to any increase in federal hunting fees; and,

Be it further resolved that the Congress be urged to appropriate funds from general revenue to increase the rate of acquisition and development of waterfowl habitat in order to maintain the waterfowl heritage of this Nation which to date has been maintained solely by only those who enjoy the recreation of waterfowling—only one of the many benefits of this wildlife resource.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 14**

##### **ADMINISTRATION OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS**

Whereas, the Corps of Engineers designates many acres of reservoir perimeter lands under its control for fish and wildlife in the public interest; and,

Whereas, these lands are granted under license to state wildlife agencies for management; and,

Whereas, controlled livestock grazing can be an important habitat management tool, and the Corps of Engineers' current rules provide that state wildlife agencies can make recommendations regarding livestock grazing, although the Corps retains administration of the grazing contracts and collects the grazing fees; and,

Whereas, such administration results in conflict between livestock and wildlife use of these lands to the detriment of wildlife;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that state wildlife agencies should administer grazing contracts and collect fees therefor under provisions of the license granted by the Corps of Engineers; and,

Be it further resolved that money collected from grazing be used exclusively for development of hunting, fishing and other recreational benefits on the Corps of Engineers' lands.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 15**

##### **REGULATION OF ANGLING ON FEDERAL REFUGES**

Whereas, the management of fish and resident wildlife is the responsibility of the states; and,

Whereas, the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is promulgating sport fishing regulations on Federal game refuges through the Federal Register; and,

Whereas, the traditional principle that fish and wildlife are public properties not attached to ownership of land is violated by virtues of this practice; and,

Whereas, Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, which is the organic law establishing the Fish and Wildlife Service, specifically states that the authority of the states to manage the fish and game is not to be affected;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Department of Interior through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service should adhere to language and intent of Section 10, and to fully respect the rights of the several states to manage the public use of fisheries resources.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 16**

##### **DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFOWL PRODUCTION HABITAT**

Whereas, waterfowl production habitat is in short supply and is continuing to be lost as the population expands and resources development and use intensifies; and,

Whereas, the U. S. Forest Service has provided an imaginative plan for improving public-owned wetlands in the Chippewa National Forest (Minnesota); and,

Whereas, the wetland development procedures for the Chippewa Forest constitute a model plan that can be applied to any suitable private, local, state or federal government land; and,

Whereas, restored wetlands could substitute for waterfowl habitat being converted to other uses;

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

1. Commends the U. S. Forest Service for completing the unique plan to develop waterfowl habitat on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota;
2. Energetically encourages the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funds to complete the planned wetland developments on the Chippewa National Forest in the immediate future; and,
3. Urges private individuals and groups, and local, state and federal governmental agencies to use this model plan for developing aquatic areas on their lands.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 17**

#### **FISH AND WILDLIFE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS**

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources are highly important to millions of Americans for fishing, hunting and nature study; and,

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources have been recognized as integral parts of outdoor recreation programs on both State and Federal levels; and,

Whereas, the states have been given wide latitude in the development of their programs for outdoor recreation; and,

Whereas, it appears that unnecessary delays and undesirable difficulties are being encountered in reviewing and approving fish and wildlife projects for early implementation;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation be urged to give consideration and recognition to fish and wildlife projects equal to that accorded other types of outdoor recreation.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 18**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER BANK FOR SMALL WATERSHEDS**

Whereas, a water bank for small watersheds is essential to hold runoff water rather than removing it rapidly through channelization; to funnel excess water into selected basins and detention reservoirs thereby aiding landowners and reducing flood hazards; to enhance recharge of ground waters and aquatic habitat especially valuable for waterfowl breeding; and,

Whereas, such wetlands are of inestimable value to local wildlife species in addition to migratory waterfowl for which such habitat is essential and of primary concern especially in the Southeast and other parts of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways; and,

Whereas, draining and clearing of such wetlands usually results in permanent destruction and habitat loss which often is accelerated through government subsidies for the questionable purpose of increasing agricultural production;

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

1. Urges prompt endorsement of the water bank concept to retain runoff waters within small watersheds as long as possible.
2. Encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and all other concerned agencies of the Federal Government to promote the water bank concept with associated incentive payments for private land-owners for wise management of water, land, fish and other wildlife within small watersheds.
3. Recommends that Wetland Types I and VII, which are Federal categories for Bottomland Hardwoods and Wooded Swamps respectively, be included among those types for which drainage subsidies in the form of financial assistance and technical assistance are denied.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 19**

#### **ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS**

Whereas, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is designed, among other things, to assure access to outdoor recreational resources; and,

Whereas, accessibility of public lands to the public for recreational purposes is a mounting problem, and,

Whereas, each year, more and more private landowners are controlling access to federal lands by charging fees to enter or to cross their lands, or by leasing exclusive recreational rights on their lands, or by outright prohibition of access, thereby excluding the public or causing them extra expense and hardship;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly recommends that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, be amended to provide that money from the federal portion of the Fund may be used to acquire easements or lands for the purpose of providing public access to federal lands which have been classified for retention in federal ownership and which possess significant value for outdoor recreation.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 20**

#### **POSITION ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is vitally concerned with legislation pertaining to conservation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the following legislation now pending before Congress:

1. Restrictive Firearms Regulations as typified by S. 1592 and any other unreasonable restrictions on long guns.
2. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp increases as provided in H. R. 14136.
3. Elimination of the Federal Excise Tax on sport fishing tackle as provided in H. R. 15618.
4. Metal Mining Subsidies as provided in S. 1377, unless they are conditioned upon adequate pollution control by the recipients of such subsidies.