

9-21-1965

Resolution 1965-08-26 Fish and Wildlife Problems at Corps of Engineers Projects

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 1965-08-26 Fish and Wildlife Problems at Corps of Engineers Projects* (1965),
Available at: http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso/551

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Conservation Service, is designed to assist small groups of landowners, situated along existing waterways, in the creation of channels and impoundments to provide these landowners with drainage and flood control benefits; and

Whereas, many of these waterways provide habitat for fish and wildlife, the benefits from which constitute a major resource legally belonging to all of the people of the respective states; and

Whereas, impoundments and channelization generally result in the diminution or destruction of existing fish and wildlife resources in exchange for the immediate personal and financial benefit of the few; and

Whereas, Public Law 566, as presently written, does not require measures for the preservation and protection of fish and wildlife, nor mitigation of damages caused by drainage and flood control projects;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress of the United States to amend Public Law 566 to recognize fish and wildlife as important public resources, the protection, preservation, and mitigation for the loss of which must be made a part of project responsibility, included as a condition of project approval, and financed entirely with Federal funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE MANAGERS ON MILITARY RESERVATIONS

Whereas, military reservations control vast holdings of lands, waters, wildlife and other natural resources in the United States; and

Whereas, federal law requires commanders of military reservations to plan and implement a conservation program; and

Whereas, very few military reservations have permanently assigned, professionally trained personnel to supervise their conservation programs;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Department of Defense to provide for the permanent assignment of professionally trained personnel to supervise the natural resource management programs on all major military reservations and to provide professional assistance at regular intervals to those installations where the resources are inadequate to justify a full time assignment.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

Whereas, there continues to be an urgent and growing need for the preservation of waterfowl production habitat in the member states of this Association; and

Whereas, due to budgetary limitations many of the states are unable to acquire lands for waterfowl nesting habitat; and

Whereas, the states are capable of accelerating the waterfowl nesting habitat program if provided financial assistance;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Fish, Game and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to appropriate funds on a non-matching basis to be made available to the states for purchasing waterfowl production areas; and

Be it further resolved that the Grants-in-Aid Committee is directed to prepare the necessary legislation and that an all-out effort be made by the Association to obtain passage of this legislation at the next session of Congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROBLEMS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has repeatedly expressed the Nation's desire to conserve and develop fish and wildlife resources as a part of its water-development program, initially by the passage of legislation in 1934 and subsequently by amendments under which the legislation was strengthened and designated as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has recently reaffirmed its concern for the welfare of our fish and wildlife and other outdoor recreational resources by the passage of a number of measures, including the Outdoor Recreation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, and others; and

Whereas, the President, on May 15, 1962, approved for application by the Departments of the Interior, Army, Agriculture and Health-Education-Welfare policies, standards and procedures for use and development of water and related land resources cited as Senate Document 97, which provides that "Full consideration shall be given to the opportunity and need for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement in comprehensive planning for water and related land use and development, and project formulation and evaluation;" and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of our Nation that such resources be conserved and developed; and

Whereas, in the past the Corps of Engineers maintains that it will consider only navigation in the issuance of permits for construction, dredging and filling activities in navigable waters of the United States; and

Whereas, the Corps is presently implementing a policy which would place the burden of mitigating fish and wildlife damages on the fish and wildlife agencies, except for such integral structures as fishways,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the Secretary of Defense to instruct the Corps of Engineers to:

1. Respect the intent of the Congress as expressed in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and rescind the interpretation of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act which was presented recently by the Corps before the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Appropriations and wherein the Corps proclaimed it will not undertake fish and wildlife mitigation except for those features which it considers to be integral parts of the projects.
2. Respect Senate Document No. 97 regarding policies, standards, and procedures for use and

development of water and related land resources.

3. Honor its own February 16, 1962, Joint Policy Agreement with the Department of the Interior which states, in part, that insofar as permitted by law the Department of the Army will acquire in fee as a part of the reservoir project construction, such lands as are needed to meet present and future requirements for fish and wildlife as determined pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.
4. Adopt a positive policy of including specific measures including the acquisition of lands in fee at Corps of Engineers projects for the conservation, development and improvement of fish and wildlife resources.
5. Adopt a positive policy of not issuing permits for dredging and filling activities in navigable waters of the United States or requiring appropriate modifications in work contemplated when such activities are expected to cause significant losses to fish and wildlife resources.

And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the President, to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, to the governors, to the legislators and to other appropriate government officials.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

EXCISE TAX ON HAND LOADING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Whereas, the re-loading of shotgun, rifle and pistol ammunition by hunters and shooters has reached record proportions, and

Whereas, the existing 11 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on sporting firearms and ammunition has made and is making significant contributions to essential wildlife programs in all of the states through the administration of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 as amended, and

Whereas, the deposit of additional monies in the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund would enable the states to accelerate their wildlife programs so as to provide still greater public benefits to hunters who are reloading ammunition and to others.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the 11 per cent manufacturers' tax on sporting firearms and ammunition be extended to include powder, shot, bullets, primers, metallic, plastic and paper cartridge cases, wads, and other reloading components, accessories and equipment and that the monies received therefrom be credited in the Federal Treasury to the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund for allocation to the states on a matching grants basis under the terms of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

GREENBELT CONCEPT

Whereas, there is an increasing need for open spaces to meet the pressures and demands of rapidly expanding metropolitan and urban areas, and

Whereas, urban developments are frequently situated on or within a short travel distance from river courses which possess great potential for outdoor recreation development and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, and

Whereas, realization of such potential is now seriously threatened by accelerated industrial, agricultural and urban encroachment upon historic flood plains as a result of upstream flood control and other water developments, and

Whereas, recent declarations of federal policy clearly encourage full development of all resource potentials, including open spaces, in conjunction with federal water projects, and

Whereas, there is a need for greater recognition of fish, wildlife, recreation and other values that can be realized by establishment of "greenbelts" along river courses,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the concept of "greenbelts" along river courses, particularly near larger cities.

And be it further resolved that the Association encourages all agencies concerned with flood control and other water developments to include, where appropriate, plans for establishment of "greenbelt" areas as a part of such projects.

And be it further resolved that the Association recommends that appropriate state and federal agencies establish "greenbelt" or similarly designated programs within their respective organizations where such are not already in existence. The basic purpose of such programs should be to stimulate a greater recognition of the public benefits to be derived from "greenbelt" areas.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

SHORELINE ALTERATIONS AND BAY FILLING

Whereas, bays, estuaries and shallow coastal waters are absolutely essential to the maintenance of important resident and migratory fish, wildlife resources, and

Whereas, this essential habitat is rapidly disappearing throughout the coastal areas of the country through uncoordinated public and private shoreline development, and

Whereas, with appropriate planning and adherence to existing principles and knowledge such losses can be avoided or mitigated, and

Whereas, it is in the public interest for both present and future generations that all possible means be taken to prevent further loss of this vital habitat, and

Whereas, federal agencies presently issue permits involving navigation and other features of numerous shoreline alteration projects, and

Whereas, through these existing authorities or through the development of broader authority, such federal agencies should exert a beneficial influence on planning for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that all federal agencies having jurisdiction or responsibilities which may influence or be influenced by shoreline alterations and filling developments are urged to consider the public resource values and interests which may be adversely affected by such developments.