

9-18-1964

Resolution 1964-11-20 Excise Taxes on Additional Classes of Fishing Tackle for Use in D-J Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 1964-11-20 Excise Taxes on Additional Classes of Fishing Tackle for Use in D-J Program* (1964),

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Whereas, the U. S. Forest Service is responsible for research on the maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat on National Forests and National Grasslands and such research is conducted cooperatively with the various state wildlife agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior, other agencies, and private industry; and,

Whereas, research has resulted in the development of procedures for improvement and management of habitat which makes possible new advances in this field and these can be implemented with state game and fish management programs through the usual good cooperation; and,

Whereas, knowledge available to public land managers and private landowners for the most effective maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat in harmony with other uses still is inadequate;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby expresses support of the wildlife habitat research program of the U. S. Forest Service, believing that continued and expanded research will provide many of the answers needed for proper habitat management and improvement of problem areas for fish and other wildlife, and urges Congress to fully support this program with adequate funds; and,

Be it further resolved that the results of this accelerated research program be closely integrated with state game and fish management programs prior to implementation.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

REDUCING WILDLIFE LOSSES IN FEDERAL WATER CONTROL PROJECTS

Whereas, active and proposed federal agency water control projects involve substantial portions of major drainages of the United States; and

Whereas, irrigation districts, drainage districts, small watershed districts, flood control districts, and comparable governmental units formed to utilize benefits and funds of federal agencies concerned with water control involve many states; and

Whereas, many projects eradicate considerable wildlife habitat without mitigating damages to any significant degree although funds are expended annually by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state fish and wildlife agencies in investigations and negotiations directed toward mitigation; and

Whereas, the intent to give equal consideration to fish and wildlife with other purposes of water resources development in the construction of water projects is spelled out in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and in Public Works Appropriation Act; and

Whereas, there is a serious imbalance between the huge sums appropriated for water resource development and the small sums appropriated to provide for the preservation of fish and wildlife threatened by destruction of such development; and

Whereas, state game and fish departments do not have the funds to preserve all fish, wildlife, and recreation areas threatened with destruction by these federal water control projects; and

Whereas, fish, wildlife, and recreation resources are responsible for major contributions to the economy of every state in the Union,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Congress and the Bureau of the Budget to include in federal agency appropriations for water control projects sufficient funds for the necessary studies to determine the fish facilities and lands necessary to fully mitigate fish and wildlife losses;

And further be it resolved that said appropriations insure sufficient funds to the respective states, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to construct, operate and maintain such fish facilities, and acquire, develop, manage and maintain such lands;

And further be it resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget and the Chairman of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

THIRD NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING AND HUNTING

Whereas, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service already has sponsored national surveys of fishing and hunting in 1955 and in 1960 which have proven to be vital aids in planning for the several state Conservation Departments as well as to federal and private conservation and recreation 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, and it continues to be important to determine to what extent tentative projections from the two base reference points in such trends need to be modified for strengthened program planning, by establishing a third point of reference for better evaluation of this data; and

Whereas, the record of sporting license sales has proven to be an unsatisfactory and inadequate source for calculating both the trends in rates of fishing and hunting participation and the total number of participants, as well as for developing much other necessary and useful information about hunters and fishermen;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service be requested to undertake a Third National Survey of Fishing and Hunting for the year 1965 which will have reasonable comparability with the two previous such surveys, both as to time interval between them and as to methodology and content involved, and hereby expresses its approval of the use of funds from the federal-aid-in-fish-and-wildlife restoration program for this purpose.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

EXCISE TAXES ON ADDITIONAL CLASSES OF FISHING TACKLE FOR USE IN D-J PROGRAM

Whereas, on August 9, 1950, the Congress approved the Dingell-Johnson Act (16 U.S.C. 777-777K), which provided that "the United States shall aid the states in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes," and authorized to be appropriated an amount equal to the revenue accruing in each fiscal year from the manufacturers' excise tax that is imposed on

fishing rods, creels, reels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies, under provision of 26 U.S.C. 4161; and,

Whereas, the resulting "D-J Program" which has been administered in the Department of the Interior by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under provisions of the Act, has proven to be both an efficient and a meritorious means of accelerating needed new fish conservation programs, and enjoys strong joint support both by the industry on whose products the tax is imposed and by the consumers (anglers) who purchase those same products by virtue of having provided substantial benefits in terms of improved fishing for the Nation's estimated 33 million anglers; and,

Whereas, the study of sport fishing completed in 1962 by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC Study Report 7) predicted that fishing pressures would nearly double by 1976 and triple by century's end, and recommended that supplemental sources of revenue be developed to meet future demands for increased sport fishing opportunities through improvement of fish habitats, by available management techniques that can be applied as new funds and personnel become employed;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby reaffirms its support of the "D-J Program" and urges that the Congress of the United States undertake to strengthen and expand this meritorious program by (a) amending Title 26 U.S.C. 4161 to extend the 10 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on the aforementioned items of fishing tackle so as to include additional classes of fishing tackle as well as presently taxed items, and (b) also amending Section 3 of the Dingell-Johnson Act (16 U.S.C. 777b) in appropriate related action so as to include corresponding dedication of the proposed new tax on these additional classes of fishing tackle to its approved and established purposes.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

INCREASED FUNDS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

Whereas, water pollution control is vital to the health and welfare of every American, as well as to fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation opportunities, and

Whereas, the construction grants program of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act has stimulated expenditure for construction of municipal waste treatment works of more than five local dollars for each dollar of Federal funds provided; and

Whereas, there currently is needed 5,672 municipal waste treatment works to serve a population of 35,000,000; and

Whereas, there is an annual need for treatment works construction of \$700,000,000 through 1970; and

Whereas, this rate of construction has been reached only in 1963, and then only with the assistance of \$112,000,000 in accelerated public works program funds added to \$90,000,000 appropriated for construction grants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and

Whereas, supplemental funds from the accelerated public works program no longer are available and construction again is dropping to the \$500,000,000 level; and

Whereas, utilization of the accelerated public works program funds demonstrated the necessity of \$200,000,000 annually in Federal construction grants funds to meet the necessary water pollution control needs during this decade;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urge the Congress of the United States to increase the construction grants authorization in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act from the present \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

COMMENDATION OF U. S. DEPT. OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS

Whereas, fish and other wildlife as well as all outdoor recreation are affected directly and indirectly by the sufficiency and the quality of our waters; and

Whereas water pollution has been termed the greatest single conservation problem in our Nation today; and

Whereas massive fish kills have occurred in the Lower Mississippi and many other waters during recent years, and

Whereas, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act directs the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to invoke the enforcement authority of the Act, whenever, on the basis of reports, surveys, or studies, he has reason to believe that pollution of waters in or adjacent to any state or states is endangering the health or welfare of persons in a state other than that in which the discharge or discharges is originating, and

Whereas, this agency has carried out these vital responsibilities with aggressive action in numerous cases to date,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the responsible officials of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the vigorous, competent, and fair manner in which they have pursued necessary enforcement action in the matter of the interstate waters, and especially of the Lower Mississippi River and its tributaries.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

SIMPLIFYING P-R AND D-J AUDITING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Whereas, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts providing Federal aid-in-wildlife and fish restoration and management programs have been in effect since 1937 and 1950 respectively, and have resulted in valuable achievements; and

Whereas, the United States Department of the Interior, in a commendable effort to make these programs even more productive, has promulgated regulations for auditing and administration requiring considerable administrative detail in submission of project documents outlining project proposals and in verification of expenditures; and