

9-18-1964

## Resolution 1964-17-20 Opposition to Anti-Firearms Legislation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa\\_reso](http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso)



Part of the [Environmental Law Commons](#), and the [Natural Resources Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 1964-17-20 Opposition to Anti-Firearms Legislation* (1964),  
Available at: [http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa\\_reso/586](http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso/586)

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the The (International) Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conservation Collection at Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Resolutions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. For more information, please contact [domannbr@law.msu.edu](mailto:domannbr@law.msu.edu).

Whereas, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife initiated in January 1964, efforts to simplify its administration of these programs and recently their Director, in a letter to the President of this Association dated August 20, 1964, has set forth his intent to proceed promptly toward such urgently needed simplification in cooperation with all interested agencies;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for its receptive reaction to the Association's expressed concern over this problem; and

Be it further resolved that the Association accept the invitation to participate in the effort to improve the administration of these programs and directs the President of the Association to designate a working group to cooperate with the Bureau in developing such necessary revisions in procedure and general administration.

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

##### **CONSERVATION LIBRARY CENTER DEPOSITORY FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Whereas, conservation agencies and researchers often encounter difficulties in gathering data and facts concerning prior studies in the natural resource field which could be of great value in future investigations and planning in specific fields, and

Whereas, the Conservation Library Center, located at Denver, Colorado, now offers the opportunity to gather such records and facts into one location and make such information available to conservationists and thereby save time, costs and many errors; and

Whereas, the outstanding value of such a basic conservation reference institution is recognized,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners designates this library as its official depository of published proceedings and any other materials of historical value and urges all regional fish and game associations to do likewise and recommends that its members, officially and individually, actively assist in gathering into this central point, all available publications, reports, copies of manuscripts, field notes, photographic materials and like reference materials which may be deposited in this Conservation Library Center consistent with policies governing each agency; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to all the regional fish and game associations indicated herein.

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

##### **PRESERVATION OF THE SALMON RIVER FISH SPAWNING AREA**

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has, by resolution, previously expressed its concern about protecting the extremely valuable anadromous fishery resources which depend upon the Salmon River remaining an unobstructed stream, and

Whereas, the protection of this spawning area is important because of both its national and international significance; and

Whereas, Congress has not acted on specific legislation such as S.1043 (Church, et al), or similar federal legislation which would be the surest method of protecting this valuable fishery resource;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urge the passage of a specific act of Congress which would permanently protect the fishery resource of the Salmon River so vital to the future of Columbia River salmon and steelhead populations.

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

##### **OPPOSITION TO ANTI-FIREARMS LEGISLATION**

Whereas, proposals have been introduced in state legislatures and in the Congress which, if enacted, would impose greater restrictions on the purchase, possession and use of firearms ordinarily used in the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting or shooting; and

Whereas, such restrictive legislation, if adopted, would seriously hamper the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting; and

Whereas, such restrictive legislation would be inconsistent with the present and future programs of the states and of the United States in increasing and improving opportunities in the pursuit of outdoor recreation by hunting; and

Whereas, the cause of conservation would be seriously jeopardized if such restrictive legislative proposals were enacted into law, either by states or by the Congress; and

Whereas, statistics and studies have proven that such proposed restrictions with respect to firearms ordinarily used in hunting would in no way affect or reduce the crimes committed by the use of such firearms but, to the contrary, would unnecessarily disarm peaceful and law-abiding citizens to their disadvantage; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms has been considered a natural and basic right of citizens throughout the long development of the common law, and is guaranteed in such documents as the English Bill of Rights of 1688, the American Bill of Rights, namely the Second Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and the constitutions of about 35 states, the preservation of which is important to citizens as the primary rights of personal security, personal liberty, and of private property; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms is a personal one accorded to the individual and is not simply a collective right reserved to the militia as an organization;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that legislative proposals at all levels which require a license or permit to purchase or possess a firearm ordinarily used in outdoor recreation by hunting or shooting, or which leave the right to possess such a firearm dependent upon the whim or will of a public officer, or which require the registration of such a firearm, or which impose a confiscatory tax or unreasonable regulation on such firearms, or which totally prohibit the possession of such firearms all such proposals should be vigorously opposed and rejected; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution should be sent to all state legislatures, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, to the House Ways and Means Committee, and to the House Committee on Inter-state and Foreign Commerce.

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

##### **OPPOSITION TO TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY ACTION**

Whereas, the Tennessee Valley Authority is engaged in a plan to develop the so-called "Between the Rivers Recreational Project" in Kentucky, and in that process has taken over the 65,000 acre Kentucky Woodlands National Refuge and proposes to manage the wildlife thereon; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge has been developed over many years by an agency of the federal government eminently qualified and lawfully authorized to conserve and manage wildlife; and

Whereas, there is very serious doubt about both the qualifications and the lawful authority of Tennessee Valley Authority to enter into and engage in the management of wildlife on the pretext that it is in the public interest for Tennessee Valley Authority to "demonstrate" how this can best be done; and

Whereas, this unwarranted intrusion into a field in which a qualified and lawful entity of the federal government is already engaged, is also a violation of state rights to manage non-migratory wildlife,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that we protest this action by the Tennessee Valley Authority and call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to rectify this situation at the earliest possible opportunity.

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

##### **APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO ROSS L. LEFFLER**

Whereas, Ross L. Leffler of New Florence, Pennsylvania, formerly Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, has given unselfishly of his time and energies over many years for the cause of conservation and has thereby made substantial contributions to conservation progress; and

Whereas, he recently was stricken by an illness which prevented his attendance at this 54th annual convention and participation as the organization's General Counsel;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby instructs its Secretary to convey to Ross L. Leffler this expression of gratitude for his past efforts and to wish him rapid and successful recovery.

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

##### **APPRECIATION OF COURTESIES**

Whereas, the 54th annual convention of this organization has been memorable and outstanding; and

Whereas, in large part the success of this convention has been due to the excellence of arrangements and high quality of presentations;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Governor Richard J. Hughes, Conservation Commissioner Robert A. Roe, personnel of the New Jersey Department of Conservation and Economic Development, citizens of Atlantic City, the management of the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel, and others for the many courtesies and favors which contributed so much to the convention; and

Be it further resolved that thanks also be directed to all of those who appeared on the program, thereby making this convention profitable as well as enjoyable.

---