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Resolution 1926-02-11 Group Organization Plan

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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possible remain over for the Convention of the American Fisheries Society. We will have with us a great many of the leading fish culturists of the United States, including the Chiefs of Divisions from several of the States, and I am sure that the southern members especially will be interested in our work. I would also suggest that those of you who are interested should become members of the American Fisheries Society, either as individuals or as state members. At present we have fifteen state memberships out of forty-eight, but I hope they will ultimately all become members.

Mr. Titcomb: I merely wish to say that we have on hand a large number of the Minutes of Proceedings of our conferences held in previous years. This Society is the oldest one of its kind in the country, and it is practically the only medium through which you can keep in touch with the progress of fish cultural work from year to year. The papers and deliberations, therefore, are well worth having in your libraries. I feel that many of the commissioners are not sufficiently interested in the Society; they leave it to their fish culturists to attend the meetings, or perhaps are not represented at all. If you cannot join as a state, you can do what some of the commissions have done, namely, order a certain number of the Transactions and thus assist the Society, which is impecunious, merely having sufficient to maintain itself and publish its Transactions. If you do not want any of the past publications, you can put in your order now for the proceedings of the forthcoming meeting.

President LeCompte: I was authorized to appoint a committee in reference to Mr. Ringland's proposition of Coordination of Outdoor Recreation Associations, and so forth. I will name on that committee Mr. Carlos Avery, Chairman; Dr. A. H. Hadley, and Mr. J. S. Hunter.

I will call for the report of the Resolutions Committee.

Mr. Avery read the Resolutions as follows:

Your Committee begs leave to report the following declarations for your consideration:

Black Bass Law.

This Association welcomes and approves the so-called "Hawes Law" for the better protection of black bass which was passed at the last session of Congress as a valuable and meritorious measure, but desires to call attention to the fact that it is deficient in provisions for enforcement, and

It is therefore resolved by this organization that adequate provision should be made for its enforcement, and that the President of the Association be requested to appoint a committee to take such steps as may be necessary to bring the matter to the attention of Congress and carry out the intent of this resolution.

Group Organization Plan.

This Association realizes the merit of the so-called Group Organization Plan for coordination of all agencies interested in the conservation of wild animal life which was approved at the last convention and reaffirms that approval, but believes that it is outside its province to attempt to carry it out.

In view of the indicated willingness of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation to apply this or a similar plan to an expanded program to include all phases of outdoor life through the various organizations constituting its member bodies, Resolved,

That this organization lend its assistance and co-operation to the National Conference in its efforts to attain the larger objective, rather than to attempt an independent movement embracing wild animal life only.

Tariff on Game Birds.

This Association wishes to record its vigorous protest against that unjust and unreasonable provision of the existing National Tariff Act which requires the payment of a duty on game birds imported for stocking purposes by state game commissioners for the benefit of the public, and

The officers of the Association are hereby empowered and directed to use all proper means through the President of the United States, The United States Tariff Commission, and Congress as may be necessary to secure such modification of Paragraph No. 711 of the Tariff Act as will permit the importation of game birds for stocking purposes free of duty.

Also that every effort be made by said officers on behalf of this Association to secure a refund of such sums as have been paid the Government in duties by the various state game departments.

Conflict of State and Federal Laws.

Since in a number of instances the state laws which give protection to our non-game birds are found to be in conflict with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Treaty with Canada, therefore,

Be it resolved that this Association go on record as approving state legislation which will automatically bring such statutes into conformity with the Treaty requirements, particularly in view of the fact that where any migratory bird protected thereby becomes especially destructive, the Federal regulations provide ample measures for relief.

Education of the Youth.

Realizing that legal enactments and law enforcement alone will not solve the problems of wild life conservation, therefore,

Be it resolved that this Association express its hearty endorsement of such sane and well considered efforts as are being made in the way of educating the youth of our land along these lines, particularly by some of the State Game Commissioners and Sportsmen's organizations, and,

Be it further resolved by this Association that it recommend to all our Game Commissions and Sportsmen's organizations the desirability of instituting and carrying forward some well formulated educational program in the interest of wild life conservation.

Migratory Bird Refuge Bill.

It is obvious that the United States, in order to fully meet its obligations in the protection and preservation of migratory wild fowl assumed by International Treaty, and that the Sportsmen of America may continue in the future to enjoy the recreation of waterfowl shooting to some reasonable extent, that all avail-