Western Association Adopts Resolutions

The Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners adopted 25 resolutions at their annual convention held jointly with the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society, July 13, 1973, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Four of those resolutions follow:

Resolution No. 2
Stream Alteration Projects
WHEREAS, publicly constructed or subsidized stream alteration projects for flood control, irrigation, power generation, drainage, municipal and industrial use, and other purposes often result in destruction of wildlife habitat, and
WHEREAS, these projects may cause irreparable damage to waterways and related land and water resources, and
WHEREAS, compensatory measures for fish and wildlife are either lacking or inadequate, now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners reaffirms its vigorous opposition to publicly funded stream alteration projects, both existing and proposed, until natural resource values and recreation opportunities are comprehensively evaluated and resource mitigating recommendations are included as an integral part of the project and project cost, and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Association encourages and supports administrative directives and legislative programs which will ensure protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources, and be it further
RESOLVED, that this Resolution be sent to the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Defense, and the Governors of the States.

Resolution No. 3
Federal Water Project Recreation Act
WHEREAS, no action has been taken regarding Resolutions pertaining to modification of the Federal Water Project Recreation Act submitted in the 1971 and 1972 annual meetings of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners, and
WHEREAS, the Act (P. L. 89-72) requires that full consideration be given to recreation enhancement as a purpose of federal water projects, and
WHEREAS, the Act further provides that a non-federal public body must execute an agreement before construction to administer land and water areas for recreation enhancement and to repay all cost of operation, maintenance and replacement of facilities plus at least one-half of all construction costs and project modifications, including water for a recreation pool and evaporation loss, which are specifically allocated to recreational uses, and
WHEREAS, fiscal limitations would prevent adequate administration of the area, and impose inequitable cost-sharing responsibilities on state and local political subdivisions who rarely have adequate funds to meet cost-sharing obligations, now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners reaffirms its recommendation that the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (P. L. 89-72) be repealed or amended to make costs of facilities nonreimbursable for anadromous fish, migratory waterfowl, endangered species and estuarine resources, and also for water control and storage and control facilities; eliminate the $28 million limit on land purchased for waterfowl as part of water projects; ensure separable costs of basic access, sanitary, and safety facilities would be Federal costs; ensure fish and wildlife losses will be satisfactorily compensated before enhancement features are cost-shared; and ensure the interest requirement would be waived on cost-share repayments, and be it further
RESOLVED, that this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the members of Congress of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense.

Resolution No. 4
Federal Legislation, H.R. 75, Relating to Fish and Wildlife Programs on Federal Lands and Fees to be Charged
WHEREAS, Federal legislation (H. R. 75) has been amended to make it mandatory to extend programs on military lands, and
WHEREAS, this same legislation includes a new section that calls for comprehensive planning and implementation plans on public lands, and
WHEREAS, this new section also includes provision that requires a public land management area stamp for hunting, trapping and residence wildlife programs on all public lands, and
WHEREAS, H. R. 75 is similar to previously introduced legislation which was opposed by the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners, and
WHEREAS, those measures were opposed on the basis of serving planning, development, and coordination being carried out on Federal lands, and
WHEREAS, fees charged to hunters, fishermen, and trappers on Federal lands would place another special use fee on the already overburdened sportsmen, and would reduce the state's opportunities to increase fees when needed, now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners supports that portion of H. R. 75 concerning military reservations but requests the Congress to allocate that portion of the legislation calling for comprehensive planning and the provision for states to collect special use fees for use on Federal lands, and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Association urges Congress to consider that funds for wildlife management programs on public lands be derived from other sources such as mineral leases, tax sales and grazing fees, and be it further
RESOLVED, that this Resolution be sent to the Chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and authors of the legislation.

Resolution No. 5
Fish and Wildlife Management and Public Access on Military Installations
WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has issued directives to implement the Sikes Act (P. L. 86-797) to carry out fish and wildlife management and conservation measures on military reservations, and
WHEREAS, these directives call for public use and access to military installations when such use does not interfere with the military mission of such installation, and
WHEREAS, fish and wildlife management and public access programs are usually determined by the commanding officer, and
WHEREAS, some commanding officers have not given adequate consideration to these programs, now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners requests that the Secretary of Defense establish a compliance committee composed of military civilians with expertise in these programs and the military mission, and be it further
RESOLVED, that this committee periodically inspect and assure installation compliance with Department of Defense directives relating to fish and wildlife management and public activities and report their findings to the Secretary of Defense.
Resolution No. 2

REGARDING THE NORTH AMERICAN ATLANTIC SALMON COUNCIL OBJECTIVES
MEMBERSHIP FEE.

WHEREAS, the geographic area served by the Northeast Division, American Fisheries Society, encompasses the past and present range of the Atlantic salmon in North America, and

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society through the executive has endorsed the concept and objectives by appointing a representative to the North American Atlantic Salmon Council, and

WHEREAS, the parent society is listed as a charter member of the North American Atlantic Salmon Council, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeast Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at Mt. Snow, Vermont, June 3–6, 1973, endorse the objectives of the North American Atlantic Salmon Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society continue representation on the North Atlantic Salmon Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northeast Division, American Fisheries Society, mandates that the parent society approve a minimum annual membership fee of $10.00 per organization for continued membership and representation on the North American Atlantic Salmon Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the president and executive board of the American Fisheries Society for their consideration and action.

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