

American Fisheries Society Resolution Number 1
CANADA, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COOPERATION TO
MANAGE COMMON NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES.

RECEIVED
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RESERVE

WHEREAS, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America have each unilaterally established 200-mile fisheries jurisdictional zones adjacent to their coastlines; and,

WHEREAS, fish populations do not conform to political boundaries, responding only to biological requirements to fulfill their life histories, as exemplified by the northern anchovy (Engraulus mordax) whose range extends from California to Mexico, the Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus sp.) that extend from California to Canada, and numerous other species that inhabit the northern Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, proper management of these various fish stocks will require close cooperation among fisheries scientists and political leaders of the three nations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled in Annual Meeting, September 16, 1977, at Vancouver, British Columbia, do herewith call on the President of the United States of America, the President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada to amicably and with all practicable haste define common international boundaries of adjacent national fisheries zones and enter into negotiations that will permit the management on a sound biological basis, of their common marine fishery resources.

OPTIMUM YIELD AND THE FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976

WHEREAS, the United States Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 1976 for the first time gives the United States of America a comprehensive marine fisheries policy with the force of law; and,

WHEREAS, the entire concept of management in the FCMA is predicated on the basis of OPTIMUM YIELD, a concept that was born of the need, not only to encourage protein production from various fish stocks, but also to consider economic, social and ecological factors in managing the fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Sport Fishing Institute, in 1973 co-sponsored a symposium, "Optimum Sustainable Yield as a Concept in Fisheries Management," which articulated the concept and need for optimum-yield management of fish stocks; and,

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Fishery Management Plans for selected fisheries, developed by the Secretary of Commerce with concurrence of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, have failed to consider the ecological functions that various stocks of finfish and shellfish play in the essential life-support systems of many other species of economically-valuable carnivorous finfishes, and other marine life, although required by the FCMA to take these matters fully into account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled in Annual Meeting, September 16, 1977, at Vancouver, British Columbia, hereby requests the Secretary of Commerce and the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, in arriving at the total allowable catch, to adopt as a co-equal partner with economic and social factors the concept of an "ecological reserve," which would fully accommodate the prey or food-base requirements for sustenance of desirable abundance and variety of predaceous marine life, thereby contributing to optimality of yield from the fisheries and making viable the word "conservation" in the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society herewith urges the Secretary of Commerce, by means of a Supplemental Budget Request to initiate promptly on a substantial scale an urgently-needed ecological study program into the comprehensive area of predator-prey relationships within the marine environment in order to implement the clear Congressional mandate, as set forth in Sec. 304 (e) of PL 94-265 (FCMA), to carry out "biological research concerning the interdependence of fisheries or stocks of fish."

AFS MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR ORIENTED YOUTH GROUPS

WHEREAS, outdoor oriented youth groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Campfire Girls in the United States and the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in Canada emphasize natural history and environmental studies in a large portion of their award, advancement, and community activities; and,

WHEREAS, most of these groups have summer camps that usually have extensive programs built around water related activities, a significant part of which emphasizes conservation plans for lakes and streams which include fishery management plans; and,

WHEREAS, the first opportunity for many of these young people to have contact with a professional fisheries scientist is at camp or similar outdoor activities; and,

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society has a widespread membership which has the potential for reaching virtually everyone of these organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to provide them with expert assistance and advice in their aquatic resource programs as well as introducing young people to professional fisheries scientists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the American Fisheries Society be encouraged to contact and, where opportunity exists, provide education, counseling, or technical assistance pertinent to fishery science to the youth groups of our several nations at all levels of their organizations.

MARINE ANGLING LICENSES

WHEREAS, it is variously estimated that between 12 and 20 million Americans fish recreationally between 145 and 220 million angling-days annually in the estuarine and marine coastal waters of the United States, while harvesting some two billion pounds, more or less, of edible finfish; and,

WHEREAS, participation by Americans in marine recreational fishing is increasing at an astonishing rate averaging 5 percent annually, but there is a dearth of basic information about the life histories, ecology, behavior, population dynamics, and habitat requirements at various life stages of most of the species commonly taken in the recreational fisheries, and there are insufficient angling facilities such as access areas, artificial reefs, fishing piers, bridge angling outwalks, cappings and railings on rock jetties, etc., needed to accommodate suitably the fishing demands of this growing army of marine anglers; and,

WHEREAS, establishment of the 200-mile-wide fisheries jurisdictional zone adjacent to the United States land mass pursuant to provisions of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-265) and the creation thereunder of the several Regional Fishery Management Councils charged to manage the fish stocks occurring therein, including allocation of their harvestable surpluses among foreign fishermen of that portion of the fishery that is not harvestable by domestic commercial, and domestic recreational fishermen, has rendered it vitally necessary to know the precise nature and extent of the marine angling participation, fishing effort, and catch, if recreational fishermen are to be allowed their fair share of the fish stocks they seek, but these data are currently estimated only in terms of crude approximations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled in Annual Meeting, September 16, 1977, at Vancouver, British Columbia, herewith urges all the coastal states to adopt marine angling licenses featuring (1) reciprocity with adjacent states governing fishing in their contiguous waters, (2) dedication of revenues exclusively to expenditures related to recreational fisheries, (3) policy control by independent boards made up of knowledgeable at-large representatives of angling and scientific interests, and (4) uniform annual fees of about five dollars (\$5) designed to generate on a continuing basis the substantial monies required (a) to provide for development of a wide range of useful marine recreational fishing facilities, (b) to permit biological, ecological, and environmental research urgently needed for effective management of the recreational fisheries, and (c) to provide for minimum related administration and enforcement activities, at the same time recognizing that a major new benefit to be gained from the adoption by all coastal states of marine angling licenses will be the establishment of the statistically-valid angling data base required to insure allocation by the Regional Fishery Management Councils to the recreational fisheries of their fair share of the designated harvestable surpluses of marine fish stocks found within the 200-mile United States fishery jurisdictional zone.

April 15, 1977

Robert J. Kemp, Jr., Director
Fisheries Department
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Dear Robert:

The following American Fisheries Society Resolution was debated and approved at the last annual meeting of the Society. We respectfully request that you study the resolution and that it be brought to the attention of your Commission members and of your fish hatchery administrative personnel.

Genetic Considerations in Artificial Propagation of Fishes.

WHEREAS throughout North America there is an accelerating interest in artificial propagation as a means of supplementing our natural stocks, and an urgent need exists for special planning regarding genetic considerations in artificial propagation of fishes; and

WHEREAS need for genetic planning exists in all fish enhancement programs in North America; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to maintain existing wild stocks in concert with artificially propagated stocks through:

(1) location of sites for artificial propagation with regard to indigenous wild stocks, so that the adaptive genetic diversity of wild stocks will not be lost or diluted by chance interbreeding with cultured stocks, (2) management of fishing pressure so as not to endanger reproduction of wild stocks, (3) recognition of the potential behavioral and genetic stresses on native fishes caused by transplant stocks; and

WHEREAS it is also desirable to maintain adaptive genetic diversity in most artificially propagated stocks through:

(1) use of sufficient numbers of females and males in brood stock to avoid inbreeding depression problems, (2) avoidance of deleterious selective breeding: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all agencies involved in enhancement and management of wild and cultured fish stocks evaluate their present policies and implement appropriate practices with respect to conservation of genetic diversity in wild stocks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all state, provincial, and federal agencies involved in artificial propagation and enhancement of fishes.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Sullivan
Executive Director

CRS/twb