

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 - MITIGATION OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Water resource development projects often disrupt wetlands and adversely affect other fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, The required project Environmental Impact Statements must identify measures that would mitigate or compensate for fish and wildlife losses; and

WHEREAS, Mitigation costs are often not funded as part of the developmental costs nor are the operational funds available for maintaining fully functioning mitigation measures:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 109th annual meeting, September 14, 1979, in West Yellowstone, Montana, implore the United States Congress to fully and concurrently fund the cost of constructing and operating in perpetuity measures required to fully mitigate for fish and wildlife losses in all water and associated land development projects of all the resource development agencies of the United States Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That preventative and mitigation features in proposed water and associated land developments be planned and implemented as required by new (U.S.) Environmental Policy Act Regulations that became effective July 30, 1979, and that the management of the fish and wildlife mitigation features of water development projects be performed by the concerned state fish and wildlife agency and/or federal agency as appropriate.



## RESOLUTION NO. 2 - RIPARIAN-STREAM ECOSYSTEM POLICY

WHEREAS, Riparian-stream ecosystems support an abundance of renewable natural resources comprising a significant economic base; and

WHEREAS, These ecosystems include soil, water, timber, forage, a diversity of terrestrial wildlife, and anadromous and resident fish habitats; and

WHEREAS, Poorly managed riparian-stream ecosystems have detrimental impacts on these renewable natural resources, adversely impacting fish spawning and rearing habitats and degrading water quality for downstream fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Utilization of these productive ecosystems by domestic livestock without adequate consideration for other uses has created, and will continue to create, deteriorated riparian-stream habitat conditions adversely affecting fish populations; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that riparian-stream ecosystems, not managed for a mix of uses have detrimental impacts on the small perennial and intermittent streams which are vital to water quality and the maintenance of productive spawning and rearing habitats; and

WHEREAS, The utilization of forage or timber within these ecosystems should in all instances be accomplished in a manner that will assure that fisheries habitats are maintained in a self-sustaining and productive condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 109th annual meeting, September 14, 1979, in West Yellowstone, Montana, request federal, state, county, and provincial agencies as well as all private interests to plan and manage riparian-stream habitats for the maintenance and protection of these important and productive natural ecosystems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these respective agencies and industries be urged to seek the counsel of fishery scientists as part of the interdisciplinary input in developing riparian-stream resource management plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That maintenance and management of riparian areas be advanced aggressively through the Presidential Executive Order on Flood Plain and Wetlands Management and through nonstructured alternatives called for in recently announced new U.S. water policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to chiefs or directors of USDA Forest Service, USDA Soil Conservation Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chairman of Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, President of the United States, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman of Council on Environmental Quality, Director of U.S. Water Resources Council, state legislators, and other public and private entities as appropriate.



**RESOLUTION NO. 3 - A FEDERAL NONGAME FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT**

**WHEREAS, Nongame fish and wildlife populations have important, social, economic, educational, research, aesthetic, recreational, and ecological values and protection, and realization of these values can be achieved only through strong and sustained conservation and restoration programs; and**

**WHEREAS, Conservation and restoration programs for nongame fish and wildlife are restricted by the absence of technical information and by the level of financial support presently available; and**

**WHEREAS, A federal nongame fish and wildlife restoration act designed to function through the states and funded on a sound and continuing basis will be the most effective approach to developing and implementing conservation and restoration programs:**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 109th annual meeting in West Yellowstone, Montana, September 14, 1979, hereby urge the United States Government to take appropriate action to assure passage and implementation of a federal non-game fish and wildlife restoration act as early as possible.**



#### RESOLUTION NO. 4 - PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF RESERVOIR PROJECTS

WHEREAS, U.S. Government water resources development and construction agencies, including but not limited to the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, are primarily responsible for reservoir construction and maintenance projects, and recently introduced legislation (H.R. 7417) would amend the Federal Power Act to encourage licensing and development of small hydroelectric projects; and

WHEREAS, Such power projects can alter wetland water regimes and cause water fluctuations and result in damage to fish and wildlife habitat:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society assembled at its 109th annual meeting, September 14, 1979, in West Yellowstone, Montana, request the United States Congress and respective federal and state fisheries agencies to establish recreational fishing as a planning and management objective in all current and future reservoir construction and maintenance projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no licenses be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a small hydroelectric project without consultation with and approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (where appropriate), and the concerned state fish and wildlife agencies, with all such projects to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress be urged to amend Part 1, Sec. 2 of the Federal Power Act to provide in Sec. 30(e) that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall provide as part of any loan or grant to the licensee such funds as may be required to mitigate fish and wildlife losses attributable to the development of such a project.



## RESOLUTION No. 5 - RESERVOIR FISHERY RESEARCH

WHEREAS, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the National Reservoir Research Program in 1963 to provide state and federal agencies with basic research and baseline data essential to the formulation of approaches to management of reservoir fisheries resources specifically directed toward improving sportfish production; and

WHEREAS, The National Reservoir Research Program, through past and ongoing cooperative projects with state agencies, has been instrumental in developing solutions to fisheries management problems in reservoirs and tailwaters, has provided its services in accumulating and analyzing years of baseline data from reservoirs throughout the nation, and has developed indices necessary for the prediction of fish population trends and the development of management practices; and

WHEREAS, State fish and wildlife agencies without assistance from the Service's National Reservoir Research Program do not have the financial resources to evaluate certain fish management practices in reservoirs that require several years of data acquisition and analyses; and

WHEREAS, Reservoirs now support about one-third of all freshwater fishing and demands by sportfish anglers are increasing; and

WHEREAS, Management problems associated with maintaining and improving sportfishing opportunities on reservoirs are also increasing:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 109th annual meeting, September 14, 1979, in West Yellowstone, Montana, request the United States Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to continue the National Reservoir Research Program at a level that provides vital support and leadership in reservoir fishery research.



## RESOLUTION NO. 6 - ACID PRECIPITATION

WHEREAS, Sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides emitted into the atmosphere undergo a series of chemical reactions to form sulfuric and nitric acids, which lower the pH of rain and snow to cause acid precipitation; and

WHEREAS, Meteorological processes transport significant quantities of these gaseous emissions and their reaction products hundreds or even thousands of kilometers; and

WHEREAS, Soft-water lakes and streams, such as those of the Precambrian areas of eastern Canada and the United States, are particularly vulnerable to acid precipitation because of their low buffering capacity; and

WHEREAS, Numerous soft-water lakes and streams are currently acidified to a degree sufficient to have caused observable loss of fish and other aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, Lakes and streams in other large, soft-water regions of North America not yet affected will be degraded in the near future if the documented spread of acid precipitation continues; and

WHEREAS, Current demands for electric power and growing reliance on hydrocarbon fuels will result in further increased emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides; and

WHEREAS, Many other chemical contaminants are also released into the atmosphere along with the sulfur and nitrogen oxides:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society assembled at its 109th annual meeting, September 14, 1979, in West Yellowstone, Montana, request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada to ensure that appropriate sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, and other contaminant control technologies be applied to emission sources to ameliorate the problem of acid precipitation and atmospheric deposition for the protection of fish and other aquatic life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the U.S. Department of State and the Canadian Department of External Affairs proceed with all due haste to formulate an Air Quality Treaty between the two sovereign countries, and that said treaty acknowledge the causes of acid deposition and its subsequent impacts on soft-water lakes, fish, and other aquatic life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in recognition of the long-range transport characteristics of acid precipitation, the Governments of Canada and the United States implement joint, coordinated monitoring and research programs to attain much better understanding of the causes, effects, and measures for the control of acid precipitation.



## Special Internal Resolution

The American Fisheries Society recognizes Dr. James E. Deacon for his special achievements in saving endangered and threatened fishes. His studies on the population dynamics and ecology of the Devils Hole Pupfish (Cyprinodon diabolis) and other species of the arid portions of Nevada, California and Arizona alerted the scientific community, management agencies and the public to need for preserving aquatic habitats. His efforts have encouraged others to study the adaptation of desert fishes to restricted environments and he has provided strong leadership within the Society to preserve and maintain the fish resources of North America.

He has served as chairman of the Endangered Species Committee, and the committee report "Fishes of North America Endangered Threatened or of Special Concern 1979" is an outstanding example of the contribution of a professional committee. This summary of the status of rare fishes is of great value to fish scientists and resource management agencies. The members of the American Fisheries Society commend James E. Deacon for his long-term efforts to preserve our living resources and to the Endangered Species Committee for providing information needed to manage and maintain the habitats of the endangered fishes of North America.

Annual Meeting  
West Yellowstone, Montana  
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