

Resolution 1 Proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway

Whereas, The proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway, with a \$1 million feasibility study currently underway by the Army Corps of Engineers, would potentially be a 120-mile canal and a 30-mile long reservoir linking the upper Ohio River with Lake Erie via a system of locks and dams; and

Whereas, Connection of the Ohio River and Lake Erie drainages would result in transfer of fish species, including the sea lamprey, and other exotic organisms between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River drainages; and

Whereas, Construction of the Waterway and Inter-basin transfer of aquatic organisms would adversely affect valuable sport and commercial fisheries among other deleterious environmental effects; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, opposes construction of the proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway.

Resolution 2 Great Lakes Fishery Commission Funding

Whereas, The total economic value of the Great Lakes combined commercial and recreational fishery is between \$2 and \$4 billion per year; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes sport fishery is a thriving industry enjoyed by over four million anglers who spend 55 million angler days on the lakes each year; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes support a valuable commercial fishery that provides high quality protein food from renewable fishery resources and also provides employment for over 9000 people; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has for over 30 years provided the sea lamprey control programs, and interstate and binational coordination of fishery research, planning, and management programs that have revitalized and protected the fishery; and

Whereas, An anticipated budget shortfall of \$1.7 million from the Commission's FY1990 budget request of \$9.6 million would allow resurgence of the sea lamprey, reduce the value of the fishery, compromise Great Lakes Fishery Commission activity, increase requirements for hatchery fish, reduce research programs, interrupt data continuity, decimate staff and eliminate program elements; and

Whereas, The American Fisheries Society recognizes that the current programs of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission are vital to the Great Lakes fishery and the environmental health, economic welfare, and quality of life of the region's residents; and

Whereas, The American Fisheries Society stands ready to work with officials of the Great Lakes States, the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, federal agencies, and appropriate interest groups to secure the funds needed to address current and anticipated sea lamprey management needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, urges the United States and Canadian governments not to reduce the budget of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, but rather to provide sufficient funds to maintain an essential level of sea lamprey management, monitoring, and research in all the Great Lakes.

Resolution 3 Discharge of ballast water from ocean-going
vessels in the Great Lakes and other North
American waters

Whereas, The Great Lakes constitute a valuable resource yielding annual economic benefits in excess of \$2 billion from recreational and commercial fishing; and

Whereas, Exotic organisms such as Chinese mitten crab (Eriocheir sinensis), the predacious zooplankter "B.C." (Bythotrephes cederstroemi), the perch-like ruffe (Gymnocephalus cernuus), and the zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) are being introduced with discharges of ballast water from ocean-going vessels entering the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, Many non-native aquatic organisms may be transferred from one side of an ocean to another and discharged with ballast water; and

Whereas, Such introduction of exotic organisms, whether in fresh or salt water, will affect native biota in unknown ways through predation, competition, infection, genetic interactions, and habitat degradation; and

Whereas, In the years 1978-1987, more than 7,800 overseas vessels, 39% in full ballast, were recorded entering the Great Lakes, each carrying an average of more than 7,000 metric tonnes of water and thousands of live exotic organisms; and

Whereas, History has shown that it is not practical to eradicate invading organisms once established; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska on September 6, 1989, joins Great Lakes fishery agencies, the International Joint Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, in urging the United States and Canadian governments to enact appropriate regulations and eliminate the serious threats that ballast water introductions pose to the integrity and value of North American fisheries.

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Resolution 4 To promote international agreement to reduce drift gillnet by-catch of salmon, steelhead, sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds

Whereas, An objective of the American Fisheries Society is to promote the conservation, development, and wise use of fisheries; and

Whereas, Anadromous salmon and steelhead are important components of American and Canadian Pacific coast fisheries; and

Whereas, Salmon and steelhead spend substantial portions of their lives in international waters of the north Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea; and

Whereas, The United States and Canada experienced declining runs of Pacific salmon and steelhead as well as an increase of net marking on returning fish in 1988; and

Whereas, There is growing evidence that American and Canadian salmon and steelhead are being illegally exploited by foreign drift gillnet fisheries; and

Whereas, An emerging fishery for squid in the northern Pacific has reached dramatic levels of more than 700 vessels using more than 20,000 miles of drift gillnets, and the use of drift gillnets is increasing elsewhere; and

Whereas, Populations of many species of sea turtles and marine mammals native to American, Canadian, and international waters are seriously depleted; and

Whereas, Growing evidence indicates that sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds are also being killed in substantial numbers as by-catch in drift gillnets; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting, September 6th, 1989, in Anchorage, Alaska, urges the governments of the United States and Canada to initiate and engage in serious negotiations with other concerned nations to alleviate the serious and destructive influence that drift gillnets have on salmon, steelhead, sea turtles, marine mammals and sea birds; and be it further

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to increase appropriations for high seas fishery patrols by the Coast Guard and for enforcement of all laws and agreements prohibiting the harvest of American stocks of salmon and steelhead by other countries.

Resolution 5 Mitigation of acid mine drainage

Whereas, Acid mine drainage is a serious water quality and fishery problem in the United States; and

Whereas, Acid mine drainage has enormous adverse effects in the states of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky as well as serious effects in other midwestern and southern states; and

Whereas, The United States Congress recognizing the problem, established an Abandoned Mine Lands program (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977) which requires a fee of 35 cents per ton from strip mines and 15 cents per ton from underground mines to fund mitigation of environmental problems caused by past unregulated and abandoned mined lands and which includes provisions for water quality restoration; and

Whereas, Of the billions of dollars subsequently collected and spent on abandoned mine lands, only a few incidental water quality restoration projects have been approved, allowing the acid mine drainage problem to continue unabated; and

Whereas, The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in the U.S. Department of Interior administers the funds that Congress created to deal with the problem while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has responsibility to enforce water quality standards and work to restore water quality; and

Whereas, The OSM and EPA have been unable or unwilling to agree on formal guidelines to work cooperatively to address acid mine drainage problems effectively; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, urges the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a cooperative agreement that will provide for dealing effectively with acid mine drainage problems.

Resolution 6 Clean Air

Whereas, Acid precipitation has been shown to affect the environment, including fishery resources, deleteriously; and

Whereas, Acid deposition and its damaging effects can be reduced by reduction of air-borne sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen; and

Whereas, The American Fisheries Society promotes scientific management of aquatic resources for the optimum use and enjoyment by the people of North America; and

Whereas, The American Fisheries Society has been concerned about the adverse effects of acid precipitation for more than a decade and passed resolutions concerning acid deposition in 1979 and 1981; and

Whereas, Legislators and executives in both the United states and Canada have recently taken strong steps designed to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, commends the Congress of the United States and the President for their initiatives in proposing a reduction of 10 million tons of sulfur dioxide emissions within 10 years, and entreats the President and the Congress not to waiver in their resolve to achieve this objective; and be it

Resolved, That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, congratulates the Government of Canada and the Provincial Governments on legislating a 62% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions by 1994, and implores these governments to achieve additional reductions in sulfur dioxide emissions beyond 1994.

**RESOLUTION - APPRECIATION TO HOSTS AND CONTRIBUTORS FOR THE
119TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, the 119th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, convened in Anchorage, Alaska, 4-8 September 1989, is a success commensurate with the size of the 49th state of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the success of this conference has been largely due to the organizational abilities, attention to detail, and hospitality of the hosts and contributors for the meeting; and

WHEREAS, host and contributor organizations and staff left no stone nor seafood unturned in their quest to educate, entertain, and satisfy Society members and guests;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual Meeting, 6 September 1989 in Anchorage, Alaska, commends and thanks the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Arctic Environmental Information Data Center; the Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Ocean Assessments Division, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service; the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans; the Northern Pacific Management Council; the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturer's Association, Alaska Pacific Seafoods, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Anchorage Cold Storage Company, Inc., Anchorage Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Arco Alaska, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Chinook Alaskan Brewing and Bottling Company, Exxon Company U.S.A., Favco, Inc., Municipality of Anchorage, National Bank of Alaska, National Fisheries Institute, Northwest Marine Technology, Shell Western E&P, Inc., Unisea, Inc., Unocal Corporation, All Alaskan Seafoods, Echo Lakes Lockers, Ed's Kasilof Seafoods, Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, Trident Seafoods, and Western Alaska Fisheries.