

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the 120th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society was hosted by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS, more than 900 Society members and guests benefited from the fisheries science educational opportunities provided by the 120th annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the meeting participants enjoyed and appreciated the congenial hospitality extended by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and its staff; and

WHEREAS, the unqualified and notable success of the 120th Annual AFS Meeting was the direct result of the hard work, cooperation, and warm hospitality of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, its director, and staff;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the membership of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, enthusiastically commends and thanks the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and its staff for exemplary performance in the Society's behalf.

## RESOLUTION - THE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF RARE FISH

WHEREAS, the first International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Rare Fish was held on 16-20 July 1990 at the University of Lancaster, England; and

WHEREAS, scientific leaders from more than 30 countries documented overwhelming evidence that fish species, particularly in freshwater, are becoming endangered or extinct at an increasing rate in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, North American fish faunas are increasingly threatened by water diversion, dams, channelization of rivers, pollution, poor land use practices, acid rain, and the establishment of nonnative aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, studies by the American Fisheries Society exemplify the concerns expressed at the University of Lancaster by documenting as a result of these threats a 45% increase during the past decade in the number of North American fishes requiring special management because of their increasing rarity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, joins the Fisheries Society of the British Isles and other professional fishery organizations in urging the governments of Canada, the United States, and Mexico to implement the following resolutions adopted by participants of the International Symposium at the University of Lancaster.

1. Draw the attention of national and international bodies to the urgent need to give fish a conservation status comparable to that already given to birds, mammals, and other vertebrates.
2. Give due weight to the conservation of fish faunas in environmental planning, impact assessment, and the execution of development.
3. Support schemes for improving the recording and monitoring of fish faunas.
4. To make every effort to inform the public about the urgent need for fish conservation, and to give greater emphasis to fish biology, taxonomy, ecology, and genetics in all levels of school and higher education.

## RESOLUTION - PROPOSED UPPER OHIO RIVER ISLAND REFUGE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, there are approximately 2,000 acres of riverine wetland habitats associated with 38 islands of the upper Ohio River between Shippingport, Pennsylvania (river mile 35) and Manchester, Ohio (river mile 397) and 1,500 acres of relatively undisturbed side channels and backwaters associated with these islands; and

WHEREAS, the complex interspersed bottomland and riparian habitats, and deep and shallow aquatic habitats, make these areas extremely valuable to numerous birds, mammals, fishes, freshwater mussels, and other animal species for feeding, reproduction, and other necessary life functions; and

WHEREAS, these habitats contain rich assemblages of plants and animals endemic to the river, including seventeen plant, seven fish, five mollusk, and ten bird species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered, by either Ohio, Kentucky, or West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the aquatic habitats associated with the islands are major fish and mussel production for the Ohio River; and

WHEREAS, the undisturbed island shorelines, especially the heads and side channels, are favored sport fishing areas offering unique angling opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the islands are in imminent danger of significant change or destruction by commercial sand and gravel dredging, industrial development, barge mooring, and other navigation related activities, dredge spoil disposal, logging, and recreational and residential development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recognizes the biological and recreational importance of the 38 upper Ohio River islands and recommends that these island systems with their valuable habitats be protected in their natural state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Fisheries Society supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to create an Ohio River Island Refuge System and calls upon the governors, legislators, and natural resource agencies of Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania to actively support this proposal.

## RESOLUTION - PROPOSED NON-FOOD FISH DEFINITION

WHEREAS, few drugs are registered for use in aquaculture; and

WHEREAS, the major obstacles to registration are the extensive and costly data requirements for drugs used on food-producing animals; and

WHEREAS, these data requirements for mammalian safety, residues, and metabolism are designed to protect the human food supply by demonstrating that no residue of concern remains in the food; and

WHEREAS, fish generally do not become "food fish" until they are large enough to be kept by anglers or until they have reached sufficient size for marketing as table fish; and

WHEREAS, most fish species require six months to two years for growth before they reach marketable size in the aquaculture industry, or in the wild are harvested by anglers; and

WHEREAS, drug treatments at these early stages are restricted to patterns that will leave no illegal or unsafe residues in the tissue of marketable or catchable fish, due to short retention times; and

WHEREAS, data to demonstrate these short retention times for treatments of early life stages of fish would take at least five years and considerable expense to develop; and

WHEREAS, the aquaculture industry, including many species and a variety of concomitant diseases, is growing at a very rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, only one company is actively pursuing registration of drugs for aquacultural use in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a crisis of major proportions in aquaculture is about to occur due to the lack of registered drugs for producing fish;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, urges the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine to immediately accept the definition of eggs, fry, and small fingerlings as non-food fish in aquaculture in order to facilitate provision of more and better quality fish for the American consumer without adversely affecting human health or the environment.

## RESOLUTION - PROPOSED LARGE RIVERS RESEARCH INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the management of fisheries in the large rivers of the United States is severely hampered by a lack of knowledge of fish populations and river dynamics; and

WHEREAS, many large rivers with important resident fisheries have experienced substantial decreases in those fisheries; and

WHEREAS, in many rivers some of the formerly abundant native fishes now exist only as threatened or endangered species or have experienced genetic degradation due to poor hatchery practices or interbasin stock transfers; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has contributed substantially to these problems through dam construction for navigation, flood control, hydropower generation and water supply, and through introduction of nonnative species;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the development of a research program to address the fisheries management needs of the nation's large river systems.

## RESOLUTION - INITIATIVE TO FACILITATE AQUACULTURE DRUG REGISTRATION

WHEREAS, few drugs are registered worldwide for use in aquaculture due to the:

1. considerable expense of meeting data requirements associated with registration,
2. limited market supporting aquaculture chemicals,
3. lack of patent protection for companies registering chemicals,
4. diversity of diseases and species cultured, and
5. lack of uniform international test guidelines and data requirements; and

WHEREAS, much information on mammalian safety, environmental fate, residues, and metabolism of drugs used in aquaculture, as required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for registration, has yet to be generated due to the high costs involved; and

WHEREAS, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has developed several testing guidelines that are acceptable to its 24 member countries, including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Japan, and plans to update and supplement these guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Round-Table Consultation on Documentation on Drugs in Aquaculture held in Oslo, Norway in June, 1990, has initiated the development of uniform international guidelines for testing aquaculture drugs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, supports continued participation by the Center for Veterinary Medicine, FDA in the Round-Table initiative begun in Norway and in the review and acceptance of new OECD guidelines for testing drugs to facilitate the registration of aquaculture drugs in the United States and worldwide.

RESOLUTION - UNINTENTIONAL NONINDIGENOUS SPECIES INTRODUCTION;  
PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND CONTROL

WHEREAS, the zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) and other exotic species have been unintentionally introduced via ballast waters to North America; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the range of exotic species will include major freshwater systems within North America; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of exotic species has potential for severely altering aquatic ecosystems and interfering with municipal, industrial and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that prevention, research, and control of exotic species be initiated as soon as possible;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, urges the federal governments to take immediate effective steps, including regulations and legislation, that will minimize or eliminate unplanned introductions via ships ballast.

## RESOLUTION - GREAT LAKES COASTAL BARRIERS

WHEREAS, the federal Coastal Barrier Resource System has discouraged the unsafe, unwise, and costly development of erosion- and flood-threatened areas by denying developers federal subsidies and flood insurance for new development along 666 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts where coastal barriers such as wetlands, beaches, dunes, and bluffs are protected from federally subsidized development through the System; and

WHEREAS, the shorelines of the Great Lakes are also threatened by intense development and escalating pollution, and coastal development poses a threat to the Great Lakes' environment and economy; and

WHEREAS, these areas have value as fish habitats and provide public access for users of the fishery resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, urges Congress to include these undeveloped shoreline areas along the Great Lakes in the Coastal Barrier Resource System.

## RESOLUTION - U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE HYDROPOWER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, there are 335 hydropower projects nationally that will be subject to relicensing in the 1990s with no apparent recognition within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the 1981 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy has established procedures for categorizing fish and wildlife habitat values and determining mitigation goals, has adopted the mitigative sequence of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and has reinforced the need for coordination between federal and state agencies pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; and

WHEREAS, the Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986 provides the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance fisheries resources in the affected watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the 1988 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hydropower Policy effectively limits mitigation opportunities for fish and wildlife resources in order to meet the nation's energy demands; and

WHEREAS, the 1988 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hydropower Policy goal of maintaining existing habitat value severely limits the opportunities for restoration of fisheries resources at relicensed hydropower projects, particularly for anadromous fishes such as Atlantic salmon and American shad; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested public comments on the policy and their role in the federal hydropower licensing program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 120th Annual Meeting, 28 August 1990, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, requests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service abandon its 1988 Hydropower Policy and continue to employ the 1981 Mitigation Policy in the federal hydropower licensing program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society requests that hydropower licensing be recognized as a high priority program by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and seek sufficient funding to allow for full participation nationwide.