

AFS Resolutions

1978
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The 1978 deliberation of the AFS Resolutions Committee has distilled the following nine resolutions from the many which were brought to our attention. The resolutions will be voted on during the Thursday afternoon August 24 annual business meeting. Please study the resolutions and try not to dwell on grammatical errors, but rather matters of substance. Our time will be very short and the acceptance or rejection of the resolution can be greatly expedited if you come to the meeting prepared. Thank you.

Bob Phillips - Chairman
Jackie Campbell
D. C. Carver
Jon Stanley
L. R. Mitzner
R. H. Stroud
R. W. Wiley

August 24, 1978

RESOLUTION NO. 1. APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZED FUNDING FOR THE RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION PROGRAM OF 1978

WHEREAS, the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978, Public Law 95-306 was passed by an overwhelming majority in Congress and was signed by the President; and

WHEREAS, there has been support by the national conservation organizations, the State fish and wildlife agencies, and many Land Grant universities; and

WHEREAS, the need exists for additional funds in the natural resources area for support of the extension program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the cooperative State extension service in order to provide educational programs for landowners and users of forest, range, and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, there is an unparalleled opportunity to strengthen efforts for fish and wildlife resources of this Nation through implementation and funding of the Act; and

WHEREAS, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through its Office of Extension Education, and the Federal Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have carefully planned to strengthen existing extension programs and to initiate new efforts where needed and have recently negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting, August 24, 1978, in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate the full \$15 million annually as authorized in Public Law 95-306 to carry out the purposes of the Act beginning in Fiscal Year 1979 and for each of the next nine successive fiscal years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Congress and Secretary of Agriculture take appropriate steps to assure fish and wildlife resources receive a fair share of the appropriate funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 2. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FOR FISH KILLS FROM
DISSOLVED GAS SUPERSATURATION AT DAMS

WHEREAS, total dissolved gas (nitrogen) supersaturation has been responsible for large fish kills in the Columbia River and more recently on the Osage River of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, the spilling of water and entrainment of air at dams has been the cause of lethal dissolved gas supersaturation; and,

WHEREAS, fish kills will continue to occur at dams unless corrective actions are taken by responsible agencies and dam owners; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the national water quality agency of the United States and the Departments of Fisheries and the Environment are the water quality agencies of Canada.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting, August 24, 1978, in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, do herewith call upon the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Ministers, Fisheries and Environment Canada to cause a survey to be conducted by the dam owners in their respective countries to identify those dams having a design potential to cause gas supersaturation and resulting fish kills, and in cooperation with the responsible States and provinces, cause the dam owners to take reasonable corrective actions.

RESOLUTION NO. 3. GREAT LAKES FISHERY PLAN

WHEREAS, the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada, signed September 10, 1954, created the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC); and

WHEREAS, the GLFC's duties as stated in Article IV of the Convention include the following charge:

"to formulate a research program or programs designed to determine the need for measures to make possible the maximum sustained productivity of any stock of fish in the Convention Area which, in the opinion of the Commission, is of common concern to the fisheries of the United States and Canada and to determine what measures are best adopted for such purposes;" and

WHEREAS, numerous State, Federal, and Provincial Governments of the Great Lakes region make daily decisions involving water use and treatment, land use, planning and zoning, which are likely in the absence of a comprehensive fishery management plan to affect fisheries that have considerable recreational and commercial values; and

WHEREAS, the GLFC is the only agency that can formulate a fishery plan that is international in scope;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, August 24, 1978, does herewith call on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to formulate a Great Lakes Fishery Plan designed to address management of the fisheries of each lake as components of a comprehensive Great Lakes Fishery Plan, with each lake's fishery management plan to include as a minimum: (1) A complete description of the fishery, including gear, species, location, management costs, revenue, recreational interests, and existing fishery rights, (2) an assessment and specification of the fishery's present condition, probable future condition, maximum sustainable yield, and optimum yield, and an assessment and specification of the capacity and desire of the United States and Canada to harvest this optimum yield, and (3) recommendations for management of the fisheries.

RESOLUTION NO. 4. MANAGEMENT OF BILLFISHES

WHEREAS, the stocks of blue, black, and striped marlin as well as swordfish, sailfish, and spearfish are migratory and widely dispersed throughout Western and Tropical Atlantic waters, the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, the high aesthetic and recreational appeal of billfish to sport fishermen causes the value of the recreational fishery to exceed the value of commercial fishery by a ratio of at least 10 to 1; and

WHEREAS, catches in waters near the U.S. by commercial fishermen from many countries (with the exception of Japan) are increasing to the point where intensified fishing for the billfishes themselves, or the incidental catch while fishing for tuna, apparently cause local depletions of billfish stocks; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient knowledge about the numbers of billfish caught both by commercial fishermen using long lines and by recreational anglers to allow prompt and intelligent regulation of the catches; and

WHEREAS, five Regional Fishery Management Councils have jurisdiction over the billfish species and can recommend closed areas, catch restrictions, limits of amount of gear, and closed seasons by means of fishery management plans and precautionary regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, August 24, 1978, hereby deplors the commercialization and apparent depletion of stocks of fish having high commercial and recreational value, and urges the collection and dissemination of research findings on the abundance and population characteristics of billfishes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this organization strongly recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce) adopt and activate all portions of the National Plan for Marine Fisheries that apply to billfishes, thereby insuring adequate research on these species and all necessary protection of these important resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 5. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN AND BARGE OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, the scenic Upper Mississippi River Basin presently provides significant wildlife habitat and an excellent fishery, and is the location of two national wildlife refuges; and

WHEREAS, increased barge traffic in the Upper Basin would threaten these major natural resource values by increasing dredging and dredge disposal for channel maintenance and by intensifying streambank erosion and the churning up of bottom sediments; and

WHEREAS, channel maintenance and construction and lock and dam construction along the Mississippi, Illinois, and Upper Mississippi Rivers are financed entirely by the Federal Government, thus subsidizing commercial large operators and creating an artificial incentive to increase barge traffic and deepen the channel of the Upper Mississippi from 9 feet to 12 feet; and

WHEREAS, Congress now is considering legislation which would: 1. Require that commercial barge operators contribute to the cost of waterway construction and maintenance; 2. prohibit deepening of the Upper Mississippi River channel; and 3. with the exception of Lock and Dam 26 at Alton, Illinois, prohibit further expansion of the Mississippi River waterway system until a master plan based on transportation and environmental studies has been completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, August 24, 1978, hereby expresses its support of the imposition of user fees on barge operators to finance all new construction costs and all maintenance costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this organization opposes deepening of the Upper Mississippi channel, at least until the master plan and associated environmental studies of the entire are completed, reviewed, and determined to be acceptable.

RESOLUTION NO. 6. COLUMBIA RIVER ANADROMOUS FISHERY

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of hydroelectric dams on the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers in the Pacific Northwest has destroyed more than half of the spawning habitat of Pacific Coast anadromous fish and seriously jeopardizes the existence of several races; and

WHEREAS, either as the construction or licensing agency, the Federal Government is primarily responsible for the operation of these dams, and adequate compensation for habitat destruction has been neglected for over 40 years by the responsible Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, Operation Fish Flow 1977 demonstrated the benefits and workability of fishery-oriented operational techniques, such as flushing downstream fish migrants over dam spillways to reduce turbine mortality, and technologies currently exist for significantly reducing the nitrogen supersaturation problem common to many of these dams; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan partially to replace fish and wildlife resources lost to these dams;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, August 24, 1978, hereby supports the early implementation of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, the expeditious study and preparation of similar compensation plans for other dams in the Columbia Basin, and the retrofitting of dams licensed by the Federal Power Commission with devices and operating techniques to improve passage for upstream and downstream migrants and reduce fish mortality and disease.

RESOLUTION NO. 7. FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT

1978 Resolution

WHEREAS, wise use of natural resources and protection of our environment is a matter of great importance to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, all programs and activities to conserve resources and enhance environmental quality are dependent upon an informed and supportive citizenry; and

WHEREAS, environmental education--both formal school and informal public informational programs--are a means of developing this public awareness as well as the knowledge and skills citizens need to participate in the environmental decisionmaking process; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Environmental Education Act, which was designed to encourage environmental education programs throughout the Nation, is about to expire:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, August 24, 1978, hereby: 1. Supports an extension of the Federal Environmental Education Act (P.L. 91-516) and urges that adequate funding--a minimum of \$15 million per year--be allocated to the Office of Education so that an effective national program can be developed and maintained; 2. recognizes the close relationships of energy and environmental education and recommends that the Environmental Education Act be revised to recognize this relationship; and 3. believes that a cooperative, working relationship between all appropriate Federal and State resource management and educational agencies is essential to an effective national program and that the Environmental Education Act should encourage and facilitate such recognition.

RESOLUTION NO. 8. PROVIDING ACCESS TO WATERS DURING HIGHWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, public access to public waters is an essential prerequisite to meaningful recreational fisheries management programs; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. Senate Document 94-159 (March 1976), nearly 35,000 of the highway bridges constructed by December 1975, on the Federal-Aid Highway System are deficient or obsolete, making them candidates for reconstruction under provisions of the Special Bridge Replacement program authorized by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, Section 147 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1976 provides that funds apportioned to States may be used for construction of access ramps from bridges under construction, or which are being reconstructed, replaced, repaired, or otherwise altered, to public boat launching areas adjacent to such bridges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, August 24, 1978, urges the State fish and wildlife agencies to (1) explore opportunities for development of bridge-related boat and walkway fishing access to suitable fishing waters, and (2) take necessary action to secure funding for construction of access ramps for this purpose under Section 147 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1976.

RESOLUTION NO. 9. RIPARIAN AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 establishes a national policy requiring all Federal agencies to give full consideration to environmental effects in planning and carrying out their program, recognizing the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare and development of man; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended, was passed with the objective of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters; and the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1964 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides for protection of areas within the public lands where special management attention is needed, including the need to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in May 1977, recognized the needs of the Nation to provide adequate management and planning considerations for the protection of wetland riparian and floodplain zones by the issuance of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 for these areas respectively; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that riparian-aquatic vegetation is very important for the maintenance of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and to water quality; and riparian-aquatic habitat zones have not, in the past, received adequate management and planning considerations by Federal land management agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society at its annual meeting in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA, August 24, 1978, urges the U.S. Forest Service, USDA, and the Bureau of Land Management, USDI, to include riparian aquatic zones under special management plans which consider the value of the vegetation to both the natural ecosystem which they form, and forage needs of wildlife and domestic livestock and (2) supports the initial efforts of these two agencies to fence, study and monitor riparian-aquatic zones for the protection of fisheries, wildlife, and water quality, as well as other multiple-use resources.