

*Committee
Policy Statement*

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Artificial Propagation of Salmonids

Submitted by Alaska Chapter

WHEREAS in Alaska there is an accelerating interest in artificial propagation as a means of enhancing the decreasing salmonid stocks, and an urgent need exists for special planning regarding genetics considerations in artificial propagation of salmonid fishes; and

WHEREAS need for genetic planning exists in all salmonid enhancement programs in the western states; 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 genetic risks involved if transplanted and wild stocks interbreed; 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 selective breeding except when used as a research technique: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That enhancement or rehabilitation of salmonid stocks in a stream or lake system should utilize native stocks already present; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in special situations where no alternative to transplantation exists, the characteristics of the donor stock be carefully matched so as to be compatible with the new environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the biological impact of transplantation on the recipient and surrounding watersheds be thoroughly evaluated; and be it further

RESOLVED, That artificially propagated stocks should be isolated (in time and space) from wild stocks to allow effective management of fishing pressure on both types; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to agencies involved in artificial propagation and to the office of the parent society requesting that said policy be encouraged on a national basis.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Protection of the Public's Right to Hunt and Fish on Public Lands

Submitted by Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

- WHEREAS America's opportunity to perpetuate public recreation, particularly hunting and fishing, lies in her public lands both Federal and State; and
- WHEREAS each year many acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and other Federal and lesser government agencies are being converted to private ownership, either through outright sale under the Public Sale Act RS2455 (1st and 2nd Provisions), through patents under the current mining laws, the Trespass Sale Act of 1968, or indirectly under the Desert Land Act of 1877; and
- WHEREAS all rights of the public to pass across or participate in recreational activities on these lands are lost when the lands are traded, sold, leased or are approved for Desert Land entry; and
- WHEREAS the general public does not have an equal right to purchase public land classified for sale, since adjacent landowners receive preference in several respects; and
- WHEREAS once the lands go into private ownership, game and fish management agencies are held liable for damage done by wildlife: Now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the hunting and fishing rights on all public lands classified for sale or transfer into private ownership through trade, sale, or Desert Land entry be reserved for the public; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That in every public sale every citizen be given an equal right to purchase, with the sale going to the highest bidder, and in cases of a tied high bid, the bidders be allowed to submit another higher bid; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That no landowner shall be eligible to receive compensation for damage done by wildlife on lands obtained through any public land sale, trade, or Desert Land entry; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That no public lands fronting on any water be classified for sale to private ownership.

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RESOLUTION NO. 3

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Restoration of Endangered Trout

Submitted by Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

WHEREAS the 1973 Endangered Species Act, which prohibits the "taking" of an endangered species, actually hinders rather than enhances meaningful restoration programs designed to increase the distribution and abundance of certain endangered trouts; and

WHEREAS this anomaly is due to the fact that all projects to date on endangered trouts such as the greenback cutthroat trout, Apache trout and Gila trout, have been carried out by reintroduction of the endangered trout into public waters, and if all waters containing an endangered trout must be closed to the public then the public agencies involved with these projects will cease further activity and the restoration programs will come to a halt; and

WHEREAS the endangered status of no fish can be attributed to over-exploitation, and that special regulation fisheries for native trouts, designed for a limited kill, can afford a high value recreational experience and create favorable publicity and widely accepted public support for the restoration projects; and

WHEREAS using threatened trouts as a regular part of a fisheries management program is the main hope of increasing the distribution and abundance of these fish; and

WHEREAS a serious obstacle to enforcing the law in reference to endangered trouts is the fact that no clear-cut, irrefutable criteria exists to definitely establish any specimen or group of specimens to represent a designated taxa, and therefore the evidence will not hold up in a court of law: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society recommends to the Department of the Interior that upon implementation of an adequate program to increase the distribution and abundance of an endangered trout by reintroduction, the status of said trout be changed from endangered to threatened.

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RESOLUTION NO. 4

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

The Need for Improved Opportunity to Vote on
All Significant American Fisheries Society Business

Submitted by Oregon Chapter

WHEREAS active membership and participation in American Fisheries Society business is open to everyone interested in its purposes and able to pay its annual dues; and

WHEREAS over 90 percent of the members are precluded from the business and policy decisions of AFS by limitations on funds and time for travel; and

WHEREAS a quorum for conducting American Fisheries Society business at the annual meeting consists of only 50 members but was not maintained in 1974; and

WHEREAS American Fisheries Society business has been hampered at other times by failures to maintain a quorum or to obtain broadly based support of the membership; and

WHEREAS the financial and the functional status of this respected and needed professional society is not firm and needs the advice and consent of its members; and

WHEREAS the constitution of the American Fisheries Society was revised recently without resolving these and related problems: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Western Division requests a constitutional convention of the American Fisheries Society to be held prior to the regular annual meeting in 1976 for the purpose of improving membership representation and membership participation in the decision making process and for such other purposes as are deemed necessary by the convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the convention shall consist of not more than 50 delegates who shall be elected by and represent each 200 members of every Division in AFS; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the convention present its recommendations to the membership for ratification at the regular annual meeting in 1976.

*Refer to
Exec. Comm.*

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RESOLUTION NO. 5

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Commercial Advertising in Transactions, AFS

Submitted by Montana Chapter

WHEREAS it has been noted that the projected expenditures for the American Fisheries Society in 1975 will exceed receipts, causing a projected deficit of \$47,000; and

WHEREAS anticipated deficits could exhaust the cash reserve in about two years; and

WHEREAS the proposed increase in membership dues of \$6.00 for active members and \$2.00 for student members would only serve to barely cover the projected deficit, and would not provide any additional services to the membership; and

WHEREAS authors and their employers are faced with an increase in page charges from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per page in the Transactions, and the time delay in article publication is nearly 15 months, thus delaying current research findings from review by the general membership; and

WHEREAS the American Fisheries Society's major source of revenue is from membership dues, page charges and subscriptions: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society requests the Parent Society Executive Committee to consider the merits of soliciting paid advertising as a source of additional revenue for publication of the Transactions.

*Refer to
Exec. Meeting*

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RESOLUTION NO. 6

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Political Activity by American Fisheries Society

Submitted by Montana Chapter

- WHEREAS political decisions are made, in many cases, without sufficient input from all resource agencies; and
- WHEREAS these decisions may have irreversible impacts on local, state, provincial, national and international aquatic resources; and
- WHEREAS the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society recognizes the need to become actively involved in political decision making at the local and state level to protect and enhance the fisheries resource; and
- WHEREAS the present tax-exempt structure does not allow the American Fisheries Society to lobby at any governmental level: Now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Fisheries Society appoint a committee to review and report to the membership on the implications of a professional society actively participating in political decision making at various governmental levels and on the desirability of having at least a portion of the Society's funding taxable so the Society can actively lobby on issues of particular interest.

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RESOLUTION NO. 7

Presented to the WESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Seattle, Washington July 16, 1975

Membership Structure

WHEREAS the structure of the American Fisheries Society has grown more complex as the science of fisheries has expanded in such fields as research, management, husbandry, engineering, and economics; and

WHEREAS the Society provides its members with a publication oriented primarily toward research interests; and

WHEREAS fishery workers in fields other than research do not presently receive an equitable benefit for the cost of their membership; and

WHEREAS the disposition of Society income reflects a significant cost per member for production of the Transactions; and

WHEREAS suitable mechanisms are only beginning in the Society for the nurture and support of all interests and their advocates, especially at the chapter level: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Parent Society provide a dues schedule containing specifically an active membership category for those who choose not to receive the Transactions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Parent Society be requested to stimulate publication of nonresearch-oriented material and to accomodate the diverse nature of the existing, potential and former membership, particularly at the chapter level.