

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

REGIONAL CORMORANT CONTROL

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, cormorant populations in the United States have increased dramatically in the past ten years, and

WHEREAS, wildlife damage has been documented in many areas in the Great Lakes and throughout the country, due to the huge numbers of cormorants during migrations and nesting periods, and

WHEREAS, cormorants have devastated large quantities of terrestrial habitat, many in sensitive locations that are important to valued native bird species, and

WHEREAS, cormorants have inflicted significant damage to economically and ecologically valuable game and forage fish populations via predation, and

WHEREAS, the regulatory regime of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, has changed, providing opportunities for state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to implement cormorant control projects to minimize harmful impacts, and

WHEREAS, the success of local efforts to control cormorants and solve local habitat and predation problems are ultimately dependent on a sound, coordinated regional strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Huron Ohio, on July 13, 2005:

1. Encourages immediate implementation projects to limit the expansion of cormorant nesting colonies and to begin reducing the size of existing colonies, consistent with their authorities;
2. Recommends that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), in cooperation with other relevant entities, convene experts to summarize the known information regarding the population of dynamics, control efforts, and harmful effects on the environment and other wildlife populations; and
3. Recommends that the IAFWA, in cooperation with other relevant entities, create a plan among state, federal, and non-governmental entities that specifies the objectives and appropriate actions needed to minimize cormorant damage.