

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES' RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Bylaws and Constitution of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ("Association") encourages the cultivation of friendly relations, mutual understanding among those engaged in conservation of our natural resources, and especially the coordination of efforts within public administrative agencies responsible for the protection, preservation and management of fish, wildlife, forests, waters and soils of North America; and

Whereas, the Association Bylaws and Constitution also encourage the development of public understanding and appreciation of the economic and ethical importance of conserving the forests, waters and soils, and managing wisely our fish and wildlife as part of natural and managed ecosystems and as a source of recreation and food for our citizens; and

Whereas, the individual state governmental members of the Association will, on occasion, have different perspectives or take different positions on substantive issues regarding the conservation and management of our natural resources; and

Whereas, taking positions in disputes between state governmental members of the Association can be divisive, thereby damaging the Association's ability to achieve its goals through a strong and unified organization;

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, strongly urges the Association to:

1. avoid to the extent possible, direct involvement in disputes between state governmental members,
2. enter into or invite discussions with the directly affected state governmental members before taking any formal positions or actions, and,
3. seek the opinions of the state governmental members before any formal or legal intervention or participation in litigation by the Association in any dispute between state governmental members.