

RESOLUTION - APPRECIATION TO HOST
118TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

September 14, 1988

WHEREAS, the 118th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, was held in Toronto, Ontario, from September 12 to 15, 1988; and

WHEREAS, said meeting was more than ably hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the city of Toronto, with its two-million citizens, Lake Ontario harbourfront, ethnic cuisine, theatres, museums, galleries, and reassuring "Visa Accepted Here" signs offered an overwhelming array of diversions; and

WHEREAS, the accommodations, facilities, and 19th century opulence provided by the Royal York Hotel, recommended in the "Andy and Fergie" royal tour guide, were unparalleled in recent memory; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the membership of the American Fisheries Society, here assembled offers its most profound appreciation to the Ministry and most especially to Jane Henry, Coordinator, and Jim MacLean, General Chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee, who expedited the fulfillment of even our most capricious needs and whims.

**RESOLUTION - THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARK AND
NATIONAL FOREST NATURAL-BURN POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including Yellowstone National Park, is valuable to the nation, science, and mankind as a place where truly natural processes can occur--where the natural change of forests, brushlands, grasslands, wetlands, and water bodies can proceed; and

WHEREAS, the natural burning of terrestrial vegetation is one of the important processes of such change, with ramifications of increased habitat diversity, increased biodiversity, and other beneficial long range change for wildlife populations and communities, including fish and other aquatic organisms, and with benefits to mankind through opportunity to better observe and understand such changes; and

WHEREAS, most of Yellowstone National Park and many parts of National Forests have in recent years been administered to enable natural processes to take place relatively unimpeded by human activity, including a policy of letting natural wildfires proceed unless and until the burning threatens human life or facilities; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1988, large parts of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem including National Park and National Forest land were burned over, and the natural-burn policy and the administration of it by the National Park Service and the Forest Service have, as a result, come under attack; and

WHEREAS, the severity and extent of the 1988 fires in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including Yellowstone National Park, were caused by (1) the abnormal amounts of fuel contained in excessively dense standing and fallen timber created by development

of over-mature forest that resulted from a policy of artificial suppression of all wildfire between 1872 and 1972 and (2) drought in summer 1988 that has been far more extreme than any other in the history of the Park; and

WHEREAS, the highly abnormal severity and duration of the drought could not have been foreseen by anyone;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 118th Annual Meeting, September 15, 1988, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in concert with other organizations and agencies, supports the present policy of prescribed natural fires in National Parks and National Forests rather than returning to a blanket policy of fire suppression; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society commends the National Park Service and the Forest Service, and in particular Director William Penn Mott and Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Robert Barbee and the National Forest Service Supervisors in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for the manner in which they have administered that policy and for the way that they, in view of the information available, have dealt with the difficult, extraordinary fire situation of 1988.

**RESOLUTION - TO PROVIDE FOR SOUND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
INCORPORATING MARINE MAMMALS**

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) demonstrated foresight by the U.S. Congress in addressing a national need to protect marine mammal populations; and

WHEREAS, Congress has embodied sound principles of conservation (diligent protection plus safe utilization) in the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

WHEREAS, the Magnusson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) has too frequently failed to prevent over-fishing or to promote the recovery of over-fished populations; and

WHEREAS, after one and a half decades there is adequate history to demonstrate that the MMPA has been successful; and

WHEREAS, continued "protection" of selected predators (marine mammals) while intensively harvesting their prey (fish and shellfish) will unnecessarily negate the ecosystem concepts embodied by Congress in the MFCMA and MMPA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 118th Annual Meeting, September 15, 1988, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in concert with other organizations and agencies, requests that Congress restructure its conservation legislation, the MMPA, EPA and MFCMA, to be consistent. Such changes will bring the principles of conservation and management of all marine life into line, with a goal of protecting the health and stability of the marine ecosystem.