



**Statement of Consensus Principles for Reauthorization of
the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund**

**Between the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and
the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators**

WHEREAS, both the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recognize that the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Trust Fund) provides mission critical funding for America's anglers and boaters; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize the importance of growing recreational angling and boating participation, through recruitment-retention initiatives and provisions of access to water, in part to provide continued financial support for fisheries conservation and boating safety programs;

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize that the customer base of both groups overlap and our members are collectively responsible to provide both a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for boating and fishing participants; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA members recognize that boating and fishing are complimentary activities necessitating collaboration, cooperation and long-term partnering between the two organizations to achieve our mutual objectives; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA agree that the reauthorization of the Trust Fund is of major importance to the members of both organizations;

WHEREAS, AFWA and NASBLA represent two major stakeholder groups for which it is vitally important to be in complete agreement about a common Trust Fund reauthorization proposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following consensus principles are adopted by our organizations.

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Proposal

- All of the existing components or programmatic elements of the Trust Fund remain vital to the continued success of boating, angling, and fisheries programs and should be maintained in the next reauthorization cycle.
- Increase the monies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives for administrative costs: either 1.6 % of the fund total *or* 11.78 million dollars plus an annual inflation adjustment for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard administrative costs based on the current law's CPI. The State-Federal Joint Task Force will discuss the administrative costs at a future date.
- The monies for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division which are used for grants, commissions, and administrative purposes ("set-asides") will be apportioned from the Trust Fund before the percentage allocations assigned to each program are applied.
- Add the line item funding for commissions in the U.S. Coast Guard "set-asides" from \$0 to \$200,000, in order to cover costs associated with the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. The total funding for the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (\$400,000) and the fishery commissions (\$800,000) will remain at \$1.2 million.
- Change the federal/state matching share for the state recreational boating safety grants from 50/50 to 75/25 to create consistency among all boating and fishing trust fund programs.
- Implement maintenance of effort clause in the boating safety program, as is done in the Sport Fish Restoration portion of the trust fund.
- Ensure no net loss for Sport Fish Restoration monies in year one and provide for mutual growth of both the Sport Fish Restoration and the boating safety accounts above the 2010 levels for the remainder of the reauthorization period.
- Explore options for increased funding in support of angler and boating participation programs including related outreach initiatives.
- Recover fine and penalty dollars -- have these monies go to the Trust Fund as opposed to the General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That AFWA and NASBLA work collaboratively with other partners to address new or additional legislation considerations.

That AFWA staff have some flexibility, to adjust or adapt its legislative negotiations, in keeping with these principles and with prior approval of the Executive Committee.

Approved by AFWA's Executive Committee on July 28, 2008.

Approved with amendments by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee on September 9, 2008.

Approved with no amendments by the Angler and Boating Participation Committee on September 10, 2008.

Approved with one revised principle (for consideration by the Executive Committee) by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee on September 10, 2008.

Approved with amendments by the Executive Committee on September 10, 2008.

Approved at the Business Meeting on September 11, 2008.



**Resolution Supporting Improved Reporting of Hunting Incidents
in the IHEA Incident Clearinghouse**

WHEREAS, The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) realizes the importance of collecting, analyzing and assimilating accurate hunting incident data and annually calls upon agencies to provide accurate and timely information on hunter incidents; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA has made improvements to the incident database making it easier to submit and compile data, these improvements include: creating a central clearinghouse database; developing, along with our members and partners, standardized reporting forms; standardized definition of a hunting incident, developing additional databases for non-firearm incident databases; and periodically revising and improving these reporting forms; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA offers, and encourages all agencies to receive incident investigation and reporting training by attending the IHEA National Hunting Incident Investigation Academy; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA whole heartedly supports efforts to improve the accuracy, completeness and timely reporting of hunting incidents to the central incident database; and

WHEREAS, hunting incident reporting for IHEA's Incident Clearinghouse, though improving, often lacks consistency and the detail necessary to clarify and qualify the nature of each incident, even though a detailed incident investigation and reporting form is available on the IHEA Website; and

WHEREAS, even though incident data as recent as 2007 is partially reported, 2003 was the last year in which the incident clearinghouse was considered complete, although fewer than 35 states reported; and

WHEREAS, the incident clearinghouse is the only national repository of hunting incident information, which is vital to documenting the safety of hunting, as well as identifying, understanding and addressing incidents and trends; and

WHEREAS, the IHEA offers a hunting incident investigation academy for the purpose of training investigators in consistent incident investigation and reporting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each state should strive to contribute information that is timely, consistent, accurate, detailed and complete for each hunting related incident that occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that incident reporting for each year should be completed no later than June 1 of the following year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that steps are taken to ensure that incident information is presented consistently and with the necessary level of detail to clearly convey how and why the incident occurred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the image hunters project to the public rests on the capability to access and provide timely, consistent, accurate, detailed and complete information regarding the level of safety associated with hunting, and because the future of our hunting traditions depends, in large part, on identifying and addressing incident trends, it is critical that action be taken.

Approved by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee on September 9, 2008.

Approved at the Business Meeting on September 11, 2008.



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

**Resolution in Appreciation to New York Department of Environmental
Conservation, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources**

WHEREAS, the 98th meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was held in the great State of New York, home of the Adirondack Park, the largest publicly protected conservation area in the contiguous United States; and

WHEREAS, the city of Saratoga Springs graciously provided a wonderful venue full of history, beautiful architecture and welcoming people; and

WHEREAS, Patty Riexinger, Director, along with the staff of the NY DEC Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources professionally ensured that the conference proceeded smoothly and in an environment that ensured the successful conduct of business and also conviviality and good friendship;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the NY DEC-Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources for hosting a very successful, productive, and enjoyable conference.

Approved at the Business Meeting on September 11, 2008.



Protecting and Enhancing the Value of Our Nation's Lakes

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Program, Section 314 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), was developed to protect and enhance lakes; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation revealed lakes, including reservoirs and ponds are the most popular fishing spots for the nation's 30 million anglers, hosting over 304 million days of fishing per year and supporting an annual angler expenditure of over \$17.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, the CWA was designed to ensure that the water resources of the United States could fulfill a variety of beneficial, designated uses; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Program (section 314 of the CWA) has not been funded since 1994, and less than 5% of Non-Point Source Program (Section 319) funds have been used for lake restorations which is wholly inadequate for meeting the goals of the CWA; yet lack of stewardship has caused serious deterioration of a significant portion of these aquatic habitats, the result being reduced economic value and public use. Yet a major share of our nation's lakes are not meeting the "swimmable and fishable" goals set forth in the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) has advocated for comprehensive, watershed-based approach to lake management used in the Clean Lakes Program and advocates the use of this model in the pursuit of support and funding for lake and reservoir protection and improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the use of the Clean Lakes Program model to restore the water quality and enhance recreational opportunities in the nation's lakes and calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to include funding support for the Clean Lakes Program, of 100 million dollars, in its next budget request.

Approved by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee on September 9, 2008.

Approved by the Membership on September 11, 2008.



**Resolution Supporting Waiver of Hunter Safety Requirements
for Disabled Military Veterans Participating in Supervised Hunts**

WHEREAS, increased numbers of U.S. military servicemen and women have been and are being wounded and disabled in International conflicts; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans often spend months or years in military hospitals and other institutions while being treated for disabilities incurred in service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that participation in supervised hunting activity has proven successful in enhancing the mental and physical rehabilitation of these disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of organized activities are being sponsored to provide supervised hunting opportunities for these disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the lack of previous hunter education by these disabled veterans may be an obstacle to participation; and

WHEREAS, participation in scheduled hunter safety education courses by these disabled veterans can be extremely difficult or impossible; and

WHEREAS, careful supervision of hunt participants is a key component of hunts organized for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some state wildlife agencies have implemented special regulations that facilitate safe and successful participation in supervised hunts by non-hunter education certified disabled military veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that state fish and wildlife agencies are respectfully encouraged to consider implementing suitable methods of removing barriers to participation by disabled veterans, such as apprentice permits, and special authorizations, temporary exemptions, on-line hunter education, or other appropriate regulations and controls.

Approved by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee on September 9, 2008

Approved at the Business Meeting on September 11, 2008.