



## RESOLUTION 2019-09-10

### FISH AND WILDLIFE RELEVANCY ROADMAP

**WHEREAS**, healthy fish and wildlife and their habitats are essential to the quality of our lives and provide food, fiber, recreation, pollination, water purification and other ecosystem services; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than a century, state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have been guided by the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, sportsmen and women have long been recognized as strong partners with fish and wildlife agencies and have made significant contributions to conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, hunting and angling have been and will continue to be important avenues to participate in the outdoors and connect people with nature; and

**WHEREAS**, society is becoming more diverse and wildlife value orientations are changing; and

**WHEREAS**, society is becoming more urbanized, people are spending less time outdoors, participation in traditional outdoor pursuits is declining and people are acquiring information through new and different means; and

**WHEREAS**, over twenty-five peer reviewed or peer edited papers have been published in natural resources journals on relevancy or related topics and the subject has been a frequent topic of plenary and special sessions at major fish and wildlife meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, to meet the needs of changing societies, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the need to engage and serve broader constituencies to help more people connect with nature and understand the value of fish and wildlife agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, every state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agency has its own unique circumstances, challenges, constituencies and socio-political environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources made two recommendations including "*examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife*

*conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies”;* and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Wildlife Management Institute convened a team and enlisted the help of over 60 individuals from state, provincial and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, business, industry, academia and private citizens to develop the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap is to enhance conservation through broader engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap is intended to be non-prescriptive and a “living” document that will be regularly updated as new science and learning are acquired;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, adopts and supports the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap, recognizing that each fish and wildlife agency may implement it in a manner and within a timeframe that meets its needs, interests and capacities.

*Resolution jointly submitted by the Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding and Education, Outreach and Diversity Committees with a recommendation that it be passed.*