

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

RESOLUTION



STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY LEADERSHIP FOR AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

WHEREAS, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the authority and the leadership role of state fish and wildlife agencies in conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat within their states; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that aquatic nuisance species can pose a significant threat to the aquatic wildlife and aquatic wildlife habitats of the western United States; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that additional infrastructure and resources within each state fish and wildlife agency and within each state is needed to coordinate, plan and seek funding to address threats from aquatic nuisance species; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that in order to achieve the desired security of our western aquatic wildlife and their habitats, it is necessary to employ new, consistent, and cooperative approaches among all of the western states; and

WHEREAS, the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force has offered its Recommendations on State Actions to Improve our Regional Capacity for Managing Aquatic Invasive Species (incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS, the Western Governors' Association has offered its resolution regarding Undesirable Aquatic, Riparian, and Invasive Species (WGA Policy Resolution 04-11, incorporated herein by reference).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages its member states to adopt the recommendations of the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, including:

- Appointment of a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species or Invasive Species Committees;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species Plans;

- Appointment of a representative from each state to the Western Regional Panel;
- Establishment of programs with additional resources to prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic nuisance species;
- Establishment of early detection and rapid response plans; and
- Establishment of authorities necessary to implement these programs and plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests of, and partner with, the Western Governors' Association to convene an Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group to work toward the development and implementation of a comprehensive program to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the water resources of the western states (as per WGA Policy Resolution 04-11).

Adopted in Convention
Sun Valley, Idaho
July 29, 2004