

RESOLUTION - STABLE FEDERAL FUNDING
FOR TRIBAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

WHEREAS, tribal governments hold legal title to the natural resources of over 90 million acres of land throughout the United States, providing millions of man-days of recreational activities to tribal and non-tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, tribal lands commonly share the watersheds of state and federal lands, and protection of natural resources in one part of a drainage often benefit natural resources lower in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, many tribal governments have capable and dedicated resource management agencies that manage tribal lands, and tribal governments are eager to assume more responsibilities in managing natural resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 121st Annual Meeting, 10 September 1991, in San Antonio, Texas, supports stable federal funding adequate to provide for professional management of tribal fisheries resources.

**RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

WHEREAS, the western Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna is overfished, and the abundance has been declining for over two decades to the point that the spawning stock abundance (ages 8+) is 10% of the 1970 level, the medium stock abundance is 50% of the 1970 level, and the abundance for large fish has been on continual decline since 1970; and

WHEREAS, the primary spawning area for western Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna is located in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, harvest restrictions since 1982 have failed to halt the declining trend and fishing mortality on the spawning stock has continued to increase; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has determined that "continued harvest at the 2660 MT level will continue to result in an increase in the estimated fishing mortality rate and a corresponding decline in the estimated stock size of large and medium fish;" and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Fisheries Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service has previously concluded and has confirmed with the latest stock assessment that the ICCAT objective of increasing the population size is unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future with the management program now in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Commerce will gain management authority for bluefin tuna in 1992 under revision to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, but has been prohibited from establishing harvests above or below that set by international agreement; and

WHEREAS, the ICCAT is the international organization responsible for maintaining the bluefin tuna stock at population levels that provide maximum sustainable yield;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 121st Annual Meeting, 10 September 1991, in San Antonio, Texas, do hereby assert that the following actions need to be implemented to avoid continued stock declines:

(1) Given the current depressed state of the western Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna, all directed harvests should be immediately prohibited until such time as the spawning stock biomass rebuilds to at least 40% of the 1970 level; and

(2) the Secretary of Commerce is urged to prohibit use of any gear that has a bycatch of bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico during the bluefin tuna spawning season in order to conserve the remaining spawning stock.

RESOLUTION - APPRECIATION TO HOST
121ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society convened in San Antonio, Texas, September 10, 1991, was hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and

WHEREAS, the city of San Antonio provided irrefutable proof that General Santa Anna did not defeat the spirit of the Texican settlers of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, conference attendees much appreciated the hospitality and facilities graciously provided by the Lone Star Brewing Company and the natural resource contained within the Edwards Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the menudo, cabrito, mole, relleños margaritas, and long necks sustained our energy level to excess, Santa Anna's revenge notwithstanding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the American Fisheries Society, schooled up in the aforementioned city on this 10th day of September 1991, extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Chapter of the AFS, the Lone Star Brewery, and especially to the Arrangements Committee chaired by Bill Rutledge, all of whom appeared everywhere they were needed.