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American Fisheries Society

Oregon Chapter
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15 April 1995

PAUL BROUHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
5410 GROSVENOR LANE STE 110
BETHESDA MD 20814-2199

Dear Paul:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, represents over 500 fisheries and aquatic science professionals. At our annual meeting, February 16, 1995, we unanimously passed the enclosed resolution supporting reauthorization of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Oregon Chapter strongly encourages you to support reauthorization of the ESA in a form that maintains the Act's original intent and strength. Our chapter believes a strong ESA is critical to maintaining Oregon's populations of salmon and other valuable aquatic animals for this and future generations of Americans.

Also, enclosed is a copy of the national American Fisheries Society's policy statement regarding the Endangered Species Act and its reauthorization.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hughes, President
for the Executive Committee

Enclosures

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AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

RESOLUTION OF THE OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) is a strong environmental law that addresses society's responsibility as stewards of the ecosystems and natural resources upon which future generations will depend, and

WHEREAS, 3 genera, 27 species and 13 subspecies of fishes in North America have been documented as extinct during this century, and rates of imperilment and extinction continue to increase, and

WHEREAS, 25 of the 57 freshwater fish species in Oregon, at least 104 of the northwest's stocks of Pacific salmon, at least one-third of the freshwater fishes of North America, and a variety of other aquatic species, are considered endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and

WHEREAS, recent actions required by the ESA to protect threatened and endangered species of Pacific salmon have helped focus societal attention on the need to maintain healthy ecosystems in order to conserve resources of great economic and cultural importance, and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the ESA is to "provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved", and

WHEREAS, a strong ESA will indirectly help maintain diverse ecological services such as air and water purification, groundwater recharge, protection of watersheds, and buffering of floods and droughts, and

WHEREAS, the history of human-caused reductions in biodiversity suggests a strong need for regulatory mechanisms to maintain the integrity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems for ourselves and future generations, and

WHEREAS, strong and enforceable environmental laws like the ESA are vital for biological resource management, particularly given current rates of human population growth, and

WHEREAS, the ESA is slated for legislative reauthorization in 1995, and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon us as professional fishery biologists to raise public awareness about native fishes, and advocate public policies that protect these animals and their habitat.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society fully supports the AFS Policy Statement on reauthorization of the ESA (Angermeir and Williams 1994; appended).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Oregon Chapter will advocate to elected Oregon officials the need to renew the ESA in a form that maintains the Act's original intent and strength. One element of this advocacy will include the distribution of copies of the Society's ESA Policy Statement to key policy makers within Oregon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Oregon Chapter strongly urges other Chapters, the Western Division, and the Executive Committee of the American Fisheries Society to vigorously advocate to policy makers, including the United States Congress, the need to renew the ESA in a form that maintains the Act's original intent and strength.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we strongly ~~disagree~~ with efforts 1) to eliminate near or long-term funding of the federal government's endangered species program that will otherwise list new species and designate critical habitat; or 2) to pass legislation that places moratoria on ESA-related federal actions. Such actions would be short-sighted and contrary to the sustainability of our ecosystems and biological resources.

OREGON CHAPTER, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
1995 ANNUAL MEETING
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE
February 16, 1995