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PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF the ESTUARIES SECTION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

As required by Article IV, Paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society, the following declare themselves to be active members in good standing and do hereby petition for the establishment of the Estuaries Section within the Society. The scope and objectives of this proposed Section are as follows:

Concerned by the potential fisheries problems associated with rising coastal populations in the United States, members of the AFS Potomac chapter and other AFS members in good standing propose a new AFS Estuaries Section. The Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society will provide a Society-wide forum for discussing and resolving the major multidisciplinary, multiorganizational issues concerning United States and Canadian estuaries. One of the first issues for this new section will be funding and infrastructure for Title V, the National Coastal Monitoring Act, authorizing NOAA and the EPA to establish a national program for consistent monitoring of the nation's coastal ecosystems. Each agency must carry out specific activities leading to the development of coastal integrated management and prepare biennially a comprehensive report to Congress assessing the condition of the nation's coastal ecosystems — all without funding appropriations to fulfill these responsibilities. The Estuaries Section will provide for AFS the forum at national meetings for discussion and presentation of such major issues to the membership through seminars and presentation sessions at annual meetings. The Estuaries Section will assume a leadership/liaison function with other professional societies involved with estuarine issues, especially the Estuarine Research Federation.

DATE: May 27, 1993