

**RESOLUTION-REFINEMENT OF THE MASTER, WATER-CONTROL
MANUAL FOR THE MISSOURI RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Missouri River is one of the largest and most important riverine ecosystems in the United States for its natural resource values, recreation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed a draft Master Water-Control Manual to guide regulation of the river's flows; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing an alternative to the existing water-control manual; and

WHEREAS, past management practices have degraded the ecosystem's health as indicated by the loss of floodplain wetlands and forests, the ban on commercial fishing for catfish, declines in native fish species like the pallid sturgeon, and the increasing occurrence of exotic fish species; and

WHEREAS, recovery of this ecosystem requires a flow regime more closely resembling the pre-development state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alternative is a positive step towards managing the river's flows to benefit the ecosystem, and addressing the needs of fish and wildlife in project operating priorities; and

WHEREAS, changes in flows planned in the proposed alternative to the Master, Water-Control Manual are beneficial, but not sufficient for optimum recovery of the ecosystem; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on August 28-September 1, 1995 in Tampa, Florida, encourages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adopt the operational alternative for the Missouri River that most closely resembles pre-development hydrographs, to maximize potential benefits of this important ecosystem to fisheries.

RESOLUTION-SUPPORT OF THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the health of aquatic habitat and fisheries are inextricably linked to land use; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has helped reduce erosion of millions of tons of soil nationwide; and

WHEREAS, reduced soil erosion results in diminished transport of sediment, pesticides, and fertilizers into waterways, wetlands and groundwater, thereby reducing costs for sediment removal, decreasing degradation of associated fish habitat and water for human uses; and

WHEREAS, the CRP has resulted in significant reduction in surplus crops and federal farm program expenditures for deficiency payments, diversion payments and commodity loan and storage payments; and

WHEREAS, the CRP has the proven potential to restore thousands of miles of stream and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the American Fisheries Society assembled at its annual meeting on August 28-September 1, 1995, in Tampa, Florida requests Congress consider inclusion of the following program features:

1. Require a mandatory buffer strip of native vegetation along both sides of all intermittent and perennial waterways on property of landowners receiving federal cost-sharing, subsidies, or other public payments.
2. Prioritize extension of existing contracts and approval of new contracts and permanent easements to areas that have the highest natural resource benefits (e.g., protection of wetlands, riparian areas, and aquifers).

RESOLUTION-ENHANCED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF
DRAINAGE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, stream and ditch activities including, but not limited to, deepening, widening, snagging of woody debris, removal of riparian vegetation, or channel straightening often increase downstream flooding, bed and bank erosion, flow diminution and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, multiple values of stream systems, including clean water, soil retention, fish and wildlife habitat, flood attenuation, aesthetic enjoyment and recreation are reduced or eliminated by a single-use approach to drainage problems; and

WHEREAS, system-wide and cumulative impacts of channel modifications are not adequately addressed or incorporated in the planning and implementation of stream alteration projects, as demonstrated by the Great Flood of 1993; and

WHEREAS, the alteration of natural floodplain functions can be detrimental to proper watershed management; and

WHEREAS, environmental review of drainage projects by professional resource managers is publically recognized as an essential part of ecologically-sound natural resource management; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on August 28-September 1, 1995 in Tampa, Florida urges all state, provincial and federal governments and the natural resource agencies under their charge to take immediate steps to insure that stream alteration projects receive adequate scientifically-based environmental review, and that they implement procedures, protocols and regulations to protect valuable stream resources from disturbances, and further to educate local governments and citizens about the importance of ecologically-sound watershed management practices.