

Draft Resolutions to be considered for debate at the AGM

ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS - 2020

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TABLED RESOLUTIONS

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-5-2018

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone1

LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association put forward a request to the Government of Alberta that all land owner special licenses be restricted to antlerless (females) only for any given species in order to allow consistent treatment with all species while providing better control of problematic herd numbers and helping to open land access for respectful hunters.

BRIEF: In 1991, the landowner mule deer special license was created for landowners that were denied on their first-choice draw application in a specific wildlife management area (WMU). It was initially designed to benefit the landowner by reducing depredation of feed stocks and over population of ungulate species. The policy and procedures allow any given landowner with 160 acres or more of deeded land the chance of obtaining a mule buck license every year. The property owner simply must show proof of title or a property tax notice to support the ownership requirement.

Currently in Alberta we have observed many landowners who create companies for income tax benefits. This allows different family members who are shareholders (father, mother, grandpa, grandma, son, daughter etc.) to apply to obtain multiple special landowner mule deer tags within a WMU. On paper, the landowner special license is to be used for land designated on the license, but far more than not is used for all the land the landowner has, including lease land, which is common in the southern part of the province. Furthermore, landowners with landowner special licenses have, in some cases, been known to abuse the licenses by hunting off their own land base and with the lack of officer presence goes undetected for the most part.

The harvest of antlerless animals would be a more common-sense practice to the herd management approach as designed in the elk special license landowner draw. Lastly, by giving the landowner antlered mule deer special licenses each year, it restricts access as opposed to more open access as landowners, in some cases, are denying permission to access in order to harvest trophy class mule deer themselves.

GENERAL RESOLUTION G-1-2019

Drafted by Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

OHV AND SADDLE PERMIT ON PUBLIC LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta create a yearly OHV and saddle permit for the use of OHV and horses on Public Lands.

BRIEF: The fee would be directed to the Alberta Conservation Association. Permits would be purchased online and be effective for a calendar year (January 1-December 31). Fee to be per unit, per year and not required for private land or public road right of ways outside of green areas. Proceeds from the sale of permits would be distributed by Alberta Conservation Association for the maintenance and building of trails, bridges and enforcement.

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

(As per Operations Manual 1.2.2., the following Extraordinary Resolutions require a 2/3 majority vote (66.6%))

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2020-EX-1

POSITION TITLE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association Operations Manual, Personnel Manual and any other documentation including all policies, positions, and appendices be updated as per the following. Everywhere the title "Executive Vice President" is listed, that it be changed to "Executive Director".

BRIEF: The position of "Executive Vice President" has been dissolved and replaced with a new position having the title of "Executive Director"

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2020-EX-2

Drafted by AFGA Executive; Submitted by AFGA Executive

AFFILIATION DATE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association Operations Manual, under appendix 1, titled "AFGA bylaws", and specifically under section 6, titled "Meetings", and more specifically under point 6.6, be amended by changing the date listed as January 31, to read February 15.

BRIEF: The present by-law is listed as follows:

"6.6: All affiliated organizations in good standing, having paid minimum affiliation of 20 members for the current year by January 31, shall be entitled to representation and voting privileges at the annual conference or at any Special General Meeting of the Association as follows:

In approximately September each year, clubs are given the number of voting delegates they are entitled to send to the following year's AGM. This number is decided by the number of members they have affiliated. The stipulation to this is, as per the bylaw, that the club be affiliated by Jan 31, the following year."

Some clubs fail to have the affiliation met by this time, thus making their delegates ineligible to vote. Changing this date to February 15, will give clubs more time to get the proper affiliation completed. Also, by February 1, AFGA usually has the list of registered delegates, and will be able to send notice to the clubs that still must affiliate to make the delegates eligible.

Note: an affiliated club is one that has a minimum of 20 affiliated members.

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2020-EX-3

Drafted by AFGA Executive; Submitted by AFGA Executive

AFGA OHV POLICY UPDATE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) Operations Manual, Appendix 2, Policy Statements of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, Revision: February 26, 2005, Section 6.7 **Off-Road Highway Vehicles**, Page 8 and 9; be updated per the attached draft policy:

6.7 Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)

6.7.1 The AFGA believes in public access to public lands, and that all OHV access to public lands should be achieved in a non-destructive, environmentally responsible manner.

6.7.1.1 The AFGA is opposed to unsustainable destructive use of publicly accessible land and of fish and wildlife habitat by any means.

6.7.1.2 The AFGA recognizes that unrestricted OHV access may not be compatible with limited areas such as those identified in land use plans, small parcels, and some sensitive terrain.

6.7.1.3 The AFGA supports the use of designated OHV routes.

The AFGA favours the concept of partial rather than complete reclamation of obsolete industrial roads, utilizing existing infrastructure such as bridges and culverts for designated OHV routes. Done concurrent with eliminating OHV traffic from nearby sensitive terrain, this would provide net environmental and recreational benefits greater than complete reclamation of such infrastructure.

6.7.1.4 The AFGA is in favour of all revenues collected by the licensing of OHVs being directed to the development of hardened designated OHV routes and the enforcement of existing OHV use regulations that protect habitat.

6.7.2 The AFGA supports the use of OHVs for back country access, including retrieval of harvested big game, and stresses that an OHV operator must avoid damaging the environment when using an OHV.

6.7.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association stresses that an OHV operator must consider the enjoyment, comfort and safety of others when using an OHV and will operate the OHV in such a manner as to minimize disturbance to fish, wildlife and other users.

6.7.4 The AFGA supports the provision of special OHV and Weapons permits and licences to hunters who have serious disabilities.

BRIEF: OHV Definition - TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT 117(a): "Off highway vehicle" means any motorized mode of transportation built for cross country travel on land, water, snow, ice or marsh or swamp land or on other natural terrain and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes, when specifically designed for such travel, a) 4-wheel drive vehicles, b) low pressure tire vehicles, c) motorcycles and related 2-wheel vehicles, d) amphibious vehicles, e) all-terrain vehicles, f) miniature motor vehicles, g) snow vehicles, h) minibikes and, i) any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular or wind (but does not include motor boats).

The current wording of 6.7.1 has led some individuals and groups to erroneously conclude that the AFGA supports irresponsible use of OHVs. Given the proliferation of OHVs since the last revision of this policy, and ongoing conflict over OHV use, our policy needs to be updated to clarify that AFGA supports responsible OHV use. As a conservation organization, we need to acknowledge and accept that there are circumstances where the use of an off-road vehicle is not appropriate due to potential environmental and habitat damage. Examples may include but are not limited to small parcels such as our own Wildlife Trust Fund properties, sensitive alpine terrain, wetlands, watercourses, and cutting of new trails.

The change to 6.7.4 acknowledges legislation already in place.

The *existing* wording in our AFGA Operations Manual, Appendix 2, Policy Statements of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, Revision: February 26, 2005, Section 6.7, follows *in italics*:

6.7 Off-Road Highway Vehicles

6.7.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes a person should be allowed to use an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) at any time to retrieve a killed big game animal by the most direct route possible and be allowed to bring an encased or broken-down firearm and/or bow and arrows with him/her for that purpose. Exceptions would be in certain areas identified in access management plans.

6.7.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association encourages that an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) operator will make considerations of the environment when using an OHV so as to minimize any possible damage or to avoid damaging the environment if at all possible.

6.7.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association encourages-an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) operator will consider the wishes, comfort and safety of others when using an OHV and will not operate the OHV in such a manner as to offend anyone in a purposeful manner.

6.7.4 The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) recommends that the Government experiment with the provision of special permits to physically disabled individuals that would allow those individuals to hunt and use their firearms and/or bows and arrows.

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2020-EX-4

Drafted by Barrhead Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 4

AGM ELECTRONIC VOTING

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association amend section 5.1.7 (i) of the Operations Manual as follows to allow for the use of electronic voting devices at the AGM.

PROCEDURE: The Chair will call for a vote on the resolution. Only registered delegates may vote and must submit their votes at that time. Votes in support of the resolution will be counted first, and then votes in opposition will be counted.

BRIEF: Current wording of Section 5.1.7 (i) is: *The Chair will call for a vote on the resolution. Only registered delegates may vote and **must display their voting cards to do so.** Votes in support of the resolution will be counted first, and then votes in opposition will be counted.*

Allowing the use of electronic voting systems at the AGMs will help speed up the process and will also create an anonymous voting structure which will eliminate the pressure felt by delegates to vote along with their peers. It will also immediately tabulate the number of delegates in favour and opposed to a particular vote and calculate the percentage of those voting in favor.

RESCINDING RESOLUTION

(A 2/3 majority vote (66.6%) is required to rescind an AFGA position per Carried Resolution EX-2-2019)

RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2020-RR-1

Drafted by Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

RESCIND AFGA CROSSBOW POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association rescind their position on including crossbows in the existing archery seasons.

BRIEF: With the advancement in the technology in crossbows now resembling more of a high-power rifle with scope and reduced size, and bolt speeds reaching over 470 feet per second with advertised three-inch groups at one hundred yards, these are not primitive weapons. The 15% cap put on harvest taken by bow hunters will be reached at an advanced rate adding the approximately 22,000 bowhunters into the draw system. This will increase the wait times for all hunters in the province, bow hunters or not.

NOTE: This is currently Position #7 under Hunting / Management / Methods

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-1

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

FIREARMS DISCHARGE PERMIT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta never again condone the withholding of Firearms Discharge Permits on legal hunting days.

BRIEF: As an example, Cypress Hills Provincial Park withheld Firearms Discharge Permits on Mondays and Saturdays during an Either Sex Elk Management Hunt in WMU 624 in the 2018/2019 hunting season, where hunters were legally authorized to hunt under Sec 46 of the Provincial Parks General Regulation.

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-2

Drafted by Red Deer Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

AFGA GUN RANGE COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association develop a Gun Range committee to act as a single voice for the respective Club ranges across Alberta.

BRIEF: With negative pressure on ranges across Alberta, it is imperative that the Alberta Fish and Game Association present a unified voice for the province's gun ranges, and champion responsible firearms safety.

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-3

Drafted by Red Deer Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

AFGA SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association, with high priority, develop a social media committee to convey the value of fish and game activities for men, women and children in Alberta.

BRIEF: With the continued and growing influence of social media it is imperative that the Alberta Fish and Game Association develop a committee to voice the benefits and value of the Alberta Fish and Game Association to Albertans. Various fringe factions across social media platforms present opinions that threaten the values of Alberta Fish and Game members across Alberta.

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-4

Drafted by Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

FERAL HORSE CONTROL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta greatly reduce and control the population of feral horses in Alberta

BRIEF: As feral horses are a non-native, invasive species that displace native ungulates and have a severe negative impact on native grasses that evolved in the absence of ungulates having upper incisors which are grazed to extirpation in areas where feral horses are present year-round, effective action to reduce the negative impact feral horses have on the flora and fauna of Alberta's foothill and mountain ecosystems is essential.

The Government of Alberta response to the submittal of this resolution last year was: "*Under Consideration. Since 2014 the department has been developing long term management strategies that ensure the continued presence of feral horses on the landscape while mediating their impact on wildlife habitat, livestock grazing and public safety. The objectives of the long-term management strategies are based on input from the Feral Horse Advisory Committee, of which THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION is a member*".

If the Feral Horse Advisory Committee has convened since June of 2014, The Alberta Fish and Game Association representatives were not informed, and we are not informed of any plans for effective control measures. Given the ever upward trend of feral horse populations, documented by annual minimum counts conducted by the Government of Alberta, it is obvious that experiments with contraception have not led to population reduction, and adoption programs do not have the capacity to control the populations. In the Sundre Equine Zone alone, populations have increased from a **minimum** count of 980 in 2013 to 1679 in 2019. Combined sightings of whitetail deer, mule deer, moose and elk during these aerial surveys are significantly lower than the number of feral horses sighted, which is undesirable from the perspectives of biodiversity, wild harvest, and the esthetics of Alberta in a more natural state.

For further information see:

<https://www.alberta.ca/feral-horse-counts.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/feral-horse-management-overview.aspx#toc-1>

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-5

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT CONTROL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta develop a control program that would reduce the number of double-crested cormorants.

BRIEF: Double-crested cormorants have a major impact on fish availability in many Alberta lakes. The large number of cormorants reduce the amount of fish available to anglers as they consume up to two pounds of fish daily. Cormorant numbers are significant on many Alberta lakes and could be reduced. A 10-year cormorant control program in Lac La Biche reduced the population from over 16,000 to 2,500. Similar programs should be developed in other areas. As well, Wildlife Damage Permits have been issued but could be used more extensively to reduce the cormorant numbers. Cormorant control efforts are occurring in other provinces and northern states and in so doing allowing more fish for human consumers.

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2020-G-6

Drafted by Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

SPORT RIFLE CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that Government of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police change the classification of modern sporting rifles such as the AR-15 rifle and its variants from restricted to non-restricted.

BRIEF: AR-15 rifles and their variants are widely used in other countries for hunting small game, predators, and big game depending on their specific calibres. They are favored for hunting amongst women, children, and smaller statured shooters because of their lightweight construction. The modular nature of the rifle platform also is an attractant for hunters and sports shooters as it is easy to change the configuration depending on what type of hunting is being undertaken such as using a scope for long range coyote or gopher hunting easily swapped to open sights or a red dot sight for close range rabbit hunting in the bush or changing the barrel and calibre from a .223 REM for coyotes to a .30 calibre round for most North American big game.

ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTIONS

ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION 2020- ENV-1

Drafted by Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

BANNING NEONICOTINOIDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Federal Government institute an immediate suspension of the use neonicotinoids, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and imidacloprid in Canada.

BRIEF: Neonicotinoids are a group of pesticides widely used in agriculture for crop protection, flea control on pets, protecting trees from invasive insects, and insect eradication in homes. The three neonicotinoids currently approved for agricultural use in Canada are thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and imidacloprid. Use of these compounds have been demonstrated to be involved in the reduction of populations of honeybee and other pollinators, as well as building up in aquatic invertebrates such as mayflies and midges, which are important food sources for birds, bats, and fish. Re-evaluation of the impacts of these agents is underway in Canada, and Canada is not alone in doing so. The European Food Safety Authority released a risk assessment in February 2018 recommending the banning of all outdoor use of these compounds. European member states endorsed this recommendation in April 2018.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTIONS

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-1

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

AERIAL SURVEYS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta continue with aerial censuses on big game species.

BRIEF: With mandatory hunter harvest surveys a reality, there needs to be a safety check in place to ensure wildlife managers do not correlate low hunter harvest with low population and eliminate or drastically change season formats based on hunter harvest data alone.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-2

Drafted by Calgary Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 2

PHEASANT SEASON RESTRICTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that if the Government of Alberta will not shorten the game bird season to end November 30th that they limit the pheasant hunting extended season beyond November 30th to release sites only (after that date).

BRIEF: The extended bird hunting season places stress on bird populations and therefore, has a negative impact on conservation efforts conducted throughout the province. Over-harvesting and stress from the cold can cause high mortality and the extended hunting season also diminishes the effectiveness of bird release programs funded and managed by fish and game clubs like the Calgary Fish and Game Association. The extended season also creates greater stress on landowners.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-3

Drafted by Drumheller Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 2

NON-RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT ALIEN TAGS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish & Game Association request that the Government of Alberta limit the number of tags available for each big game species that are on a draw for Alberta residents to non-resident and non-resident alien hunters that are hunting in Alberta, to two (2) tags per species per lifetime.

BRIEF: There are hundreds of hunters that are not Alberta residents that hunt big game animals here every year; many of them year after year. According to the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society's (APOS) current website "today our industry welcomes nearly 10,000 clients a year to rural Alberta". It also states, with regard to a study they commissioned, that "in 2013 outfitted hunting in Alberta was estimated to serve 8425 clients of which 7255 clients were hunting clients"... 81% from the US, 4% from outside Canada and 4% from the rest of Canada" which makes 6,457 non-Albertans that hunted here in 2013.

The Ameri-Can Expeditions Inc website states "Come up and hunt with us. I am sure you will, as past hunters have done, return with other friends and family year after year." The Big Knife Outfitters website out of Donalda and guiding in WMUs 204, 206, 226 and 230 recently had a photo of a hunter with a big mule deer buck and a caption that read "Jack Martin was back for the 4th year in a row and made a great shot on this heavy old mule deer".

All this, while Alberta hunters are forced to wait up to 12 years just to get drawn for a tag for species like antelope, so they too can hunt them in the province where they live.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-4

Drafted by Drumheller Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 2

IDENTIFICATION OF OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES VEHICLES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish & Game Association request that the Government of Alberta require that outfitter's and guide's vehicles, while being used for outfitting or guiding purposes, must have signs on the outside of both sides of their vehicles clearly identifying the vehicle with the outfitting name in bold easily readable letters.

BRIEF: There are many good outfitters in Alberta that follow the rules but there are also some that do not. Some fail to ask for permission and others do not identify themselves as guiding hunters when they ask for permission. Having the outfitting name clearly visible on their vehicles would help landowners to know who and what they are dealing with.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-5

Drafted by Lacombe Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

MUZZLE LOADER SEASON IN CWD ZONES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta re-instate or implement a two-week muzzle loader season in all CWD zones where the season previously existed, and in all current CWD Zones, during the archery only season in October.

BRIEF: This would create another muzzle loader hunting opportunity other than the camp Wainwright season for deer. This would help to control deer numbers in the CWD zones to slow spread of the disease.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-6

Drafted by Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 3

ELIMINATION OF NON-DRAW ARCHERY ONLY SEASONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta eliminate non-draw general archery seasons in WMUs that require a Special Licence (draw) to hunt with a rifle in a general season

BRIEF: We believe that to keep things fair, archery hunters should be required to draw the same Special Licence that general season rifle hunters have to. With the Special Licence, you can still hunt either archery or rifle in the appropriate season. Also, with the way seasons are set up at the moment, you can buy a general tag and archery permit and hunt a specific WMU every year, yet rifle hunters can wait multiple years to draw a tag in the same WMU that archers are hunting in every year.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-7

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

EITHER SEX ELK DRAW

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta start utilizing the "Either Sex" draw code for elk in Prairie and Parkland WMUs where population control is required.

BRIEF: When the "Either Sex" draw code was established several years ago, it was disclosed that this would be done. However, hunters still have to choose between Antlered and Antlerless draw codes when a successful and enjoyable hunt could be better attained with the "Either Sex" draw

code. Harvest requirements are not being met with the current format. Note: This could be used in conjunction with both antlerless and antlered permits.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-8

Drafted by Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

CWD HUNTER ASSISTANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request the Government of Alberta apply a ten-dollar surcharge to all mule deer tags across the province to assist in the testing and control of CWD.

BRIEF: Last year the Government of Alberta had to test almost 8,000 heads for CWD. Results in some cases were not available for almost 4 months. This surcharge can be used to assist in the CWD program and can be used for extra lab time or in the research of CWD.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION 2020-W-9

Drafted by Edmonton Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

HUNTING DOGS IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request the Alberta Government to amend the Provincial Parks General Regulations Act Section 15 (Animal Control) to allow the use of dogs off leash for the flushing and retrieval of game birds, upland or migratory, and hunting of cougar.

BRIEF: Currently the Provincial Parks Act explicitly states that no dogs are allowed off leash in any Park or Provincial Recreation Area managed by Alberta Parks. An exception being in Section 15 (2) and 16 which covers guide dogs covered under the "Blind Person's Rights Act".

In Parks or Recreation Areas such as Cooking Lake – Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area where hunting is allowed there needs to be an amendment to the Act to allow hunters to let their hunting dogs off leash for the purpose of flushing and retrieving game birds or water fowl and hunting of cougar. Without this amendment hunters are limited to a 2-meter leash.

FISHERIES RESOLUTIONS

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-1

Drafted by Claresholm Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

HATCHERY RAISED NORTHERN PIKE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta immediately start rearing Northern Pike in hatcheries for release in southern Alberta grassland region lakes and reservoirs for the purpose of supplemental and recovery stocking.

BRIEF: Populations of Northern Pike are below historical levels or in decline in much of southern Alberta. It seems that the 70% of currently unused hatchery capacity could be used to rear Northern Pike for release. Northern Pike, along with Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge are commonly raised in hatcheries in the United States for similar purposes. Northern Pike in southern Alberta have declined due to modernization of irrigation infrastructure, aging reservoirs and water management regimes that have impacted recruitment.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-2

Drafted by Edmonton Trout Fishing Club; Lamont & District Fish & Game Association;
Submitted by Zone 4 and Zone 5

POTHOLE LAKE TROUT STOCKING

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta consider stocking multiple species of trout in more pothole lakes that are now just stocked with one species (usually just rainbows).

BRIEF: Area lakes around Edmonton and other urban areas that have been stocked with more than one species have shown great success. Muir Lake west of Edmonton is one example.

With stocking numbers of trout reduced because of whirling disease, perhaps an enhancement of different species in some put and take fisheries would be a solution to ensure stocking continues and would give anglers some different choices. Browns in some water bodies along with rainbows would be an excellent solution.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-3

Drafted by Edmonton Old Timers' Fishing Club; Submitted by Zone 4

PRINTED SPORTFISHING REGULATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta ensure that the "printed" version of the new current year Alberta Sportfishing Regulations are available on April 1st, each and every year.

BRIEF: This past year, 2019, the regulations were not printed because of a provincial election. Because of some sort of "Red Zone" or gag order, the government did not send this important document out to the public until over a month had passed after the provincial election. This rule when dealing with fishing rules and regulations has no merit and is not a political tool that should be withheld from the angling public. The rules change every April 1st, please ensure a printed version is available to all Alberta anglers (including seniors and youth) so they can know the new important changes on April 1st each and every year. Also, online and downloading of this huge file is almost impossible for many rural areas or anyone that wants to get an online printed copy. The free copies that are available should be there on April 1st, election or not.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-4

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

ENHANCING TROUT HATCHERIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta maximize efforts in our provincial fish hatcheries with traditional fish species such as rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout and arctic grayling to increase our stocking program to enhance fishing opportunities.

BRIEF: The growing demand for fishing opportunities requires more stocking. Many lakes are being ignored. Historically lakes such as Hasse, Cow and Ghost to name but a few were desired locations but now are not stocked. Our growing number of people want to fish, and we want them to fish. They also would like to harvest a fish and returning some of these fisheries and enhancing present ones with more stocking would make this all possible.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-5

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

TROUT HYBRIDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta maximize efforts in our provincial fish hatcheries with trout hybrids such as tiger trout and splake.

BRIEF: Alberta is lacking in fishing opportunities and this would greatly enhance new possibilities. Many water bodies would thrive with these such species and create the opportunities our residents crave. Many water bodies that would meet these requirements are presently void of fishing opportunities.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-6

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta adjust fisheries management to manage habitat more than individual species.

BRIEF: Many of our streams and lakes may support introduced species such as brook trout and rainbow trout much better than native species such as bull trout and cutthroat trout. It's time to move forward with a new and improved Fisheries. Habitat shift (such as warmer water, water levels, low flows and disease) may favour brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, or possible cutthroat trout, tiger trout, or splake which are all popular with anglers. Trying to re-invent the past with bull trout will likely never be successful and much fishing opportunity will be lost! This would not include invasive, undesirable species such as Prussian carp.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-7

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

WALLEYE MANAGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta increase walleye fishing opportunities by putting less importance on genetics and DNA.

BRIEF: It's time to move forward and neither anglers nor the walleye put importance on historical genetics or DNA. It's time a walleye is a walleye and a common walleye hatchery and/or transfers be

used to not only develop new fisheries but to enhance existing ones. An improved Fisheries is the important point.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-8

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

INCREASED WALLEYE HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request the Government of Alberta to actively pursue increased walleye harvest opportunities by exploring new fisheries management and angling regulatory tools to do so.

BRIEF: The walleye tag system has now been running 15 years and was first introduced as a trial tool using the wildlife draw and tag system. As of now this has not changed. The draw and tag system have had its place and still is a valuable tool but is not financially efficient. The Alberta Fish and Game Association would like to assist Alberta Environment and Parks to pursue other venues such as a tagless system, a notch and sign license, more slot size regulations etc. From the walleye draw application fee of \$3.35 and the walleye license fee of \$11.00, the levy to the Alberta Conservation Association is only \$0.31 and \$0.50 respectively. After issuer and provider fees of approximately \$5.75, the remainder goes to AlbertaRELM dedicated fisheries revenue. The break-even points for running a draw is approximately \$6.00. This dedicated revenue could be more wisely used to allow increased harvest opportunities. Many tools could be explored as a possible harvest increase without jeopardizing the resource.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-9

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

PORTABLE HATCHERIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta increase walleye success by investing in multiple artificial portable hatcheries.

BRIEF: Although we still believe in walleye stocking programs, we have been told that walleye stockings do not have as high a survival rate as natural spawning occurrences. These portable hatcheries could be used on walleye lakes to increase the egg to fry stage from approximately 5% in naturally spawning fish to over 90% in artificial spawned fish. Fish preparing to spawn could be trapped, stripped and released. The eggs could be fertilized and hatched on site and released back into the waterbody from which they came. This would not alter the ecosystem but overcome the many hazards for walleye to naturally spawn. This would diversify the age class in population structure. Many lakes have poor spawning grounds due to many reasons, including water levels, water temperatures, water barriers etc. Lakes wouldn't necessarily need to be helped every year so these portable hatcheries could be used in many lakes on a rotating basis. Volunteers, including from the Alberta Fish and Game Association, could be used to help with these hatcheries.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION 2020-F-10

Drafted by Lamont and District Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

NATIONAL PARK FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta lobby the Government of Canada to re-establish a fish stocking program in National Parks in Alberta.

BRIEF: Many great lakes in our National Parks are void of fish, due to a stoppage of the stocking program several years ago. These waters formerly had excellent fisheries and gave opportunities for recreationalists to enjoy one of Canada's great pastimes. Since the stoppage of this stocking program, this has all been lost and not only opportunities gone but put more pressure on our provincially stocked lakes. These fish may not be native, but as most water bodies in the parks are the result of melting glacier ice, it would be impossible to have native species here, however the habitat they make is undoubtedly some of the best possible. This recreational sport would not only be a great outing for residents and their families, but also a great economic boost for local businesses and the national parks themselves.

FISHERIES REGULATION 2020-F-11

Drafted by Beaver River Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 5

ANGLER RESTRICTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta remove all additional angler area and timing restrictions when a waterbody has limited entry walleye draws put in place.

BRIEF: Whereas walleye tags have been deemed by our government biologists to be the best walleye harvest control method, there is no need for other harvest control methods that are currently in place to restrict angler timing or places for fishing.

Anglers without walleye tags, can fish using catch and release all year long with little population impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 2020-RF-1

Drafted by Edmonton Trout Fishing Club; Submitted by Zone 4

SPRING LAKE (STONY PLAIN) CATCH LIMITS

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta reduce the daily catch/possession limit rate at Spring Lake (west of Stony Plain) from five (5) fish daily down to two (2) fish daily.

BRIEF: With increased angling pressure after the aeration concerns of a couple of years ago, plus reduced stocking of rainbow trout in the past years because of disease issues provincially, the Edmonton Trout Club is proposing a decrease in catch and possession limits from five to two.

RECOMMENDATION 2020-RF-2

Drafted by Zone 4; Submitted by Zone 4

HASSE LAKE REVITALIZATION

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request the Government of Alberta immediately get back to work to ensure that the Fisheries at Hasse Lake be renewed to the state that it once was as a viable put and take angling trout Fisheries.

BRIEF: Hasse Lake has been left far too long and neglected by the authorities as a trout Fisheries. At one time it was an excellent fishing spot for all to enjoy. The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) has in the past few years, done studies and has wanted to work with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to get this lake back as an angling destination. The work done has shown this can happen, and should occur immediately. As AEPs tell us, we only have 800 fish bearing lakes. Let's make sure they ALL have that status and don't let them fall to a status that allows them to be seen as unacceptable to fish.

RECOMMENDATION 2020-RW-1

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

PRIMITIVE WEAPON HUNT IN OLDMAN RESERVOIR PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that The Government of Alberta establish a Special License for mule deer within the boundaries of the Oldman Reservoir Provincial Recreation Area for *Primitive Weapons*.

BRIEF: With the sanctuary provided by The Oldman Dam Provincial Recreation Area, adjoining farmers have suffered from the build-up of the mule deer population. A controlled harvest of both male and female mule deer by way of a Special License could reduce this problem significantly. By limiting the hunt to primitive weapons only, the safety of the public in the five (5) day-use areas, four (4) camping areas, and the group-use area would be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION 2020-RW-2

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

ELECTRONIC CALLS FOR COUGAR

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta permit the use of electronic calls to hunt cougar in WMU 116, 118 and 119.

BRIEF: With the advent of fall cougar seasons (Boot Season) whereby dogs are not permitted for hunting cougar, reliance on alternative methods of harvest are necessary. Historic harvest rates in fall seasons have been very low. Electronic calling already exists for coyote hunting and cougar should be included.

RECOMMENDATION 2020-RW-3

Drafted by Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association; Submitted by Zone 1

CYPRESS HILLS ANTLERLESS ONLY ELK SEASONS

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta re-instate antlerless only elk seasons in the Cypress Hills to aid in population management.

BRIEF: In 2011 the Cypress Hills elk season was changed to an exclusive either sex season. Despite increases in allocations the antlerless harvest has declined over the last three (3) years. Harvest statistics for inside Cypress Hills Park (WMU 624), where harvest data is available is as follows:

Year	Antlerless Harvest/Allocation	% Antlerless Harvest /Allocation	Total Population
2016 Alberta & Saskatchewan	5/60	8.3%	400 head
2017 No Survey	3/80	3.75%	
2018 Alberta Only	5/143	3.5%	568 head

Antlerless only seasons need to be re-instated in Cypress Hills, Alberta. Returning to combination of either sex, and antlerless only seasons would help manage the elk population, restore age/class structure and reduce depredation.

DRAFT