



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY
10465 Melody Drive, Ste. 307, Northglenn, CO 80234
303-466-1725
www.nafws.org

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society
RESOLUTION

Title: Increase the National BIA Hatchery Operations funds to \$25 million Annually

Resolution No. 2022-02

WHEREAS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society ("NAFWS") was established in recognition of the importance and respect accorded to fish and wildlife by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS is composed of Indian Tribes, organizations and people as well as federal and state agency representatives forming "a national Native American organization to aid in the development and protection of Native American fish and wildlife resources"; and

WHEREAS, this nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and while some of these species are thriving, many more are facing increasing challenges and are in steep decline - increasing their possibility of becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified that are in need of proactive conservation action, and we must rise to the challenge that confronts us; and

WHEREAS, Tribes own and influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are proven leaders in the protection of these landscapes and their wildlife that provides a model and lessons for other natural resource managers; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have signed numerous Treaties and have entered into the treaty related Consent Decrees, MOU's and other such instruments which allocate fisheries and assign fisheries management responsibilities to the Tribes, States, and United States Government; and

WHEREAS, the ability to exercise Treaty reserved fishing rights has been greatly hindered as fish populations throughout the United States have experienced dramatic negative changes resulting from invasive species, climate change, habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, hatcheries are a critical component of fisheries management and are increasingly necessary to address negative impacts to Tribal treaty reserved fisheries;

WHEREAS, hatchery operations costs represent an increasing need and financial burden for individual Tribes and these needs have not been met by the United States;

WHEREAS the Bureau of Indian Affairs administers annually reoccurring Hatchery Operations funding for Treaty Right Tribes and that funding has been static for over 30 years, funding Nationally has held to a total of \$3.3 million for years failing to meet the needs of existing tribal hatcheries or account for inflation, effectively preventing Tribes with new hatcheries from accessing federal funding support;

WHEREAS, 80 federally recognized tribes operate hatcheries in the Nationally and only 23 receive hatchery operations funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society requests that the United States increase funding for Tribal Hatchery Operations to a total of \$25 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the United States increase Tribal Hatchery Operations funding annually such that funding amount keeps pace with inflation.

Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative vote of the Society membership who attended the Great Lakes Regional Business Meeting held on September 20, 2022.

The vote is 26 voting in favor, 0 voting against and 0 members abstaining.

_____ Date: _____

Don Reiter, Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director

Terry Metoxen, Great Lakes NAFWS Director

Date: _____

