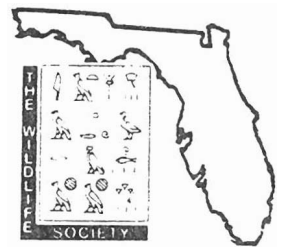


FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



A resolution of the FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

Whereas the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife scientists, managers, administrators and educators in the State of Florida;

Whereas the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports wise management of all of Florida's coastal resources including fish stocks;

Whereas gill and entanglement nets kill non-target species, including protected marine mammals and endangered marine turtles;

Whereas the elimination of gill and entanglement nets will increase the abundance of certain species of fish that are important as prey species in the estuarine and marine food web;

Whereas it is recognized that as Florida's human population continues to grow, greater demands will be placed on coastal marine and estuarine resources;

Whereas the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society does not support constitutional amendments as the preferred mechanism for natural resource management, but believes that disagreements between commercial and recreational fishing interests have crippled policy maker's ability to effectively manage marine resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society:

Supports elimination of gill and entanglement nets in state waters;

Believes that the protection of marine resources will be best served by voting YES on Constitutional Amendment 3 on the November 8, 1994 ballot;

Encourages the Marine Fisheries Commission to pass appropriate recreational and commercial regulations including size limits, bag limits and seasonal closures that will result in increasing recruitment to depleted stocks;

Urges the State of Florida and Conservation groups to join together to address the issues of coastal habitat destruction and degradation to provide for the protection of submerged lands, wetlands, and upland watersheds that is necessary for long term maintenance of healthy coastal marine and estuarine systems.

Approved by the membership on September 29, 1994