



FLORIDA CHAPTER
OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

October 29, 1970

Executive Board
Florida Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

Fellows:

Please send me your vote by return mail on the enclosed resolutions. I'll be in touch soon about a Board Meeting.

#1 - St. John

#2 - Barge Canal

#3 - Lakes Apopka and Tohopekaliga

Thanks,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George" with a small "mt" monogram at the end.

George Cornwell
President

D R A F T

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER FOR MODEL RIVER STATUS

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society supports the selection of the St. John's River as a model of what can be done to rejuvenate and restore a great American river to a near natural, unpolluted state.

The St. John's has been and still can be a unique and valuable source of clean water, food, recreation and aesthetic experiences in north-eastern Florida. The value of its natural fishery resources and its surrounding wildlife benefits have been seemingly inexhaustible. } But now a rapid decline in the water quality of the St. John's River is in progress.

The pollution sources contributing to this decline have been defined by the state agencies concerned with pollution control and steps are being taken to improve conditions.

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society urges the President's Council on Environmental Quality to select the St. John's River as the model of how a vital American watershed can be enhanced and restored to a near pristine condition.

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

RESOLUTION URGING A MORATORIUM ON THE BARGE CANAL

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society has reviewed all available information concerning possible ecological damages associated with the Cross-Florida Barge Canal.

Approximately 30,000 acres of excellent wildlife habitat will be or has been destroyed by the project in exchange for two reservoirs which will rapidly become eutrophic and will not provide the recreational use previously projected.

Pollution in the summit pool of the barge canal could not only affect the drinking water of many Floridians, it could also greatly degrade the quality of Silver Springs and possibly other springs in the State.

This project, costing over 200 million dollars, has never received a complete ecological survey to determine its environmental effects.

Although the hour is late, it is not too late to roll back much of the damage done so far. The hydric hammock and adjacent forest communities destroyed and flooded could be nurtured back to something approaching their original condition within our lifetime if this project is cancelled.

The Executive Board of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society hereby recommends to the Governor of the State of Florida and to the President of the United States that a moratorium be placed on all construction and that a complete restudy of this project be made as soon as possible.

D R A F T

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DRAWDOWN OF LAKES APOPKA AND TOHOPEKALIGA

As fertilizers from our agricultural lands and sewage products from our cities have poured into Florida's lakes, rivers and streams, members of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, representing the bulk of Florida's wildlife scientists and managers, have watched many of our fresh water lakes become eutrophic and die.

The fertilizer and the sewage causes nutrient overenrichment which in turn fosters enormous "blooms" of blue-green algae. As these masses of algae die, the dissolved oxygen in the lake water is used up in the algal decomposition process. And more algae "blooms". When the dissolved oxygen supply becomes seriously depleted, normal aquatic animal and plant life disappear. In this condition, color the lake "dead". It can no longer provide fishlife - or waterfowl populations - or swimming - or aesthetic appreciation. It has become a fetid eyesore.

Lakes Apopka and Tohopekcaliga have become fetid eyesores.

Should we allow this to happen to our sparkling Florida lakes? We think not. We hereby go on record supporting efforts to revive Lakes Apopka and Tohopekcaliga by drawing them down and reflooding them. It's the only solution we have.