

Wildlife Federation Opposes Change of Creel Limit on Trout

The Idaho Wildlife federation Sunday turned down by the slim margin of one vote a recommendation of the Idaho Fish and Game department that the creel limit on trout be cut to 15 fish the state over.

By a vote of 18 to 17, the voting delegates favored a resolution urging that the creel limit remain at 20 fish except in District 5 (eastern Idaho) where the limit is 15.

The fish and game department has urged a cut in the limit to offset the growing population of fishermen. The federation approved a resolution asking Legislature to increase fish and game license fees.

Federation delegates from eastern Idaho told the convention they had voluntarily cut the creel limit in their waters and were providing more than half the spawn for the rest of the state. They held the rest of the state should get behind the reduction.

Trout Opening Silent

The federation declined to recommend to the Idaho Fish and Game commission that the opening of the general trout season be extended six days to June 10. A resolution making such recommendation was lost.

A resolution favoring a season's limit for steelhead and salmon with the Idaho Fish and Game commission setting such limit was approved.

The original resolution called for a season's limit of 4 each of salmon and steelhead per person and it was amended to authorize the commission to determine the limit.

The present limit on the two sea run fish is two fish per day in possession.

Also adopted were fish committee resolutions asking that fish shipping permits be dated and be good only for five days, and that more money be spent for habitat improvement. Defeated was a resolution urging a storage limit on fish.

Other resolutions adopted included those which:

Salmon Sanctuary Asked

Recommended that a permanent fish sanctuary be established on the Salmon river. This would prohibit construction of any dams on the stream.

Recommended restoration of the fish and game commission to the status it had before the last Legislature. The last session gave the governor power to remove commission members without a hearing.

Asked each club to discuss with its senators and representatives the federation's position on the commission and higher license fees.

Recommended a special hunt for 20 or 25 bull moose in the Lochsa-Selway area.

Requested a study on transplanting big horn sheep to the Hells Canyon area.

Recommended a more careful check of illegal hunting from the air.

Asked the game commission to consider a later season on mountain sheep so hunters will get more mature sheep.

Asked the game department to include information on care of big game meat with hunting regulations.

Demanded that all the reservoir area at Palisades dam be cleared.

Recommended that the next convention change the by-laws to bar election of more than one district director from a county.

Commended the fish and game commission and federation officials.

Recommended a 75-day migratory waterfowl season to end Dec. 31.

Asked that goose hunting at Lake Lowell be permitted in the same area in which duck hunting now is allowed.

Created a permanent farmer-sportsman committee.

Endorsed a public forum series which provides adult education in the basic principles of wildlife conservation.

Recommended the same upland game bird seasons as last year with the same limits.

Ask Increased Fee

Recommended that the outfitters license fee be increased from \$5 to \$50.

Resolutions which would have restricted special hunts to residents and limited the number of all non-resident hunters were defeated.

A. P. McCarty, Moscow, urged the clubs to start firearm safety programs for young hunters.

A series of resolutions backing federal legislation to prevent mining and grazing interests from encroaching on federal lands received unanimous approval.

Michael Throckmorton, who heads the grants-in-aid program in the game department, said the University of Idaho was dropping the conservation workshops for teachers and Idaho State College might follow suit. However, he said Ricks college and College of Idaho would continue the work, and Boise Junior college would be added. He urged the clubs to continue their contributions to the work.

A. E. Riegel, Helena, regional director of the National Wildlife federation, and Ernie Stites, Pocatello, state chairman for national wildlife week, outlined plans for this year's observance, which will emphasize pollution problems.