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Resolution 2010-01-04 Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 01-04 2010

LEAD AMMUNITION AND FISHING TACKLE

WHEREAS, lead is used for ammunition and fishing tackle due to its unique properties and ease and cost of manufacture; and

WHEREAS, lead from ammunition and fishing tackle under certain circumstances of exposure may pose health risks to wildlife; and

WHEREAS, state fish and wildlife agencies have primary trust responsibilities for most fish and wildlife resources in this country; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents the collective perspectives of the state fish and wildlife agencies, played a key leadership role in resolution of the debate over regulation of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in the 1970s and '80s; and

WHEREAS, state fish and wildlife agencies have been proactive in implementing regulations, educational initiatives, and other efforts to reduce lead exposure to fish and wildlife in cases where population-level impacts have been documented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies adopt the following principles regarding future regulation of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle:

1. Future regulation of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle is best addressed by the individual states, rather than federal agencies.
2. State fish and wildlife agencies should proactively address issues associated with wildlife population health, and cooperate with the respective state health agencies where human health issues have been substantiated, related to lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle.
3. Decisions related to future regulation of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle should be based on the best available science related to wildlife population health.
4. Effective human dimensions strategies should be developed to ensure good communication and understanding by hunters, anglers, and shooting sports interests.
5. Collaboration with industry, conservation organizations, hunting, angling, and shooting sports interests is essential, and AFWA and the states should continue to lead efforts to bring this about.
6. State agencies should focus regulation efforts where population-level impacts to wildlife are substantiated.
7. Public education and voluntary programs may be used where appropriate in lieu of regulation.
8. Any new regulations that restrict use of lead ammunition or lead fishing tackle should include multi-year phase-in periods to allow industry, retailers, and hunters and anglers necessary time to transition and phase-in non-lead substitutes.
9. State fish and wildlife agencies should lead efforts to develop the best science, and AFWA should provide this information to members for their use in bringing hunters, anglers and various interests together to determine the need for and nature of any needed management approaches to use of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle.

Resolution submitted by the Executive Committee with recommendation that it be passed.