

**American Fisheries Society**  
**Support for Congressional Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Program (Section 314)**

**WHEREAS**, lakes and reservoirs, which comprise 39.9 million surface acres of freshwater, provide 70 percent of the nation's water for residential and commercial use, are the cornerstone of our nation's 19 billion dollar freshwater fishing industry, and generate millions of tourism dollars annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Program, established in 1972 as Section 314 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, is a federal grant program that provides financial and technical assistance to states in restoring publicly-owned lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Program allows states to assess the condition of individual lakes and their watersheds, determine the extent and sources of pollution, develop lake restoration and protection plans, and to implement these plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of amendments to the Clean Water Act in 1987, allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to expand the program to include statewide assessments of lake conditions, development and administration of lake water quality assessments, and creation of volunteer programs through Lake Water Quality Assessment Grants; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1992 National Water Quality Inventory Report (EPA) indicated that only 43 percent of assessed lake and reservoir acres fully supported their designated uses and an additional 13 percent were identified as threatened and could soon become impaired if pollution controls are not taken; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency has distributed more than 145 million dollars to state and local governments for the improvement of water quality since 1975 through this program; and

**WHEREAS**, local economies have benefited from improved drinking water, hydropower, irrigation, increased water-based recreational opportunities, increased tourism income, and higher assessed values for lakeside property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Program has not received Congressional appropriations since 1994;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Fisheries Society at its 1997 meeting in Monterey, California, urges Congress to reinstate annual appropriations for funding Section 314 of the Clean Water Program.