

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION NO. 1262-1

WHEREAS, The Washington State Sportsmen's Council through its Streambank Access and other committees has long sought the right to provide legal usage of public waters once access to same has been lawfully gained, and

WHEREAS, it now appears that certain court decisions clear the way for legislation that will set forth this principle on the statute books to apply to all waters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, assembled in convention in Ellensburg, Washington, this 9th day of December, 1962, that it hereby goes on record as favoring the introduction of the following act at the 1963 Legislature:

AN ACT Relating to fishing and other recreational uses of waters within the state, and declaring a public policy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The people of this state have a major and substantial interest in the use of the waters therein for fishing and other recreational purposes. The legislature recognizes that the state owns the water above the beds of all lakes and streams within the state and the fish therein and that benefits derived from the state programs for the management, preservation, and perpetuation of its fishery resources should be equally enjoyed by all of its citizens. Therefore, the use of natural waters above the beds of all lakes and streams within this state for fishers and other recreational purposes is hereby declared to be a public use.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Each of several riparian owners, his invitees, and members of the general public may use the natural waters above the bed of all lakes and streams in this state, in common with other lawful users, for fishing and other recreational purposes: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a trespass in gaining access to said waters.

Submitted By,

Stream Bank Access Committee