



POSITION STATEMENT OF THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ON THE 2004 BEAR
REFERENDUM
04/15/04

Whereas, the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a scientific and educational organization comprised of professional wildlife biologists from across Maine, and;

Whereas, the mission of the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals within Maine, and;

Whereas, the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes that humans are part of a functioning environment, and human use of wildlife resources must be carried out in a responsible manner so that ecological processes can continue to function and sustain a diverse, healthy environment, and;

Whereas, the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes that participation in, or support of wildlife-related activities that do not have long-term detrimental impacts on wildlife populations or their habitats should be a matter of individual choice, and;

Whereas, the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes that human wildlife-related activities should enhance the overall value of wildlife resources, and that these enhanced values improve potential opportunities to protect and perpetuate wildlife, understand its habitat needs, and improve its economic, cultural, and social importance, and;

Whereas, the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes that options for wildlife management activities are developed by trained wildlife professionals and must be implemented and coordinated through resource management agencies that are legislatively mandated and empowered to do so, and;

Whereas, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, through its long-term black bear research program (1975-present) has some of the most extensive and comprehensive information on black bear populations in North America, and;

Whereas, since 1968, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has used a public planning process that balances the sustainability of the resource with the desires of society to determine species goals and objectives, and;

Whereas, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has actively responded to changes in bear populations by manipulating season lengths, timing, and hunting methods to achieve species goals and objectives,

Be it Resolved,

That the Maine Chapter opposes the referendum to ban the use of certain hunting techniques because it subverts the species planning process that has been successfully used to balance scientific management and societal goals for over 25 years, and;

That the Maine Chapter opposes the referendum because it would limit regulated, responsible, safe, and sustainable human use of a highly valued species, and may limit the ability of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to maintain the black bear population at ecologically, and socially desirable levels.

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