



Maine Chapter
The Wildlife Society

Memorandum

To: Northeast Association of Wildlife Administrators
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Maine Department of Conservation
Maine Department of Agriculture
Maine Department of Human Services
State of Maine, Office of the Governor
USDA-Wildlife Services
USFWS Region 5 Ecological Services
USFWS Region 5 National Wildlife Refuges
The Wildlife Society
The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society

From: Gil A. Paquette, President

Subject: Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society Resolution on Chronic Wasting Disease

Date: April 26, 2006

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; Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal highly infectious transmissible disease that is closely associated with the same group of diseases commonly known as Mad Cow disease, for which there is no available treatment or vaccine to prevent infection, and;

Whereas; CWD can be spread by close contact between animals, between captive and wild free-ranging cervids and from animals exposed to a CWD contaminated environment, and;

Whereas; CWD has been found in captive cervids in nine states and two Canadian provinces (CO, KS, MN, MT, NE, NY, OK, SD, WI, Alberta, & Saskatchewan), and in free-ranging cervids in nine states and two Canadian province (CO, IL, NE, NM, NY, SD, UT, WI, WV, WY, Alberta, & Saskatchewan), and;

- Whereas;** Twenty-nine states including Maine, and one of the Canadian provinces have put restrictions on importation of hunter-harvested cervid parts, and;
- Whereas;** Seven states do not allow the feeding of free ranging cervids, six states have certain restrictions and two states are discussing a ban on feeding, and;
- Whereas;** Twenty-one states do not allow the baiting of free ranging cervids; twelve states have certain restrictions on baiting; and one state is discussing a ban on baiting. Two of the Canadian provinces, Alberta and Manitoba have banned baiting, and;
- Whereas;** Preventing the introduction of CWD into CWD free jurisdictions is far less expensive than efforts to control the disease once it is present because there are limited options for controlling CWD other than depopulating cervids in outbreak areas causing severe economic consequences for natural resource agencies, and;
- Whereas;** CWD is an immediate threat to Maine's deer and moose population, and;
- Whereas;** The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is funded through a combination of license sales and federal aid assistance programs, and if CWD is introduced into Maine, could result in a loss of revenue that could jeopardize the Department's ability to manage a wide range of programs including both game and non-game programs, and;
- Whereas;** The total economic value of hunting in Maine is at least \$453,900,000 annually (Teisl and Boyle 1998), and;
- Whereas;** The Northeast Fish and Wildlife agencies are responsible for managing white-tailed deer, an important and valuable public trust resource, and;
- Whereas;** The Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Directors recognizes the importance of preventing the spread of CWD into the Northeast, therefore be it:
- Resolved;** That the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society fully supports and endorses the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Director's resolution that the thirteen northeastern states endorse an immediate moratorium on the importation of all live cervids into any northeastern state, and furthermore, the moratorium should be maintained until safeguards are implemented to prevent the introduction of CWD; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That agencies responsible for conservation of wildlife, agriculture, or public health take appropriate actions to prevent the importation of tissues and products with high risk of CWD contamination; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That attractants and lures that contain urine, feces, saliva, or scent derived from cervids that are used in the thirteen northeastern states come from a certified CWD free source; and furthermore, be it

- Resolved;** That the thirteen northeastern states initiate a law prohibiting the feeding of cervids; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That agencies responsible for management of wildlife take appropriate actions to establish an effective monitoring program for early detection of CWD in susceptible wild cervids; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That agencies responsible for wildlife conservation or regulation of captive cervid farms establish mandatory programs to prevent the introduction and spread of CWD in the Northeast. Essential elements of these prevention programs shall include, but not be limited to: promulgation of regulations; enforcement; adequate fencing; proper handling of feed, wastes, and carcasses; veterinary-assisted herd health monitoring; ability to identify and trace individual cervids on and off farms; complete annual herd audits; slaughter practices that minimize CWD contamination; and CWD testing of all cervid mortalities over 6 months of age; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That agencies coordinate efforts to develop an integrated communications plan to provide accurate and timely information regarding CWD status to all regional stakeholders; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That states throughout the Northeast proactively prepare a comprehensive response plan to control CWD should the disease be found in the region; and furthermore, be it
- Resolved;** That adequate funding be made available for CWD planning, predictive modeling, monitoring, enforcement, outreach, and control.