



## Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

### RESOLUTION

#### Chronic Wasting Disease

WHEREAS, the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. (NEAFWA) is extremely concerned about the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the white-tailed deer population within the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, all available measures should be employed to prevent or contain the spread of CWD in the region; and

WHEREAS, CWD is one of a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), caused by an abnormal form of a cellular protein called a prion which accumulates in lymphoid and nervous tissue and can pass from the animal in its body fluids and waste; and

WHEREAS, native species, such as white-tailed deer, elk, moose, and mule deer, and non-native sika deer, reindeer and muntjac deer are known to be susceptible to CWD, and the full extent of susceptible cervids is unknown; and

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease is inevitably fatal, but it often takes one or more years for symptoms to appear, and no treatment or vaccine is available; and

WHEREAS, a well-documented method of spreading CWD across long distances is the movement of live cervids for commercial purposes; and

WHEREAS, to date, CWD has been documented in wild or captive herds of white-tailed deer in five states (MD, NY, PA, VA, and WV) within the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NEAFWA urges every state and province within the region to take all possible measures to prevent the additional introduction and further spread of CWD; and

That these measures should include (1) restrict or eliminate captive cervid operations or, at minimum, prohibit all interstate movement of animals from those herds; (2) prohibit the movement of intact carcasses of hunter harvested CWD-susceptible cervids from known CWD-affected areas; (3) restrict or eliminate products manufactured from captive cervids, including their urine; and (4) maintain prohibitions on feeding and baiting deer where it



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currently is prohibited, and eliminate the practice of feeding and baiting deer elsewhere unless deemed necessary for managing overabundant deer population; and

If CWD is detected in any state or province within the region, NEAFWA urges strict adherence by that state or province to guidelines set forth in the NEAFWA Chronic Wasting Disease Plan (Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. 2006).

Adopted:      October 29, 2014