



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE NORTH AMERICAN LEAD-FREE PARTNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) recognizes that the infrequent unintentional ingestion of lead ammunition may cause inadvertent negative health effects, up to and including mortality, in individual animals; and

WHEREAS, the North American Lead-Free Partnership ('Partnership') was established to conserve wildlife and hunting heritage; and

WHEREAS, part of the stated mission of the Partnership is to provide a '*mechanism to minimize unintentional impacts on wildlife health while protecting the public image of hunting and the associated benefits to the conservation of wildlife and habitat*'; and

WHEREAS, sound research has unequivocally determined lead from hunting ammunition poses a health hazard to wildlife and has shown the increased use of non-lead ammunition reduces inadvertent impacts of lead on wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership seeks to expand the coalition of hunters, anglers and other conservationists dedicated to improving ecosystem and wildlife health by voluntarily choosing non-lead options; and

WHEREAS, efforts to improve the health of our native fish and wildlife species are most successful when employed across multiple landscapes and jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) recently joined the Partnership and encouraged their members to consider joining the Partnership at a level they deem appropriate; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach prioritizing education, information, and voluntary, informed choice is recognized by state fish and wildlife agencies as an effective way to prevent unnecessary regulatory action on lead ammunition and tackle; and

WHEREAS, NEAFWA has instituted a series of in-service training workshops throughout the northeast to inform agency personnel about non-lead and lead ammunition, and has verified through these workshops that a voluntary approach to the use of non-lead hunting ammunition is widely accepted and valued by state agency personnel and their conservation partners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the support of the North American Lead-Free Partnership is an appropriate and justifiable action to increase the use of non-lead ammunition to improve ecosystem health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SEAFWA Wildlife Health Technical Committee, R3 Committee, and Wildlife Resources Committee encourage SEAFWA to join the North American Lead-Free Partnership at the "In Support of" level, thereby endorsing the efforts of the Partnership.

Submitted jointly by the SEAFWA Wildlife Health Technical Committee, R3 Committee, and Wildlife Resources Committee, and adopted by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in official session on March 13, 2026.