



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Committee Charges 2013



Committee Charges

Agricultural Conservation Committee

- Identify options to effect administrative policy changes and legislation to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat including research necessary to document what is and has been happening to habitats as a result of increased demands for energy, food and fiber production and urban expansion as well as suggestions for various approaches toward dealing with such problems.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Biofuels Working Group
Conservation Compliance Working Group
Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Working Group
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Working Group
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Working Group
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Working Group
Forestry Working Group
Grassland Reserve Program Working Group
Invasive Species Working Group
Public Access Working Group
Technical Service Providers Working Group
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Working Group
Wildlife Habitats Incentive Program (WHIP) Working Group

Angler and Boating Participation Committee

- Guide actions that maintain and enhance participation in angling, boating and other aquatic resource-based recreation including:
 - Promoting policies that enhance aquatic-based recreational opportunities.
 - Working with partners to identify barriers to participation and develop programs to overcome them.
 - Facilitating the flow of information regarding trends in participation; benefit of enhancement programs; and costs of barriers to participation among partners, users and policy makers.

Annual Meeting/Awards/Nominating Committee

- Recommend the framework for the upcoming Annual Meeting program.
- Develop and present to the Executive Committee a list of nominees for the officers and vacant Executive Committee seats.
- Propose time and place for future annual meeting sites.
- Select recipients of the Association's prestigious Annual Awards.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Awards

Nominating

Program

Time and Place

Audit Committee

- Conduct the audit of Association accounts and prepare a report to be presented at the September meeting.
- Analyze the Association's budget projection periodically to provide suggestions on improving financial management practices and on the investment of reserve funds.

Bird Conservation Committee

- Keep the Association informed of developments affecting bird conservation.
- Promote policies necessary to ensure the long-term conservation of bird populations and their habitats, sustainable hunting and the public's ability to enjoy birds.
- Maintain coordination with federal agency and NGO partners and partners throughout the western hemisphere.
- Work closely with the flyway councils and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.
- Contribute to the activities and involvement of the International Relations Committee and other groups regarding international issues that affect birds.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group

Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group

Resident Game Bird Working Group

Waterfowl Working Group

Climate Change Committee

- Identify and address statutory changes needed at the federal level to effectively address and manage climate change impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Identify and actively advocate for new sources of funding to effectively respond to climate change issues.
- Conduct research and develop recommended approach for state agencies to incorporate climate change considerations in fish and wildlife conservation.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Climate Change/Wildlife Action Plan Working Group*

Education, Outreach and Diversity Committee

- Identify critical outreach (communications and marketing) needs that address key issues identified by Association committees and membership.
- Leverage member efforts to facilitate outreach initiatives on a national scale.
- Strengthen and unify conservation education efforts of Association members and partners.
- Promote diversity within our agency workforce and in the constituents we serve.
- Coordinate continuing education programs for conservation professionals.
- Foster networking and outreach partnerships among the growing field of wildlife viewing and nature tourism initiatives.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Diversity Working Group

Education Working Group

Outreach Working Group

Wildlife Viewing & Nature Tourism Working Group

Energy and Wildlife Policy

- Work cooperatively with public and private interests to adequately protect fish and wildlife resources and their habitats during energy exploration, development and production.
- Focus on energy development/generation in North America and its impacts on fish and wildlife resources and their landscape habitats at the state, province, territory, region and international levels.
- Maintain an active liaison with federal and provincial agencies, tribal governments, industry and energy research facilities to monitor, advise, review and coordinate energy-related issues—including policy development, regulation development and any actions—which impact fish and wildlife resources as energy resources are developed.

* Joint work group between Climate Change and Teaming With Wildlife Committees

- Monitor federal programs and inform the state, provinces and territories via the Association about any funding opportunities available to help these entities respond to federal energy-related activities in their jurisdiction.
- Make policy recommendations to the Association in a timely manner, as indicated by federal actions, planning processes, etc.
- Interact with other committees as appropriate to strengthen policy recommendations that come forward to the full Association on inter-related issues.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Coal Energy Subcommittee

Onshore Oil & Gas and Oil Shale & Tar Sands Subcommittee

Wind Energy & Transmission Subcommittee

Executive Committee

- Determine all matters not especially provided for in the Association's Constitution and Bylaws until specially passed upon at a regular meeting; employ and assign duties to the Executive Director and subordinate employees.
- Approve annual budget of itemized estimated expenditures.
- Provide for payment of legitimate expenses incurred in behalf of the Association.

Federal and Tribal Relations Committee

- Provide opportunity for discussion, deliberation and action with respect to fish and wildlife conservation in the context of the three sovereign entities which have various jurisdictional authority over these resources: state fish and wildlife agencies, the USFWS and tribal governments.
- Coordinate effective delivery of stewardship and conservation of fish and wildlife resources.
- Assure the appropriate jurisdictional relationship between the three sovereigns in legislative, executive and treaty initiatives.

Finance

- Recommends the operational budget for the coming year including:
 - Review of current year's budget.
 - Review of coming year's budget recommendations.
 - Review recommendations for assessments for the coming year.
- Provides oversight and deliberation on reserve and investment policies and activities, including:
 - Review the reserve policy at least annually.
 - Makes recommendations to the Executive Committee for use of funds from either the contingency or long-term reserves for any needs of the Association.

- Review quarterly investment reports and evaluates the portfolio(s) over at least a three year period, making recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the portfolio.
- Deliberates and offers recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the Investment Account, the Investment Policy Statement, and the Association's Reserve Policy
- Performs such tasks as outlined in the Investment Policy Statement and keeps the Executive Committee informed of progress on all such tasks.
- Terminate an Investment Management Consultant(s) for reasons detailed in the Investment Policy Statement.

Fish and Wildlife Health Committee

- Provide expert advice and counsel to the members of the Association and its officers on fish and wildlife health matters.
- Monitor and evaluate state and federal animal health legislation and administrative actions in terms of their potential impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Maintain a close relationship with appropriate officials of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior to assure that the interests of fish and wildlife management are taken into account in any emergency animal disease control program.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Lead and Fish and Wildlife Health Working Group
 White Nose Syndrome in Bats Working Group

Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee

- Guide the actions of the Association to maintain and enhance funding for fish and wildlife agencies derived from the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration programs and related Federal Assistance programs which includes:
 - Promoting policies and procedures for efficient and effective administration of federal assistance funds.
 - Improving system accountability.
- Demonstrate success stories; and facilitate timely and accurate accumulation and flow of funds.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Federal Assistance Working Group

Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee

- Discuss, develop and recommend Association positions related to:
 - Federal laws, regulations and policies concerning water uses, aquatic habitat conservation, fisheries resources and related funding for such programs.
 - Fisheries management practices and emerging issues (e.g. climate change) for both freshwater and marine resources.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Drug Approval Working Group

Natural Resource Damages Working Group

Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee

- Identify emerging needs, challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations relative to hunter education, shooting range development and the shooting sports, including archery, in North America.
- Coordinate and collaborate with government, non-governmental organization, industry partners and other Association Committees.

International Relations Committee

- Develop Association positions on all appropriate international matters including agreements, treaties, conventions, regulations and the activities of IUCN and its more active affiliates.
- Develop relations with Central and South American nations, further Canadian and Mexican involvement and explore contact with nation's outside the northern hemisphere.
- Monitor potential developments on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, especially any efforts to have the U.S. become a signatory party.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Federal/State CITES Working Group

Invasive Species Committee

- Provide a national forum for coordinated action among state and federal agencies.
- Provide a foundation for development of a strategic Association invasive species plan including prioritizing invasive species threats and suggesting a framework for cooperation among agencies and other partners to engage the invasive species challenge.

Law Enforcement Committee

- Promote professionalism among fish and wildlife law enforcement officers.
- Present reports on issues and trends in conservation enforcement.
- Increase recognition of law enforcement as a profession by other conservation organizations and the general public.
- Provide recommendations on how to improve the public relations of conservation officers for the purpose increasing positive public support.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

Leadership & Professional Development

- Create tools and programs to help state fish and wildlife agencies nurture a new generation of leaders prepared to address current and future conservation needs in their state, region and nationwide including directing the Management Assistance Team.
- Provide training and consulting to states through a Leadership Development Initiative.
- Disseminate leadership development best practices.
- Coordinate with the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Legal Committee

- Advise the Executive Committee and the Association's Legal Counsel on legal matters which they believe are deserving of the expenditure of time, effort and money.
- Evaluate requests for the Association to enter into legal actions with the potential for national significance.

Legislative and Federal Budget Committee

- Identify and evaluate bills and policy issues coming before the U.S. Congress having the potential for affecting the needs, interests, role and authority of the Association members.
- Develop and recommend positions on such measures.
- Develop recommendations on the budgets of the federal resource agencies.
- Explore ways of working with Canada and Mexico on significant legislation.

National Grants Committee

- Oversee the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.
- Evaluate and recommend annually the National Conservation Needs (NCNs) used to establish the states' priorities for the upcoming grant cycle in March.
- Solicit grant proposals and oversee the review process.
- Select projects annually addressing the NCNs in September.

Ocean Resources Policy Committee

- The Ocean Resources Policy Committee identifies and recommends AFWA's positions on issues concerning our nation's ocean and coastal fish and wildlife resources.
- Issues include marine fisheries and habitat issues. They also include coastal management issues and the marine and coastal sciences as they affect species and their habitats managed by state fish and wildlife agencies.
- The committee serves as a forum for discussions on issues shared by the states and provinces and their U.S. and Canadian federal partners and non-governmental organizations and industry partners.
- The committee supports the development of the science, monitoring, and management needed to ensure the sustainability of our nation's living marine resources and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of the public.

Resolutions Committee

- Review resolutions from Association committees.
- Develop resolutions from other appropriate sources.
- Determine which resolutions should be presented to the membership for adoption.

Science and Research Committee

- Keep the Association informed of the ecological research and information needs of the states.
- Manage a process for prioritizing and addressing those needs through a variety of mechanisms, including enhanced federal-state partnerships.
- Develop an action plan to initiate new research needed to address priorities articulated by states.
- Evaluate the progress/findings of research efforts and disseminate information to managers and decision-makers.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee

- Advocate the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and promote the sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources at the international level.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group

Teaming with Wildlife

- Advocate for long-term dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of at-risk fish and wildlife, nature-based recreation and conservation education.
- Support development, implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans.
- Build, support and coordinate the national Teaming with Wildlife coalition.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Climate Change/Wildlife Action Plan Working Group*

Effectiveness Measures Working Group

Technology & Data

- To assist state fish and wildlife agencies with the evaluation of new and emerging technology (e.g., mobile applications), social media, and data management systems and to provide guidance or recommendations for using these applications to sell licenses, collect harvest data, disseminate information, and build customer relationships.

Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee

- Review procedural or categorical problems affecting threatened and endangered species listings and de-listing and critical habitat proposals as reported in the Federal Register and suggest appropriate action.
- Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement.
- Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.
- Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

ESA and Climate Change Working Group

Wildlife Resource Policy Committee

- Discuss, develop and recommend Association positions related to:
 - Federal laws, regulations and policies concerning habitat conservation, wildlife resources and related funding for such programs.
 - Wildlife management practices including those concerned with problem or nuisance wildlife, and emerging issues (e.g., commercial trade).
- Stay abreast of threatened and endangered species wildlife issues, state legislation pertaining to wildlife management and wildlife diversity funding initiatives.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Amphibian and Reptile Subcommittee
Human/Wildlife Conflict Working Group
Federal Lands Access Working Group

President's Task Forces & Work Groups

National Survey Technical Work Group

- To examine the technical aspects of the National Survey in an effort to save money while maintaining quality.

President's Task Force on State Authority

- This President's Task Force will develop a white paper on state authority for fish and wildlife management, in relation to federal authority, with due consideration to approved federal policy, enacted legislation, and judicial action. This white paper may offer recommendations for future Association action. The paper will be completed in time for discussion at the March 2013 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Past Presidents' Work Group

The Past Presidents' Work Group is composed exclusively of persons who have served as President of the Association. The purposes of the committee are:

- (1) To reinforce the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and
- (2) To serve in an advisory role to the Executive Committee, and
- (3) Preserve the institutional knowledge vital to the continuation of AFWA.

The Past Presidents' Committee provides the opportunity for former presidents of the Association to contribute their experience and knowledge for the betterment of the Association.

Annual Activity: meets in conjunction with the Association's Business Meetings or at the call of the Association's Executive Committee.

The Association's Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Wildlife Diversity Funding Work Group

- Identify and prioritize potential dedicated funding sources for state-based fish and wildlife diversity conservation.