

# The AFWA Strategist

International Relations Issue

August 2014

## 2014 CITES Meeting

The CITES Technical Work Group and Deb Hahn, AFWA's International Relations Director, represented the state fish and wildlife agencies at the 27<sup>th</sup> Animals Committee in April and the 65<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee in July 2014.

The Animals Committee discussed 23 substantive agenda items, including but not limited to: non-detriment findings; the review of significant trade in Appendix II species; the periodic review of animal species included in the Appendices; amendments to the Appendices; sturgeons; and snake trade. Approximately 200 people attended the meeting including a significant number of NGOs.

The Standing Committee had more than 400 attendees and dealt with the policy issues of the Convention. The outcomes were not detrimental to agency management and relationships with international partners continue to grow.

## Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee

The Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC), which includes all Provinces and Territories, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Parks Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service develops an annual action plan to implement their national wildlife strategic agenda. A great deal of time is spent coordinating national Species at Risk conservation.

Recently, the committee developed a plan to take action on white-nosed syndrome and recently they hired a national coordinator to work through the Canadian Cooperative Health Center.

In addition, the CWDC hosts annual workshops on issues of national importance. The last workshop in 2014 focused on aboriginal involvement in wildlife management.

The CWDC has recently published the results from its 2012 public engagement and human dimensions survey. *The 2012 Value of Nature to Canadians Survey* is available [here](#). The CWDC also engages with the Fur Institute of Canada overseeing implementation of the International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards.

## Canada's National Conservation Plan

Canada's [National Conservation Plan](#) outlines the five-year, \$252 million investment intended to help conserve and restore Canada's natural environment and connect Canadians to nature. The NCP focuses on securing ecologically sensitive lands, supporting voluntary conservation and restoration actions and strengthening marine and coastal conservation.



## The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies'

### International Relations (IR) Committee

**CHARGE:** Work with partners around the globe to ensure state and provincial wildlife agencies have a voice.

AFWA's IR Committee develops positions on international issues; engages in international initiatives, conventions and treaties; and facilitates international cooperation and communication within and between member agencies and partners. AFWA's Strategic Plan highlights the fundamental importance of international engagement through objectives 2.8, 2.13, 3.7 and 4.9. This is the first bi-annual Committee update on select international issues.

**Committee Co-Chair:** Curtis Taylor, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

**Committee Co-Chair:** Mike Sullivan, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy

**AFWA International Relations Director:** Deb Hahn, [dhahn@fishwildlife.org](mailto:dhahn@fishwildlife.org)

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## AFWA Annual Meeting

> Registration is now open for AFWA's Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO at [www.AFWAAnnualMeeting.org](http://www.AFWAAnnualMeeting.org).

> Please make your hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch before 9/6.

> **The International Relations Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 10am to noon.**

## Other Upcoming Meetings of Interest

> **Oct. 2014, Korea –**  
12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

> **Oct. 2014, Ottawa –**  
Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee

> **Oct. 2014, Virginia Beach, VA –**  
Northeast and Southeast Partners in Flight Conference "Full Life Cycle Conservation: Flyway-scale Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, and Communication"

> **Nov. 2014, Ecuador –**  
11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species

> **Dec. 2014 –**  
NAWCA Council and NMBCA Advisory Group meetings

## 2014 Trilateral Committee for Wildlife & Ecosystem Conservation and Management

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trilateral was held 5/26-30 in Queretaro, Mexico. State agency representatives participated in the working tables, which include Migratory Birds, Species of Common Conservation Concern, Ecosystem Conservation and Law Enforcement.

Larry Voyles (AZ) represented the states at the Executive Table. State agencies in attendance included staff from the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. and Texas Parks & Wildlife. AFWA's Deb Hahn and Allison Vogt also participated. A meeting highlight was a focus on tri-national Monarch Butterfly conservation. The Monarch is listed as a SGCN in many State Wildlife Action Plans. For more information, visit [www.trilat.org](http://www.trilat.org).

## State Agency Paddlefish Workshop

Thirty-four state agency personnel attended a Paddlefish Workshop in January to discuss management measures and the conservation status of paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) based on the report [\*Developing Biological Reference Points and Identifying Stock Status for Management of Paddlefish \(Polyodon spathula\) in the Mississippi River Basin\*](#).

Outcomes of the workshop included the recommendations to develop/complete basin-wide management plans, to support common management goals, and to conduct research to advance the conservation of paddlefish.

## Southern Wings Program

The International Relations Committee supports the annual life cycle conservation of migratory birds through AFWA's Southern Wings Program, which sits under AFWA's Bird Conservation Committee. From 2009-2014, state agencies and their in-state partners have contributed more than \$770,000 USD and \$550,000 in-kind, leveraging more than a 1 to 1 match to date.

## US Ramsar National Committee

The [United States National Ramsar Committee](#) (USNRC) is an organization formed to support the goals and objectives of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The USNRC provides support and advice to initiatives that promote the conservation and wise, sustainable use of domestic and international wetlands. AFWA is Secretary of the USNRC.

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