



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

ANGLER AND BOATER R3 COMMITTEE AGENDA (Meeting Summary)

115th Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting – Tucson, AZ

Chair: Craig Bonds (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department)

Vice-Chair: Chris Kennedy (Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks)

Staff Contact: Ryan Roberts (AFWA/NFHP)

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

1:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Committee Charge:

The Angler and Boater R3 Committee guides 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, particularly in underserved groups and develop strategies and highlight 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, participants and potential new audiences, and policy makers.

DRAFT AGENDA

1:15 PM Introductions **Craig Bonds, TX**

1:20 PM Review Agenda/charge – **Craig Bonds, TX**
• Approve March 2025 Meeting Minutes/September 2025 Agenda

Draft Agenda for September 2025 Committee Meeting **(Approved)**

March 2025 Committee meeting summary **(Approved)**

1:25 PM US Fish and Wildlife Service Update **Stewart Jacks, USFWS**
• Update On DOI National Outreach and Communications Plan NOFO
• Sportfish Restoration Program Update
• Other Administrative updates

Stewart Jacks, *Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, USFWS*, provided a verbal update from the USFWS on the agenda items listed above.

- National Outreach and Communications Plan for Angling and Boater R3 notice of funding opportunity. Opportunity for applicants closed in mid-August. Over 200 applications were received. Funding is available over the next two fiscal years and amounts to about \$26 million. Grant applications are being reviewed, and award recipients are expected to be announced at the end of 2025.

- Update on the Sport Fish Restoration Act, which turns 75 years old in 2025. It has been a cornerstone in ensuring that America’s sport fish populations and aquatic habitats are healthy, sustainable, and accessible for all. This partnership among federal excise tax-paying manufacturers, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proven to be one of the most successful conservation funding models in the world, supporting fisheries management that meets the local level needs of every U.S. state, commonwealth, and territory. More work with states and other partners can be found at [Sport Fish Restoration at 75 – Partner with a Payer](#).

2:00 PM

Angler Survey projects overview

Rob Southwick, SA

- Why Anglers Quit and how we can Improve Retention Rates (ASA)
- Honing Youth Fishing Programs to Create Avid Anglers (Outdoor Stewards of the Wild Foundation)
- Update from Rob Southwick on two new R3 projects relevant to angler retention (ASA) and evaluating youth fishing programs (Outdoor Stewards of the Wild).

2:20 PM

Committee Endorsement of the voluntary best management practices (BMPs) for reducing unintended ingestion of lead ammunition and tackle residues in wildlife developed by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- Committee vote for endorsement
- The committee approved endorsement of the Resolution of the voluntary best management practices (bmps) for reducing unintended ingestion of lead ammunition and tackle residues in wildlife developed by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) for consideration by the Directors through the Resolutions Committee.

2:35 PM

Committee Roundtable

ABR3 Committee Members

- Updates from State/Federal/Partner Agencies
 - NASBLA Update – Danny Rodriguez
 - [Instream and Water Level Conservation \(IFWLC\) Training Center](#) – Christopher Estes
- Committee discussed having a webinar with NOCP recipients once grant recipients are announced at the end of the year.

3:15 PM

Meeting Wrap-up

Sign-in sheet for AFWA Angler and
Boater R3 Committee meeting

9/23



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