

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: A. Abuzeineh, P. K. Anderson, T. Bowyer, R. W. Kays, A. Krevitz, T. J. McIntyre, S. B. McLaren, D. Odell, T. J. O'Shea, E. A. Rickart, S. R. Sheffield, M. J. Smolen, D. W. Sparks, (Chair), W. T. Stanley, V. J. Swier, C. W. Thompson, R. M. Timm.

Mission:

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes. The committee also interacts with the legislative monitoring groups of AIBS. Currently, committee members keep officers and members of other committees informed via e-mail, but we remain hopeful of being able to reach a broader audience via the ASM website.

Information Items:

This past year the Committee remained active in monitoring activities in the courts and in Congress. Unlike most years, the Endangered Species Act was essentially ignored by Congress. Two issues related to bats have kept the Committee busy all year: White Nose Syndrome (WNS); and Wind Energy. This year has seen the first confirmed mortality of an Indiana bat under a wind turbine, and a federal court case that stopped development of a wind power facility because of potential impacts to Indiana bats. Meanwhile the first offshore wind facility was just permitted off Cape Cod. White Nose Syndrome has continued to spread across the country and now can be found as far west as the Great Plains. As a result, the Fish and Wildlife Service received petitions to list two additional species of eastern bats (*Myotis septentrionalis* and *Myotis leibii*). Additional listings should be expected, which will greatly impact the techniques that are available to study bats across the country.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. W. Sparks, Chair

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