

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: R. T. Bowyer, V. Brack, Jr., A. W. Ferguson (Chair) R. W. Kays, D. Krejsa, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, E. A. Rickart, R. Rodriguez, S. R. Sheffield, D.W. Sparks, E. W. Valdez.

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.

Information Items:

(1) We continued to work with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop guidelines regarding importation of potentially infectious biological material, most notably bats. According to colleagues at the CDC the changes to existing regulations are currently under review, with particular emphasis on changing the CFR to support the fact that formalin fixation renders bats and non-human primates non-infectious.

(2) AWF continued to participate as a member in the Nagoya Protocol Education Action Group, a consortium of scientific societies aiming to demystify the Nagoya Protocol as it applies to research and collections. This Group meets regularly with members of the State Department and other scientific organizations to discuss implications of the NAGOYA with a recent focus on regulations regarding Digital Sequence Information (DSI). The website <https://learnnagoya.com/> ASM sponsored is now live.

(3) The Committee continues to try and keep tabs on changes to laws and regulations that might negatively impact mammals and/or research on mammals, which proves to be quite a difficult task. Expanding communication between other Committees, such as the Marine Mammals, Resolutions, Systematic Collections, and Conservation Committees continues in attempt to coordinate efforts in combating such changes. The largest such change in the past year has been multiple changes related to “streamlining” the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee also acknowledges the recently proposed temporary guidelines of state and federal regulatory agencies regarding the handling of wild mammals during the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and is working with other committees to assess the impacts such guidelines will have on mammal research.

Action Items: The Committee has no action items.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam W. Ferguson, Chair
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