

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: R. T. Bowyer, V. Brack, Jr., A. W. Ferguson (Chair), D. Krejsa, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, E. A. Rickart, 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, harvest regulations, and use of animals for experiments.

Information Items:

(1) Members of the Committee joined several virtual meetings of the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) Legislation and Regulations meeting to discuss shared problems including updates to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) regulations regarding importation of bats. Discussions on ways we can work together to create a workflow for actionable responses regarding regulatory issues involving federal agencies were also discussed, particularly in reference to Item (2) below.

(2) Members of the Committee participated in discussions regarding a recent interpretation by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) national permitting office which deemed transfer of captive marine mammals from zoos to natural history museums as not qualifying as "bona fide research" under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Through collaboration with the ASM Marine Mammal Committee, we tried to initiate discussions between NOAA and USFWS but were told that we still had to work with the single individual implementing these new interpretations. Other members of USFWS Office of Law Enforcement appear to disagree with the interpretation being offered from the Virginia office and thus there are conflicting accounts as to what collections should do when salvaging marine mammals managed by USFWS. Currently, discussions are underway to draft a letter to USFWS from various organizations including ASM, SPNHC, and the Marine Mammal Conservation Society.

(3) Adam Ferguson 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.

(4) The Committee continues to try and keep tabs on changes to laws and regulations that might negatively or positively 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.

Action Items:

(1) The Committee request \$1,000 to honor the pledge made by ASM to support the development of learnnagoya.com which was granted in the past but not spent.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam W. Ferguson, Chair
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