

Resolutions Committee

Committee Membership: B. J. Bergstrom, J. L. Malaney, S. G. Mech, S. R. Sheffield (Chair), J. A. Yunger.

Mission:

The Resolutions Committee of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) was established in 1956 to provide a mechanism for the Society to share relevant science and express views on issues that involve mammals. The Resolutions Committee also writes the Host Resolution for the Annual Meeting of the ASM.

Functioning:

As part of the Resolution Committee's Mission, proposals are first reviewed internally by Committee members, then revised as needed in consultation with the proposer. Resolutions deemed appropriate and ready for further consideration are vetted with the President. Upon approval, resolutions will be circulated to the ASM membership for consideration. Resolutions represent objective assessments of facts as they pertain to issues of relevance to mammals and mammalogy, and that they adhere to the highest scientific and ethical standards. Consequently, resolutions frequently require multiple drafts, supporting literature and literature cited sections, and input from the Society; however, new standard operating procedures now in effect allow resolutions to be voted on electronically at any time of year. This completely changes the dynamics and utility of resolutions for the Society.

Information Items:

(1) The Committee's Standard Operating Procedures were updated in Fall 2023 and approved by the BOD at its spring 2024 meeting. At the annual meeting, resolutions from the past year will be reviewed, feedback from agencies and other recipients will be shared, and input for future resolutions will be solicited. Proposed resolutions will now be accepted for consideration by the committee at any time of the year. We will allot 1.5 months from the date a resolution is proposed for resolution development and review within the committee, and another 1.5 months for review of a resolution by the membership. We will then allot 1 month for editing of resolution based on feedback from the membership, followed by 1 month for (electronic) voting on the resolution by the membership.

(2) Last year's proposed resolution entitled "The need for wildlife trade data to aid wild mammal populations and protect against diseases/pandemics" was converted to a position letter in summer 2023 and forwarded to the Conservation Committee for consideration in fall 2023. The letter was reviewed by the Conservation Committee, and a set of questions they had were addressed by the Resolutions Committee. We are still in the process of finalizing this letter, so it has not yet been approved nor sent to its intended recipients.

Intent: request that USFWS put an end to use of an illegitimate exemption (Exemption 4) in FOIA requests, and that all Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) data

(on all wildlife and wildlife specimens/parts which cross US borders) be released to the public at least quarterly (if not each month) through an online portal.

(3) Last year's proposed resolution entitled "Mammalian Predator Control in Alaska" has continued to be further edited and updated throughout the past year by several outside experts on Alaskan predatory/prey dynamics. This review/editing process will continue until the resolution is deemed ready by the committee for consideration.

Intent: request that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) finally abandon their predator control policies which are not supported by best available science, and that these non-scientific policies not be applied to federal public lands in Alaska (which make up 62% of the state).

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Sheffield, Chair
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