

Framework for WSCS affiliation of sturgeon conservation Societies

Preamble

WSCS by its statutes and its mission statement intends to promote, support, and integrate regional activities related to sturgeon conservation, management and sustainable aquaculture. To reach this aim, WSCS seeks close cooperation with regional or national groups or societies working in this field. Such a close cooperation should support the regional entity as well as enable WSCS to reflect on these activities in a global perspective. For groups that mainly address similar issues as WSCS we therefore suggest to affiliate with WSCS to obtain the services the Society can offer and to elevate their capacity/visibility in international integration.

Conditions to grant WSCS Affiliate Status

Affiliation is a specific status of linkage with WSCS representing a specific form of membership that can be obtained by those organizational and societal non-profit entities that share common goals and objectives with WSCS and want to participate in international activities. This aims at enhancing their capabilities in areas of prime interest (e.g. local or regional matters) availing WSCS expertise. In turn the Affiliates provide their local/regional expertise to WSCS and its membership.

The WSCS affiliation is possible under the following conditions:

- (a) The objectives/aims of the organization must be in line with those of WSCS, and
- (b) the organization must comply with the general aspects of the statutes of WSCS while primarily focusing on national/regional issues.
- c) Affiliated Societies must be willing to engage with WSCS in a firm commitment to actively cooperate in jointly agreed activities. This is to strengthen their own efforts on sturgeon conservation while at the same time contributing to global sturgeon conservation and WSCS needs.
- d) Members of an affiliated organizations are free to simultaneously register as a full WSCS member.

1 - Joint and reciprocal activities between WSCS and its Affiliates

1.1- The Affiliate is entitled to participate in the "Executive Advisory Council" supporting the Board in strategic decision making. As such the Affiliate becomes part of the clearinghouse to identify priorities for research and management, conservation strategies and public awareness as well as obtain the opportunity to draw attention to pertinent issues of regional importance. This participation is intended to increase international integration and recognition of the regional work while helping to standardize methodology internationally to increase comparability of results.

1.2 - WSCS and the Affiliated societies can organize joint workshops, seminar or scientific meeting on specific topics of mutual interest

1.3 - WSCS and the Affiliated societies can produce joint either in the Journal of the WSCS or as Special publications which both entities distribute on their own costs

1.4 - The Affiliates are entitled to organize special sessions at the ISS, and WSCS to organize special sessions at Affiliate meetings

1.5 - Affiliates and WSCS agree to establish cross-links between their Websites,

- - The Affiliate can place the WSCS Logo on their homepage identifying their affiliation status and
- - WSCS placing the Affiliate logo with a description of goals and objectives of the entity and a note identifying the organization as an Affiliated Society to WSCS on its homepage
- - Affiliates agree to post on their website the announcements for WSCS Conferences /Meetings or any text on urgent messages related to sturgeon issues of wider interest or urgent messages from the WSCS home office addressed to the membership at large
- - In turn, WSCS will post equally important information of the Affiliate.

2 - Additional services to Affiliates

2.1 - WSCS promotes and provides support for regional / national actions including the foundation of regional groups/affiliates. WSCS also can provide its scientific support for carrying out joint programs, development of an Action plan and Research topics. All costs will be covered by Affiliate, or jointly apply for Funds from other International donors.

2.2 - Affiliated groups are entitled to apply as hosts for the ISS events and are selected with priority among proposals of equal quality

2.3 - The WSCS provides a 15% reduced membership fee for Affiliate members

- 2.4 - Access to the WSCS publication production with worldwide audience and the Society's journal
- 2.5 - The Affiliate has the right to buy WSCS publications at the membership discount if purchased in bulk (>10 copies)
- 2.6 - Members of the Affiliate are eligible for the membership deduction for ISS registration
- 2.7 - The President and a representative of the home office of the Affiliate Society will be given full access to the following services.
 - 2.7.1 Access to the membership section of the WSCS website,
 - 2.7.2 Access to the News Archive on the WSCS website;
 - 2.7.3 Online access to the sturgeon bibliography;
 - 2.7.4 Access to the literature reprint archives to receive on request photocopies of any material available at the home office at copying and handling (mailing) costs;
 - 2.7.5 The right to subscribe to one copy of the Journal of Applied Ichthyology at approx. 65-70% deduction of the regular subscription price (actual rate will depend on currency exchange rate and year)
- 2.8 - WSCS will assure that at WSCS Board meetings a special agenda item is set up for joint sessions with representatives of the Affiliate Societies (usually the President of the Affiliate or a Board member to be nominated at the latest 1 month after the invitation and agenda for the upcoming WSCS Board meeting was released)
- 2.9 - The Affiliate can propose specific subject items to be included in the joint session with the WSCS Board.
- 2.10 - The home office of the Affiliate receives a copy of the protocol (minutes) of the WSCS General Assembly for internal consideration by the Board of the Affiliate.
- 2.11- Individual members of the Affiliate are granted the following services
 - 2.11.1 Free access to the General Assembly (without voting rights)
 - 2.11.2 Reduced registration fees at WSCS-organized Symposia and workshops
- 2.12 - The Affiliated Societies receive voting rights at the WSCS General Assembly under the following terms:
 - 2.12.1 The representative of the Affiliate (e.g President or a Board member officially nominated – in writing) who is assigned to vote on behalf of the Affiliate has to be a WSCS member in good standing. The number of votes he/she will be able to cast will depend on the total number of members in good standing of the respective Affiliate.
 - 2.12.2 Multiple votes will be assigned using the following key:
 - a) 1 vote: total membership above 30
 - b) 2 votes: total membership above 80
 - c) 3 votes: total membership above 150

3 - Duties and responsibilities of Affiliates

Affiliates will offer to WSCS representatives the similar rights and services as granted to their representatives, namely

- 3.1 The Affiliate provides a reduced membership fee for WSCS members joining the Affiliate
- 3.2 To include in the agenda of their Board meetings a specific topic for issues relevant to the cooperation with WSCS The Affiliate will assure that at its Board meetings a special agenda item is set up for joint sessions with representatives of the WSCS (usually the President of WSCS or a Board member to be nominated at the latest 1 month after the invitation and agenda for the upcoming Affiliate Board meeting was released).
- 3.3 The Affiliate assigns a vote in the General Assembly to a WSCS representative.
- 3.4 Individual WSCS members in good standing will have free access to the General Assembly of the affiliate (without voting).
- 3.5 WSCS members are granted a special reduced registration fee at Symposia and workshops organized by the Affiliate (to be outlined in the Affiliation contract or to be negotiated case by case depending on the dimension of the event).
- 3.6 Affiliated societies will cooperate with the WSCS in exchanging of information related to sturgeon issues, e.g. providing reports on their relevant activities, copies of the Minutes of their General Assembly, assisting in providing literature on sturgeons, informing their membership regularly on WSCS activities, exhibiting WSCS promotional material on their meetings/conferences; etc.
- 3.7 The Affiliates can serve as local contacts for WSCS and will promote WSCS aims and targets.

4 - Membership dues

Membership dues for Affiliated Societies are set at 15% of the annual membership rate

The Affiliate has to carry the banking costs for transfer of dues to WSCS
Additional conditions and agreements have to be negotiated in detail in an annex to the affiliation agreement.

5 - Duration and termination of the Affiliation agreement

An affiliation agreement should be signed for a minimum of 4 years (preferably in line with the WSCS election cycle). Termination of the agreement can be requested by each party in writing (if so required) six months in advance of the end of each fiscal year.

Affiliated Societies agree that any violation/misuse of the Statutes of WSCS by the affiliate will lead to their exclusion of affiliated membership (as outlined in the Affiliation Agreement).