



Statutes

of the non-profit organization

"World Sturgeon Conservation Society"

(Acronym: WSCS)

§ 1 Name and location

The Society carries the name "World Sturgeon Conservation Society". It has been registered at the Amtsgericht Tostedt under the registration number **VR 1585**. Following the registration, the Society carries the suffix "e. V." The home office of the Society is located in D-21629 Neu Wulmstorf.

§2 Aims and Objectives of the Society

The Society intends to act as an international forum of scientific discussion for all those interested in pertinent issues on the conservation and sustainable utilization of sturgeon s while at the same time seeking opportunities for close cooperation at an international level.

The objectives of the Society are:

- 1) To foster the conservation of sturgeon species, restoration of sturgeon stocks and their sustainable use world-wide,
- 2) To develop information exchange among all interested in sturgeons which particularly applies to the following subject areas:
 - a. -General biology
 - b. -Species and habitat protection
 - c. -Stock enhancement
 - d. -Biological resource management
 - e. -Fisheries and fisheries-related issues
 - f. -Aquaculture
 - g. -Cultural and regulatory issues
- 3) To promote information exchange with regional, national, international, inter-governmental organizations, educational institutions (e.g. universities, scientific institutes) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- 4) To foster and support interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research on all aspects of sturgeons (e.g. biology, conservation, management, and utilization of sturgeons)

- 5) To enhance the cooperation between and among anglers, fishermen, scientists, governmental agencies, local communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations
- 6) To inform the public on all aspects of the status and biology of sturgeons, their requirements for effective species protection, and needs for appropriate management.
- 7) The means to achieve this objective include the use of adequate and modern publication and communication means and the organization of International Conferences.

§3 Non-profit status

- 1) The Society focuses exclusively and directly on non-profit aims in agreement with the section of the taxation order granting tax exemptions. It acts selflessly and serves not primarily for profit-oriented purposes. Its financial resources and potential profits will only be used in accordance with the objectives defined in the statutes.
- 2) Members are not permitted to gain profits from the Society's funds.
- 3) The Society must not reimburse any person for costs not serving the aims of the Society or to reimburse any person for rendered services at an unjustifiably high level.

§4 Membership

- 1) Any individual or legal entity who wishes to commit to the objectives of the Society can become a member. The Society distinguishes memberships (including students, senior citizens, sponsors, Affiliated Societies, as well as corporative and educational institutions). Membership is independent from race, religion, or citizenship.
- 2) To become a member of the Society, an individual must submit an application including the full name and a postal address. The application must reveal that the applicant accepts and supports the objectives of the Society. The future member has to agree to be informed about issues in line with the aims and objectives of the Society.
- 3) The Board of Directors decides on the acceptance of a membership application and has the right to refuse the membership if it is suspected that the applicant may not fully support the aims of the Society or in the case that the membership would adversely affect the image of the Society.
- 4) Membership is valid for the fiscal year the membership dues are paid for. If membership fees are paid for the following year, the membership continues. For members not paying the open dues after two reminders the membership is canceled by January 31, losing all

membership rights. To reinstate membership, an individual must pay the annual registration fee.

5) In the case where a member does not comply with the Statutes of the Society, or in case its actions harm the Society and its aims, the Board can take a motion to withdraw the membership. This has to be presented to the General Assembly which decides on the matter by simple majority.

6) The member in question must be provided with an opportunity to comment on this motion. With the termination all membership claims terminate as well (e.g. membership dues, donations).

6) Individuals who have outstandingly served the Society can be honored with lifetime membership. Honorary life-members are exempt from membership dues. Proposals for honorary life membership can be submitted by any member with a written justification and - after evaluation through a nomination committee - are decided upon by the Board of Directors.

§5 Membership dues and financial support

1) In order to fulfill the societal aims and objectives, the Society funds its activities through support from membership, donations, grants, and public sources.

2) Members pay an annual membership fee.

3) The Board of Directors sets the level of the respective membership fee.

4) The level of the registration dues varies with the region in which the member resides and with the type of membership (e.g. students, senior citizens, sponsors, Affiliated societies, corporative and educational institutions, companies).

5) Handling costs of bank transfers for registration fees is the responsibility of the member paying the fee.

6) For a limited number of members, the membership dues can temporarily be waived by the Board, usually for one calendar year, provided that contributions in-kind can be made by the member in question (e.g. provision of certain services for the Society). Such exemptions from membership dues can be extended for another year.

§6 The bodies of the Society

The bodies of the Society are the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

§7 The Board of Directors

1) The Board of Directors consists of

- a. The President
- b. The Vice-President
- c. The Treasurer
- d. The Secretary General and
- e. Three additional elected members.

At least one of the above must be a German citizen.

- 2) The Society is legally represented (§ 26, BOB) by the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer, whereby anyone of the above listed Board members is authorized to represent the Society on her/his own.
- 3) The Board has all rights to operate the Society except the specific rights of the General Assembly.
- 4) The Board of Directors can delegate specific management tasks to individual voting members for one fiscal year. The transfer of these duties can be reiterated for another year.
- 5) The Board of Directors is elected by the membership through anonymous ballot for a period of four years.
 - a. All members have the right to vote and the right to be nominated as a candidate.
 - b. The candidates that run for the Board have to be in good standing and should have been active in the Society or should have similar experiences.
 - c. To be listed for election, they have to provide an application describing their curriculum and their motivation to apply for the given position.
 - d. The candidate list will be reviewed by the Board and the approved candidates will be listed on the ballots.
 - e. It is attempted to have at least one candidate for every position listed in §7 item 1 for the election.
 - f. The Board of Directors will provide the voting ballots to the members no later than two months prior to the voting deadline. The ballots are cast anonymous. Tracking of participation in the election is permitted.
 - g. The votes will be tabulated by the President in the presence of two Society members.
 - h. The candidate receiving the most votes for a position will be elected. In the event of a tie, the candidate will be selected by drawing.
 - i. The election results, including the number of votes casted, will be announced by the President to Society members.

6) Re-election of Board Members is possible.

7) The Board of Directors remains in office up to six weeks after the election of the new Board and prepares the transfer of business.

8) In the case where a Board member is not able to complete his/her term in office (e.g. illness, death), the remaining Board of Directors can elect -for an interim period until the next election -a voting member of the Society.

9) The Board of Directors

- a. Prepares the General Assembly and the Agenda thereof
- b. Calls the General Assembly
- c. Chairs the General Assembly
- d. Proposes strategic planning for the WSCS to ensure that the Society's objectives are addressed.
- e. Executes the resolutions of the General Assembly –
- f. Decides upon acceptance of membership submissions and terminations –
- g. Discusses and sets the membership dues, taking into consideration regional conditions and membership categories (see §4, item 1); dues will be listed and announced.
- h. Prepares an annual budget for each fiscal year and is responsible for the bookkeeping -prepares an annual report
- i. The Board can develop bylaws.

§8 The General Assembly

- 1) The General Assembly serves as a forum to develop opinions and derive at conclusion regarding all matters of the Society, unless these matters are regulated differently by the Statutes or the bylaws or are the duty of any other organ of the Society.
- 2) The General Assembly
 - a. receives the annual report of the Board of Directors on the past fiscal year
 - b. approves – after its presentation the annual report
 - c. decides on changes in the Statutes and the dissolution of the Society
- 3) The General Assembly convenes at least once a year and the Board will announce the meeting time and date in writing.
- 4) The deadline for the invitation to participate in the General Assembly is two months (date of distribution). The General Assembly is not a public event. The Board of Directors can invite guests.
- 5) The written invitation contains information on place and time (date, starting hour) as well as the agenda. The invitation is made available to all members of the Society through postings as well as over the website.
- 6) Every voting member may ask the Board in writing to include additional agenda items deemed necessary or desirable. The written request has to reach the Board at least two weeks in advance of the meeting (date of receipt). At the beginning of the meeting the

chair of the General Assembly has to inform the participants about amendments of the agenda.

- 7) Every properly announced General Assembly constitutes a quorum regardless of the number of voting members present.
- 8) The General Assembly takes decisions by simple majority of the votes casted. Proposed changes to the Statutes, however, require a 3/4 majority of the valid votes of participating members. The Dissolution of the Society requires 4/5 of the casted votes of participating members.
- 9) The General Assembly is chaired by the President or the Vice-President. In case of their absence, another Board Member resumes chairmanship.
- 10) The minutes of the General Assembly have at least to contain the number of members present, a participation list, and the decisions taken at the meeting. The minutes have to be signed by a member of the Board and by the rapporteur.
- 11) An extraordinary General Assembly can be called in the case where
 - a. the Board of Directors has sound reasons to do so, or
 - b. one third of the membership requests a meeting in writing. The request has to contain the item of concern.
- 12) The call for the General Assembly has to be announced in writing to all members at least six weeks (mailing date) in advance of the meeting.

§9 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year is the calendar year

§ 10 Amendments of the Statutes

Any proposal to amend the statutes has to be initiated by the Board of Directors or has to be proposed to the Board of Directors by at least 20 voting members from at least three member countries.

A decision on the amendments to the Statutes can only be taken by a 3 / 4 majority quorum of the members attending the General Assembly

§11 Dissolution of the Society.

- 1) The Society has been established for an indefinite period of time.
- 2) A proposal for dissolution of the Society can only be initiated by the Board of Directors or proposed by at least 30 voting members originating from at least four countries in which there are members.

3) A decision on the dissolution of the Society can only be taken with 2/3 majority quorum of all voting members (written vote possible). If a quorum cannot be reached by this method, a simple majority quorum will decide at the next General Assembly.

4) In the case of a deliberate dissolution of the Society or in the event that non-profit status no longer applies, the available assets should be transferred to another non-profit organization that dedicates its efforts to objectives similar to the WSCS. The transfer of assets can only be executed with the agreement of the tax exemption office.

Neu Wulmstorf, July 30th 2019