

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Board of Governors Meeting



Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

New Orleans, Louisiana

12 July 2006



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30 May 2006

The ASIH Board of Governor's is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 12 July 2006 from 1700-1900 h in Grand Ballroom E (fifth floor) in the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

President Frost plans to move blanket acceptance of all reports included in this book. Items that a governor wishes to discuss will be exempted from the motion for blanket acceptance and will be acted upon individually.

Please remember to bring this booklet with you to the meeting. I will bring a few extra copies to New Orleans.

Please contact me directly (email is best - asih@fiu.edu) with any questions you may have. Please notify me if you will not be able to attend the meeting so I can share your regrets with the Governors. I will leave for New Orleans on 10 July 2006 so try to contact me before that date if possible.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 July 2005 from 1800-2000 h in Grand Ballroom A (fifth floor). Please plan to attend the BOG meeting and Annual Business Meeting because consideration of constitutional changes requires a quorum.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Donnelly
ASIH Secretary

ASIH BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2006

Past Presidents		Executive Committee	Elected Officers (not on EXEC)
Atz, J.W.	Inger, R.F.	Donnelly, M.A.	Armbruster, J.W.
Bailey, R.M.	McDiarmid, R.W.	Frost, D.R.	Buth, D.G.
Burr, M.B.	Page, L.M.	Gregory, P.T.	Cashner, F.M.
Cannatella, D.C.	Parenti, L.R.	Mayden, R.L.	Douglas, M.R.
Cashner, R.C.	Pietsch, T.W.	Neighbors, M.A.	Fox, S.F.
Cohen, D.M.	Pough, F.H.	Parenti, L.R.	Lannoo, M.J.
Collette, B.B.	Rabb, G.G.	Schaefer, S.A.	Mason, R.T.
Dessauer, H.C.	Robins, C.R.	Warren, M.L.	Orr, J.W.
Gans, C.	Rosenblatt, R.H.		Quattro, J.M.
Gilbert, C.R.	Savage, J.M.		Reeder, T.W.
Greene, H.W.	Savitzky, A.H.		Schultz, E.T.
Greenfield, D.W.	Scott, W.B.		Taylor, C.M.
Gregory, P.T.	Smith, G.R.		Wells, K.D.
Grobman, A.B.	Stewart, M.M.		Wood, R.M.
Highton, R.	Trueb, L.		
Hubbs, C.	Wake, M.H.		
Hutchison, V.H.			

Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010
Cole, K.S.	Burgess, G.H.	Allen, L.G.	Dorcas, M.E.	Bart, H.L.
Douglas, M.R.	Hollingsworth, B.	Buckup, P.A.	Green, D.M.	Douglas, M.E.
Fitzgerald, L.	Janzen, F.J.	Carpenter, K.E.	Johnson, G.D.	Glor, R.E.
Fox, S.F.	Jewett, S.	Espinoza, R.	Kley, N.J.	Guyer, C.
Kearney, M.M.	Pezold, F.	Helfman, G.	McEachran, J.D.	Kuhajda, B.R.
Matthews, W.	Phillips, C.A.	Mushinsky, H.R.	Peterson, C.R.	Nelson, J.S.
McCormick, F.H.	Rodríguez, J.A.	Pechmann, J.H.K.	Piller, K.R.	Nicholson, K.E.
McGuire, J.S.	Schultz, E.T.	Petry, P.	Sabaj, M.H.	Peterson, M.S.
Ross, S.T.	Turner, T.F.	Warkentin, K.	Wassersug, R.J.	Pilgrim, M.A.
Vitt, L.	Wild, E.R.	Wiens, J.J.	Winemiller, K.	Pramuk, J.B.

Reports and Agenda for the 2006 Meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Organization and Announcements

1. Call to order
2. Governors Sign In
3. Distribution of late reports or additions to reports
4. Messages of regret from absentee governors
5. Call for motion to approve minutes of 2005 meeting of the Board of Governors as published in Copeia 2005 (4):945-955 (see Appendix N).
6. Announcement of appointment of Resolutions Committee
7. Announcement of Stoye and Storer Award Judges (names withheld until banquet)
8. Future annual meetings

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Business Session

53. Call for blanket approval of BOFG agenda items and reports of officers, representatives, and committees, exempting those removed by EXEC and BOFG members for discussion
54. Discussion of reports exempted from blanket approval
55. Discussion of Old Business
56. Discussion of New Business
57. Constitutional Changes (see Appendix A, Appendix L)
58. Call for nominations for election to NOMC and approval of Ballot: Nominating Committee (action item)
59. Election of HSFC member: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee (action item)
60. Election of RHGC member: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee (action Item)
61. Election of RKJC member: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee (action item)
62. Adjournment

10. PPRE: Past President - L.R. Parenti

Extreme dedication to our Society was demonstrated during the past year by Hank Bart, Bob Cashner and Brian Crother, co-hosts of this year's meeting, their Gulf Coast colleagues, and other members of the Meetings Management and Planning committees. I am personally delighted that they worked together to ensure that the 2006 JMIH be held in New Orleans, as planned. I can think of no better way to show our support and love for our colleagues and for "America's Most Unusual City."

Last year, ASIH was just about to finalize plans to move our website to Tulane University when Hurricane Katrina struck. My sincere thanks to Hank (again) and Nelson Rios for staying dedicated to this project under extraordinary personal and professional hardship. We are committed to having the website updated and improved quickly and efficiently. I am optimistic that the website will flourish under their guidance.

This year, as for my immediate predecessors, a strong focus of the Society has been on its enduring public face, our journal *Copeia*. As President, Pat Gregory appointed a committee charged with making recommendations to enhance and improve the journal, including the experience of submitting or reviewing a manuscript. Following acceptance of the recommendations of that committee by the Board of Governors, my job was to appoint yet another committee to further consider implementation of the recommendations. Some of these appear this year as proposed changes to the ASIH constitution, others, such as modification of the format of the journal including its size and the layout of the cover, are yet to be debated. As do other societies, we wrestle with the correlated issue of electronic publishing and now provide *Copeia* in electronic format to all Society members.

Among my most enjoyable duties as President was interacting with committees, largely through frequent, sometimes lengthy, e-mail exchanges with their Chairs. Students especially contributed notable time and energy to Society affairs during the past year. As more and more of Society business is conducted electronically, I am concerned that we will lose critical details to history. To address issues such as archiving, overseeing the *Copeia* Historical Perspectives series, writing or assigning the writing of obituaries, collecting photographs, and in other ways maintaining records of the history of ASIH, I appointed Joe Mitchell, Historian for herpetology, to join Dave Smith, Historian for ichthyology, to lead an expanded recurring History of the Society Committee.

And, of course, we can all sleep well at night knowing that the day-to-day business of ASIH is in the capable hands of Secretary Mo Donnelly and Treasurer Margaret Neighbors.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of ASIH for electing me as its first woman Ichthyological President, an honor for which I am immensely grateful. ASIH has

been my principal scientific society since I joined 30 years ago and I expect it to be so 30 years from now. 2036 JMIH—New Orleans?

11. SECR: Secretary - M.A. Donnelly

SECR - Secretary's Report 2005

Last year was busy; I handled over 4000 email messages during 2005. I also handled mail correspondence and other requests for information. The meeting is a focal point of ASIH activities and over 1000 emails were associated with meeting logistics in 2005. We get some "snail mail", typically from former secretaries during the year.

I received several requests for copyright release to use materials published in *Copeia* for book-length manuscripts. Most of the requests for copyright release are granted. I did receive an unusual request to post all articles on a website and I declined to release copyright for that purpose.

During 2005 and 2006, I learned that the internet allows me to serve as the ASIH Secretary regardless of physical location. I worked extensively on the 2006 meeting from internet cafes in Costa Rica and Panama during the spring of 2006.

My former student employees, Kimberlee Arce and Rudolf Eckard, left in July 2005 and I was able to hire a replacement in August 2005. Kallia's "main" job during the year is to archive the email correspondence. Ms. Kallia Cooper is an Environmental Studies major at FIU and she is a very capable assistant. She sent out committee letters, she worked on the abstract book, and prepared abstracts for the planning meeting, and she has checked all links on the website. She recently prepared letters to thank committee members for 2006 service. Because she has checked all the links on the website, we will be able to pass information on dead links to Allen Press. The website continues to be a challenge as Allen Press continues to change personnel associated with the electronic aspects of the business.

David Cundall informed me of an error in the 2005 published minutes. David Cundall was the chair of the Genetics, Development and Morphology Committee for the 2005 Stoye competition. I informed Dr. Cundall that we would correct the 2005 published minutes in the 2006 Summary of the Meetings.

I worked regularly with Jason Gilbert at Allen Press on normal business (claims, the business site, renewal of contract, rental of lists for mailings). I also worked with Susan Dunavan on issues related to the website. I worked with other Allen Press employees on the Buyer's Guide, on print orders, and on the silo site. Treasurer Neighbors did most of the work on the silo site and linking JSTOR access to the silo site via the business page.

I established the abstract submission site in late 2004 for the 2005 meeting. Allen Press updated the system and the changes were improvements for the 2004 price! For the

2005 meeting, we had 1160 abstract confirmations and 425 email messages regarding abstracts. Although there are detailed instructions on how to submit abstracts every year, we continue to experience a wide array of difficulties with the system, especially in regards to student competitors and their eligibility for Stoye/Storer competition. Allen Press decided to abandon support of the Meeting Planning and Abstract Submission system. Fortunately, Ted Freeman agreed to allow us to use the capacity at Allen Press for the 2006 meeting. We are currently planning to change vendors for the 2007 meeting. The members of the Meeting Planning Committee suggested a reduction in the number of abstract categories for the 2006 meeting and I followed their advice. Categories follow the same groupings. The site and the submission instructions were tested before going live. Problems with submission continue to crop up (93 emails concerning lack of eligibility because of co-authors were sent in 2006).

I asked the EXEC to donate copies of the ASIH Special Publications to the Graduate Student Participation Committee for use in their auction in 2005. The auction raises money to support student travel to the Joint Meetings.

I attended the Meetings Planning Meeting in New Orleans in March 2006. We visited sites associated with the meeting and we prepared the scientific schedule. Upon my return to Miami, I wrote a trip report and circulated it to the membership. After the Meeting Planning Committee finished its work in grouping abstracts into sessions, and once those data were entered into the master spreadsheet, I checked the spreadsheet against the database to ensure that all abstracts were accounted for. I generated files of student competitors for all participating societies and sent excel files to the appropriate persons. I worked closely with STAC co-chairs Michael Ghedotti, Darrel Frost and judges for the ASIH student competitions in 2005. I have worked with President-Elect Mayden and the 2006 Chair, Steve Beaupre for the New Orleans Meeting. There was no General Herpetology competition in 2005 (nor is there one in 2006). *Herpetologists should encourage their students to compete in the category in the future.* Once I turn the schedule into Kansas State University Conference Services, all changes to the schedule are made by KSU personnel. This allows me to focus my attention to preparation of the meeting materials. After the schedule is posted on the web, the abstracts are proofed and the abstract files are prepared for the summer meeting. One WORD file, without page breaks, goes to KSU, and we prepare four files that are posted as PDFs. Once the abstract book is sent to KSU, they take care of all cancellations. I sent out personalized letters of invitation to those meeting participants that requested them. These personalized invitation letters are PDF files that are sent directly to the requester; the letter can be downloaded and given to embassy officials. This instant letter allows foreign members an opportunity to begin the visa process months before the meeting. This year, the schedule and abstract book are posted on the KSU meeting website and the ASIH website links to KSU.

I polled the BOG on establishment of a silo site (that will hold the electronic versions of *Copeia* available through BioOne), and they voted overwhelmingly to open the silo and provide all ASIH members with electronic access to the journal. I worked with Editor Schaefer to provide him with the information he requires for *Copeia* (e.g.,

requests for nominations, descriptions of competitions). We voted to accept advertisements in *Copeia* and developed a fee schedule. We have not yet accept any advertisements, but envision accepting them in the near future. I worked extensively with Treasurer Neighbors on the silo site and trying to get members access to JSTOR. EXEC voted to pay for all members to have JSTOR access but providing that access has taken considerable effort on Neighbors' part. Treasurer Neighbors is to be commended for her due diligence in these matters.

Our current website no longer supports a Bulletin Board. I used the announcement list substantially during 2005. I sent a variety of messages out concerning job opportunities, course opportunities, books, and other matters. I also sent several messages out concerning the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf coast. This mode of communication is bothersome to some members and they have requested to be dropped from the list server. After a recent incident of cyber-mischief, Susan Dunavan instituted a protection for the list server. Any posting must have an embedded code that cues Allen Press to allow the message to be generated. Since this implementation, there has been no additional problem with the list server. We have determined that the best way to regularly communicate with the membership is to use the a "blog." Currently Allen Press does not offer blog services so I am going to meet with an internet technologist in Miami in early June to learn how to construct a blog site and use it to post information for our members. Our website will have a directly link to the blog site once the blog is developed.

Throughout the year, I worked with the chair of the Conservation Committee (Frank McCormick) and sent out letters and copies of resolutions adopted by the committee and the society. In some cases, we receive acknowledgement of receipt of the letters and in some cases, the resolutions actually seem to help conservation efforts.

I recently completed updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual and passed the new and old versions of the document to Pat Gregory (Prior Past President and current chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee) because LRPP is going to work on revisions to the document.

I worked with former Editor Michael Douglas to determine the status of the Editor's collection of *Copeia*. According to the constitution, the Secretary and the Editor retain a complete set of *Copeia*. The Editor's collection is currently in Colorado. EXEC will discuss the status of this official set in July in New Orleans.

During the 2005 meeting in Tampa, I felt like I finally understood how to do my job as the Secretary for the ASIH. I did not experience the "panic" I felt in previous years and continue to enjoy my service to the society.

12. TREA: Treasurer - M.A. Neighbors

This report is based on the account statements and cash flow information given to Richard D. Garman and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, Fountain Valley, California, for the 2005 audit. At this time the audit has not been completed. The audited financial statements will be posted on the ASIH web site when available. The audit will list ASIH income and expenses on an accrual basis rather than the annual cash flow basis of this report.

Income and expenses are divided into those associated with programs of the society (awards, annual meeting, dues, subscriptions, and publications) and those related to management and general operation (Appendix B). Income received exceeded expenses paid in 2005 by \$171,010. After increases in the dues and subscription rates for 2005, revenue from annual memberships increased by \$33,537 in 2005 compared to 2004, and subscription income increased by \$52,649 in spite of decreases in the numbers of both groups (Appendix C). ASIH's annual revenue share from BioOne, an online source for *Copeia*, continued to increase; \$22,949 was received for 2004. Income from the 2004 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists exceeded expectations and was used to start an Annual Meeting Fund at the request of the Meeting Management and Meeting Planning Committees. Payment in 2005 of the Editor's Office funding for the next year decreased because the *Copeia* Production Manager has become an independent contractor and will be paid \$25,000 in quarterly installments during 2006. Realized losses were greater than realized gains in the TRAK Account, largely due to the replacement of PBHG Large Cap Growth Fund in the portfolio.

On 31 December 2005, ASIH funds as Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments were held in three accounts and totaled \$945,630 (Appendix D). Investments in both equity (78.4%) and fixed income (21.6%) mutual funds are held in the professionally managed Smith Barney Citigroup TRAK Account. The net cumulative performance of the TRAK Account portfolio between its inception on 5 January 2001 and 31 December 2005 was 7.11%, with an increase of 3.19% occurring in 2005. Since inception, the annualized performance of the account after fees was 1.39% (31 Dec. 2005 TRAK Quarterly Review). For comparison, the S & P 500 Index increased 4.89% in 2005 and had an annualized change of -0.16% since 31 January 2001. The TRAK Account portfolio was worth \$564,705 on 31 December 2005 (Appendix E).

ASIH is in excellent financial condition now that annual income exceeds expenses, and a higher stock market has resulted in increases in the mutual fund holdings.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Neighbors, Treasurer
12 May 2006

13. EDIT: Editor - S.A. Schaefer

I assumed duties as Editor on 1 January 2005. Katie Smith was hired as Production Editor the preceding November and Leo Smith was hired as Figure Editor soon thereafter. For purposes of smoothing the transition between Editorial Offices, I chose to continue the policies and practices in effect at that time. During the first six months, numerous mistakes were made and most involved the intricacies of the Allentrack management system. I thank former Editor Douglas for his assistance during the transition and for seeing through to completion several of the manuscripts for which he served as SE.

My service as Chair of the *Copeia* Review Committee during late 2004 offered valuable insight into the challenges I would soon face as Editor and perspective on developing a management plan and agenda for improving the journal. Two areas of concern were identified for immediate action. First, the role of the Production Editor was limited to mechanical editing of accepted manuscripts, rather than substantive editing independent of the Editor and without author approval. The Production Editor also screens initial submissions and creates a detailed listing of format and style problems in need of correction. Most of her work involves preparing the quarterly issues for production, monitoring corrections to proofs, and working with staff at Allen Press to ensure production quality. Second, it was apparent that increased attention to illustration quality was of utmost importance. A Figure Editor (FE) was added to the Editorial Office to oversee the appropriateness for publication of final figures in manuscripts sent to production. The FE alerts the Editor to problems, suggests solutions and minimum requirements, and consults with authors on corrections. The FE has also devised a set of graphic standards and composed a set of instructions for preparing final figures for publication that is presented to authors at manuscript acceptance. This information is also available online under author instructions. Approval was garnered for reducing the cost of color reproduction to \$300 per plate for ASIH members; as a result, color illustrations are being submitted at approximately three times the previous rate.

The workload on the Section Editors (SE) remains uneven and excessive in the general and ecology sections. A second SE in Physiology and Physiological Ecology (R. Mason) was added in 2005. Jackie Webb was added as interim SE for Genetics, Development, and Morphology to replace out-going SE R. Wood. Finally, a special debt of gratitude is extended to Index co-editor Fran Cashner for service above and beyond the call in producing the 2005 subject and author indices, despite persevering through personal hardship in the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

During 2005, 989 pages of *Copeia* were published over four issues: 24 February (219 p.), 9 May (220 p.), 2 August (268 p.), 15 December (282 p.). These figures represent a reduction of 3% from the total number of pages published in 2004. The four issues included 61 major papers (669 p. or 68% of the volume) and 32 shorter contributions (209 p. or 21% of the volume). The remaining 111 pages (11%) was distributed as follows: eight book reviews (21 pages; six fishes, two herps), four pages books received, three historical perspectives (25 p.), one obituary (3 p.), editorial notes

and news (11 p.), one notice to authors (2 p.), summary of the 2004 annual meeting (11 p.), subject and taxonomic indices and table of contents (37 p.), and eight pages of back matter comprising societal advertisements not counted in the total pagination for the volume.

Of the major papers published, 42 (69%) were ichthyological and 19 (31%) were herpetological. Of the shorter contributions, 12 (38%) were ichthyological and 20 (62%) were herpetological. For all reviewed papers combined, 54 (58%) were ichthyological and 39 (42%) were herpetological. Compared to 2004 (58% ich; 41% herp), the proportion of published papers by discipline for 2005 was similar, although the total number of papers published in 2005 was down 8% from 2004.

There were 472 new or revised submissions in 2005. Of these, 302 were new manuscripts, representing a 7% decrease from 2004. A total of 169 submissions (60%) originated from the United States and 133 (40%) were of international origin. These values are the same as for 2004. International contributions were distributed as follows: Argentina 2 (0.7%), Australia 13 (4.6%), Belgium 6 (2.1%), Brazil 25 (8.9%), Canada 10 (3.6%), China 2 (0.7%), Colombia 1 (0.4%), Germany 8 (2.9%), Hungary 1 (0.4%), India 3 (1.1%), Italy 5 (1.8%), Japan 11 (3.9%), Jordan 1 (0.4%), Mexico 4 (1.4%), Netherlands 1 (0.4%), New Zealand 1 (0.4%), Pakistan 1 (0.4%), Portugal 2 (0.7%), Spain 3 (1.1%), Sweden 2 (0.7%), Switzerland 2 (0.7%), Taiwan 5 (1.8%), Turkey 1 (0.4%), Uruguay 1 (0.4%), Venezuela 1 (0.4%).

Of the 302 new submissions, 157 (52%) were major articles, 111 (35%) were shorter contributions, and 34 (11%) were “other” (i.e., book reviews, obituaries, historical perspectives, etc.). An average of 24 submissions was received per month. August and November were most active periods, with 33 and 35 submissions, respectively (representing 23% of the annual submissions). May (17 submissions) was the slowest month. A total of 32 submissions (11%) were rejected without review and typically reflected a joint decision by the Editor and SE. The remaining 270 submissions were processed; of these, 211 (78%) achieved a decision by the end of the year. Another 21 (8%) remained in review and 59 (22%) remained in revision at year’s end.

For comparative purposes, performance statistics for 2005 are followed by values for 2004 in brackets. The average time from submittal to SE assignment was 15.7 [7.4] days and reflects the time required for preparation of the *Copeia* checklist of format problems, initial screening and quality review, and selection of an appropriate SE. Average time from submittal to securing of first reviewer was 29 [15.3] days, with an additional 19 [23] days to secure all reviewers. Once the final review was received, the SEs required an average of 29.7 [12.8] days to submit their recommendation to the Editor. Editorial decisions required on average an additional 13.2 [10.9] days. In total, all submissions required an average of 106.6 [69.4] days to initial decision (i.e., accept, reject, or further revision) and 130.9 [131.7] days to final disposition (accept or reject only). Major papers averaged 125.9 [82.4] days for initial review plus another 44.9 [88.6] days in revision, whereas shorter papers averaged 103.8 [71.7] days for initial review plus another 17.8 [49] days in revision.

From examination of the summary statistics for publication and editorial review, the greatest challenge facing the journal is reducing the duration of the review process. The average duration from submission to initial decision in 2005 was over three months (106.5 days), compared to slightly more than two months (69.4 days) in 2004. Compared to 2004, the current Editor requires twice the time as his predecessor to screen submitted papers and make SE assignments. Papers reviewed in 2005 on average required about one additional month to reach initial decision, but reached final decision one day sooner than in 2004. Two principal factors determine the review duration: editorial workload and reviewer responsiveness. Descriptive statistics for both are presented below. In my view, *Copeia* editors are working at capacity. Although there remains room for improvement in due diligence and allowing sufficient working time and attentiveness to prevent minor problems from escalating into major problems, the only real solution is additional SEs to achieve a greater distribution of the workload. By far, the majority of the problem rests with the responsiveness (or lack thereof) of reviewers. Apart from increasing the frequency with which reviewers are reminded to meet their obligation, there is very little that editors can do to address this situation. Unlike in previous, pre-electronic years when reviews were solicited without prior agreement, editors now receive an indication from accepting reviewers that their reviews will be forthcoming. It is therefore incumbent on reviewers to comply in a timely fashion, or inform the SEs or Editor that their reviews will be delayed, so that SEs may make alternative arrangements. This is not generally being done. In managing the review process, SEs seek a delicate balance between an extended review duration and soliciting more reviewers than needed. The Editor will discuss with the 2006 Editorial Policy Committee ideas for improving communication between SEs and reviewers and strengthening that commitment. Given that one in three review requests is declined, authors are reminded that the privilege of publishing in *Copeia* also implies responsibility as reviewer.

Section editor workload and average review duration were as follows: J. Armbruster (30 new, 56 days), S. Beaupre (11 new, 73 days), D. Buth (27 new, 71 days), S. Fox (25 new, 97 days), M. Lannoo (34 new, 61 days), R. Mason (4 new, 55 days), J. Quattro (21 new, 114 days), T. Reeder (27 new, 149 days), E. Schultz (4 new, 49 days), C. Taylor (21 new, 75 days), J. Webb (2 new, 67 days), R. Wood (12 new, 136 days). A total of 80 papers (40%) were accepted, 120 were rejected (60%), and 11 papers (5%) were withdrawn by the author. The 170 revisions received in 2005 (36% of total) were distributed among SEs as follows: J. Armbruster (28 revisions, 22 days), S. Beaupre (15 revisions, 27 days), D. Buth (37 revisions, 21 days), M. Douglas (6 revisions, 21 days), S. Fox (5 revisions, 21 days), M. Lannoo (26 revisions, 5 days), J. Quattro (4 revisions, 90 days), T. Reeder (12 revisions, 35 days), S. Schaefer (4 revisions, 4 days), E. Schultz (1 revision, 17 days), C. Taylor (18 revisions, 29 days), J. Webb (2 revisions, 67 days), R. Wood (5 revisions, 125 days). Because most revisions were not subjected to additional review, processing time is much reduced.

A total of 940 review requests were solicited from 708 persons in 2005. Of these, 193 (21%) were declined and 40 (4%) did not respond, for a total effective request rejection rate of 25%. Of those reviewers that did return a review (527 total), the average length of

time taken was 31.2 days (std dev=25.8), with the most rapid return of 1 day and the longest return of 145 days. The majority of reviews (358, 68%) were returned within one month, while nearly a third of all reviewers (169, 32%) required more than 30 days to submit the review. Of these, 118 (22%) were returned within 2 months, 38 (7%) were returned within 3 months, and 13 reviewers (2%) required more than 3 months.

Allocation of manuscripts (new submissions and revisions) by section was as follows: General Ichthyology 122 (J. Armbruster 58, D. Buth 64), General Herpetology 107 (M. Lannoo 62, T. Reeder 45), Ecology and Behavior 78 (M. Douglas 6, S. Fox 30, C. Taylor 42), Genetics, Development and Morphology 45 (J. Quattro 26, J. Webb 2, R. Wood 17), Physiology and Physiological Ecology 36 (S. Beupre 26, R. Mason 5, E. Schultz 5). Rejection rates by SE are as follows: J. Armbruster 44%, S. Beupre 37%, D. Buth 19%, M. Douglas 25%, S. Fox 89%, M. Lannoo 58%, J. Quattro 100%, T. Reeder 61%, E. Schultz 100%, C. Taylor 63%, R. Wood 100%.

Printing costs to publish *Copeia* in 2005 totaled \$92,165.62 (#1: \$19,839.46, #2: \$20,872.73, #3: \$26,554.64, #4: \$24,898.79). This amount is 12% less than the cost of publishing the 2004 volume, despite the fact that only 3% fewer pages were published in 2005. The breakdown of printing costs by category is as follows: composition, prepress text, revisions: \$30,773; prepress graphics \$4,215; press production \$20,083; binding \$3,664; mailing \$15,159; paper \$18,272. All expense categories except binding vary between issues as a direct function of the amount of content and extent of revisions. Revenue from authors for page changes and color reproduction are not reflected in these figures.

14. EDPC: Editorial Policy Committee - S.A. Schaefer

Editorial Policy Committee (EDPC) Meeting (6 July 2005: Tampa, FL)

Present: J. Armbruster (CI), S. Beupre (CP), D. Buth (CI), M.R. Douglas (Ichthyology Book Review), S. Fox (CE), M. Lannoo (CH), S. Schaefer (Editor), R. Wood (CG)

Excused: F. Cashner (Subject Index Editor), J. Orr (Taxonomic Index Editor), J. Quattro (CG), T. Reeder (CH), C. Taylor (CE), K. Wells (Herpetology Book Review)

Guests: D. Frost (President-Elect), Theresa Pickel, Karen Ridgway, Frank Cherry (Allen Press)

Editor Schaefer began the meeting by calling for introductions of attendees. The performance and efforts of the SEs were acknowledged as superb during the transition to new editorship. Because the 2005 EPC meeting was the first under new Editor Schaefer and follows the first six months in office, the format of the meeting departed from that of previous meetings in dispensing with old business. The following issues were summarized and discussed:

Presentation by Allen Press Representatives: Representatives of the Alliance Communications Groups within Allen Press (listed above) gave a brief presentation of their proposal to the Society to co-publish *Copeia*. The proposal was outlined in general, although most attendees were unaware of the particulars, since the issue falls under the purview of LRPC. The AP attendees thanked the EPC for their attention and emphasized their availability for further discussion during the course of the meeting.

Review of policies and procedures of Editorial Office: Editor Schaefer stated that most policies and procedures of the previous Editorial Office would remain in effect, with the exception of a new Production Editor and the addition of a Figure Editor. Initial review and QC of submitted manuscripts will be processed by the PE and Editor, who will determine whether the manuscript is appropriate for the journal and assign a section editor (SE) for initiation of the review process. The Editor will consult with SEs on manuscripts of dubious suitability.

Summary of Ad-hoc *Copeia* Review Committee Report: The major issues and recommendations offered by the review committee were summarized. Of greatest relevance to EPC, recommendations for the role of the PE and reorganization of *Copeia* sectional structure were discussed. SE Buth questioned the impact of reorganized sections on current SE assignments and emphasized the desirability that the SEs continue to be elected officers, rather than editorial or executive appointments. Use of the term “taxonomy” for one or more named sections might be viewed by prospective SEs as undesirable, given the negative connotation and esteem for this field held by certain university administrators. Editor Schaefer stressed that while section reorganization was designed to address several impediments, the review committee made no specific recommendation for implementation within the current editorial structure.

Review Process: Editor Schaefer emphasized the length of the review process as an on-going problem for the journal and offered several suggestions for dealing with late reviewers. Use of an expanded network of potential reviewers was discussed, including solicitation of reviews from graduate (Ph.D.) students.

SE recommendations and extended leave: Editor Schaefer reiterated his policy in dealing with SE recommendations with which he disagrees—namely, that editorial decisions would not countermand SE recommendations without prior discussion and consultation. The issue of SE workload and the Editor’s attempts to seek balance among sections, and among SEs within sections, was discussed. The committee acknowledged that workload is excessive at times, but opinion differs among SEs in terms of the number of manuscripts per year that is deemed excessive. Editor Schaefer stressed that certain changes outlined in the review committee report are designed to ameliorate some of the SE workload, but pending reduced numbers of manuscript submissions (not a desired target), prospects hinge on the addition of SEs to the sectional structure. The Editor acknowledged that, from time to time, SEs will require extended periods of leave of duties for personal and professional reasons. Such leave must be discussed in advance so that steps may be taken to seek interim assistance.

Figure quality: One of the major problems identified by the *Copeia* review committee concerns substandard quality of published figures. While past experience suggest that only a portion of this is due to printer error, much of the problem lies with the graphics capability of authors and the failure of the Editorial Office to implement graphics standards. In response, a part-time Figure Editor (Wm. Leo Smith) has been added to the Editorial Office. Duties of the FE will be to consult with the Editor on aspects of figure quality, including image size and resolution, graphics layout and design, standards for labeling, and column format in production. The FE will consult with authors regarding problems and solutions and will work with AP staff to ensure quality of printed illustrations. A detailed instructions to authors has been prepared, which outlines general and specific guidelines for preparing graphics, including file types appropriate for specific applications, file size and resolution, and graphics standards.

Editorial decisions: One item of old business pertaining to use of “soft rejects” (i.e., reject, with request to resubmit) versus “accept pending revision” was discussed, and Editor Schaefer stressed that his policy would follow previous policy in terms of the subtle distinction between these categories of decision—“accept pending” implies the manuscript is on track for eventual publication, whereas “revise and resubmit” indicates no such implication. Allentrack is designed to assign successive revision numbers to both decision categories, thus allowing editors access to their review histories, whereas rejected papers that are resubmitted are assigned new numbers and treated as new (independent) submissions.

Miscellaneous editorial issues: SEs were reminded about submitting their respective Editorial Board nominations, and of the importance of utilizing the EB during the review process. EB members are under-utilized at present, and Editor Schaefer recommended that past policy of soliciting reviews with exceptionally fast turn-around from EB members is appropriate in cases of late or inadequate reviews.

15. ENFC: Endowment and Finance Committee - M.L. Warren, Jr.

Annual ENFC Meeting, 10 July 2005, Tampa, Florida.

Attendees: Aaron Bauer, Margaret Neighbors (Treasurer), Stephen Ross, Al Savitzky (Chair, Long Range Planning and Policy Committee), Barbara Savitzky, Eric Schultz, Mel Warren (Chair).

Adjustments to mutual fund portfolio

ENFC Chair Warren, Treasurer Neighbors, and immediate past-ENFC Chair Schultz briefed the committee on changes to the ASIH mutual fund portfolio. Those changes were recommended after research on performance by Schultz and Neighbors and a teleconference by Schultz, Neighbors, and Warren with the Smith Barney fund manager. The changes were approved by the Committee, supported by the Smith Barney fund manager, and implemented in April 2005. The changes increased diversity of large-cap mutual fund holdings and divested a consistently under performing large-cap fund.

Communications with Smith Barney Fund manager

The committee discussed the need and desirability of the ENFC Chair and Treasurer to teleconference and communicate with the Smith Barney fund manager on a regular basis. The paid role of Smith Barney in managing our funds was acknowledged and the desirability of not micro-managing, but exacting diligent oversight on their management, was also discussed.

Financial state of the society

Treasurer Neighbors briefed the committee on the financial status of ASIH. As of 30 June 2005 total value in the Smith Barney portfolio regained most of the dramatic decreases incurred by the 2002-2003 market down turn. The use of CDs as a possible way to decrease amounts in checking/saving accounts and increase interest income was discussed. Treasurer Neighbors agreed to make strategic use of short-term CDs in managing cash accounts and cash flow with an eye toward retaining flexibility and not incurring undue burden.

Activities subsequent to the Annual Meeting

In February 2006, the mutual fund portfolio was adjusted by Smith Barney in accordance with our management agreement. The adjustment involved changes in the mutual funds held within several investment asset categories and a re-balancing of the portfolio to so that it falls within the current asset allocation recommendations of the Smith Barney Consulting Group.

Immediate-past Chair Schultz assisted Treasurer Neighbors in supplying information and our Investment Policy Statement for ASIH to meet requests from the auditor in May 2006.

Treasurer Neighbors informed the committee of the purchase of a CD and the arrangement for paying awards this year. The committee approved the approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Warren, ENFC Chair

16. EXEC: Executive Committee - M.A. Donnelly

The Executive Committee was led by President Lynne Parenti during 2005. In January 2005, Al Savitzky informed EXEC that BioOne would not publish the Guidelines for Use of Amphibians and Reptiles in Research as we had hoped they would. Our document did not fit the BioOne guidelines. In early 2005, the EXEC voted to establish a silo site at Allen Press. The silo site will allow all ASIH members to have

access to current electronic versions of the journal. Members will also be able to link to JSTOR files once the website connection is finalized in June 2006.

In March 2005, EXEC voted to cover Al Savitzky's expenses associated with travel to the AIBS/BioOne meetings. The committee voted to refuse a request for funds to help support the Barcode of Life initiative in August of 2005. While EXEC members were sympathetic to the research project goals, ASIH does not fund research directly and we suggested that a funding agency like NSF would be more appropriate for the project. In August 2005, EXEC voted in favor of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Tulane University to move the ASIH website from its current home at Allen Press to Tulane; these negotiations are still pending as the effects of Katrina ripple through institutions in New Orleans.

The committee voted to extend our current agreement with Allen Marketing and Management for three-years. While some academic societies have shifted to commercial presses, the ASIH has maintained an excellent relationship with Allen Press. The agreement was formally extended in November 2005.

In November, EXEC voted to take advertisements in *Copeia* to generate funds to support publication of the journal. In January of 2006, the EXEC voted to recycle old films at Allen Press. These films were generated several years ago and they cannot be used by modern pieces of publishing equipment. The EXEC also voted to obtain Enhanced Online Services from Allen Press which resulted in the launching of our new Business site:

(http://timssnet.allenpress.com/ECOMASIH/timssnet/common/tnt_frontpage.cfm)

In March, 2006, EXEC voted to move the proposed constitutional changes forward to the Board of Governors so they could determine if the proposed changes could go before the membership. EXEC decided against taking out a cancellation insurance policy for the 2006 meeting in March 2006 because the very events that would force us to cancel the meeting, are those events excluded by all policies.

We sadly report the passing of Raymond Laurent (1 February 2005), Michael Ewert (7 June 2005), Frances Dessauer (7 July 2005), A. Stanley Rand (14 November 2005), and John Behler (31 January 2006).

17. GFAC: Gaige Fund Award Committee - K.E. Nicholson

The 2006 Gaige Award Committee has chosen 10 outstanding awardees from a pool of 40 very competitive applications. The members of the committee in 2006 were Adam Summers and Rita Mehta. The proposals were judged on scientific merit, need, and letters of recommendation. The 2006 recipients of Gaige Awards are:

Philip Bergmann, Ph.D. expected 2009, Tulane University. Locomotion and habitat selection in lizards with varying degrees on body elongation and limb reduction.

Jennifer Curtis, M.S. expected 2007, University of Central Oklahoma. Androgen responses to aggression in territorial male Collared lizards: A test of the challenge hypothesis.

Matt Gifford, Ph.D. expected 2008, Washington University. Population-level ecomorphology in *Leiocephalus personatus*: evolutionary relationships between morphology, performance, and habitat openness.

Myra Hughey, Ph.D. expected 2010, Boston University. Interacting effects of red-eyed treefrog egg consumers: flies, fungi, and wasps.

Ali Rabatsky, Ph.D. expected 2007, University of Louisiana Lafayette. Evolutionary vestigialization of complex features using an island rattlesnake model.

Julie Ray, Ph.D. expected 2008, Old Dominion University. Physiological and behavioral ecology of a predator feeding on a chemically defended invasive species in Central California.

Gabriel Rivera, Ph.D. expected 2008, Clemson University. Morphological variation between populations of the turtle *Pseudemys concinna* inhabiting different flow regimes: are differences in three-dimensional shell shape adaptive?

Rebecca Symula, Ph.D. expected 2008, University of Texas. A field test for mimicry in an Australian myhobatrachid frog, *Crinia signifera*.

Maria Thaker, Ph.D. expected 2009, Indiana State University. Maternal stress and dynamics of alternative reproductive tactics in male offspring.

Nathan Turnbough, Ph.D. expected 2008, University of Tennessee. Functional equivalence of native and invading *Anolis* lizards in a food web.

Each grant was for \$500. Although the winning applicants typically requested more than \$500 in their budgets, we decided to spread the available funds among more students rather than give more money to fewer awardees.

Copies of the acceptance and rejection letters have been sent to the applicants (samples attached). Two of the committee members (Nicholson and Mehta) provided the applicants with written feedback (sample evaluation sheet attached) and I have forwarded those to the applicants.

This was the first year for all-electronic submission of applications and letters of recommendation. The process went very smoothly and we allowed submission of either Word or PDF files as email attachments. I highly recommend continuing this procedure and perhaps further developing the application procedure in the future by making it possible to submit via the ASIH website.

Adam Summers will serve as Committee Chair next year. I will rotate off the committee and the President of ASIH will appoint my replacement. It is important that both the award announcement in *Copeia* and the ASIH web page be updated to reflect the change of committee chair because applicants must send their proposals to the chair. Adam's address and email follow:

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Nicholson, Chair
ASIH Gaige Fund Award Committee, 2006

18. HSFC: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee - A.H. Savitzky

The Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is given annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of an individual in any area of herpetological research and professional service. The award was established to honor the numerous contributions of our colleague Henry S. Fitch during his long, productive, and continuing career.

This year's committee consisted of Julian C. Lee, H. Bradley Shaffer, and Alan H. Savitzky (Chair). The committee received three new nominations and one renewed nomination. Three additional nominations remained active from the previous two years, providing the committee with a pool of seven nominees. The committee noted that the high quality of the nominees reflected positively upon the health of our discipline. Based upon the committee's discussions and subsequent ranking, a recipient of the award was selected and will be announced at the annual banquet in New Orleans. With the encouragement of the Treasurer, the committee has arranged for a plaque to be engraved for this year's recipient of the Henry S. Fitch Award.

19. LRPP: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee - A.H. Savitzky

For the second year in succession, the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee held an expanded meeting at the annual JMIH in Tampa, FL in 2005. The primary item of business was the evaluation of a proposal from Alliance Communications Group (ACG), the publishing arm of Allen Press, to publish *Copeia* in exchange for assuming the financial risks of that venture; ASIH would retain ownership of the journal and a degree of control to be negotiated with ACG. In addition to the members of the LRPP, several other officers were present, as were some officers of SSAR and HL, who had been presented with similar proposals from ACG, and two representatives of ACG.

The primary focus of the ACG proposal was to provide an electronic presence for *Copeia*, independent of that already available through BioOne, which would then be marketed to libraries not subscribing to the BioOne package. In advance of the meeting the LRPP had obtained an independent evaluation of the ACG proposal by Raym Crow, a consultant for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), of which BioOne is a member. BioOne paid for the services of Mr. Crow. His analysis of the ACG proposal suggested that the projections for new subscriptions was overly optimistic, as were the projections for additional royalty income to ASIH. He advised that, although ASIH should diversify its various modes of electronic delivery, we would be ill-advised to enter into an agreement such as the one proposed by ACG without receiving additional competing proposals. Any such agreement should follow a detailed discussion of the objectives of ASIH (e.g., whether the Society wishes to maximize readership or income) and a detailed analysis of the Society's current and projected finances. (In addition to the ACG proposal, both BioOne and JSTOR had recently offered individual member access through their organizations. For a variety of reasons the LRPP did not find either of those alternatives as attractive as providing member access directly through Allen Press.)

Although the LRPP did not support acceptance of ACG's proposal to publish *Copeia*, the committee did strongly support the establishment of a silo site for the journal at Allen Press. Such a site would give ASIH the ability to sell electronic copies of the journal to libraries independent of BioOne, as well as offer individual member access to the electronic form of the journal. This alternative differed from the ACG proposal primarily in the fact that ASIH retains its role as publisher as well as owner of *Copeia*, assuming all the financial risks of publication and perhaps enjoying less aggressive marketing by ACG/Allen Press. However, the LRPP judged that ASIH is in sufficiently robust financial health at present that there was no strong incentive to relinquish any control of the journal to ACG. Furthermore, Allen Press is strongly interested in continuing as our publisher, and they were willing to assist us with marketing and related issues whether or not we accepted their proposal. Some of the other societies, in less robust financial condition, found the ACG proposal more attractive.

As a result of these deliberations, ASIH declined the ACG proposal at this time, but did agree to initiate a silo site for the benefit of individual members and libraries not subscribing to BioOne. The additional cost of generating the silo site was considered worthwhile given the additional service it would provide to members, and considering that a recent dues increase provided sufficient income to cover the cost at this time. One issue relates to the loss of electronic access by individual members who no longer remain active as members. That concern has no solution at this time, under any model of individual electronic access.

The other issue discussed at the LRPP meeting was continuing concern over the Open Access (OA) publishing movement. In the OA model, all journal content is free at any time to any user. There are various models for the support of OA publishing, but the most commonly proposed model is "author pays," in which authors pay the equivalent of

full page charges to support publication of their work. OA is an increasingly common mode of publication in biomedical fields, where NIH has strongly promoted that model and grant funds are expected to support publication of individual papers. Conversely, there seems to be little support for OA at NSF, and the BioOne journals generally are reluctant to adopt an OA model.

However, the increasing availability of electronic journals to students and professional academic biologists leads to legitimate concern over the health of professional societies. Many societies are reporting gradual declines in membership, and there is concern that students, in particular, may no longer view membership in societies as a necessary aspect of their professional life, with access to journals no longer always coupled to membership. Although ASIH offers many additional benefits to student members, we nonetheless compete with several other herpetological and ichthyological societies for the attention (and membership dues) of students. The LRPP discussed the potential for the various societies concerned with fishes, amphibians, and reptiles to form a closer confederation in the future, so as to maximize membership for all and reduce competition for members. That question remains open for future discussion.

A. Savitzky rotated off the LRPP at the end of 2005, and P. Gregory assumed the Chair in 2006. The major task of LRPP in the coming year will be to revise the ASIH Policy and Procedures Manual to bring it up-to-date with current practice; we welcome suggestions from past and current society officers and committee members.

20. MGMT: Meetings Management Committee - R.C. Cashner

Members: Deanna Stouder (MMPC Chair), Brian Crother, Hank Bart, Douglas Martin, Maureen Donnelly (ASIH Secretary), Henry Mushinsky (HL and SSAR representative), George Burgess (AES Representative)

Kansas State Conference Organizers: Sharon Brookshire, Heide McBride, Victoria Banales

The duties of some of the members of MGMT, Bart, Crother and Cashner, included service on the Local Committee for the 2006 annual JMIH meeting in New Orleans July 12-17. With the assistance of the Meeting Planning Committee and the Kansas State Conference Organizers, the JMIH will hold its annual meeting in the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street. The Sheraton was one of the very few hotels to remain open throughout Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Sheraton sustained relatively little damage from the storms and none from the flood waters. Managers of the Sheraton Hotel have promised to provide excellent service and based on the reception received by members of the joint committees, we have every reason to believe them. The Sheraton Hotel appears to be an excellent venue for the 2006 JMIH Meeting.

All repairs will be finished well before mid-July. The Aquarium of the Americas will be the site of the Opening Reception and is located just 4 blocks from the hotel. Bus service will be provided for those who need transportation. The picnic/barbeque will be held at the Swamp Exhibit of the Audubon Zoological Garden, bus transportation is

included in the ticket price. Musical entertainment will be provided by Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots, the same group that made the House of Blues picnic such a memorable event in JMIH history in 1996. The Local Committee has arranged for an additional social on Friday night, July 14, at the Heiner Brau Brewery in Covington, LA. The \$25 ticket provides for a barbeque dinner on the brewery grounds, 2 pints of Heiner Brau, especially brewed for the occasion of the JMIH, and transportation by bus for the 80 mile round trip from New Orleans to Covington. Oh, you can purchase additional pints for a reasonable fee. The number of attendees will be limited to the first 150 people that sign up.

About 900 papers and posters were scheduled at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans from March 23-25 by members of both MPLC and MMGC. Rooms for presentations, posters, workshops, exhibitors and banquets were visited by members of the joint committee; all meet our needs very nicely. Committee members also visited the sites for the JMIH Opening Reception, Barbeque/Picnic and the special reception at the brewery and were greeted warmly by managers of each venue.

The MMGT has continued to receive and review invitations from convention centers throughout the U.S. and has matched those opportunities with the meeting site rotation proposed in 2005. Sharon Brookshire and others from the Kansas State University Group have visited these sites and helped Meeting Management and Meeting Planning Committees make recommendations to the JMIH participating societies. As you know, we will meet in Saint Louis, MO in 2007 and Montreal in 2008. For future JMIH venues, MMGC is recommending Portland, OR for 2009, Providence, RI for 2010, and Minneapolis MN for 2011 to the Board of Governors at the 2006 meeting of that group.

Respectfully,

Robert C. Cashner, Chair
Meeting Management Committee

21. MPLN: Meetings Planning Committee - D.J. Stouder

Members: Larry Allen, George Burgess (AES rep.), Robert Cashner (MMGC Chair), Brian Crother, Maureen Donnelly (ASIH Secretary), Henry Mushinsky (HL and SSAR rep.)

Kansas State Conference Organizers: Sharon Brookshire, Heide McBride, Victoria Bañales.

Scheduling Symposia:

Using a template distributed to all symposia chairs, schedules were provided to MPLN Chair. Prior to attending the planning meeting, Mo Donnelly distributed the names of presenters who had submitted symposia abstracts to the chairs. This enabled the chairs to verify attendance by participants and search for others who incorrectly

submitted their abstracts. Chairs adjusted schedules as needed. This process facilitated scheduling the overall meeting.

Printed Schedules:

In keeping with the spirit of “Greening the Meeting” and our desire to hold meeting costs down, we have decided to provide attendees with a Schedule-At-A-Glance and a CD of program abstracts. This will save the JMIH approximately \$6,000 and keep the schedule current.

Reminders:

Reading instructions and following the abstract submission rules will save the Secretary an inordinate amount of time in contacting members who fail to follow simple instructions. Unfortunately this is especially true for students, and their major professors, who submit co-authors for Stoye and Storer Award papers and posters. The Secretary had to follow up sending almost 60 (greater than 50% of the award submittals) e-mails to correct the problem.

In addition, each person can only submit ONE oral paper and ONE poster for presentation at the annual meeting. We continue to have people submitting multiple oral papers.

New Orleans planning meeting for 2006 Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists:

During 23-25 March all MPLN members traveled to New Orleans to set up the schedule for the upcoming July meeting. We spent three full days during which we reviewed the conference facilities, developed the overall schedule including business meetings, workshops, social events, and poster and oral presentations. We scheduled approximately 900 total presentations (symposia and contributed papers; posters) and designated session chairs. Sharon Brookshire and Heide McBride agreed to be the contact person if session chairs have difficulty with their assignments. By the time we departed New Orleans on 26 March, Larry Allen had created an excel spreadsheet of the entire meeting. Mo Donnelly continued to correct and clarify information until they were able to put an accurate program on the ASIH website and provide Kansas State University with all of the needed information for the printed Schedule-at-a-Glance.

22. NOMC: Nominating Committee - M.M. Kearney

The Nominating Committee, composed of herpetologists Karen Lips and Maureen Kearney (chair), and ichthyologists Deanna Stouder and Larry Page began seeking nominations for open positions in January (Appendix XX). We had commitments for most positions by early February. The ballot was completed in late March. The chair is grateful to all committee members for their timely and effective efforts and especially to all nominees for their willingness to serve the ASIH.

23. RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee - A.M. Simons

The Raney committee received 42 applications for the Raney award by April 4th. One application remained incomplete and two applicants were not ASIH members and thus were not evaluated. Cheryl Wilga chaired the committee and worked with Andrew Simons and Kent Carpenter. Cheryl Wilga had conflicts of interest (COI) with four of the applicants and thus did not evaluate them. The scores are based on the average of three evaluations, two in the case of COI. Each winner received \$1000 to support his/her research. Name, Program, Institution, and Title of Project of the winners for 2005 in alphabetical order are:

Benjamin Ciotti, Ph.D. Student, University of Delaware: Spatial variability in growth and diet of juvenile plaice: Predator-prey linkages in dynamic nursery environments.

Donovan German, Ph.D. Student, University of Florida: What does it take to eat wood: Mechanisms of digestion in closely related armored catfishes (Loricariidae) representing algivory, herbivory, and xylophagy.

Shannon Gerry, Ph.D. Student, University of Rhode Island: A comparison of feeding morphologies and behaviors in a generalist and specialist shark species.

Erin Reardon, M.S. Student, McGill University: Effects of hypoxia on the life history and energetics of the African Cichlid *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*.

Takashi Maie, M.S. Student, Clemson University: Relationships of feeding morphology and performance to habitat distribution in Hawaiian stream gobies: *Awaous guamensis* and *Lentipes concolor*.

24. RHGC: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee - J.S. Nelson

During March 2006, the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, consisting of David W. Greenfield, Carter R. Gilbert, and Joseph S. Nelson (Chair), evaluated three outstanding nominees for the 2006 award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology. The recipient of the award this year, the eighteenth since the inception of the award, will be announced at the annual ASIH meeting in July at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans. This year the plaque was prepared by Scott's Trophy of Seattle.

The Committee will continue to announce and promote the award through publication of notices in scientific journals, including Copeia. Following the annual ASIH meeting, the Committee Chairman will forward the announcement of the winner for 2006 to these journals along with a request for future nominations. A full page in Copeia 2006(4) will be devoted to a plaque bearing the name of the 2006 awardee as well as a list of all former recipients of the award (page 945 of Copeia 2005(4) was devoted to the recipient for 2005, Theodore W. Pietsch). As with previous awardees, this year's recipient of the award will be encouraged to submit a paper in systematic ichthyology to

Copeia to appear (following the normal editorial review process) in the second year following the award as a leading ichthyological paper in the journal.

25. RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee - R.C. Cashner

Members: Harvey Lillywhite and Frank McCormick

The Committee reviewed nominations for the 2006 Robert K. Johnson Award for service to the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. The award will be presented at the Joint Meeting Banquet on Monday, July 17, 2006.

Respectfully,

Bob Cashner

26. STAC: Student Awards Committee - S.J. Beaupre

Prior to the 2006 meeting, President-Elect Richard Mayden and Steve Beaupre (chair for 2006) lined up the judges for the Stoye and Storer competitions. The judges and winners will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

27. AESR: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society - G.H. Burgess

The American Elasmobranch Society (AES) held its 21st Annual Meeting in Tampa on 7-11 July 2005 in conjunction with the 85th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Hosted by ASIH local chairs Phil Motta and Henry Mushinsky with the tireless support of Sharon Brookshire and the able K-State staff, the meetings were a great success with more than 150 AES members and elasmobranch aficionados in attendance. The program consisted of 165 contributed oral presentations and posters, plus the traditional open slide/video finale. The contributed sessions addressed behavior, biochemistry, ecology, fishery biology, immunology, life history, movements, physiology, population dynamics, and systematics. In addition, many presentations were made at the open slide/video session. A highlight of the meeting was an Age and Growth Symposium chaired by John Carlson and Ken Goldman honoring the 80th birthday of Greg Cailliet. The Student Activity Committee workshop, "The Role of Shark Biologists Across Academia and State and Federal Agencies," hosted by Jason Blackburn, was a success. The AES sessions were well attended by AES and ASIH members, with more than 200 attending some sessions.

The society's Executive Board and Board of Directors met on 6 July, and the Business Meeting was convened on 9 July. Elections held at the Business Meeting produced the following results:

President: Jeff Carrier
Treasurer: Julie Neer
Board of Directors: Sonja Fordham and Ken Goldman
Grant Fund Committee: Jim Gelsleichter
Nominating Committee: Carl Luer, Jack Musick, Mike
Heithaus, Wade Smith, and Eileen Grogan

More than 125 people were in attendance at the AES banquet on 10 July. At the banquet Kara Yopak (University of Auckland) was announced as the winner of the Gruber Award for best student oral paper; Laura Jordan (UCLA) as the Carrier Award winner for best poster presentation; and the Nelson Award for behavioral research was awarded to Laura Macesic (Florida Atlantic University). The AES Student Research Award was given to Wes Dowd (VIMS). Travel awards totaling \$6000 were given to 17 graduate students. The evening was highlighted by the annual ElasmAuction and raffle which generated \$4742 for student awards and travel.

Representative Burgess took part in a site visit to New Orleans in March 2006 with members of the Meeting Planning Committee, setting up the 2006 meeting program and arranging facilities.

AES is appreciative of ASIH for its continued support of joint meetings and will next meet in New Orleans in July 2006 in association with the 2006 ASIH annual meetings.

28. AFSR: Representative to the American Fisheries Society - M.L. Warren, Jr.

Warren reports on several AFS activities and publications. The AFS InfoBase is continuing to expand coverage of web-based pdf full text articles back to the first Transactions issue in 1872. The 135th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage, Alaska, the largest AFS meeting ever, hosted about 2,800 attendees, featured over 1,900 oral and poster presentations, and sponsored 50 symposia running in 16-18 concurrent sessions. The theme for the meeting was "Creating a Fisheries Mosaic: Connections Across Jurisdictions, Disciplines, and Cultures." The symposia topics included ecology and taxonomy of freshwater and diadromous sculpins, conservation and recovery of imperiled North American freshwater fishes, influence of dams on rivers, ecology of prairie streams, invasive species in large rivers, and a plethora of other focus topics of interest to many ASIH members.

The AFS participated in several major conservation activities this past year, all emphasizing the need for science in protecting aquatic resources. In November, AFS submitted testimony to the House Committee on Resources supporting listing of Asian carp as injurious species under the Lacey Act. Along with other sport fishing and conservation organizations, AFS filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court to uphold the protections historically afforded in the Clean Water Act to tributaries and adjacent wetlands and entire aquatic systems. Protections to streams and adjacent wetlands are

threatened by cases before the Supreme Court (see March 2006 issue of *Fisheries*). In February, the American Fisheries Society joined with the Ecological Society of America, the Society of Conservation Biology, the Society for Range Management, and the Entomological Society of America in issuing a statement to Congress on science and the Endangered Species Act. The statement is intended to provide scientific guidance to Congress as they consider changes to the Act in how science, research, and scientists will be used to inform actions under the Act.

The journal *Fisheries* was also replete with important topics on conservation and other areas. The forum on economic growth in *Fisheries* is well worth reading, the articles continue to provide a stimulating debate on the conflict between economic growth, as now viewed and practiced by economists and our society, and sustainability of aquatic resources. For example, analysis of U.S. and Canadian endangered fishes (July and August 2005, *Fisheries*) show that most of the causes for endangerment are linked to economic factors. The September issue of *Fisheries* features two perspectives on the practice and perceived outcome of non-native fish removal in western United States streams. In the October *Fisheries* issue, several ASIH members lead a debate about the reality of the collapse of shark populations in the northwest Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Two articles in the September issue of *Fisheries* featured effects of non-native gamefish on native fishes, one explored non-native Lake Trout effects on native Cutthroat Trout in Yellowstone Lake and the other, non-native Smallmouth Bass effects on native fishes in Maine. On an issue facing ASIH and other publication oriented professional societies, AFS President Chris Kohler presents an informed overview of the open access publications movement on AFS (March *Fisheries*). He explores the potential impacts to income, funding, and society viability that may come with open access publication.

29. AIBS: Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences and BioOne - A. H. Savitzky

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and BioOne, the electronic publishing consortium, continue to maintain a close association with each other. AIBS was one of the founding partners of BioOne, and each organization is represented at the other's annual meeting. This year the two organizations met about a month apart, in Washington, DC; the ASIH representative attended both meetings.

I. American Institute of Biological Sciences (www.aibs.org)

AIBS is an umbrella organization for societies whose members generally include organismal biologists and ecologists. Presently AIBS represents about 200 member societies and organizations (MSOs), with a combined membership of about 250,000 biologists. AIBS also has about 5,000 individual members of its own. The annual meeting of the AIBS Council, comprised of representatives of the MSOs, was held 23-24 May 2006. The meeting provided an opportunity to offer feedback on various issues to AIBS officers and staff, and also to exchange information with members of many other

organismally-oriented societies, such as the American Fisheries Society and the American Society of Mammalogists. A copy of the briefing book for the 2006 Council meeting is available at:

http://www.aibs.org/council-news/resources/06_complete_council_book.pdf

AIBS has a diverse array of programs and services; those of greatest interest to our membership are education and public policy. In the area of education, AIBS is heavily involved in the defense of education concerning evolution in public schools. Toward that end, AIBS sponsors an annual workshop on evolutionary biology at the Professional Development Conference of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). The Fall 2006 workshop will cover the issue of macroevolution and has been organized by AIBS Past-President Marvalee Wake. The AIBS Office of Education distributes a bimonthly report to MSO representatives by e-mail and works with the Public Policy Office when rapid responses to issues are needed. The Office of Education administers ActionBioscience.org, a website that provides authoritative articles on subjects related to basic biological principles. About half of the articles are now available in Spanish as well as English. The Office of Education also is now encouraging the establishment of student chapters at educational institutions.

A major emphasis of the Office of Education relates to building diversity in the workforce of professional biologists. The Diversity Scholars Program offers competitive funding for students of under-represented groups to present their research results at the national meetings of member societies. Thus, qualified student members of ASIH are eligible to apply for funding to support travel to our own annual meetings. Presently the timing of the application process is not ideal for providing travel support to our meetings, but ways to improve that situation were discussed with a representative of the Diversity Scholars Program at the recent Council meeting. AIBS is interested in establishing closer ties with MSO committees or representatives who deal with issues of workforce diversity. AIBS conducted a survey of organizational programs designed to diversify participation and training, and the results are presented in the Council briefing book.

The Office of Education also is working closely with the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), an NSF-funded organization located in the Research Triangle of North Carolina. The Center's website (www.nescent.org) contains details concerning their various programs, including postdoctoral fellowships and sabbatical fellowships. In addition, NESCent supports meetings intended to generate synthesis on topics related to its broad mandate. Catalysis Meetings involve up to 40 people, who meet for two or three days of discussion. Smaller Working Groups (about 12-20 people) meet two or three times over a period of 18-24 months, and NESCent postdocs generally are associated with such working groups. One current working group involves members of the Zebrafish Information Network and the Cypriniform Tree of Life project. Details concerning applications for those programs are available at the NESCent website. Finally, NESCent offers both space and coordination services for groups of biologists wishing to hold a meeting in the Research Triangle area.

The Public Policy Office continues to provide advice to lawmakers regarding issues of interest to organismal biologists and ecologists. This year such issues included funding levels at the National Science Foundation, science education (including evolution), environmental legislation (including the Endangered Species Act), and support of museum collections. The Public Policy Office includes two staff members and an intern. The Director, Robert Gropp, is closely involved with a number of related organizations, including the Natural Science Collections Alliance, the USGS Coalition, and the Coalition for National Science Funding. MSOs are asked to designate a representative to the Public Policy Office (see separate report to the Board of Governors), and members of the office are available to assist societies in arranging meetings with lawmakers on specific issues. Note that ASIH continues to provide additional, voluntary financial support to the Public Policy Office, along with several other prominent biological societies. At the Council meeting the question was raised as to whether AIBS can assist member societies with the issuance of press releases, and that question received a positive response.

AIBS expects to hold its next Council meeting in conjunction with the International Union of Biological Sciences, which will meet in Washington in Spring 2007. It was suggested that AIBS might organize its 2009 meeting around the celebration of the bicentennial of Darwin's birth and the sesquicentennial of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Initial discussions centered around designating 2009 as a year for enhancing public understanding of evolutionary biology, but President-Elect Douglas Futuyma pointed out that a broader concern relates to public understanding of science in general. As a result, the Council voted to direct the board and staff of AIBS to work with other appropriate organizations (including the American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, National Research Council) to designate 2009 as the Year of Public Understanding of Science.

II. BioOne (www.bioone.org)

BioOne is a nonprofit electronic publishing consortium, largely serving society publishers whose journals emphasize organismal biology or ecology. BioOne held its annual Publishers' Meeting on 25 April 2006, and additional information was presented at the AIBS Council meeting in May. The current ASIH representative also sits on the Publishers' Advisory Committee of BioOne, which holds periodic teleconferences throughout the year.

BioOne now publishes about 82 titles, as compared to 38 titles when the collection launched in 2001, an increase of 116%. Consistent with the new business model of BioOne, which calls for providing replacement rather than supplemental income to society publishers, the price of the BioOne collection has increased by 43%. However, the cost *per title* has *decreased* by 34%. Cost increases have been implemented in consultation with the academic library community, which has been strongly supportive of BioOne as an alternative to commercial, for-profit journal publishers. Evidence of that support comes from the 99% renewal rate among academic library subscribers. As a result of the robust sales and renewals, an anticipated price increase of 12% for 2006 has been scaled back to 9%. BioOne presently has about 831 subscribers. Royalties have

increased 47% from 2001 to 2006; in 2005 royalties constituted 60.9% of total sales revenue. BioOne is on track with its long-term plan to triple royalty payments to publishers. One reason for the high return of sales income to publishers is that BioOne itself employs only three full-time staff members.

In 2005 BioOne's first President and Chief Operating Officer, Heather Joseph, left to become Executive Director of the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), one of the founding partners of BioOne. Susan Skomal was appointed as the new Executive Director and COO of BioOne. Dr. Skomal previously had been Director of Publications for the American Anthropological Association. A progress report for 2005 is available online (<http://www.bioone.org/pdf/BioOne05ProgressRpt.pdf>).

One concern of BioOne and its member publishers has been overseas distribution. BioOne has been actively soliciting subscriptions in Europe and Asia. Of special interest to our society was the recent news that the entire national academic library system of Brazil was added as a subscriber. The full BioOne collection also is available free of charge to approximately 80 developing countries, the identification of which is based upon criteria established by the United Nations.

BioOne announced that it is entering into a partnership with UniBio Press, a similar consortium in Japan that presently includes six English-language electronic journals emphasizing organismal biology. UniBio includes *Current Herpetology*, the journal of the Herpetological Society of Japan, as well as *Zoological Science*, the journal of the Zoological Society of Japan, as well as journals dealing with ornithology and mammalogy. BioOne and UniBio are presently negotiating the details regarding how the two collections will be integrated on screen, but the capacity will exist to search both BioOne and UniBio journals simultaneously. BioOne expects to provide access to UniBio in January 2007.

BioOne is now preparing a second collection of electronic journals. A separate subscription will be required for the second collection for two reasons. First, offering libraries two smaller collections will prevent BioOne from being viewed as forcing a mandatory "big deal" on libraries, in the manner demanded by several commercial publishers. Second, segregating new journals in a second collection will prevent excessive dilution of revenues among the publishers included in the first collection. BioOne shares the profits with its individual publishers (societies) in the form of royalties based on a formula that includes pages published and numbers of hits. Thus, adding new journals to a single collection without limit would eventually dilute the return to individual publishers.

Considerable attention was paid at this year's Publishers' Meeting to the issue of preservation and archiving of electronic files. BioOne has approached this issue by entering into agreements with several organizations and services, including LOCKSS (which captures web-distributed content in an "enduring cache"), JSTOR (which recently expanded to include so-called "born digital" content), and Portico (which works with

publishers to obtain digital source files). Of these Portico seems to be viewed as the organization that presently is most responsible for maintaining permanent archival copies. A representative of Portico that service as a "dark archive," which remains invisible as long as the original publisher (e.g., BioOne) continues to be active. In the event that BioOne no longer carries its content in the future, Portico is legally empowered to handle distribution of the content formerly provided by BioOne. Portico is supported jointly by libraries (the primarily sponsors), publishers, and hopefully in the future by grants. BioOne pays for membership in Portico on behalf of its society publishers. JSTOR recently invited 65 BioOne journals to join its Biology and Ecology Collection, and those that did will be fully archived through that organization by 2007. A prototype system for allowing simultaneous searching of a journal's content in both BioOne and JSTOR is being tested. BioOne has also converted from the SML to XML electronic file standard, bringing its content into conformity with the National Library of Medicine and thereby further ensuring that it will be permanently archived. Finally, BioOne has established an internal reserve fund to support future file migration.

During the discussion of journal archiving, Philippa Benson of The Wildlife Society noted that a consortium of biological organizations and other entities (including some major corporations) has been established for archiving biodiversity data. The Conservation Commons (www.conservationcommons.org/) is intended to provide broader access to, and sharing of, such data.

Among other developments, BioOne now has the capability of handling publications that are not standard issues of its journals. That is, publications can now be offered through BioOne that do not fall within the fixed volume and issue sequence of a society's primary journal. This is important to ASIH because the previous limitation prevented electronic publication of such items as our animal care and use guidelines, which are committee reports and not issues of our journal. BioOne also recently developed a "My Profile" system, through which users can request the tables of contents for selected journals as soon as they are electronically published. This service, available to anyone, is accessed on the BioOne home page by clicking on "Help," then "Features of BioOne," and then scrolling to "TOC Alert."

The issue of open access publishing (OA) again occupied considerable time at this year's BioOne Publishers' Meeting. A distinction was made between OA publishing and OA archiving, with the latter considered to be an especially important development. Regarding OA publishing, it is not yet clear that OA increases citation rates, although there is some evidence that it does. The American Museum of Natural History recently completed a major OA project, in which all of its publications, current and past, are now available as open access. The new policy has received strong support from the biological community.

Electronic-only publication (i.e., the cessation of print) also was discussed, although it is still not clear how quickly that trend is developing among scholarly publishers. Steve Hiller, Head of Science Libraries at the University of Washington, noted that the "physical library is [a] workplace for students [and the] last resort for

faculty." The UW libraries recorded an average of 100 downloads of electronic materials per person last year. A representative from one of the major ornithological societies noted, in a subsequent discussion, that those societies are now beginning to consider whether to convert to electronic-only publishing. The publishing community expects that the U.S. government will mandate further open access publishing of federally funded research, as has already been required by NIH.

Finally, a meeting participant noted that one of the three North American ornithological societies is completing a study of long-term membership trends. The analysis indicates that the society is failing to recruit student members at a rate that will replace loss of older members. Importantly, the trend toward aging of that society's membership began substantially before it began electronic publication of its journal, suggesting unexpectedly that the trend is not simply the result students having ready electronic access to the journal. Rather, the trend seems to reflect a changing attitude regarding the role of professional societies among younger biologists. This suggests that the fate of member-supported societies and their scholarly publications should be the subject of serious discussion and thoughtful planning.

30. AIBS-PPC: Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences Public Policy Committee - A. H. Savitzky

Each member organization of the American Institute of Biological Sciences is asked to appoint a representative to the Public Policy Committee. Alan H. Savitzky was asked to served in this capacity for 2005-2006, pending selection of a regular representative from ASIH.

The Public Policy Committee advises AIBS on the reactions of its member societies to a variety of policy issues. Members of the committee receive biweekly reports from the Public Policy Office of AIBS, detailing important issues of relevance to organismal biologists, ecologists, and others in member organizations. In addition, the Public Policy Committee holds regular teleconferences, roughly on a quarterly basis. Occasionally members of the Committee are asked to contact their congressional representatives in regard to especially important issues. The Public Policy Office of AIBS organizes congressional visits once each year, and is available to assist at any time in facilitating contacts between societies and members of Congress.

Major issues confronting the AIBS and its members this year included the re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act, funding for the National Science Foundation, and the perennial legal challenges to the teaching of evolution in public schools. AIBS took an active role in all of these issues, among others.

31. EHHR: Representative to the Early Life History (ELH) Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) - M.P. Fahay

The 2006 Larval Fish Conference was to be held in conjunction with ASIH in New Orleans, but those plans were curtailed by Katrina effects. This was a

disappointment to many members of both societies, because periodic joint meetings benefit members of both. The fall-back plan for the LFC is to hold the meeting with the National AFS in Lake Placid in September, 2006. Future plans for the LFC are tentatively set for the future eight years, some in European venues, but none in association with ASIH.

32. NSCAR: Representative to the Natural Science Collections Alliance - L.M. Page

The 2006 annual meeting of the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) was held jointly with the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, 23-27 May. The theme of the meeting, "The Road to Productive Partnerships" emphasized the advantages of scientific societies and groups with an interest in natural history collections working together toward common goals. Several members of the Steering Committee of LINNE - an initiative to bring more funding to collections and modernize taxonomic research - were present at the meeting and obtained the endorsement of NSCA and SPNHC for a proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund a number of workshops to organize effective means for obtaining greater support for collections. NSCA and SPNHC plan to hold joint meetings every other year.

33. PNHC: Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections - J.E. Simmons

The 20th anniversary meeting of SPNHC, "Realising Standards," was held at the Natural History Museum in London, England, from 12 to 18 June 2005. More than 200 people from 17 countries attended. Presentations of interest to ASIH members included "Investigating chemical changes in fluid preserved specimens using FTIR spectroscopy," "Re-curation of specimens preserved in degraded alcohol: testing alternative techniques," and "Analysis and conservation of fish taxidermy from the collection of the Zoological Museum of Athens University." Attendees received a copy of a new book by Nicola McGirr, *Nature's Connections—An Exploration of Natural History*, a richly illustrated history of natural history research, collecting, and museums. Two numbers of the *SPNHC Newsletter* were published in 2005, which included articles on DNA barcoding and bibliographies of current literature. One issue of *Collection Forum* was published, which included articles on "Multiple interactive factors affect pH in museum storage solutions," "Laser-printed labels in wet collections: will they hold up?" and "Collection ideas: earthquake strapping." Recent issues of both the newsletter and the journal are available in .pdf format on the SPNHC website (www.spnhc.org)

34. CONS: Conservation Committee - F.H. McCormick

The Conservation Committee was active in the 2005 calendar year, responding to conservation issues for both fish and amphibians. We made direct contact with the

agencies, drafted a several letter for President Parenti's signature, and submitted five resolutions for consideration by the membership at the annual business meeting.

In 2005, the Committee sent comments or letters to the US Congress, the Department of the Interior, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Jefferson County (AL) Zoning and Planning Commission.

Actions taken (see appendices for full details)

1. Endangered Species Act - Joint Societies Letter. In conjunction with the American Fisheries Society, the Ecological Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, the Society for Conservation Biology-North America, the Society for Range Management, and The Wildlife Society, the Desert Fishes Council, and the North American Benthological Society, the ASIH signed the joint societies letter regarding proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act. Several members of CONS provided considerable technical and editorial input to the final version.
2. Green Sturgeon. The committee drafted a response for the Society to endorse the decision by NOAA Fisheries to list the southern distinct population segment (DPS) of the Green Sturgeon, *Acipenser medirostris* as threatened under the Endangered Species Act
3. Asian Carp. The committee drafted a letter for President Parenti's signature endorsing S. 1402 and H.R. 3049 to designation Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) as "injurious wildlife" under the Lacey Act.
4. The Conservation Committee presented five resolutions at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting in Tampa, FL. For full text, refer to the minutes of the meeting, pp 950-952.
Resolutions:
 - a. Urged the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discontinue hatchery stocking activities of Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and recommending that if captive rearing and stocking activities are to be continued, that the introduction of progeny into Recovery-Priority Management Areas with resident pallid sturgeon should be restricted to individuals with the same morphological and genetic characteristics as the broodstock from which they were produced.
 - b. Requested that the Jefferson County (AL) Planning and Zoning Commission to decline rezoning requests that threatened the habitat of the federally endangered Vermilion Darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) and the imperiled Rush Darter (*E. phytophilum*), a candidate species for federal listing; and suspend any planned modifications to streams in the Turkey Creek watershed.
 - c. Urged the U.S. Congress to pass legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that serves to strengthen the role of science in fisheries management by requiring Councils to adhere to the advice of their scientific committees.

d. Urged the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to work cooperatively with Pacific states and Canada to impose precautionary limits on participation and catch in west coast spiny dogfish fisheries in order to conserve populations while comprehensive assessments and management programs are developed.

e. Urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to include options for stopping overfishing of large coastal sharks in Draft Amendment 2 to the Highly Mobile Species Fisheries Management Plan and prohibiting directed fishing for other vulnerable and/or depleted sharks species, particularly hammerheads, porbeagles and deepwater sharks.

5. 2007 Conservation Symposium. Committee members drafted a proposal for a symposium to be presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting in St. Louis. The symposium “Biodiversity and Agricultural Sustainability in the Breadbasket of North America, the Mississippi River basin” will highlight the fragility of freshwater ecosystems and their vulnerability to a variety of land-water interactions. The proposal was approved and planning for the symposium is under way.

No action Items

1. Proposal to list the American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, as threatened. CONS rejected the proposal, citing the abundance of American Eel in some rivers in the Mid-Atlantic region and the somewhat limited evidence for the decline of most populations (other than those in the Ohio River basin).

2. Request to sign a letter to the USFWS Southwest Region office protesting policy changes proposed in a memorandum from the regional director (now Director of USFWS). The policy changes, developed in response to litigation, declared that genetics differences could not be used as a basis for listing a species. It was felt that further clarification was necessary before a response was warranted.

Proposal to Develop Scientific Position Papers on Behalf of the Society

In 2006, the Conservation Committee proposes to begin the development and publication of position papers that represent the scientific judgment of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists on conservation-related subjects. Patterned after the position or policy statements of the American Fisheries Society, these papers would be developed under the umbrella of the Committee’s charge from the President of ASIH, but would not necessarily be accomplished exclusively or entirely by committee members. They would be subjected to an informal peer-review, circulated among scientists familiar with the subject matter. CONS would then bring the position paper forward for consideration. Pending the outcome of the processes we propose below, the position paper would be published in HTML and PDF format on the ASIH website. Given the cost of publication, we are not yet prepared to request, though ultimately would seek support for, publication in Copeia. The proposed format would include an executive

summary, the body of the position statement, and a summary form, suitable for informing the general, non-technical public and the media. Because this effort is entirely voluntary, it would not affect our tax-exempt status.

CONS operates under a formal procedure that was adopted at our 2003 Committee Meeting. When issues are posed for Committee consideration, a simple majority of the membership representing a quorum of 18 members shall decide the action (usually in the form of a letter to a government official or a comment posted on the public comment docket), recommend whether the action should be brought from the Committee or drafted for the signature of the President of ASIH, and solicit volunteers to draft the response. If no quorum is reached by the deadline, the issue is referred for individual action; the Committee takes no action.

We are presenting five options to EXEC and the BOG for discussion:

1. Under the process for the Committee referenced above, we would identify a topic or be approached with a request, draft a position, circulate it among the committee and select reviewers for comment, vote as a committee, and forward it to the President for action.
2. As in Option 1, we select a topic, draft the paper, circulate it for comment, vote it out of committee, and forward to the BOG (via the Secretary's EMAIL list) for comment and a vote. CONS has identified this as our preferred option because it represents the ideal combination of Society oversight and timely action.
3. As with Option 2, but the discussion and vote occurs at the BOG meeting. This option has the advantage of an open forum for discussion and voting, but action must await the Annual Meeting.
4. As with option 3, but the paper would be referred out of the BOG to the Business Meeting for comment and vote. This option has the same advantages and disadvantages as the previous option, but opens the debate to a larger audience.
5. As with option 3, but the paper is referred out of the BOG to the general membership for comment (via the ASIH Listserv) for vote at the NEXT annual business meeting. This option would significantly slow the process.

Al Savitzky and Henry Mushinsky worked with colleagues to draft a position paper on “rattlesnake roundups” (Appendix 6). It was subjected to the CONS review and approval process. Pending the outcome of our request, it would become the first position paper of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank H. McCormick, Chair
15 May 2006

35. HSOC: Representative to the SSAR and the HL - A.H. Savitzky

Over the past several years interactions between ASIH and the Herpetologists' League and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles have occurred largely through the joint meeting committees and the societies' respective conservation committees. Regular meetings of the Liason Committee, which involved officers of the three societies, have not been held for several years, now that the relationship among the three societies has become predictably cooperative. Last year additional interaction occurred in response to proposals that each society received from Alliance Communications Group, which prompted ASIH to open the meeting of its Long Range Planning and Policy Committee to officers of the other two societies.

During the past year informal discussions have been conducted concerning the potential benefits of establishing a confederation among the various societies that meet for the Joint Annual Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. There is particular concern that the three herpetological societies inadvertently compete for the attention of new student members, especially in an age when journals are no longer perceived as the primary benefit of membership. (A pending report to one of the ornithological societies reportedly documents a steep decline in the recruitment of younger members.) Although each of the three societies provides important benefits for student members, the advantages of maintaining a membership in all three societies may elude some students. A structure that encourages membership by all students (and regular members) in all relevant societies might strengthen all of the organizations. Such a confederation would, of course, require lengthy discussion, but the idea is now receiving at least casual attention from officers of all three societies.

36. IHCC: Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee - N. Rios

Barbara Brown, Paulo Buckup, Dave Catania, Dean A. Hendrickson, Richard Pyle, Rob Robins, Mary Ann Rogers, Jessica Rosales, Mark Sabaj, John Simmons, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, H. J. Walker, Jeff Williams, Christina A. Wolfe

Newsletter Subcommittee: H. J. Walker (Chair), Rob Robins, Lou Van Guelpen

Supplies and Practices Subcommittee: Jessica Rosales (Chair), Barbara Brown, Mary Anne Rogers, Mark Sabaj, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, Nelson Rios

Ichthyological Data Standards Subcommittee: Jeffrey T. Williams (Chair), Paulo Andreas Buckup, David Catania, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios

Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee: John E. Simmons (Chair)

The Collections Committee was relatively inactive this past year. One activity that is currently a work in progress is the creation of an online collection survey to be hosted on

the ASIH website. The survey is being designed by Tom Giermakowski and Christina Wolf. The supplies and practices committee is working to ensure the availability of ethanol resistant inks for impact printing of collection labels. During the 2004 meeting we discussed recent changes in shipping procedures of scientific specimens due to 9/11 security concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelson Rios, Chair
13 May 2005

37. NFJC: Joint ASIH -AFS Committee on Names of Fishes - J.S. Nelson

The Joint ASIH/AFS Committee on Names of Fishes, Joseph S. Nelson, Chair, reported that the fish names committee and advisory subcommittee met 11 July, 1200-1330+ hrs at the 2005 ASIH conference in Tampa, Florida. The meeting was attended by all Committee members, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Lloyd T. Findley, Carter R. Gilbert, Bob N. Lea, Joe S. Nelson (chaired meeting), Nick E. Mandrak, and Jim D. Williams, and by most Advisory Committee members, George H. Burgess, Bruce B. Collette, William N. Eschmeyer, Richard L. Mayden, John F. Morrissey, Lawrence M. Page, Ramón Ruiz-Carus, Wayne C. Starnes, and H. J. Walker, Jr.

Nelson by invitation spoke to the AFS “Publications Overview Committee” on 14 September 2005 at the annual meeting in Anchorage on the decision of the “Committee on Names of Fishes” to submit the next list with common names in English capitalized. This was a contentious item. Nelson agreed to and will present written arguments to Dr Gary Grossman.

An errata for “Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico” 6th ed., has been published: Nelson, J.S., H. Espinosa-Pérez, L.T. Findley, C.R. Gilbert, R.N. Lea, N. E. Mandrak and J.D. Williams. 2006. Corrections to Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. *Fisheries* 31(3):138-140. The same article is scheduled for *Copeia* 2006(3). We plan to submit a list of new additions for publication in *Fisheries* and *Copeia*.

Planning has commenced for the 7th edition. We plan to not take on new areas, and the only modification other than changes to the list is the addition of common names in French for all species in Canada. We will work to submit the new ms in late 2009 for publication in 2010.

Members are actively preparing new additions and answering email questions from organizations, biologists, and the public.

We are planning to have a dedicated committee meeting in Fall/Winter 2006/07 and then in 2008.

The committee considered alternatives to our advisory committee structure, in response to a suggestion made at last year's meeting. It was felt that we can meet all our objectives most simply by keeping the committee structure as it is. We will be vigilant in seeking expert advice. We will give further consideration to having online posting of certain proposed changes for a review period and will plan to have experts review key sections of the book before publication.

The Committee extends its deepest thanks to the very supportive Advisory Committee and to all workers who aided us during the past year.

The committee will meet Monday 17 July, 1200-1330+ hrs at this year's ASIH conference in New Orleans.

38. RESC: Resolutions Committee - T. Grant

Taran Grant will chair the 2006 Resolutions Committee. The committee membership will be announced at the meeting on 12 July 2006.

39. SPUC: Special Publications Committee - J.W. Armbruster

The year 2005 saw the addition of a much better website for ordering books at ASIH and the development of sales at Amazon.com (see Appendix J). Through 2005, we have sold 2 copies of Special Pubs. #3 and 4 on Amazon.com and 11 copies of #5. The SPUC chair has been in contact with Lance Grande about publishing a book on the gars similar to his previous book on bowfin. Nearly all of the production cost would be paid for by Grande and ASIH would be free to buy additional books to sell. If we have a full proposal by the meetings, we will present the proposal to the board electronically and discuss it at the BOG meeting.

Total Sales Figures

Special Publication #3:	2004: 16 copies,	\$542.00
	2005: 14 copies	\$448.50
Special Publication #4:	2004: 16 copies,	\$601.50
	2005: 19 Copies,	\$811.00
Special Publication #5:	2004: 97 copies,	\$10,540.00
	2005: 49 copies	\$5,432.00

40. HIST: Society Historians - D.G. Smith & J.C. Mitchell

Perhaps the most significant event this past year was the creation of a second Historian position. Joe Mitchell was appointed Society Historian for Herpetology, joining David Smith, Society Historian for Ichthyology.

The main activity continues to be the Historical Perspectives series. During the past year, articles appeared on Victor G. Springer, Daniel M. Cohen, and Margaret M. Stewart. Last August, Smith and Inci Bowman traveled to Kingston, Ontario to interview William Beverley Scott, one of the Society's oldest living ex-presidents. In addition, they conducted a preliminary interview with C. Richard Robins at the Tampa meeting. Articles are currently in press on Scott, Ernie Liner, and Robert Stebbins . Smith is currently writing an article on Honorary Foreign Member Jørgen Nielsen. Interviews have been completed with Stan and Marilyn Weitzman, Bruce Collette, Jim Tyler, Murray Littlejohn, George Rabb, Robert Storm, and Jose Cei. Additional articles are being planned or in progress on Royal Suttikus, Dick Rosenblatt, Jim Atz, C. L. Smith, Carl Gans, Ilya Darevsky, Herndon Dowling, James Organ, Bill Degenhardt, Jim Dixon, and Richard Zweifel.

We have begun the process of bringing the Society archives up to date. Inci Bowman collected papers from Bruce Collette and Victor Springer, organized and indexed them, and transferred them to the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Although the S.I. Archives maintains the records of ASIH and other professional societies, it does not have the personnel to organize the holdings in any systematic way. The ASIH holdings through about the mid 1980's are in fairly good shape, but the later acquisitions are largely unorganized. For the last 15 years or so, there have been few new additions. As we write this, the S. I. Archives is in the process of moving to new quarters. When the move is completed later this year, we will begin sorting and organizing the documents. After we have a good grasp on what is there, we can assess what is needed and begin contacting past officers to solicit documents relating to their tenures.

The status of the Historians within the Society has still not been firmly established. There was some discussion last year about creating a committee of some sort, but no decision was reached. Whatever the final decision, we have a number of Society members who are actively interested in -- and have published on -- ichthyological and herpetological history. We need to find a way to bring these people into the process and take advantage of their enthusiasm and expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

15 May 2006
David G. Smith
Joseph C. Mitchell

41. IINC: Ichthyological Information Coordinator - M.F. Cashner

No requests for information have been received this year.

42. HINC: Herpetological Information Coordinator - E. Banach

No requests for information have been received this year.

43. Ad Hoc Copeia Review Committee - M. Parris

Members: Matthew Parris, University of Memphis (Chair); Scott Schaefer, American Museum of Natural History (Editor of *Copeia*); Robert Espinoza, California State University Northridge; Jacqueline Webb, Villanova University / University of Rhode Island; Andrew Simons, Bell Museum of Natural History

The committee was charged in October of 2005 by President Parenti with two tasks: (1) Reevaluate the comprehensive review of the Society's journal *Copeia* conducted by the ASIH ad hoc *Copeia* Review Committee in 2004-2005; and (2) Develop an implementation plan for editorial and publication changes both recommended by the aforementioned committee, and from the results of task (1) above. Most of the committee work completed to date, and thus contained in this report, address task (1).

The committee functioned via email and phone communication between October 2005 – May 2006. The Chair began the committee's work by emailing all members a copy of the 2005 Ad Hoc *Copeia* Review Committee report, and a summary of the current committee's primary tasks.

The committee began its work by focusing its reevaluation and implementation efforts on the formal recommendations made by the earlier *Copeia* Review Committee (pages 17 – 18 in report from committee). Most notably, our committee focused on those recommendations requiring formal changes to ASIH Constitution and By Law procedures. Duplicated from the *Copeia* Review Committee's report are the relevant recommendations for our committee's efforts:

3. Restructure and redefine the Editorial Board to facilitate a more direct role in shaping the content of the journal and advising on editorial policy and procedures.
4. Reorganize the current sectional structure by increasing the number of sections by one, shifting the general sections from their current alignment to a categorization based on subject, and increase the total number of SEs from 9 to 11.
9. Change the page size, page layout, outside front cover of the journal to facilitate modern mechanisms of document delivery and to stimulate increased interest in the journal.
10. Publish color illustrations at reduced cost, lowest price offered when all authors are ASIH members in good standing; evaluate the economics of color reproduction and determine fixed or sliding scale prices per plate for members and non-members.

11. Establish a two-tier system whereby authors may choose free color reproduction in the electronic version of *Copeia*, with the option of either black and white or reduced color reproduction in the print version.
12. Update the front cover design, incorporate color illustration(s) that serve to reflect the content of the issue and spark interest in the journal.
13. Remove arbitrary or cost-motivated restrictions on numbers of figures or tables that may appear in *Copeia* papers. Apply a flexible policy on restricting the length of manuscripts.
17. Publish paid advertisements among available pages of back matter each issue.

Recommendations #3 and 4 address editorial policy; the remainder changes in publication protocol. An initial proposal was submitted to change the ASIH Constitution and By-Laws that address recommendations #3 and 4.

Proposed changes to ASIH Constitution and By-Laws to Address Recommendations of
the Ad Hoc *Copeia* Review Committee
Submitted for consideration by Jacqueline F. Webb

Recommendation #3: Restructuring and Redefinition of Editorial Board (requires change to Article VI of By-Laws)

Change Article VI of By-Laws to read:

“The editorial board (EB) representing the six divisional sections of COPEIA shall consist of no more than 10 members, each of whom will serve a two-year term. Members will be nominated annually by the Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) and appointed by the Editor, with approval from the President. The EB will serve a formal advisory role by assisting the Editor with matters concerning policy and procedure, and play a direct role in shaping the content of Copeia. As such, EB members will be invited to participate in the annual meeting of the EPC, and will be called upon (and will agree to responsibility for) limited editorial service, as needed.”

Recommendation #4 – Reorganize current sectional structure of *Copeia*.

Change Constitution Article IV, Section 1. to read:

*“The officers of the Society shall be:.....An Editor, **eleven Section Editors (distributed among the six divisional sections)**, an Index Editor.....”*

Delete By-Laws Article V. Section 1.e and substitute the following:

“Between annual meetings, the Editor may seek a temporary or interim Section Editors, from members of the Editorial Board or the membership at large in

consultation with and approval of the Executive Committee, in order to accommodate changes in workload, mid-term termination of service or request for extended leave.”

Change By-Laws Article V, Section 2.a. to read:

“The *six* divisional sections of COPEIA shall be *Phylogenetics, Taxonomy, Physiological Ecology, Morphology & Developmental Biology, Population & Conservation Biology and Ecology & Ethology*”

After submitting these recommended changes, Editor Schaefer communicated with the rest of the committee members, and asked us to reconsider the proposed formal changes. Admittedly, the Chair of this committee initially was unclear how many / which of the earlier *Copeia* Review Committee recommendations needed reconsideration, and which could be implemented directly. After reconsideration, the committee achieved additional resolution on editorial changes as follows:

1. The earlier *Copeia* Review Committee proposed a more focused role for the Editorial Board, where members may be solicited for input as occasional Sectional Editors, rather than simply serve as short notice manuscript reviewers. Currently, the greatest need for EB members is in the review process when SEs have trouble with non-responsive reviewers. Under its current usage, SEs nominate EB members relevant for their specific division. Thus, EB members retain informal ties to sections, rather than serving as a general pool. We concur that a more focused role for EB members need be established, but their utility as flexible manuscript reviewers be retained. The exact number of EB members recommended depends on the future resolution of item 2 below.
2. Sectional editor structure should prioritize maximum editorial flexibility. As such, four of the five committee members recommend *removing formal divisional sections*. This organization, albeit dramatic, would allow the editor to adjust to changing demands on the review process. The current section structure, and the one proposed above envisioning six sections (see earlier *Copeia* Review Committee report for further discussion), may indeed recognize current and / or anticipatory topical trends for papers submitted to *Copeia*, but the inflexibility of rigid sectional organization may be an impediment to improving the journal, both in terms of accommodating current and future journal submissions and attracting / retaining high quality sectional editors. The exact number of Sectional Editors (or appropriately renamed title) required under this flexible scenario should be determined through consultation with the Editor, and based on accommodating equitable editorial work load demands.

The committee also recognizes the importance of retaining the election of the Sectional Editors (or renamed title). Finally, the committee is aware of the challenges

posed by elimination of sectional structure to other society business, and encourages additional consideration of the matter.

Changes to the ASIH Constitution must be proposed by the Executive Committee and circulated to all members at least three months in advance of the annual meeting. The current committee did not reach resolution on this editorial issue sufficiently early to meet this deadline, and encourages submission of a formal constitutional change prior to the 2007 annual meeting.

Publication change recommendations #9-13, 17 from the earlier Copeia Review Committee (see pages 1-2 above) currently are still being considered by this committee. Communications are in progress with Allen Press to examine the cost effectiveness of the recommended changes. Cost estimates for some aspects of the recommended changes were obtained external to this committee in late summer 2005; the current committee is working on obtaining updated costs.

The Chair of this committee recommends that a future ASIH committee be convened specifically to address publication change issues. Any information acquired by this committee would be supplied to future committee(s).

APPENDICES

44. Appendix A. Proposed Constitutional Changes - 2006

There are several constitutional changes proposed for 2006. The current (2004) version is included as Appendix X. The changes are underlined in the Current and Proposed portions of each change. The EXEC will ask the BOG and the members attending the ABM to consider the changes by category as follows:

I. Minor Changes (Constitution, Article V, Section 1, Constitution, Article VIII, Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, Bylaws, Article V, Section 2a):

Constitutional Change, Article V, Section 1.

RATIONALE: Change will add the word 'fifty' to the sentence.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** The Board shall include not more than 50 elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** The Board shall include not more than fifty (50) elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years

Constitutional Change, Article VIII.

RATIONALE: Add nouns & parentheses to the sentence.

CURRENT: At the Annual Meeting, one hundred members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, 30 votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

PROPOSED: At the Annual Meeting, one hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty (30) a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, thirty (30) votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

Bylaws Change, Article II, Section 1.

RATIONALE: Clarify language regarding Annual Business Meeting.

CURRENT: Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the general business meeting.

PROPOSED: Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the Annual Business Meeting.

Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2a.

RATIONALE: Delete a redundant number.

CURRENT: Section 2a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

PROPOSED: Section 2a. The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

II. Miscellaneous Changes (Constitution, Article III, Section 2a, Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, Constitution, Article VI, Section 1, Bylaws, Article I, Section 2):

Constitutional Change, Article III, Section 2a.

RATIONALE: Change required to clarify how life members fit into the scheme of membership.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, , Regular, Associate, and Sustaining.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, Regular, Associate, and Sustaining. Life members pay 25 times (25 x) annual dues in one lump sum or four equal payments.

Constitutional Change, Article IV, Section 2.

RATIONALE: Clarify language concerning elections of officers.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the annual business meeting.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting by active members attending the meeting. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting.

Constitutional Change, Article VI, Section 1.

RATIONALE: Correct language describing the Annual Business Meeting.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting. A general business session open to all classes of members shall be held for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting. The Annual Business Meeting shall be open to all classes of members for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

Bylaws Change, Article I., Section 2

RATIONALE: Clarify language according to practice, Allen Press does this for the ASIH.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** A service charge calculated by the Secretary to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** A service charge to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

III. Changes Related to *Copeia* (Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws, Article V, Section 1d, Bylaws, Article V, Section 1f, Bylaws, Article V, Section 2d, Bylaws, Article VI):

Constitutional Change, Article IV, Section 1

RATIONALE: Provide the Editor of *Copeia* with flexibility to assign workload as required.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** ... An Editor, five Divisional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** ... An Editor, Sectional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 1d.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice; the Publications Policy Committee is defunct.

CURRENT: **Section 1d.** The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee, and the Publications Policy Committee and serves as Chair, Editorial Policy Committee.

PROPOSED: **Section 1d.** The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee and serves as Chair of the Editorial Policy Committee.

Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 1f.

RATIONALE: Addition of Section 1f to codify practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 1f.** The Editor may employ such assistance as is necessary for the production of COPEIA.

Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2a.

RATIONALE: Change required to provide Editor with flexibility to meet demands of workload.

CURRENT: **Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors**

a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

PROPOSED: **Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors**

a. The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2d.

RATIONALE: Change required to provide Editor with flexibility to meet demands of workload.

CURRENT: **Section 2d.** Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by two

persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

PROPOSED: **Section 2d.** Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by multiple persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

Bylaws Change, Article VI.

RATIONALE: Clarify language concerning membership on the Editorial Board.

CURRENT: An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Divisional Editors, up to six board members each, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

PROPOSED: An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Sectional Editors, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

IV. Changes associated with Endowment and Finance (Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 3, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 7, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2g):

Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 2.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve one year in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment Committee.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve two years in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 3.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **Section 3.** The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising and investment of the endowment.

PROPOSED: **Section 3.** The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising for the endowment.

Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 7.

RATIONALE: Addition of Section 7 to codify practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 7.** The Committee shall be responsible for investment of the endowment and other Society funds. A recommendation for placement of funds with a professional money manager must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Committee shall advise the Board of Governors on managed funds and will monitor the activities of outside professional money managers.

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2g.

RATIONALE: Deletion required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **g.** The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.
After the Fund grows large enough to be handled by a professional money manager, the Board of Governors will appoint an Investing Trustee(s) to handle the investments. The number of trustees will be determined by the Board of Governors, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities to the Society. The Endowment Committee will advise the Board of Governors on these matters and monitor the activities of the trustee(s). The General Endowment Fund initially will be invested in a cash or income instrument fund to be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. After the Fund is invested in a broad range of securities, a percentage of the net asset value will be dispersed annually by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

PROPOSED: **g.** The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.

V. Changes required to reflect current practice (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3, Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2a, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2b, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2c, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2d, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2e):

Bylaws Change, Article IV, Section 3.

RATIONALE: Add Section 3 to codify actual practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 3.** The Treasurer shall file form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, with the Internal Revenue Service annually.

Bylaws Change, Article VII, Section 2.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program.

PROPOSED: The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee, as well as hired conference planners, to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program if necessary.

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2a.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **a.** The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the annual National Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **a.** The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the Annual Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2b.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **b.** The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the National Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **b.** The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the Annual Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2c.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **c.** The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize, as determined by a selected panel of judges, based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. . .

PROPOSED: **c.** The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. . .

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2d.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **d.** The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **d.** The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. A member of the Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three-year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2e.

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **e.** The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. A member of the Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for President for a three year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

Appendix B. Treasurer's Table 1.

Appendix B. Treasurer's Table 1. ASIH cash flow from 1 January to 31 December 2005, with a comparison to income and expenses in 2004.

	2005	2004
Inflows		
Donations		
General Endowment Fund	3,041	3,233
Student Travel Fund	4,534	4,969
Total: Donations	7,575	8,202
Royalties and other	1,112	1,802
Program Services		
Joint annual meeting income		
2004	37,507	
Memberships and subscriptions		
Life memberships	11,125	8,969
Annual memberships	167,665	134,028
Subscriptions	157,469	104,820
Late fees	721	579
Rental of mailing list	500	1,430
Total: Memberships and subscriptions	337,379	249,826
Publications		
Author billing, page charges	1,900	2,195
Back issues of Copeia	974	1,496
Postage	530	1,420
Special publication # 3	449	542
Special publication # 4	811	602
Special publication # 5	5,432	10,540
Total: Publications	10,095	16,794
BioOne revenue share for previous year	22,949	14,994
Refunds		
Joint meeting advances and costs	11,000	11,493
Interest	1,370	616
Dividends	13,497	9,765
Long term capital gain distributions	7,391	1,860
Short term capital gain distributions	1,379	288
Realized gains/losses	-31,257	6,596
Total Inflows	\$418,996	\$322,236
Outflows		
Program services		
Awards	-25,116	-22,244
Annual meeting		
Local, planning or management committee	-730	
Abstract submission via Allen Press	-5,900	-6,218
ASIH President reimbursement	-1,693	-1,959
Total: Annual meeting	-8,223	-8,127
Donations	0	-2,000
Publications		
AllenTrack	-7,775	-6,475
Editorial offices	-7,000	-64,000
Copeia printing, etc.	-98,332	-105,206
Special publications	0	-29
Total: Publications	-113,107	-175,710
Supporting services—management and general operation		
Allen Press business office	-44,242	-47,329
Annual meeting	0	-1,763
Secretary's office	-33,370	-33,370
Treasurer's office	-85	-96
Committee expenses/EXEC projects	-1,259	-969
Web page	-3,255	
Dues and subscriptions	-3,125	-5,418
Annual audit and IRS Form 990 preparation	-6,450	-6,126
Investment fees	-7,056	-7,606
Misc., including bank charges	-2,817	-2,347
Total: Supporting services	-102,539	-105,023
Total Outflows	-\$248,986	-\$313,105
Overall Total	\$171,010	\$9,131

Appendix C. Treasurer's Table 2.

Appendix C. Treasurer's Table 2: ASIH membership and subscription numbers by category as of 1 May 2006.

Type	Description	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005	2006
Memberships							
ASCFAM	Second Member in Family	69	70	69	64	64	38
FHM	Foreign Honorary Member	26	27	27	26	26	26
LIF	Life Member Old Program	175	180	182	136	135	135
LIFN*	Life Member New Program				45	54	57
LIF1	Life Member First Payment	4	4	1	3	4	1
LIF2	Life Member Second Payment	2	3	5	1	3	4
LIF3	Life Member Third Payment	3	2	2	5	1	3
LIF4	Life Member Fourth Payment	1	1	2	2	3	2
LIFX	Life member (old program) Copeia donated				1	1	1
MEM	Individual Member	1792	1832	1757	1674	1537	1264
MEM0	Regular member, no journal					89	93
STU	Student Member	654	678	685	595	610	532
SUSW	Sustaining Member	39	26	28	38	28	27
	Total	2765	2823	2758	2590	2555	2183
Subscriptions							
COM	Complimentary Subscription	5	6	8	9	9	9
FINST	Institutional Subscription Non-North Am	190	186	163	161	159	113
INST	Institutional Subscription US/CAN/MEX	825	823	786	716	667	609
	Total	1020	1015	957	886	835	731
	Overall Total	3785	3838	3715	3476	3390	2914
	BioOne revenue share (check received in following year)	\$3,850	\$10,753	\$14,994	\$22,949	\$20,941	
	JSTOR revenue share (check received in following year)					\$3,688	

*LIFN includes all fully paid new program life memberships since 1993, which previously were included in LIF category.

Appendix D. Treasurer's Table 3.

Appendix C. ASIH cash, cash equivalents, and investments on 31 December 2005. Includes outstanding checks. Does not include 2005 dividends credited in 2006. (From 31 Dec. 2005 Smith Barney Citicorp and Douglas Co. Bank statements.)

Fund	Cash & Cash Equivalents		Investments	Total
	Douglas Co. Bank	Smith Barney Citicorp	Smith Barney Citicorp	
General Operating	\$183,295	\$19,209	\$150,400	\$352,904
Annual Meeting	0	42,793	0	42,793
Student Travel	497	10,469	0	10,966
Gibbs	0	6,387	110,631	117,018
General Endowment	984	33,782	82,754	117,520
Stoye	0	13,768	53,648	67,416
Life Membership	13,822	20,408	48,590	82,820
Raney	0	2,587	58,722	61,309
Gaige	0	313	47,910	48,223
Storer	0	5,039	18,111	23,150
Fitch	0	5,854	15,657	21,511
	<u>\$198,597</u>	<u>\$160,609</u>	<u>\$586,424</u>	<u>\$945,630</u>

Appendix E. Treasurers Table 4.

Appendix D. Portfolio detail of the ASIH Smith Barney TRAK Account on 31 December 2005. Includes 2005 income reinvested in 2006. (From TRAK Quarterly Review for the period ending 31 Dec. 2005.)

	Initial Purchase Date	Shares	Cost	Unrealized gain/(loss)	Value 31-Dec-05	% of Total
<i>Equity Investments</i>						
American Funds: Inv. Co. of America	20-Apr-2005	2013.335	\$59,209	\$3,849	\$63,058	11.2%
Hotchkiss & Wiley Lg. Cap. Value Fund A	20-Apr-2005	2701.565	\$58,516	\$4,538	\$63,055	11.2%
American Funds: Growth Fund of America	20-Apr-2005	2218.425	\$57,513	\$10,593	\$68,106	12.1%
The Jensen Portfolio	20-Apr-2005	2420.631	\$56,840	\$819	\$57,659	10.1%
Royce Premier Fund	4-Jan-2001	759.222	\$7,903	\$4,898	\$12,800	2.3%
RS Smaller Co. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	426.095	\$9,528	(\$533)	\$8,995	1.6%
Salomon Bros. Small Cap. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	591.139	\$8,888	(\$3)	\$8,885	1.6%
Scudder International Fund	4-Jan-2001	2502.296	\$105,402	\$20,738	\$126,141	22.3%
Dreyfus Premier Emerging Markets	4-Jan-2001	1574.569	\$20,478	\$13,564	\$34,042	6.0%
<i>Fixed Income Investments</i>						
Columbia Intermediate Bond Fund	4-Jan-2001	4815.277	\$43,327	(\$520)	\$42,808	7.6%
Janus High Yield Fund	4-Jan-2001	2863.071	\$27,507	(\$222)	\$27,285	4.8%
American Century Int'l Bond Fund	20-Oct-2003	3775.147	\$52,624	(\$3,434)	\$49,190	8.7%
SB Money Funds-- Cash	20-Feb-2004	2681.550	\$2,682	\$0	\$2,682	0.5%
			\$510,416	\$54,289	\$564,705	100%

Appendix F. Conservation Report Addendum #1

Joint Scientific Societies' Statement on the Endangered Species Act

American Fisheries Society _ Ecological Society of America _ Entomological Society of America _
Society for Conservation Biology-North America _ Society for Range Management _ The Wildlife
Society

Scientific Societies' Statement on the Endangered Species Act

February 1, 2006

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is the subject of ongoing Congressional scrutiny that may result in the amendment of the law. Many of the proposed changes involve scientific issues and how science, research, and scientists advance the conservation of endangered plants and animals. Our societies are committed to the goals of the ESA and assert that the best available science must be used in its implementation. The ESA is a vital and fundamentally sound tool in this Nation's effort to maintain biological diversity. The law's effectiveness in protecting and recovering species has been hamstrung by insufficient funding, little of which has been used to implement on-the-ground recovery actions. Many of our societies have issued position statements or reports on the ESA in the past, most recently, "*Practical solutions to improve the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act for wildlife conservation*" by The Wildlife Society.

We provide the following comments on the Endangered Species Act, focusing on those areas where we believe our expertise as scientists and experience in helping implement the ESA is most relevant. Our professional scientific societies represent thousands of scientists and natural resource managers in the United States. These recommendations were developed by scientists representing each of our societies and have been approved by the governing board of each society. We believe that the recommendations contained herein, if adopted, would improve the protection and recovery of endangered wildlife in the U.S. while reducing conflict over the law.

Sincerely, Stephen Trombulak, President North American Section Society for Conservation Biology	Katherine McCarter, Executive Director Ecological Society of America
Michael Hutchins, Executive Director The Wildlife Society	Angela S. Williams, President Society for Range Management
Gus Rassam, Executive Director American Fisheries Society	Frank E. Gilstrap, President Entomological Society of America

Consistent with Congress' determinations on passing the ESA in 1973, we agree that decisions made under the ESA must be made on the basis of the best scientific data available. This standard sometimes requires actions to be taken to address the threat of animal and plant extinctions even if it is not possible to precisely demonstrate either the magnitude of those threats or cause-effect relationships. Constant vigilance is required to ensure that decisions under the law are based on sound scientific analysis.

Proposed amendments by the House of Representatives would 1) create a process for defining "best available scientific data," and limit data to those that are empirical, have been peer-reviewed by reviewers recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, or are consistent with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance under the Data Quality Act; and 2) require analysis of economic and national security impacts to be conducted for every listing decision. We do not believe that using a regulatory process to prescribe what and how science should be used will improve the speed, success, or cost-effectiveness of conservation and recovery efforts for wildlife, nor is it appropriate to codify OMB guidelines in the way proposed. These guidelines have attracted widespread criticism from other scientific societies.¹ While guidelines can help to ensure that certain standards are met and maintained, an overly rigid process will result in inefficient use of time and resources. We believe the proposed amendments approved by the House would mandate such an overly rigid process.

Modeling Studies: The House amendments draw a distinction between "empirical" data and other types of information, such as that derived from modeling. There is no scientific justification for giving greater weight to empirical data over modeling results. The emphasis on empirical data runs counter to recommendations of the National Research Council report, *Science and the Endangered Species Act*, which calls for greater use of modeling analyses. It also runs counter to the Ecological Society of America's paper² that recommended increased use of models because of the wealth of information that only they can provide. For managing endangered species, predicting the future behavior of a population or system under different management programs is of paramount interest, and no credible prediction is possible without a formal or informal model.

Population viability analysis is a key modeling approach used to identify important population parameters, such as minimum effective population size, extinction risk, and how species' survival can be maximized under different conditions. Risk assessment is at the core of the ESA. The Environmental Protection Agency must use models to assess the risk of air pollution to human health. The Federal Reserve requires models to predict the response of the economy to monetary policy. Likewise, ecological scientists need models to predict the risk of extinction or the likelihood of recovery.

¹ American Association of Medical Colleges comments on "Proposed Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies."

<http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/research/corres/2001/081301.htm>

² Carroll, R., et al. 1996. Strengthening the Use of Science in Achieving the Goals of the Endangered Species Act: An Assessment by the Ecological Society of America. *Ecological Applications* 6: 1-11.

<http://www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Papers/StrentheningUSAGESA.php>

Models have played important roles in restoring endangered species. For example, the proposed decision to de-list the Yellowstone grizzly bear is based in part upon population viability models. Models have played key roles in managing sea turtles and in developing restoration plans for the Everglades ecosystem that maximize benefits to endangered and non-endangered species. Denying agency scientists the ability to use one of science's most effective tools will weaken, not strengthen, the use of science in the ESA.

Peer Review: Peer review is an integral component of science, scientific research, and publishing. We strongly support the process of scientific peer review. As scientists, however, we also use information in unpublished graduate theses, reports of state and federal agencies, and documents prepared by consultants. Many such documents provide important scientific information and data, some of which is unavailable from other sources. Much of this information will be published in peer-reviewed literature, but that process can take years, which would unnecessarily delay recovery planning. Scientists exercise diligence in weeding out inaccurate statements and conclusions from such documents and apply similar diligence to peer-reviewed publications. Agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have procedures in place to undertake peer review of studies that have not previously been peer-reviewed. We believe that proposed limitations on the use of non-peer-reviewed technical reports and other studies will weaken, not strengthen, the science employed in endangered species decisions by limiting the data available to scientists and decision-makers.

Recommendations: We do not recommend that Congress mandate any sweeping new prescriptions on the use of scientific data under the ESA such as those contained in recent legislative proposals. However, establishing additional procedures for particularly important or controversial decisions may provide benefits for listed species and reduce impacts on affected parties. Specifically, Congress should consider establishing an independent standing "science advisory committee," that would provide an additional level of review of certain decisions and advice to the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce in circumstances where significant scientific uncertainty impedes decision-making. Such a committee would also provide an outlet for additional peer review, but should only be used in instances where new methodologies are being implemented or where the science is particularly complex or controversial.

Uncertainty and conflict over ESA decisions are rarely caused by knowledge being applied incorrectly. Rather, they are driven by the simple fact that little is known about many rare plants and animals (beyond the fact that they are rare). Congress could dramatically reduce these problems simply by creating dedicated funding for population surveys, genetic analyses, population viability analyses, and research on rare or declining plants and animals. Allocation of any such funding should be prioritized to species for which the least information is available and for which conflicts are most likely.

More Prompt Protection for Rare and Declining Species

A 1993 study found that by the time most plants and animals are listed, their population sizes and number of populations have reached critically low levels.³ For example, fewer than about 1,000 individuals were known to be alive for half of vertebrate species when they were first protected, and for plants, half of species had fewer than 120 individuals remaining. The rarer a species is allowed to become before it is protected, the longer, more difficult, and more expensive the road to recovery is likely to be. This fact alone may account for much of the slowness in recovering species. More prompt listing of rare and declining species would provide regulators with more options as they develop conservation and recovery plans, and it would increase the likelihood and speed of recovery. There is no valid reason why individual listing decisions should consume the current level of time or agency resources.

Studies have also shown that hundreds of very rare and localized species have not been listed under the Endangered Species Act.⁴ This strikes us as a far more serious problem in terms of U.S. environmental policy than the handful of species that may have been listed in error over the 32-year life of the ESA. The longer the delay in protecting species, the longer it is likely to take to recover them and the more those recovery efforts are likely to cost.

Recommendations: Recognizing Congress' intent to ensure that plants and animals not disappear from America and that listing occurs in time to speed subsequent recovery, we believe that the following changes would improve the Endangered Species Act:

1. Scientists have developed robust criteria to identify when wildlife is critically imperiled, imperiled, or vulnerable, and these criteria are used by wildlife agencies throughout the United States and the world. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service should be required to produce regulations that define how they will use these or similar criteria to prioritize and trigger status reviews, particularly those for any species that are identified as “critically imperiled” or “imperiled” under such criteria.
2. On an annual basis, require federal agencies to solicit from Governors and state wildlife agencies, lists of species for which states believe status reviews should be conducted.

³ Wilcove, D.S., M. McMillan, and K.C. Winston. 1993. What exactly is an endangered species? An analysis of the U.S. endangered species list: 1985-1991. *Conservation Biology* 7: 87-93.

⁴ Master, L.L., B.A. Stein, L.S. Kutner, and G.A. Hammerson. 2000. Vanishing assets: conservation status of U.S. species. In Stein, B.A., L.S. Kutner, and J.S. Adams, eds. *Precious Heritage: The Status of Biodiversity in the United States*. Oxford University Press, NY.

Eliminating Rare Mistakes in Listing Non-endangered Plants and Animals

We agree with the conclusions of the Government Accountability Office⁵ that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service uses sound science in listing decisions. While listing decisions are based on the best available information, the information on the status of species is sometimes limited, and in a very small number of cases, this has resulted in listing decisions that later prove to be unwarranted. For example, the GAO noted that 10 of the more than 1,300 U.S. listed species have been de-listed after new information indicated the original listing was not warranted. In analyzing delisting notices we conclude that these listings were in error because subsequent surveys discovered more individuals, or modern genetic methods resulted in reinterpretation of taxonomy and the taxonomic basis for listing. We agree that mistakes in the use or interpretation of limited scientific data, although extremely infrequent, can cause losses to landowners and waste resources.⁶

The proposed House changes to the Endangered Species Act create new steps in regulatory processes and data requirements that would affect the listing process. Changes to the ESA intended to reduce the already low rate of mistaken listings may be warranted so long as they do not also significantly slow the speed with which species deserving protection are listed, or eliminate from consideration species that deserve protection. However, we find no evidence to suggest that amendments proposed by the House will eliminate listing errors. Further, such amendments will slow or prevent the listing of species that legitimately deserve protection because information on their status comes from scientific studies that could not be used by the Services under proposed new requirements.

Recommendation: Congress could further reduce the few errors made in listing decisions by creating dedicated funding for population surveys, population viability analyses, and genetic and other research on rare or declining plants and animals. Allocation of any such funding should be prioritized to species for which the least information is available, for which conflicts are most likely, and that are under consideration for protection. Such a program would likely eliminate unwarranted listings without impeding the listing of species for which sufficient information is available.

⁵ For a summary and link to the full GAO report <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03803high.pdf>

⁶ A far more frequent occurrence is the discovery of additional populations of a rare species after listing, as a result of the attention listing brings to that species. However, the number of new populations is almost always too few to warrant a reversal of the listing decision. We view these sorts of discoveries as a strength of the ESA, not evidence of any problem.

A.

B. Improve the Quality and Implementation of Recovery Plans

C.

D. Recovery efforts and funding are inadequate for nearly all listed animals and plants. For example, the median expenditure for a listed species in 2002 by all federal and state agencies was only \$14,100. If recovery actions are not funded or carried out, it is no surprise that recovery is occurring more slowly than anticipated. Nevertheless, many species have made significant progress, and protection under the ESA has prevented many from going extinct. We focus our recommendations on two areas where the ESA establishes the most tangible connection between science and recovery: development of recovery plans and operation of the recovery team.

The ESA requires the Services to develop recovery plans. These plans are meant to guide subsequent conservation and restoration efforts. Scientists, including hundreds who are members of our societies, have volunteered their time to help develop the recovery plans that now exist for more than 80 percent of listed species. These recovery plans summarize the relevant species ecology, describe population status, and set quantitative goals that if achieved, indicate the risk of extinction is low enough to allow the species to be down-listed to threatened status or to be declared ‘recovered.’ Decisions regarding habitat protection and other specific management activities are best made during or after development of a science-based recovery plan rather than as separate activities.

Our societies agree that the goals that define the unique meaning of ‘recovery’ for each species are the most important part of recovery plans. Recovery plans also should include an implementation strategy that specifies actions that, if taken, will lead to recovery. These actions provide sufficient guidance over short time periods; yet, over longer time periods, success depends on unpredictable opportunities and continually changing information and conditions that affect the species. As such, few written recovery strategies will ever be able to provide a detailed and accurate site-specific blueprint for how long-term recovery can be achieved. The ESA should make it easier to adapt recovery plans to new knowledge about endangered species and their conservation needs.

Proposed House amendments create a new requirement for recovery plans to be published within two years of species being listed. We support this requirement because substantial scientific information is available for many species by the time they are listed. However, such deadlines cannot be met if funding is inadequate. We also support requirements for recovery plans to include “intermediate measures” because shorter-term goals offer a realistic, quantitative way to evaluate recovery progress and to identify whether recovery strategies need to be modified based on new information. We conclude that other amendments proposed by the House will produce no significant improvement in the implementation of recovery efforts, because the amendments largely create more time-consuming “process” requirements without improving the scientific quality of recovery plans, the likelihood they will be funded adequately, or the speed with which they are implemented. We do not support the proposed requirement for other federal agencies to make formal plans that prescribe their involvement in recovery efforts. Agencies currently undertake recovery actions on an informal basis with less delay and bureaucracy than is likely to occur if such changes are made.

Recommendations: We support the following changes to make recovery plans easier to develop and revise and more likely to be implemented and to improve the function of recovery teams.

- 1) Recovery plans should be ‘living’ documents, not static tomes that are out of date by the time they are finalized. Congress should consider amendments that would make it easier for the Services to amend the implementation strategy for recovery, while maintaining overall recovery goals.
- 2) Recovery plan objectives and interim and final targets should be updated every five years. As part of this process, the Services should also be required to include reports on how much progress has been made in the preceding years in achieving past objectives and targets. Scientists and the public alike lack a clear picture of how much progress has been made in recovering listed species in part because the Services report on status trends every two years and because in those biennial status reports, the Services use a poorly articulated, qualitative approach that describes species as improving, declining, stable, or unknown. We recommend that the Services be required to work with the scientific community to identify whether there are more objective, measurable ways to categorize species that provide a clearer picture of short and long-term recovery progress.
- 3) We agree that parties experiencing economic and social impacts from recovery activities should be included in parts of recovery plan development because their participation will often be essential to recovery. However, we do not support Senate proposed changes that would create a two-tiered recovery team structure with the work of scientists separate from and subsidiary to the decision-making of an “executive committee” composed of agencies and affected parties. Rather, technical efforts to define the biological objectives of the recovery plan for the species, to define quantitative interim and final recovery targets, and to assess whether an implementation strategy is likely to achieve biological goals should be developed solely by scientists and agency experts with a broader set of participants contributing the development of an implementation strategy to achieve those goals.

Species Conservation and Recovery Depends on Protection of Habitat

Habitat loss is the primary threat to species, contributing to the decline of 80 percent of rare and endangered species worldwide. Habitat conservation on both public and private lands is essential for recovery of many listed species, and for preventing endangerment of other species. Any protection afforded a threatened or endangered species must reflect first the successful identification by biologists of essential habitats that provide the requirements a species needs to survive and recover. Such essential habitats will generally include those areas that are currently capable of supporting stable or growing populations of the species in question or that could be made capable of doing so with proper management.

Proposed House amendments would eliminate ‘critical habitat’ and related regulatory protection of habitat, replacing it with ‘recovery areas’ that are identified in recovery plans and have no regulatory status. Recovery of most listed species depends on both occupied habitat and suitable unoccupied habitat that species can expand into as populations recover, because species are usually listed when their population sizes are very small. If destruction or significant modification of unoccupied habitat is allowed, there is little hope that recovery can be achieved. Proposed House amendments would eliminate all ESA protections for such unoccupied habitat.

Recommendation: In considering changes to the critical habitat sections of the ESA, we urge Congress to think most carefully about how to protect unoccupied habitat or to restore habitat that is essential for recovery of many endangered plants and animals and for which Section 9 ‘take’ prohibitions provide no protection. Congress could improve the recovery prospects for many species if there was a mechanism for the protection of such unoccupied habitat and reestablishment of endangered species within unoccupied habitat.

Appendix G. Conservation Committee Letters

Green Sturgeon letter

To whom it may concern: [comment to eRegulations website for NOAA Fisheries, 5 July, 2005.]

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) is the oldest professional society in the United States concerned with the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. We speak for a membership of about 3,000 practicing scientists and academic professionals. The Society is greatly concerned about the increasing phenomenon of accelerated decline and extirpation of populations of endemic and narrowly distributed species. Such species are highly vulnerable to extinction through small scale habitat loss, and are disproportionately jeopardized by biological perturbations. As such, I am writing to express our support for the April 4, 2005 proposal to list the southern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Green Sturgeon, *Acipenser medirostris*, as Threatened and to offer the expertise of our membership for subsequent consultations on the status of the northern DPS of this fish.

Green sturgeon are a long-lived species that achieves reproductive maturity after approximately 17 years and engages in intermittent spawning. Juveniles rear in natal streams and estuaries for a period of 1-2 years. This life history makes green sturgeon particularly vulnerable to overharvest, adverse effects of human activity on water quality, particularly elevated water temperatures, point source pollution from municipal and industrial discharges, and non-point source pollution from agriculture (chemicals and sediment) and timber harvest (sediment). These impacts can directly affect survival of eggs, larvae, and juveniles and indirectly contribute to reproductive failures by habitat losses. Additionally, barriers to fish passage, particularly at hydropower projects with inadequate bypass structures and poorly designed road crossings adversely affect green sturgeon migration to suitable spawning habitats.

We acknowledge that there may not be sufficient data to support a designation of the conservation status of the northern DPS of *A. medirostris*. As such, we urge NOAA Fisheries to use any available emergency or carry-over funds to initiate a study to determine the population status and habitat requirements of the northern populations. Our concern for the urgency of this need stems from the uncertainties about its status, habitat needs, and use of riverine habitats cited in the report from NOAA's biological review team. The report states that the northern DPS uses river habitat in the Klamath-Trinity River basin quite extensively. Given the continuing controversies over water use and water allocations in the Klamath-Trinity basin and the vulnerability of those populations to the drought occurring in the Pacific Northwest, the status of that particular population must be a priority.

Furthermore, the vulnerability of that and other populations in Southern Oregon and Northern California to catastrophic events such as the railroad derailment and subsequent fish kill in the Shasta/Sacramento River that led to the listing of the southern DPS, and to hydrologic modifications of other rivers in the region raise concerns about the future stability of the northern DPS.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. If the Society can be of any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lynne Parenti, Ph.D.
President, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Asian Carp Letter.

13 December 2005

Congressman Mark Green
1314 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Michael DeWine (OH)
140 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Evan Bayh (IN), Mark Dayton (MN), Richard Durbin (IL), Russell Feingold (WI), Carl Levin (MI), Barack Obama (IL), Debbie Ann Stabenow (MI), and George Voinovich (OH); Representatives Judy Biggert (IL), and Bart Stupak (MI).

I am writing on behalf of the members of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a professional society of 3000 scientists concerned with the study and conservation of fishes, amphibians and reptiles, to join the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the American Malacological Society to support the designation of Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act and enthusiastically endorse S. 1402 and H.R. 3049, the ‘Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act’.

The Laurentian Great Lakes and its tributaries are a global treasure, containing one-fifth of the world’s fresh waters and natural populations of more than 150 species of fish. These fish populations, including commercially and recreationally important species, have been severely impacted by alien species such as common carp, sea lamprey, alewife, and round goby over the past 125 years. Because a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem requires protection from further disruption by introduced species, we support legislation banning the importation and shipment of the following species of Asian carp: Grass Carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*; Black Carp, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*; Silver Carp, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*; and Big-head Carp *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*. Populations of these carp have escaped fish farms and made their way north along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

We concur with the assessment of the AFS that the Black Carp is injurious to aquatic biota for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a high risk of Black Carp becoming established in waters of the United States. Adult black carp have been captured in the wild a number of times since 2003. Thus, there is increasing evidence that the species may already be established in Louisiana's waters and the Mississippi River Basin. No controls are known to be effective and feasible, so prevention is essential.
- 2) Viable alternatives to Black Carp, including native species such as Redear Sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*) and chemicals, have been approved for snail control in aquaculture ponds.
- 3) Escape of Black Carp presents a significant risk to protected wildlife, especially mollusk taxa, 91 of which are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The United States is home to about 15% of North American snail species and 30% of the world's freshwater mussel diversity - groups that are among the most imperiled of the country's native species. The special adaptations of black carp for molluscivory (powerful pharyngeal jaws and teeth modified for crushing) and great size (1 meter in length), make these fish far more dangerous to our native freshwater mollusk fauna than any predator heretofore introduced.
- 4) Black Carp distribution cannot be controlled based on geopolitical boundaries and threatens the resources of states currently prohibiting this fish. In addition, following establishment of non-indigenous species, their dispersal in the United States quickly represents a threat to neighboring waters in Canada and Mexico.
- 5) The ASIH has previously adopted a resolution supporting the AFS Introduced Fish Section calling for the elimination of all existing aquaculture populations of Black Carp in North America. The Society reaffirmed its support for this action in 2002. Our previous comment on this subject is a matter of record.
- 6) Triploid (sterile) Black Carp do not represent a viable alternative because methods of inducing and detecting triploidy are not now 100% effective. Also, some triploid Black Carp may be able to reproduce and hybridize with other carp. Even sterile Black Carp pose a risk to rare native species because they are large, long-lived predators which consume large amounts of a highly specialized diet. The potential for escape of diploid broodstock or triploid Black Carp would negatively impact endangered mollusk populations and other biota whether they can reproduce or not.
- 7) All Asian carp species that have been in widespread use in North American fish ponds have escaped, became established in natural waters and have increased in abundance over a large geographic area.

Because of the clear danger posed by Black Carp to the biological integrity of our native waters, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists strongly supports the proposed rule to list Black Carp as "injurious" under the Lacey Act and opposes any further importation of this fish to the waters of the United States.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynne R. Parenti, President
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Appendix H.. Conservation Symposium abstract.

Conservation Symposium - 2007. Biodiversity and Agricultural Sustainability in the Breadbasket of North America, the Mississippi River basin

Theme: Freshwater ecosystems are fragile environments rich in biodiversity. Aquatic systems are threatened by impacts related to a variety of land-water interactions. Degradation of lands adjacent to freshwater ecosystems can adversely impact aquatic habitats and associated biological communities through many mechanisms. For example, land use activities that eliminate vegetative cover, decrease infiltration rates or reduce the moisture holding capacity of soil can adversely impact surface water quality. Habitat destruction and degradation in rivers and streams also occurs when poorly managed agricultural lands result in increased sediment and contaminant transport. Understanding the mechanisms driving losses in aquatic biodiversity is important to the conservation and restoration of freshwater environments worldwide. We will convene a symposium that addresses the effects of agricultural production on freshwater ecosystems and their resident biodiversity, and management practices and alternatives that preserve it. We take the opportunity of the 2007 JMIH in St. Louis to present this symposium in the heartland of North American agriculture, where it may attract the attention not only of society members but also of public and private officials with a stake in the issues discussed.

Appendix I. Conservation Report Addendum - Position Paper Proposal.

Proposed position paper for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Prepared by Henry R. Mushinsky and Alan H. Savitzky with contributions from Edmund Brodie, Jr., William Brown, Jonathan Campbell, Kevin Enge, Lee Fitzgerald, Harry Greene, Patrick Gregory, John Jensen, Paul Moler, Charlie Painter, Andy Price, and Walter Timmerman.

Position of The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Concerning Rattlesnake Conservation and Roundups

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, an international society of 3000 professional scientists who specialize in the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles, strongly opposes traditional rattlesnake roundups. Such roundups promote over-exploitation of natural populations of wildlife, unnecessary killing and inhumane treatment of individual animals, degradation of habitat, and promotion of outdated attitudes toward important elements of America's natural heritage. Found nowhere but in the Americas, and especially diverse in the United States, the more than thirty species of rattlesnakes comprise a distinctive component of North America's biodiversity, and one that is increasingly imperiled.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. Rattlesnakes are highly specialized predators that use venom to immobilize and speed digestion of their prey. As top carnivores, they help control rodent populations. Although feared by humans, they are responsible for very few deaths in the United States compared with other accidental sources of mortality. For rattlesnakes to persist, each species must overcome unregulated hunting, harvesting for roundups, and significant loss of habitat to agriculture and urbanization. Roundups began around 1940 and today attract thousands of spectators who observe rattlesnakes being treated inhumanely, in a manner unlike any other vertebrate animal. About 15% of the 125,000 rattlesnakes harvested yearly are intentionally killed at roundups. Many other species ecologically associated with rattlesnakes are harmed because gasoline is used often to force snakes from dens. Enlightened communities have opted to preserve the revenue generated from roundups by successfully transforming roundups into alternative festivals. Our forefathers viewed the rattlesnake as a symbol of strength and independence, a perception that deserves to be encouraged once again. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists supports an end to traditional rattlesnake roundups.

BIOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES OF RATTLESNAKES. Herpetologists consider rattlesnakes to be among the most highly specialized snakes. Members of a lineage known as pitvipers, rattlesnakes possess the group's characteristic pair of pit organs on

either side of the face, between the eyes and nostrils. These remarkable structures are highly sensitive infrared detectors, which enable rattlesnakes to sense their warm-bodied prey, even at night. Rattlesnakes have a pair of hollow fangs in the upper jaw that are folded back when not in use, but rotate into an erect position to deliver venom during a strike. Although used occasionally in defense, the primary biological role of the venom is to immobilize prey and facilitate digestion. Most rattlesnakes prey on rodents and occasionally other small mammals such as rabbits and ground squirrels; some smaller species feed primarily on lizards or frogs. Ecologically, adult rattlesnakes are top carnivores.

Although the threat of snakebite continues to elicit fear in humans, bites by venomous snakes today represent a minimal hazard to human health. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 15 persons die from the bite of a venomous snake each year in the United States, while, on average, 12 die from dog bites and 82 die from lightning strike.

All living rattlesnakes belong to the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*, fossils of which date back about five million years. The greatest diversity of living species occurs in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, but four species range as far north as New England and Canada. Although traditionally viewed as behaviorally simple animals, recent research has disclosed that rattlesnakes have a sense of self-identity, exhibit parental care of their young, recognize spatial arrangement of objects in the environment, and at times live in social groups.

THREATS TO RATTLESNAKES. To persist, each species of rattlesnake must overcome unregulated hunting, harvesting for roundups, and significant loss of habitat in response to agriculture and urbanization. Their life history traits are shaped by evolutionary history and current conditions, and each species responds differently to the destructive pressures exerted by human activities. Geographic location and body size are two factors that can influence how rattlesnakes are affected by human activities. Relatively small species that live in mountainous regions of the southwestern United States and Mexico have limited distributions, and narrow habitat requirements, making them particularly vulnerable to habitat alteration and human disturbances. Relatively large species, especially those in the northern states, may take as long as ten years to become sexually mature and then reproduce only once every third year. Furthermore, many rattlesnakes require large expanses of habitat to complete their annual movements, sometimes traveling many kilometers in a year. With increasing urbanization and habitat fragmentation, humans are reducing the habitat available for rattlesnakes and increasing the likelihood of encounters with them. The pattern of creating small, isolated populations of rattlesnakes that are in close contact with people may be tipping the balance against the long-term persistence of some species. As long ago as 1992, biologists concluded that 50% of all pitvipers might be threatened with extinction. Nonetheless, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists only three species of rattlesnakes as federally threatened or endangered. Several states have regulations to protect particular species or isolated populations of rattlesnakes. As agencies develop plans for the conservation of rattlesnakes, they will need to tailor them to the specific challenges confronting each species.

Five rattlesnake species are hunted in eight states. The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) is hunted in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*C. adamanteus*) in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; Prairie Rattlesnake (*C. viridis*) in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; Timber Rattlesnake, (*C. horridus*) in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, and Florida; and occasionally the Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*C. molossus*) in New Mexico and Texas.

In earlier times the perceived hazard of snakebite inspired organized efforts to control rattlesnake populations and government bounties for killing rattlesnakes date back to 1719. In the northeastern states, hunters gathered at large, communal dens to kill snakes as they congregated for hibernation. Similar hunts, both in spring and fall, occurred in other regions of the United States. Records from a single county in central Florida indicate that between 1935 and 1938 about 7500 rattlesnakes and 2000 coral snakes (an unrelated venomous snake) were collected for bounty. Bounties also were placed on rattlesnakes in Iowa, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin during the mid-1900s. Some states, such as South Dakota, hired professional hunters to destroy rattlesnakes. Over time this practice of killing rattlesnakes spread to southwestern states.

RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUPS. Organized “rattlesnake catching drives,” the precursors of modern roundups, date to 1939 and 1949 in two communities in Oklahoma, where they evolved into publicity events for local chambers of commerce. These drives were conducted in the spring of the year, to coincide with the emergence of rattlesnakes from their dens. Early events involved several thousand spectators, who watched as the hunters sold their catches by the pound to the organizing groups. The funds were provided by local ranch owners, who contributed a few cents per acre as a reward for clearing their land of rattlesnakes, which they considered to be dangerous to cattle. An estimated 1500-3000 snakes per year were captured and destroyed in each drive, despite evidence from a 1950’s statewide survey of Texas veterinarians, indicating that loss of cattle to snakebite was negligible. Special awards were given to individuals who captured the largest snake or were bitten during the drive.

In 1958, an Oklahoma event billed as the “world’s largest” was promoted by the local Board of Development; it was later turned over to the Jaycees. After the first hunt, uncounted thousands of captured rattlesnakes were decapitated and deposited in the city dump. The event has since become a focal point for the community, involving presentation of trophies and monetary prizes to the rattlesnake hunters and attracting tens of thousands of spectators who attend rattlesnake dances, craft shows, and cooking contests. By the late 1980s roundups were producing profits used to fund charitable projects, suggesting that roundup organizers had good intentions for their efforts. Today, some roundups are organized by private individuals for profit.

The biological ramifications of decades of rattlesnake roundups are difficult to assess, but they have great potential to affect snake populations negatively, and it is difficult to predict when rattlesnake harvests will push local populations beyond the point of recovery. Analysis has proven challenging because of inconsistencies and variation in recording the numbers of hunters, area hunted, and numbers of species included in the

total catch. For example, hunters may broaden the areas in which they hunt and bring rattlesnakes captured at considerable distances from the location of the roundup. Collecting rattlesnakes at communal dens during the spring or autumn months can quickly deplete a local population. All rattlesnakes give birth to live young, and pregnant females often are especially conspicuous and therefore vulnerable to collection. Such females must bask in exposed locations to raise the temperature of their developing embryos, and in some species pregnant females aggregate at special sites, increasing the likelihood that these especially critical members of the population will be subject to capture.

Although subject to error, the information collected during rattlesnake roundups provides a reasonable index of the annual hunting pressure on rattlesnakes as a result of organized events across the country. Information from five roundups in Oklahoma suggests that the take of Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes ranges from 6,000 to 10,000 individuals each year. At one large roundup alone, the average number of rattlesnakes captured annually between 1959 and 1991 was 5,469, with a mean total mass of 2855 kg (more than three tons). Over that period 91,365 kg (more than 100 tons) of rattlesnakes, or 174,996 individuals, were captured. Interestingly, peak years occurred about once per decade and were followed by a year in which relatively few individuals were captured. Based on 16 roundups in Texas, estimates range from 70,500 to 112,600 per year. Three roundups in Georgia and one in Alabama accounted for an estimated 1,000 -1,600 snakes per year. Analysis of harvest data from four roundups, collected between 1985 and 1993, indicated a non-significant but consistent decline in purchases of rattlesnakes at all four locations.

Clearly, roundups cause significant mortality in rattlesnakes, but they represent only part of the total human-caused mortality in these species. Researchers have estimated that, for both Western Diamondback and Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes, only about 15% of the total annual harvest originates from roundups. During the two-year period 1990-92, Florida snake-skin dealers reported purchasing 3,647 Eastern Diamondback and 366 Timber Rattlesnakes from Florida and 18,289 and 4,346, respectively, from outside the state. Florida snake-skin dealers purchased 40,056 Eastern Diamondbacks and 7,659 Timber Rattlesnakes from 1990-94, collected in Florida and five nearby southeastern states. Currently, the annual harvest of all rattlesnakes in the United States exceeds 125,000 per year.

In addition to the effects of roundups on snake populations, some of the methods used to collect snakes are detrimental to the environment and to non-target species. In Florida, hunters have ignited isolated patches of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), collecting rattlesnakes as they moved to escape the fire. In southeastern states, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes and many other species of wildlife seek shelter in the deep burrows of Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Hunters introduce gasoline into tortoise burrows, collecting rattlesnakes as they are driven out. No doubt many non-target species of wildlife are killed by this unethical hunting practice. Research has demonstrated that gassing is harmful to rattlesnakes, tortoises, and other species that co-occur in dens or burrows. Gassing burrows is prohibited within the range of the Gopher Tortoise, which is now protected in every state in which it resides. However, in

southwestern states, beyond the range of the Gopher Tortoise, gasoline is sprayed into the deep recesses of rattlesnake dens, and snakes are collected as they attempt to escape.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS. Apart from the negative aspects of rattlesnake roundups on the populations of both snakes and non-target species and their habitats, strong ethical reasons exist to oppose the practice of rattlesnake roundups. Traditional roundups often include large enclosures or pits in which snakes are maintained at high densities for extended periods and are subjected to continual provocation, encouraging them to rattle and strike. Inflated balloons are displayed before captive rattlesnakes to provoke a strike to burst the balloon for the entertainment of onlookers. Individuals are kicked, burned with cigarettes, have their rattles removed while still alive and funneled full of liquor. Rattlesnakes may be shipped from roundup to roundup in wooden crates without food or water, and some individuals are crushed to death or die of over-heating and dehydration during transport. Snakes are handled roughly and are decapitated and butchered in large numbers in front of an audience, including small children, as entertainment. It is hard to imagine subjecting any other vertebrate animal to such thoughtless and inhumane treatment. Indeed, as scientists we are subject to requirements that our study animals be treated humanely, and it is reasonable to expect similar treatment by others.

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO ROUNDUPS. Former rattlesnake roundups have been transformed successfully into other types of community festivals designed to raise funds for charitable organizations. An enlightened community in Florida, responding in part to efforts by the Gopher Tortoise Council, changed its rattlesnake roundup to a rattlesnake festival. In San Antonio, Florida, organizers use well-maintained rattlesnakes and nonvenomous species for an environmental education program. The organization called RAGE, Rattlesnake And Gopher Enthusiasts, sponsors the festival, which features “turtle” races (using mechanical Gopher Tortoises), arts and crafts, music, and a petting farm featuring common livestock. Funds raised by the festival are used to support local nonprofit organizations. In response to declining populations of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes and the harmful collecting technique of gassing Gopher Tortoise burrows, organizers of the Fitzgerald Georgia Rattlesnake Roundup changed the focus of the festival and now celebrate The Wild Chicken Festival. At these festivals in Georgia and Florida, participants learn factual information about rattlesnakes and other wildlife and most leave with an understanding that snakes are beneficial for rodent control.

BENEFITS OF RATTLESNAKES TO HUMANS. In addition to the ethical issues, practical reasons exist to value and conserve rattlesnakes. Researchers are beginning to unlock the secrets of snake venoms. Substances derived from venoms are ingredients in numerous medications, such as those used to treat stroke victims and to prevent the growth of cancerous tumors. More than a dozen diagnostic tests and drugs are derived from snake venoms. Because the muscles that power the noise-making rattle are so highly resistant to fatigue and resemble human heart muscle, they have proven to be a valuable model system in biomedical research. Ecologically, rattlesnakes excel at pest control and are especially proficient at hunting rodents. Because of the large number of rattlesnakes harvested for roundups each year, hundreds of thousands of rodents that would have been consumed by them remained free to wreak havoc on the human

enterprise. In recent years, increases in rodent populations have led to the spread of dangerous diseases, such as Hantavirus, and one can only speculate whether efforts to control rattlesnake populations have exacerbated this problem.

CONCLUSIONS. Rattlesnakes are treated differently than most other commercially harvested vertebrate species. For example, the harvesting of sharks, animals that also elicit fear by humans, is highly regulated to promote their conservation. Unfortunately, the cornerstones of wildlife conservation -- controlling commercial use and regulating the take of wildlife -- have not been applied broadly to rattlesnakes. Thus, rattlesnakes are widely hunted and sold for profit, both dead and alive, without adequate regulation or monitoring by wildlife agencies.

The more than thirty species of rattlesnake comprise a unique component of North America's biodiversity, and one that is increasingly imperiled. By virtue of their novelty to European colonists and their perceived nobility, rattlesnakes hold an honored place in the early history of the United States. They appeared on numerous battle flags during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, including the first Union Jack, which was raised over a Revolutionary warship by the young Lt. John Paul Jones. Our forefathers viewed the rattlesnake as a symbol of strength and independence, a perception that deserves to be encouraged once more.

Just a few decades ago top predators such as hawks and wolves were regarded as "vermin" and were subjected to bounty hunts and wanton killing. Today, however, these magnificent species are valued elements of our natural heritage, the intriguing subjects of documentary films and ecotourism. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists supports an end to traditional rattlesnake roundups and encourages local communities to replace such anachronistic events with festivals that celebrate the role of rattlesnakes in nature and recognizes their significance as an historic symbol of our nation's strength and independence.

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Appendix J. Special Publication Sales.

Special Publication Sales 2005 1/1/2005 Through 12/31/2005

5/9/2006 Date Account Num Description Memo Clr Page 1 Amount

INCOME

Program Services

Publications

Sales

Special Pubs.

Sp. Pub. #3

2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
4/20/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
5/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
6/30/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com 2 copies		R	58.50
7/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
7/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
10/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
11/2/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
11/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
TOTAL Sp. Pub. #3						448.50

Sp. Pub. #4

2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
2/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	96.00
3/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/17/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
4/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/12/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
6/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com		R	31.50
6/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
6/30/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com 1 copy		R	31.50
8/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
8/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com 1 copy		R	31.50
9/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
9/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
11/2/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
TOTAL Sp. Pub. #4						811.00

Sp. Pub. #5

1/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
1/31/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com credit 1/31		R	81.00
2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
2/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/4/2005	Douglas ... DEP	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00

Special Publication Sales 2005

1/1/2005 Through 12/31/2005

5/9/2006

Page 2

Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Clr	Amount
3/17/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
3/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
3/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/30/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com vol. 1, credit 3/30		R	27.00
4/21/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/28/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com credit 4/2		R	162.00
4/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	240.00
4/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/5/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/9/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	200.00
5/24/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/31/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
6/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
6/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1-3		R	81.00
6/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
6/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
6/14/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
7/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
7/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	240.00
7/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1-3		R	81.00
8/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 3 copies		R	81.00
			vol. 3, 3 copies		R	81.00
9/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
9/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
9/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	200.00
10/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
10/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol. 3, 2 copies		R	54.00
10/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	200.00
11/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
11/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol. 3, 2 copies		R	54.00
12/21/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 3 copies		R	360.00
12/23/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
TOTAL Sp. Pub. #5						5,432.00
TOTAL Special Pubs.						6,691.50
TOTAL Sales						6,691.50
TOTAL Publications						6,691.50
TOTAL Program Services						6,691.50

TOTAL INCOME 6,691.50

OVERALL TOTAL 6,691.50

Appendix K. Officers, *Copeia* Staff, Committees 2006

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Members: Hank Bart, Brian Crother, F. Douglas Martin, Henry Mushinsky

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Members: Karen R. Lips (herpetology) , Larry M. Page (ichthyology). Deanna J. Stouder (ichthyology)

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Members: Kent Carpenter (2005-2007), Tim Targett (2006-2008)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

TO BE NAMED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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Richard Mayden - cypriniformes@gmail.com (Co-chair)

Members: Stoye & Storer Judges: To Be Announced at Annual Banquet

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Appendix L. Constitution (Revised 2004)

ASIH CONSTITUTION

as revised at the 2004 meeting

Article I: Name

The name of this Society shall be "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS." The Society is incorporated in the District of Columbia (22 November 1949).

Article II: Object

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to advance the science of the study of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

Section 2. The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to persons interested in the object of the Society.

Section 2. The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, , Regular, Associate, and Sustaining.

b. Honorary Foreign Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among the ichthyologists and herpetologists, located outside of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have attained distinction as investigators. The Honorary Foreign Members shall be equally divided between ichthyologists and herpetologists.

Section 3. Nomination to membership shall be upon recommendation of one member.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be: A President, who shall assume the duties of this office for a one-year term immediately following a term as President-Elect. A President-Elect, who shall serve a one-year term; the office shall alternate annually between an ichthyologist and herpetologist; the President-Elect shall be ineligible for another term until two years shall have elapsed from the end of a term as President. A Treasurer, and a Secretary, who shall be elected annually but who may serve unlimited consecutive terms. An Editor, five Divisional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

Section 2. The Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the annual business meeting. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the officers were elected. In the

event of a tie in election for any office, the Executive Committee shall determine the winner.

Section 3. The officers named in Section 1 shall discharge the duties usually assigned to their respective offices (see Bylaws).

Section 4. In the event of death or incapacitation of the President during the term of office, the President-Elect will become President. If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will become President-Elect. If necessary, the Executive Committee shall make the determination that a President or President-Elect is incapacitated to the extent that required duties of the office are not likely to be performed.

Section 5. A vacancy in either the Secretaryship or Treasurership occurring in the interval of the meetings of the Society may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by appointment by the President.

Section 6. Executive Committee.

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, immediate Past-President, prior Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and Chair of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

b. Each ASIH President will serve a total of four years on the Executive Committee, as President-Elect, President, immediate Past-President, and prior Past-President, in that sequence.

Section 7. Between the annual meetings the business of the Society shall be conducted by the officers, acting within their individual responsibilities, and the Executive Committee.

Article V: Board of Governors

Section 1. At the time of the annual meeting the business of the Society shall be conducted by the Board of Governors. The Board shall include not more than 50 elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years. Elective members of the Board shall not be eligible for reelection until the annual meeting following the expiration of their terms. The incumbent officers of the Society shall be members of the Board. Former Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board for life. All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all members of the Society.

Section 2. Ten vacancies in the elective membership of the Board of Governors shall be filled through election at the business meeting from nominations provided by the Nominating Committee and/or from the floor. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. Five of the elected Governors shall be herpetologists and five shall be ichthyologists. Each member shall vote for a maximum of five candidates. It is recommended that members vote for candidates in their own discipline only, but a member whose activities spread across the two disciplines may vote across the two disciplines. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the Governor was elected. An additional vacancy shall occur if the President-Elect is a member of a class. No other officer shall be replaced if a member of a class at the time of election as an officer.

Section 3. The Board shall conduct business during the period between annual meetings only upon call by the Executive Committee.

Article VI: Meeting of the Society

Section 1. This Society shall hold an annual meeting. A general business session open to all classes of members shall be held for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

Section 2. The Meetings Management Committee shall solicit and receive invitations from prospective home institutions for the Annual Meetings, shall evaluate such invitations, and shall report its recommendation(s) to the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The place of the annual meeting of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all members of the Society at least three months before the date set for the meeting.

Article VII: Southeastern Division

Section 1. Membership in the Southeastern Division is open to ASIH members in good standing residing in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Active membership status within the Southeastern Division shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Division currently in force.

Section 2. The Southeastern Division shall elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Annual meetings of the Southeastern Division shall be held concurrently with the ASIH Annual Meetings when the latter occur in one of the states identified as within the Southeastern Division in Section 1 of this Article.

Article VIII: Quorum

At the Annual Meeting, one hundred members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, 30 votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

Article IX: Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed: (a) by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or (b) by written and signed petition from at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing of ASIH.

Section 2. Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least three (3) months prior to the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 3. Proposed amendments of this Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors voting and two-thirds of the members voting at the annual general meeting.

Section 4. Dissolution of the society shall require two-thirds assent from members of the Board of Governors voting and ratification by mail ballot of two-thirds of the membership voting in response.

Section 5. In case of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to a successor non-profit society organized for educational, professional, or scientific

purposes, or if no successor society is designated by the members of this Society, then the assets shall be transferred to some other non-profit organization of like character as determined by the members of this Society by response in mail ballot.

BYLAWS

Article I: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be payable 1 January, in advance. COPEIA shall not be sent to those in arrears for dues. Upon payment of arrearage, plus a late fee calculated as 10% of the annual dues, the former member shall be reinstated.

Section 2. A service charge calculated by the Secretary to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

Section 3. The schedule of dues will be estimated by the Treasurer, proposed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors to meet the financial needs of the society.

Article II: President

Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the general business meeting.

Section 2. The President shall also appoint the committees prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws, and such other representatives or committees as may prove necessary. The President and President-Elect shall be members of all committees.

Article III: Secretary

Section 1. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society and report at the annual meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be responsible for sending out notices announcing the annual meeting and for arranging the agenda for the Board of Governors and general business meetings at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Section 4. The Secretary shall make such purchases and employ such assistance as is necessary to conduct the business of the Society. The Secretary shall be responsible for authorizing disbursement of funds for the expenses of society offices within limits to be set annually by the Executive Committee. All such expenditures will be reported to and are subject to review and ratification by the Board of Governors.

Section 5. Unless other appointments are made by the President, the Secretary shall act as delegate or representative of this Society at meetings of related societies covering matters of mutual interest.

Section 6. The Secretary shall arrange for an annual professional audit of the financial record and statement of the Treasurer and shall transmit the auditor's report to the annual meeting of the Board of Governors.

Section 7. Any copyright requests or copyright-related issues and the associated records-keeping shall be handled by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor.

Section 8. Publications storage.

a. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring safe storage, sale, and other disposal of back numbers of COPEIA and other Society publications.

b. The Secretary may employ such assistance including outside contractual assistance as may be necessary to discharge these functions.

c. The Secretary will report annually to the Board of Governors on the status and disposal of backlogged items.

Article IV: Treasurer

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the funds and securities of the Society.

Section 2. At the annual meetings of the Society, the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds and monies of the Society, the statement to cover the calendar year.

Article V. Editorial Offices

Section 1. Editor

a. The Editor shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the journal COPEIA. The Editor shall bear the final responsibility and authority for all materials published in COPEIA.

b. In the processing of manuscripts submitted for publication in COPEIA, the Editor shall allocate manuscript workload among the Sectional Editors, and shall receive their recommendations on manuscripts that have cleared the review process.

c. The Editor shall report through the ASIH Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and shall seek Executive Committee and Board of Governor approval for any substantive change in ASIH publishing product or practice, especially where new or unanticipated expenditures of ASIH funds are involved.

d. The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee, and the Publications Policy Committee and serves as Chair, Editorial Policy Committee.

e. In situations that may arise between annual meetings, the Editor (upon consultation with and approval by the Executive Committee) may appoint a substitute (or co-participant) for a given editorial office.

Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors

a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

b. Two Book Review Editors shall promote the announcement and critical review of important new works in Herpetology and Ichthyology, respectively.

c. An Index Editor shall be responsible for production of the annual index to COPEIA. The Index Editor shall archive materials for periodic multi-year indices to be prepared as deemed necessary.

d. Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by two persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

Article VI: Editorial Board

An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Divisional Editors, up to six board members each, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. The Chair of the Local Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee if possible, at least six months before the time of the meeting.

Section 2. The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program.

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. Committees of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are categorized as Standing Committees, Continuing Committees, Recurring Committees and Special Purpose Committees.

Section 2. Except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS all committee appointments are made by the President and carry a tenure of appointment of one year. By arrangement between the President and the incoming Committee Chair, Subcommittees may be appointed and delegated to specific functions. Subcommittees are not listed separately and exist at the discretion of the President and the full Committee.

Section 3. Committee service, including that of Committee Chairs, is upon a calendar year basis, commencing January 1 and ending December 31, except for the Nominating Committee and Chair, which serve from meeting to meeting. Committees are appointed by the President at or soon after the annual meeting of the year preceding service. The report of a Committee Chair is submitted through the Secretary for presentation at the annual meeting immediately after the termination of the calendar year of service. Except where provided for separately, continuation of appointment of a Committee Chair or Committee member is at the discretion of the cognizant President and the member in service.

Section 4. The charge to and purview of the Committee shall normally follow that listed in the ASIH Procedures Manual, subject to modification, individually or separately, by the President, Executive Committee and/or Board of Governors, except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION or BYLAWS.

Section 5. Standing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which must be renewed yearly to conduct society business. Standing Committees are as follows:

ANBM	Annual Business Meeting
BOFG	Board of Governors
EDBD	Editorial Board
EDPC	Editorial Policy Committee
ENFC	Endowment and Finance Committee

EXEC	Executive Committee
GFAC	Gaige Fund Award Committee
GSPC	Committee on Graduate Student Participation
HSFC	Henry S. Fitch Award Committee
LOCL	Local Committee for the Annual Meeting
LRPP	Long Range Planning and Policy Committee
MMGT	Meetings Management Committee
MPLN	Meetings Planning Committee
NOMC	Nominating Committee
RFAC	Raney Fund Award Committee
RHGC	Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Award Committee
RKJC	Robert K. Johnson Award Committee
STAC	Student Awards Committee

Section 6. Continuing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which are normally renewed yearly to conduct society business. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Continuing Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

Section 7. Recurring Committees are those which are appointed on an episodic basis, as need occurs. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Recurring Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

Section 8. Special Purpose Committees are those which are appointed normally on a one-time basis, as need occurs. Appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. The President shall define the charge to each Special Purpose Committee upon appointment. Unless renewed by the succeeding president each such Committee shall cease to exist after a period of time up to one calendar year, commencing January 1 after date of appointment.

Article IX: Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members; three in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, and two in the alternate discipline. Five ASIH members in good standing shall comprise the Nominating Committee and serve meeting to meeting: (a) One of the two members of the outgoing Nominating Committee who is in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected. This person shall be elected and serve as chair of the new committee. (b) The immediate Past-President of the Society. This position shall be filled automatically. (c) One person in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, chosen from at least two persons nominated by the Board of Governors. (d) Two persons in the alternate discipline chosen from at least four persons nominated

Section 2. If only one of the two persons from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair of the new committee, this person shall receive the chairship automatically. If neither person from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair, the Past-President shall assume the chairship and the President shall nominate two additional persons in the appropriate discipline. If

the Board of Governors fails to nominate the number of persons listed above for positions (c) and (d), the President shall provide the balance of the nominations.

Section 3. The election of the Nominating Committee shall be at the business meeting of the Society. All nominees, including additional nominations from the floor at the business meeting for positions (c) and (d), must provide a written agreement to serve on the committee, which would include the possibility of a second year of service as chair.

Article X: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee

Section 1. The Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and such others as the President may feel desirable. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed. Six other members shall be similarly appointed and the expiration dates of the terms of their service shall be staggered in order to provide continuity. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Committee shall identify desirable Society policies and activities and shall advise the Board of Governors and Membership on the best way to carry out and fund Society activities.

Section 3. The Committee is responsible for the development and updating, to reflect current practice, of the ASIH Procedures Manual, and from time to time make suggestions for improvements and best response to available technologies and opportunities.

Section 4. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Endowment and Finance Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XI: Endowment and Finance Committee

Section 1. The Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and shall consist of five members, including the Chair. To provide continuity, members of the Committee will have staggered, five-year terms. One member should be a business person or someone with considerable experience in investing. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve one year in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment Committee.

Section 3. The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising and investment of the endowment.

Section 4. The Committee shall advise the Society on all matters pertaining to the General Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Fund.

Section 5. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee and shall advise officials of the Society in the management of all funds and moneys of the Society.

Section 6. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XII: Funds

Section 1. Society Funds and income derived therefrom shall be used only for tax-exempt purposes.

Section 2. Funds of the Society shall be as follows:

a. The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the annual National Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

b. The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the National Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

c. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize, as determined by a selected panel of judges, based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. The basis for an award decision shall be determined by a Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists, each serving a three-year term. Each year one member is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors among nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. The Senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

d. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

f. The Life Membership Fund shall consist of dues received from Life Members. The interest from this Fund shall be added to the principal. When this Fund exceeds by \$1000 or more the sum computed as adequate to pay costs of fulfilling

Society obligations to Life Members, the excess shall be transferred to the Endowment Fund.

g. The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.

After the Fund grows large enough to be handled by a professional money manager, the Board of Governors will appoint an Investing Trustee(s) to handle the investments. The number of trustees will be determined by the Board of Governors, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities to the Society. The Endowment Committee will advise the Board of Governors on these matters and monitor the activities of the trustee(s). The General Endowment Fund initially will be invested in a cash or income instrument fund to be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. After the Fund is invested in a broad range of securities, a percentage of the net asset value will be dispersed annually by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. All money, stocks, bonds, or other property offered to the Society for purposes other than application to the publication expenses or other operating expenses of the Society can be accepted only by a majority of the Board of Governors, except that the acceptance of any such funds donated for use by any duly constituted activity of the Society, including the General Endowment Fund, can be approved by the Executive Committee. Acceptance of such money, stocks, bonds, or other property by the Board of Governors shall be only with the establishment by the Board of procedures to implement its use. All proposed funds shall be accompanied by a proffered gift or proposed funding source.

Section 4. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists may formally recognize major donors to the General Endowment Fund. Four levels of major donors are: Supporter, \$1000--2999; Sponsor, \$3000--9999; Patron, \$10,000--24,999; Benefactor, \$25,000 or higher. No benefits will be provided to donors.

Article XIII: Honorary Foreign Members

The number of Honorary Foreign Members shall not exceed 30.

Article XIV: Society Sets of COPEIA

Official bound sets of COPEIA shall be maintained in the offices of the Editor and the Secretary.

Article XV: Committees

Such committees as the President shall deem necessary shall be appointed by the President or by the presiding officer at the annual meeting, unless the composition and function of committees be otherwise set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws or in motions passed by the Board of Governors or by the membership at large at the annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified, committees shall serve from one annual meeting until the next and shall normally be appointed by the President during the annual meeting.

Article XVI: Procedures

Procedures and other items, not specified in the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society or by action at the annual meeting, shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Appendix M. Candidate Information for the 2006 Elections

PRESIDENT-ELECT

David M. Green, Professor, Director and Curator of Vertebrates, Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montréal, Québec H3A 2K6, Canada. Tel: (514) 398-4086 ext 4088, fax: 398-3185; email: david.m.green@mcgill.ca

Research Interests: I study anuran amphibians in all manner of ways as I have long maintained that they are the “system” I can use to understand the biology of organisms. Thus I study ecology, behavior, genetics, morphology and evolution of anurans, bringing all of those aspects to bear upon understanding why animals are what they are and do what they do. Some specific aspects of my recent work include looking into evolutionary divergence between populations, historical biogeography, interspecific hybridization, determinants of species’ ranges, dispersal dynamics and the biology of population declines. Current research projects include long- and short-term studies of population dynamics, landscape ecology and conservation genetics of Fowler's toads, *Bufo fowleri*, and other amphibians.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors (1996 – 2001, 2004 - present), Local Host for 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Montréal, Resolutions Committee Chair (2004), Conservation Committee (2005 - present), Stoye Award judge (1988), Symposium organizer (two symposia in 1989), Session Chair numerous times, Reviewer of a great many manuscripts for *Copeia*, Member since 1977. Invited to run for President of ASIH in 2001 but declined the nomination due to election as President of SSAR.

Goals as President of ASIH: New challenges face our society in an age of electronic publishing and web-based communications, ever more sophisticated methods for doing science, and the increasing need for conservation to ensure the survival of animal populations. As President of ASIH, I will work to enhance the stature of *Copeia* as the premier outlet for herpetological and ichthyological research by co-operating with the editors and Editorial Committee to find mechanisms to encourage submission of top-flight research papers and to maintain high editorial standards. I will seek to take best advantage of electronic publishing for *Copeia* and other society publications by working with the Editorial and Executive committees to find the right options for our society. I will strive to maintain and enhance the vitality of our annual meetings by encouraging close co-operation between local hosts and the ASIH planning committees and exploring of avenues to reduce costs for people attending meetings. I will see that the ASIH website continues upgrading to take advantage of web-based technologies that can increase its utility to members and encourage young scientists to join. I will work with the ASIH membership to develop and implement new ways to acknowledge outstanding contributions to herpetology and ichthyology, and to our society, and I will encourage the international reach and involvement of the ASIH to attract new members from other countries. I will promote conservation issues concerning fishes, amphibians and reptiles in the USA and other countries by encouraging an active role for our Conservation committee to endorse the conservation and recovery of endangered species and the protection of natural areas. Finally, I intend to play a leading role in co-operating with our sister societies, the SSAR, HL and AES, and other like-minded organizations to

promote our common interests in the study and conservation of fishes, amphibians and reptiles.

Henry R. Mushinsky, Professor and Graduate Director, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620, mushinsk@cas.usf.edu.

Research Interests: Henry received the Ph.D. in Zoology from Clemson University in 1973 under E. D. Brodie, Jr. He joined the faculty at the University of South Florida (USF) in 1979 after spending six years as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. While at LSU, Henry focused his research on the ecology of water snakes. Since joining the faculty at USF, his research has focused on conservation issues and rare and listed species. He has published on fire ecology, the gopher tortoise, the effects of phosphate mining on vertebrates, the use of anurans to evaluate the health of wetlands, the sand skink, and mangrove water snakes. Henry has about 85 published papers and co-edited one book. He has attracted about 3.5 million dollars in research funding, much of it with his colleague Earl D. McCoy. Henry and Earl soon will begin a three year project on the sand skink (*Neoseps (Eumeces) reynoldsi*), a federally listed species and shall continue to conduct research on the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and anurans.

ASIH Service: Henry has been active in all three herpetological societies and served as President of the SSAR (1997) and the HL (2003-05). Henry was on the ASIH Board of Governors from 1990-95 and is currently serving a second term on the BOG that expires in 2009. He has been a member of the ASIH Conservation Committee since 1995, and a member of the Meeting Management Committee since 2003. Henry served as a judge for a variety of ASIH student awards over the years. Henry and Phil Motta were co-chairs for the 2005 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Tampa in 2005.

Goals as President of ASIH: As President of the ASIH, Henry would strive to uphold one of the key statements in the ASIH mission statement that reads, "The programs of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are part of a global effort to interpret, understand, and conserve the Earth's natural diversity and to contribute to the wise use of natural resources for the long-term benefit of humankind." Also he would strive to make the society more appealing to young scientists. In part, this could be accomplished by seeking more research papers submitted to Copeia that deal with conservation related topics. Henry also would work to increase cooperative efforts among the four North American societies that have united to create the joint meeting of ichthyologists and herpetologists.

SECTION EDITOR FOR ECOLOGY & ETHOLOGY

JOEL M. SNODGRASS, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Towson University, Towson, Maryland 21252. Tel.: 410-704-5033; Fax: 410-704-2455; Email: jsnodgrass@towson.edu.

Research Interests: Evolution, population, and community ecology of fishes and amphibians; conservation biology of stream fishes and pond-breeding amphibians; amphibian toxicology.

ASIH Service: Member Editorial Board 2003-2006, Paper Session Moderator, Stoye Judge.

SECTION EDITOR FOR GENERAL ICHTHYOLOGY

Carl J. Ferraris, Jr., Co-Principal Investigator, All Catfish Species Inventory; Research Associate: National Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, and California Academy of Sciences. Address: 2944 NE Couch St, Portland, OR, 97232. Tel. 503 234-2095; email carlferraris@comcast.net.

Research Interests: Systematic studies of the Siluriformes; Nomenclature of Fishes; Fishes of Myanmar

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1998-2003; Copeia Editorial Board, 2004, 2006; Local Committee member, 1990; Symposium organizer, Catfish Characters and Clades, 1988; Workshop organizer, Nomenclature for Novices, 1997.

SECTION EDITOR FOR GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT & MORPHOLOGY

Jacqueline F. Webb, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085, Phone (610) 519-4807, FAX (610) 519-7863, E-mail jacqueline.webb@villanova.edu.

Research Areas: Developmental and evolutionary morphology of fishes, sensory biology, mechanosensory lateral line.

ASIH Service: Copeia, Interim Section Editor, Genetics, Development & Morphology (2005-Pres.); Editorial Policy Committee (2005-Pres.); Editorial Board (1999-2001); Copeia Review Implementation Committee (2005-Pres.); Board of Governors (elected to 5-year term, 1994-1999); Stoye Award Committee: Ecology and Ethology Chair (2001), Genetics, Development & Morphology Chair (1992, 1997), Judge (1989, 2005); Raney Award Committee, Chair (1992), Judge (1991); Faculty Liaison, Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs Comm. (1995-1999).

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR, HERPETOLOGY

Taran Grant, Postdoctoral Fellow, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. Tel: 212-769-5247; Email: grant@amnh.org.

Research Interests: Neotropical herpetology, phylogenetics, amphibian systematics, molecular, behavioral, and morphological evolution, bioinformatics.

ASIH Service: none.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR, ICHTHYOLOGY

W. Leo Smith, Lerner-Gray Postdoctoral Fellow, American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ichthyology, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. Tel: 212-769-5768, Fax: 212 769 5642; email: leosmith@amnh.org

Research Interests: Systematics, comparative anatomy, molecular evolution, and biogeography of fishes; evolution of piscine venoms; vertebrate bioluminescence.

ASIH Service: *Copeia* illustration editor: 2005-present; reviewer for *Copeia*.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lawrence M. Page. Division of Ichthyology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800

Research Interests: Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on percids and siluriforms. Current projects include revision of Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater fishes, Planetary Biodiversity Inventory of Catfishes, and a new book on darters.

ASIH Service: President 2003, Treasurer 1992-2000, Executive Committee 1992-2005, Board of Governors 1986-present, Chair, Local Meeting Committee 1992, Editorial Board 1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, Robert H. Gibbs Memorial Award Committee 2003-2005 (Chair 2005), Web Content & Management Committee 2004, Robert K. Johnson Award Committee 2004 (Chair, 2004), Nominating Committee (as Past-President) 2004-2005.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (HERPETOLOGY)

Chris Beachy, Professor, Department of Biology, Minot State University, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024-5192. Tel.: 701-858-3164; Fax: 701-858-4150; Email: christopher.beachy@minotstateu.edu.

Research Interests: Amphibian metamorphosis; life histories of salamanders; salamander genomics; conservation biology and toxicology of amphibians.

ASIH Service: Judge, Stoye and Storer award for General Herpetology, 2004; reviewer for *Copeia* since 1993.

Stanley F. Fox, Regents Professor of Zoology and Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. Tel: 405-744-9682; Fax: 405-744-7824; Email: foxstan@okstate.edu.

Research Interests: Lizard social organization and sexual selection; social cost of tail autotomy; global amphibian declines; amphibian disease; forest herpetofaunal community structure.

ASIH Service: Editorial Board, 1993-98; Board of Governors, 2001-present; Henry S. Fitch Award Committee, 2003-05; Chair, 2005; Sectional Editor for Ecology and Ethology, 2003-present.

Andrew Storfer, Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4236; (509) 335-7922; Fax (509) 335-3184; Email: astorfer@wsu.edu

Research Interests: Disease ecology and coevolution, population and landscape genetics, phylogeography, limits to species' ranges

ASIH Service: Member at large since 1998, Attended/ presented at 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 National Meetings, Ad hoc reviewer of approximately 15 manuscripts for *Copeia*. Published two articles in *Copeia* (1999, 2004). As part of the joint meetings in Manaus, Brazil, 2003, Co-chaired a symposium on Amphibian Diseases.

Other notes: Chaired a graduate student's committee who won the Gaige Award (Andy Giordano 2003); won the Herpetologist's League Award for Graduate Research at the

1997 joint meeting of ASIH, SSAR and HL. Associate Editor, Herpetology, *Western North American Naturalist* (2001-2005).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (ICHTHYOLOGY)

Walter R. Courtenay, Jr. Center for Aquatic Resources Studies, U.S. Geological Survey, 7920 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653-4065

Research Interests: Systematics and ecology of freshwater and inshore marine fishes. Primary research interests are on distribution and environmental effects of introduced, nonindigenous fishes. Current projects include participation as an author on a new book containing biological synopses and risk assessments on three species of introduced Asian carps and development of a tri-national risk assessment process on invasive fishes for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1970-1975, 1979-1984; Environmental Quality Committee (now the Conservation Committee), Chair 1975-1980, 1981-1995; member 1995-present; Committee on Public Affairs, member 1985-1995; ASIH and the National Biological Survey, Liaison Officer 1993-1995.

Philip J. Motta. Professor of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620

Research Interests: Functional and ecological morphology of fishes, biomechanics, evolution of functional systems. Current research primarily focuses on the feeding morphology and behavior of sharks and rays, suction feeding performance in sharks, evolution of shark feeding mechanisms.

ASIH Service: AES Grant Fund Committee 1996-1997; AES Board of Governors 1997-2004; AES Executive Committee 1998-2003; AES Conference Committee 1998-2005; AES Publication Fund Committee 1998; AES Don Nelson Grant Fund Committee 1998-2001; AES President 1998; AES Past-President 1999-2004; AES Nominating Committee 2003; ASIH Stoye Award Judge; ASIH meeting Co-Host 2005, Tampa, FL.

ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE

Carole C. Baldwin, Division of Fishes, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012

Research Interests: Systematic ichthyology, especially diversity and evolutionary history of tropical-marine and deep-sea fishes; patterns of speciation and morphological divergence in Caribbean and eastern Pacific fishes; ontogeny; marine conservation.

ASIH Service: Editorial Board for *Copeia* 1997-2000; Nominating Committee, 1994-1995; Stoye Award Judge for General Ichthyology, Los Angeles 1995, Seattle 1997 (Committee Chair), State College 1999; Mentor in Equal Participation Program, ASIH La Paz 2000; Stoye Award Judge for Genetics Development & Morphology, ASIH, State College, PA, 2001.

Carl J. Ferraris, Jr., Co-Principal Investigator, All Catfish Species Inventory; Research Associate: National Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, and California Academy of Sciences. Address: 2944 NE Couch St, Portland, OR, 97232. Tel. 503 234-2095; email: carlferraris@comcast.net

Research Interests: Systematic studies of the Siluriformes; Nomenclature of Fishes; Fishes of Myanmar

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1998-2003; *Copeia* Editorial Board, 2004; Local Committee member, 1990; Workshop organizer, Nomenclature for Novices, 1997; Symposium organizer, Catfish Characters and Clades, 1988.

Theodore W. Pietsch: Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences; Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology; and Curator of Fishes, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195.

Research Interests: Marine ichthyology, especially the biosystematics, zoogeography, and behavior of deep-sea fishes; and the history of science, especially pre-Linnean history of ichthyology. Major projects currently underway include books on Deep-sea Anglerfishes of the world, Fishes of Puget Sound, and an annotated English translation of Georges Cuvier's History of the Natural Sciences.

Service to ASIH: Member, Board of Governors, Class of 1981; member, Long-Range Planning and Finance Committee, 1977-1981; member, Resolutions Committee, 1980, 1982; member, Nominating Committee, 1980-1981; chairperson, Resolutions Committee, 1981; member, Board of Governors, Class of 1987; member, Committee on Honorary Foreign members, 1982-1983; General Ichthyological Editor, *Copeia*, 1986-1991; member, Nominating Committee, 1991-1992; member, Robert H; Gibbs Award Committee, 1991-1994; Faculty Representative, Committee on Graduate Student Participation, 1991-1995; Chairperson, Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections and Resources Committee, 1992-1995; member, Board of Governors, Class of 1998; Chairperson, Robert H; Gibbs Award Committee, 1994; member, Time, Place, and Program Committee, 1994-present; member, Committee on Book-length Publications, 1995-1996; President-Elect, 1996; member, Committee on Special Publications, 1996-1999; Chairperson, Local Committee, 77th Annual Meeting University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 26 June—2 July 1997; President, 1997; Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Meeting Guidelines, 1998-1999; member, Nominating Committee, 1999.

HENRY S. FITCH COMMITTEE

Aaron M. Bauer, Professor of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085. Tel: 610-519-4857, fax 610-519-7863; email aaron.bauer@villanova.edu.

Research Interests: Systematics, phylogenetics, biogeography and evolutionary morphology of squamates, particularly lizards of the Old World tropics and south temperate zones.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors (1993-1997, 2000-2004), Resolutions Committee (1996), Endowment Committee (1998-present), Nominating Committee (1996, 2004).

Kevin de Queiroz, Curator and Research Zoologist, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Tel: 202-633-0727; Fax: 202-357-3043; E-mail: dequeirk@si.edu.

Research Interests: evolutionary biology of reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, with emphasis on phylogenetic systematics; theory of systematic biology.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1991-1995; Nominations Committee, 1991-1992; Stoye Award Judge, 2001; Committee on Standard English and Current Scientific Names of North American Reptiles and Amphibians (joint ASIH, HL, SSAR committee), 1997-present; Reviewer for *Copeia*, 1991-present.

Harold K. Voris, Curator, Department of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605. Tel: 312-665-7769; email hvoris@fieldmuseum.org.

Research Interests: Ecology, systematics, molecular phylogenetics, biogeography, and conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles with special interests on marine and freshwater snakes.

ASIH Service: Member of Board of Governors and Long Range Planning Committee 1977-1981, 1983-1988; Chairman of Subcommittee on Special Collections 1977-1979; Chairman of Time, Place, and Program Committee 1978-1981; Chairman of Joint Committee on Resources in Herpetology (with S.S.A.R.) 1979; Chairman of Joint Committee on Management of Systematic Resources 1980; Chairman of Committee on Program Excellence 1982-83; Chairman of Nominations Committee 1985-1986; Chairman of Ad Hoc Committee for Honorary Foreign Members (1995-1996).

ROBERT K. JOHNSON COMMITTEE

Janalee P. Caldwell, Curator and Professor of Zoology, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73072. Tel.: 405-325-5022; Fax: 405-325-7699; email: caldwell@ou.edu.

Research Interests: Ecology, behavioral ecology, and systematics of amphibians, especially Neotropical frogs.

ASIH Service: Co-editor, General Herpetology section, *Copeia*, 1988-1991; Stoye Award Judge for best Graduate Student Paper, 1993 and 1997; Board of Governors, 1992-1997 and 1999-2004; Nominating Committee, 2000; Chair, Local Committee, 2004 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Brian I. Crother, Professor of Biology and Assistant Dean, College of Science and Technology Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA 70402. Tel.: 985-549-2055; Fax: 985-549-3396; Email: bcrother@selu.edu

Research Interests: Evolutionary genetics and biogeography amphibians and reptiles; evolution and development.

ASIH Service: Storey Award Committee, 1992; Resolutions Committee, 1996; Local Host (New Orleans) Organizing Committee, 1996; Session Chair Committee, 1996; Storer Award Committee, 1996; Chair, Storer Award Committee, 1998; Storer Award Committee, 1999; Chair, Stoye and Storer Award Committees, 2000; Board of Governors, 2000-2004; Meeting Planning Committee, 2002–; Meeting Management Committee, 2002–; Local Host Committee (New Orleans), 2006.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – HERPETOLOGY

Dean Adams, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011. Tel.: 515-294-3834; Fax: 515-294-1337; Email: dcadams@iastate.edu; <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~dcadams/>

Research Interests: salamander ecomorphology, community ecology, evolution of phenotypic diversity, theory of phenotypic pattern analysis.

ASIH Service: Society member since 1998. Reviewer of *Copeia* manuscripts.

Steven J. Beaupre, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Tel: 479-575-7561; Fax: 479-575-4010; Email:

sbeaupre@uark.edu.

Research Interests: Physiological Ecology of Squamates, bioenergetics, and life history. Effects of environment (food and temperature) on metabolism, growth, and reproduction.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1998 - 2005; Section Editor, *Copeia* Physiology and Physiological Ecology. Sp. 2002 -2005; *Copeia* Editorial Policy Board 2002-2005; Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee - Chair, 1999 - 2004. Revised guidelines for use of Amphibians and Reptiles in research; Fitch Award Committee, Chair, 2002; Resolutions Committee, Chair, Annual Meeting, La Paz, B.C.S. Mexico 2000; Student Awards Competition Chair, Guelph, Ontario 1998 meeting.; Stoye Award Competition Judge, Competition, annual meetings 1996, 1997, 2005.

Rafe M. Brown, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Assistant Curator of Herpetology, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS 66045, Tel: (785) 864-4304; FAX (785) 864-5335; Email: rafe@ku.edu; <http://nhm.ku.edu/rbrown>

Research Interests: Process of diversification in island archipelagos; phylogenetic systematics and historical biogeography; evolution of anuran mate recognition systems and advertisement call character evolution; diversity and conservation of SE Asian amphibians and reptiles.

ASIH Service: Reviewer for *Copeia*

Frank Burbrink, Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island/City University of New York, Biology Department, 6S-143, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314, burbrink@mail.csi.cuny.edu, Fax# 718-982-3852

Research Interests: Phylogenetics and phylogeography of snakes and salamanders. Statistical phylogenetic theory.

ASIH Service: Reviewer for *Copeia*

Tiffany M. Doan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley St, New Britain, CT 06053 USA. Tel.: 860-832-2676; Fax 860-832-2594; Email: tiffperu@yahoo.com.

Research Interests: Evolutionary biology of reptiles and amphibians; taxonomy; biogeography; ecology of South American herpetofauna.

ASIH Service: Society Member since 1994; Session Moderator 2004 Joint Meetings.

James Hanken, Professor of Biology, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Curator in Herpetology and Director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. Tel: 617-495-2496; fax: 617-495-5667; email: hanken@oeb.harvard.edu.

Research Interests: Evolutionary morphology; evolutionary developmental biology; taxonomy systematics of neotropical salamanders.

ASIH Service: Board of Governors, 1982–92, 2000–04; Publications Secretary, 1982–82.

Jason J. Kolbe, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 Tel: 812.855.8250; Email: jkolbe@indiana.edu

Research Interests: Evolutionary genetics, evolutionary ecology, community ecology, and invasion biology of reptiles

ASIH Service: Reviewer for *Copeia*

Anne M. Maglia, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO 65409. Tel: 573-341-7190; Fax: 573-341-4821; Email: magliaa@umr.edu.

Research Interests: Evolution and systematics of amphibians; amphibian development and life history; development of computational methods for visualizing and analyzing biological data.

ASIH Service: Annual meeting session chair 2004; reviewer for *Copeia*.

Sarah A. Smith, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5245. Tel: 631-632-1886, Fax: 631-632-7626. Email: ssmith@life.bio.sunysb.edu

Research Interests: Phylogeny and biogeography of reptiles, reptile diversity in New Caledonia, evolutionary and ecological determinants of species richness.

ASIH Service: none

Emily N. Taylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0401. Tel.: 805-756-2616; Fax: 805-756-1419; Email: etaylor@calpoly.edu.

Research Interests: Environmental physiology of reptiles, including thermal, endocrine, and reproductive physiology.

ASIH Service: *Copeia* reviewer.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS - ICHTHYOLOGY

James S. Albert. Department of Biology 42451, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504. Tel: (337) 482-6627

Research Interests. Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on Gymnotiformes. Projects include a faunal survey and inventory of a Peruvian Amazon floodplain, historical biogeography of Neotropical fishes, body size evolution, systematic revisions of several gymnotiform taxa (*Gymnotus*, *Brachyhypopomus*, Steatogenini, *Rhabdolichops*, *Sternopygus*), functional genomics,

development and diversification of electric organs and electric signals, and an electric eel genome project.

ASIH Service. Served as an external reviewer for Copeia.

Salvador Contreras-Balderas, PhD. J. Solís 1504, Colonia La Nogalera
San Nicolás de los Garza, N. L., México 66417.

Research Interests. Fish Biosystematics, Endangered and alien's fish species, Fish as bioindicators of impacts.

ASIH Service. Indirectly, I have participated in the combined Committees ASIH/AFS for fish at risk since 1978, and at Names of fishes since 1994. Also served on ASIH Conservation Committee since 2005.

Marlis R Douglas. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474.

Research Interests: Evolution, ecology and conservation of fishes. Geographic emphasis on Western North America. Primary research interests involve molecular approaches that (a) address questions in biogeography, systematics, phylogeography, population structure, population dynamics, and behavioral ecology of fishes; (b) decipher small- to large-scale patterns of diversification within a landscape perspective, as a guide for biodiversity conservation.

ASIH Service: Book Review Editor Ichthyology, 2003-2006; Editorial Policy Committee, 2003-2006; Board or Governors, 2002-2006; Editorial Assistant Copeia, 1995-1998; Stoye Award Committee, 2001; Resolutions Committee, 2000.

Rebecca C. Fuller: Department of Animal Biology, University of Illinois, 104 Shelford Vivarium, 606 E. Healey, Champaign, IL 61820.

Research Interests: Ecology, ethology, and evolution of fishes. Primary research interests are on fundulids and percids. Current projects include large scale quantitative genetics study to estimate the heritability of vision physiology and behavior as well as genetic correlations between behaviors in addition to a speciation project examining the role of salinity tolerance in diversification in fundulids.

ASIH Service: None. ASIH member (1999-present).

Terry Grande. Department of Biology, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago IL, 60305.

Research Interests: Systematics, development, and biogeography. Primary research interests are on actinopterygian systematics. Current research projects include the evolution of sound transmission mechanisms within actinopterygians, the development of the anterior vertebral region in lower teleosts, esociform evolution and hybridization patterns within the Esociformes. I am currently serving as editor for the book "A Comprehensive Review of Gonorynchiformes and of Ostariophysan Relationships", Scientific Publishers, Inc. I am a member of the DeepFin Steering Committee and Chair of the student exchange subcommittee.

ASIH Service: Reviewer for Copeia.

Phillip M. Harris. Curator of Fishes, Dept. of Biological Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0345

Research Interests: Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on cyprinids, catostomids, centrarchids, and atherinopsids. Current projects include Cypriniformes Tree of Life Project, and NSF Collections Improvement Grant for UA's Ichthyology, Herpetology, and Malacology collections.

ASIH Service: Book Raffle Coordinator for the Committee on Graduate Student Participation, 1994-1996.

Eric J. Hilton. Geology Department, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL, 60605

Research Interests: Comparative anatomy and phylogenetic systematics of actinopterygian fishes. Current projects include: a monograph on the descriptive, developmental, and comparative osteology and systematics of sturgeons; osteology and biogeography of living and fossil Osteoglossidae; a redescription of the electric knife-fish genus *Orthosternarchus*; a descriptive osteology of the Indo-Pacific carangid genus *Parastromateus*.

ASIH Service: Editorial Board, 2001-present; Judge, Storer Award, 2005.

Carol E. Johnston, Department of Fisheries, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849

Research interests: Behavioral ecology and conservation of fishes; primarily percids and cyprinids. Current projects include the evolution of acoustic signals in darters and North American minnows, life history variation in response to habitat degradation, fish movement and relationships of habitat patch size and connectivity to population dynamics of imperiled fishes.

ASIH service: Raney fund award, 1991; Local committee, 1992; Stoye award, Ecology and Ethology, 1992; Resolutions committee, 1992; Symposium organizer, 1992; President, Southeastern Division, ASIH, 1997; Chair, student awards committee, 2003; Board of Governors, 1999-2003; Long range planning committee, 2003 - present.

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Research Interests: Systematics and molecular evolution of fishes. Primary research interests are on early euteleost divergences, anguilliforms and siluriforms. Current projects include phylogeny of anguilliforms, taxonomic revision of several bagrid genera, phylogeography and introgression in North American freshwater groups and genome size evolution in esociforms.

ASIH Service: Graduate Student Participation 1998 & 1999; Local Meeting Committee, 1997; Reviewer for Copeia, 2000-present

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Research Interests: Systematics, life history, biogeography and ecology of fishes.

ASIH Service: Reviewer for *Copeia*; Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee (1992-present); Joint ASIH/AFS Committee on Fish Names, Advisory Subcommittee (2005-present); Curatorial Supplies and Practices Committee (1988-1992); Chair, Curation Newsletter Subcommittee (1994-present).