



ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

AFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee (FWRPC)

Subcommittee on Water (SOW) Water Data Webinar

August 10, 2020

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (ET)





THE VOICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

- Founded in 1902
 - represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use.
- Membership
 - State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies, non governmental organizations, and life members





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Our Mission

To support and advocate for State, Provincial, and Territorial responsibility for science-based fish and wildlife conservation.

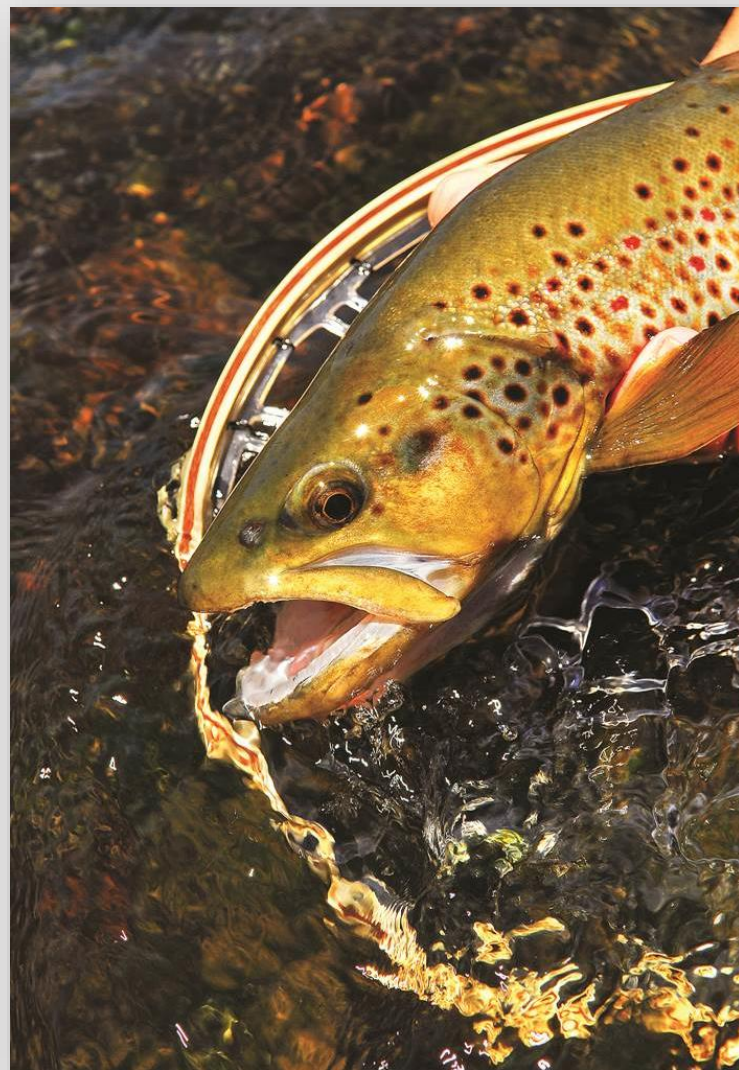




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Contribute their expertise on **more than 70 committees**, subcommittees and working groups....

Agricultural Conservation ▪ Amphibian & Reptile Conservation ▪ Angler/Boating Participation ▪ Annual Meeting/Awards/Nominating ▪ Audit ▪ Bird Conservation ▪ Climate Change ▪ Education, Outreach & Diversity ▪ Energy and Wildlife Policy ▪ Executive ▪ Federal and Tribal Relations ▪ Finance ▪ Fish & Wildlife Health ▪ Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund ▪ [Fisheries/Water Resources Policy](#) ▪ Hunting/Shooting Sports Participation ▪ International Relations ▪ Invasive Species ▪ Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ Leadership/Professional Development ▪ Legal ▪ Legislative and Federal Budget ▪ National Grant ▪ Ocean Resources Policy ▪ Resolutions ▪ Science and Research ▪ Sustainable Use of Wildlife ▪ Technology & Data ▪ Threatened/Endangered Species Policy ▪ Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding ▪ Wildlife Resource Policy ... **and more!**





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Clear Needs identified by 2015 AFWA Drought Forum and Follow-up calls:

1. Build partnerships across governments and with other NGOs
 - a. Better ties to water organizations with links to governors such as Western States Water Council
 - b. Traditional and non-traditional partners recognize and advocate for fish & wildlife habitat as a critical use of water.
2. Use the federal budget process to encourage investment in real-time water quantity and temperature monitoring that will help states make decisions with credible science.
3. Work across boundaries within AFWA
 - a. Establish better links between AFWA Fisheries and Water Resource Policy Committee and other AFWA committees that address water related issues for wildlife in addition to fish and boating access. Consider seeking technical assistance from the Instream Flow Council.
4. Act as a forum for sharing lessons learned
5. Compile tools/resources
 - a. Communication to keep drought in the public eye, avoid the "hydro-illogic cycle"
 - b. International research
- c. Funding mechanisms
- d. Decision support for fish & wildlife management
6. Influence policy decisions
7. Ensure that regulatory flexibility during drought does not negatively affect fish & wildlife
8. Establish better protocol for building flexibility in to ESA
9. Encourage voluntary initiatives for sharing water within states
10. Track policy/legislation changes that might affect state management of fish & wildlife
11. Keep water quantity/quality in the spotlight for long term planning
12. Utilize the drought.gov forum to share information

- The recommendations from the forum could be addressed and managed by standing up a water subcommittee in Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee.
- It is hard to message "drought" when they are having "floods" and is a nightmare to relay to the public and policy makers. Hard to get public attention when they are no longer in a water deficit. (the Hydro-illogic Cycle)

Sponsored by: AFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy, Climate Change, Science & Research, Threatened & Endangered Species Committees and Ocean Resources Policy Committees





Post Drought Forum Action Examples

Through AFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee (FWRPC):

- *Established* Subcommittee on Water (SOW) 2016 (also liaison with other AFWA Fish & Wildlife Committees, Regional Associations and other Stakeholders)
- *Established* formal mechanism for Instream Flow Council scientific & technical assistance and input on instream flow & water level conservation issues
- Improved AFWA coordination with WSWC, WGA, other stakeholders
- Increased engagement on drought & related legislative, regulatory, scientific, technical policy, and other issues potentially negatively impacting adequate amounts of clean water fish & wildlife
- Promoted support for *FLOW 2018 Drought* & similar workshops
<https://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/flow-2018-main/flow-2018-program/>
- SOW Hosting AFWA Water Data Webinar – Aug. 10, 2020





FWRPC Subcommittee on Water, SOW (established 2016)

Focus Areas and Goals:

1. Identify, support, and communicate science, legal, policy and public involvement issues related to water that are of importance to fish and wildlife.
2. Support and build on recommendations from AFWA Drought Forum.





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FWRPC Subcommittee on Water (SOW) Members

Comprised of members from state resource agencies of each major U.S. geographic region and technical representatives, including federal agencies and NGOs

Chaired and Co-chaired by a senior state representative, meets twice annually, and reports directly to the FWRPC

