

Terms of reference for the ASFB Fish Welfare Committee

1. NAME

The name of the Committee shall be the Australian Society for Fish Biology Fish Welfare Committee.

2. SCOPE

The scope of the Australian Society for Fish Biology Fish Welfare Committee (hereafter 'the Committee') is provide guidance on the responsible care and use of fish in Australia and New Zealand, by identifying and promoting research and discussion of best practice ethics and welfare in research and industry.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Committee shall be to provide guidance and information to the membership on the responsible care and use of fish in research and industry. The committee will aim to:

- a) Provide a forum to discuss the challenges and consider solutions for the humane treatment of animals in fisheries research and industry;
- b) Provide evidence-based knowledge to ASFB members, to address practices affecting fish welfare;
- c) Provide guidance and support to link researchers nationwide with ethics committees and other regulatory groups;
- d) Identify and promote specific workshop, training and development opportunities relating to fish welfare and ethics.

4. MEANS OF ATTAINING OBJECTIVES

The following means may be used to attain the objectives of the Committee:

- a) Identify research priorities by i) Holding workshops to identify and discuss key research priorities with members during the ASFB annual meeting, ii) Conducting surveys of members to identify key priorities relating to fish ethics and welfare;
- b) Create an online resource on the ASFB website (members only area) outlining research priorities, state and nationwide regulations, key fish welfare references and a central depository for standard operating procedures;
- c) Generate an end-of-year summary for the ASFB newsletter and report on outcomes from meetings after each annual meeting;
- d) Provide support and guidance to researchers, students and animal ethics committee members regarding fish welfare issues.
- e) Provide support to members on how to enhance the economic, social and cultural value of considering fish welfare in their activities.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Committee shall be:

- (a) One Chair and one Deputy Chair from any jurisdiction who shall co-ordinate the Committee's activities;
- (b) Chair and Deputy Chair are to be determined/elected by members of the Committee;
- (c) One member or their nominated proxy from each jurisdiction as jurisdictional representatives. The Chair and Deputy Chair may also act as the jurisdictional representatives;
- (d) Upon a vacancy in membership, a call for new member nominations will be made to all ASFB members. If there is more than one member who nominates for a position, a vote will be held within the committee. The nominated person will be accepted as a member of the Committee upon the nomination being seconded by any existing member of the Committee.
- (e) Committee members must be members of the Australian Society of Fish Biology.

6. ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee shall hold an annual meeting to coincide with the Australian Society for Fish Biology's annual conference. The Committee meeting shall be open to all members of the ASFB, but only Committee members are eligible to vote on Committee matters.

Any additional non-jurisdictional persons or non-ASFB members with specialist skills may also be invited to attend the Committee's annual meeting as an observer.

7. VOTING

The Chair, Deputy Chair and State, Territory and Federal Government representatives shall be entitled to one vote or shall have the right to appoint a delegate who shall be entitled to one proxy vote, for voting on Committee matters. Committee members may submit votes *in absentia* via the Chair prior to the annual meeting.

8. MANAGEMENT

All meetings will be open to all ASFB members, but that non committee members will not have voting rights. The Committee shall implement the Committee's general business, and a simple majority shall be used to resolve any issues within the Committee meetings. If voting is equal, a motion is lost. A defeated motion can be re-presented at subsequent meetings. A quorum for Committee meetings shall be four, representing at least three jurisdictions. Casual vacancies on the Committee may occur by a committee member resigning or by a committee member ceasing to belong to the Australian Society for Fish Biology. In the event of such casual vacancies the Committee may appoint any suitable member of the Society to the vacant position.

The position of Chair should generally be vacated every two years, (but may be extended at the Committee's discretion, but should not exceed four years). If the Chair wishes to seek re-election they may, as may the Deputy Chair. If the Chair wishes to stand down, the position shall pass to the Deputy Chair, and a new Deputy Chair should be elected. The past Chair may stay as a member of the committee.

All documents produced by the Committee will be approved by the Executive before they are on the ASFB website.

Interested members:

Prof. Culum Brown MQ, NSW
A/Prof. Rafael Freire CSU, NSW
Dr Jonathan Mitchell Qld Fisheries, Qld
Dr Victoria Camilieri-Asch QUT, Qld
Prof. Gerry Closs U.Otago, NZ
Dr Kathryn Hassell RMIT, Vic
*Dr Keller Kopf CDU, NT
*PhD student Nicolette Armansin, MQ, NSW.

*Currently not members