

# **CODE OF ETHICS**

## **SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS CODE OF MEMBER ETHICS**

Mission Statement: To promote understanding, conservation, scientifically based management, and sustainable use of wetlands.

- 1.0 In their interaction with the public, a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists shall:
  - 1.1 Express opinions only on wetland matters for which he or she is knowledgeable or familiar with the facts.
  - 1.2 Facilitate the communication of facts and issues concerning wetlands with the press and other media, except as restricted by contractual obligations.
  - 1.3 Represent the facts and results of research accurately and adequately.
  - 1.4 Represent accurately the capability of the science to resolve environmental problems and the capacity of wetlands to contribute to the welfare of society.
  - 1.5 Reveal any conflicts of interest to clients or the public that may interfere with full representation of the scientific facts as they can be reasonably interpreted and within all appropriate laws.
  - 1.6 Avoid using the symbols of SWS as a vehicle for personal or private gain.
  - 1.7 Convey accurately that SWS membership does not imply certification or qualification to conduct wetland delineations, investigations, or related professional studies.
  
- 2.0 To promote the well being of the profession, members of the Society of Wetland Scientists shall:
  - 2.1 Serve as spokesperson for SWS only as directed by the SWS Board of Directors.
  - 2.2 Promote the profession in a positive but realistic manner, so as to encourage involvement by young professionals and contribute to their advancement in the profession when warranted.
  - 2.3 Practice professional behavior that is free from sexual harassment or discrimination with respect to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, national origin, age, or physical restrictions.
  - 2.4 Use laboratory animals and work in habitats of organisms in nature, including human subjects, in complete conformance with all appropriate laws for the protection of organisms and in line with currently accepted practices for individual species.
  - 2.5 Maintain the confidentiality of information produced for clients, as required by all appropriate laws.
  - 2.6 Produce a signed report to the SWS Executive Board when there is a verifiable breach of code by another member.
  - 2.7 Refrain from injuring the reputation of another scientist through the use of false, biased, or otherwise undocumented claims.
  - 2.8 Be willing to volunteer their services for the public good at a level commensurate with their financial abilities.

- 3.0 To promote the advancement of science, members of the Society of Wetlands Scientist shall:
  - 3.1 Claim authorship of or credit for only those papers, ideas, or practices to which he or she has made substantial and significant contribution through writing, study concepts and design, data collection, or data analysis.
  - 3.2 Not submit manuscripts for publication of material that has already been published or in under review for a different journal or book, without notifying the publisher.
  - 3.3 Not use the unpublished data of others for publication without the consent of and attribution to the principal investigator responsible for collection and maintaining the data.
  - 3.4 Maintain confidentiality of the contents of manuscripts of the author when reviewing a manuscript.
  - 3.5 Report promptly to the editor any errors discovered after a manuscript is published or is submitted for publication.
  - 3.6 Maintain original records of research, methods, results, and analyses for a minimum of three years beyond the termination of the project.
  - 3.7 Keep informed of advances in the field of expertise of the member, including the literature; methods of assessment, measurement and analysis; and skills for the interpretation of data.
  - 3.8 Recognize that uncertainty is inherent in managing wetland ecosystems and encourage the application of the precautionary principle in management and policy decisions affecting wetlands.