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CODE OF ETHICS
Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Adopted by Membership Vote 27 February 1992

Active and Affiliate Members shall conduct their activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists.

Regular and Affiliate Members have a responsibility for contributing to humankind's proper relationship with wetlands, and in particular to promoting an understanding of wetland ecosystems and policies that contribute to the sound stewardship of wetland resources. Members of MAWS will strive to meet this obligation through the following goals:

- I. They will subscribe to the Standards of Professional Conduct outlined below.
- II. They will accurately represent the characteristics of wetland ecosystems to the best of their knowledge.
- III. They will disseminate information to promote understanding of wetland functions and values.
- IV. They will strive to increase their knowledge and skills to advance the practice of wetland science.
- V. They will promote competence in the field of wetland science by supporting high standards of education, and performance, and represent those standards to the public.
- VI. They will support fair and uniform standards of employment and treatment of those professionally engaged in the practice of wetland science.

Standards of Professional Conduct

Members of MAWS shall at all times:

1. Act with the authority of professional judgement based on sound scientific data, and avoid actions or omissions that may compromise scientific validity or accuracy. They shall respect the competence, judgement, and authority of the professional community. They shall adhere to current wetland laws and regulations and endeavor to communicate those laws to clients and the public.
2. Avoid performing any professional services for any client or employer when such service is judged to be contrary to the Code of Ethics or Standards of Professional Conduct.
3. Provide maximum possible effort in the interests of each client/employer accepted within the limits of this Code of Ethics.

They shall exercise sound professional judgement when conflicts between this tenet and others arise.

4. Accept employment to perform professional services only in areas of their own competence, and consistent with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct described herein. They shall seek to refer clients or employers to other natural resource professionals when the expertise of such professionals shall best serve the interests of the client/employer.

5. Maintain a confidential professional-client/employer relationship, except when specifically authorized by the client/employer or required by due process of law or this Code of Ethics and Standards to disclose pertinent information. They shall not use such knowledge to their personal advantage or to the advantage/disadvantage of other parties, nor shall they permit personal interests or other client/employer relationships to interfere with their professional judgement.

6. Refrain from advertising in a self-laudatory manner, beyond statements intended to inform prospective clients/employers of qualifications, or in a manner detrimental to fellow professionals or the wetland resource.

7. Refuse compensation or rewards of any kind intended to influence their professional judgement or advice. They shall not permit a person who recommends or employs them, directly or indirectly, to regulate their professional judgement. Similarly, they shall not offer a reward of any kind or promise of service in order to secure a recommendation, a client, or professional treatment of public officials.

8. Avoid all conflict of interest, or when unavoidable fully disclose the circumstances to the client. They shall not accept compensation for the same professional services from any source other than the client/employer without the prior consent of all clients/employers involved.

9. Uphold the dignity and integrity of the profession of wetland science. They shall endeavor to avoid even the suspicion of dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or unprofessional demeanor.