

U.S. NABCI COMMITTEE CHARTER

GOAL:

The goal of NABCI and the US NABCI Committee is to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.

PURPOSE:

The US NABCI Committee exists to perform the following three functions:

- 1) to represent the United States internationally in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative;
- 2) to foster coordination among United States-based bird conservation initiatives and integrated delivery of conservation activities;
- 3) to identify and facilitate the delivery of those resources needed to achieve conservation objectives for the birds of the United States wherever they may occur over the course of their entire life cycles.

PHILOSOPHY:

The US NABCI Committee will play a leadership role in identifying and building support for common objectives through development of a shared vision. Such a shared vision can be a powerful tool for increasing partnerships for comprehensive bird conservation while preserving the independence of various initiatives and partners. The Committee will not set policy, but will establish a framework within which its constituents and other groups can coordinate operations.

AUTONOMY AND PARTNERSHIPS:

The US NABCI Committee is an autonomous self-directing partnership. Its existence and success, however, depend entirely on its relationship and accountability to key partners. Included among these are the bird conservation initiatives for which the Committee provides a forum for interaction. Also critically important is the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, particularly the Migratory Wildlife Committee in which much of the genesis of the US NABCI Committee occurred. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation is the primary facilitator for NABCI activities, and the basis for international linkages with the US NABCI Committee. In general, the US NABCI Committee strives to represent everyone in the nation involved in the conservation of birds. It is of paramount importance for Committee members to represent and inform that constituency of NABCI activities and benefits.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee may add or delete members over time, adapting to changing conditions in the bird conservation community. There are eleven charter members of the Committee, consisting of one representative from each of the following agencies, organizations, initiatives, or committees:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Director or designee) - co-chair
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (President or designee) - co-chair
- Partners in Flight
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan
Wildlife Management Institute
Ducks Unlimited
National Flyway Council

In addition, the chairs of each of two subcommittees shall be members of the US NABCI Committee. The subcommittees are:

- Federal Agencies Subcommittee (chair being from an agency other than the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Non-governmental Organization Subcommittee (chair will be from an organization traditionally associated with Partners in Flight or non-game birds)

Additional members may be added on the basis of decisions by the Committee without a necessity for revision of this Charter.

The four initiatives, Flyway Council, and Federal Agencies and NGO subcommittees will designate their Committee representatives for terms of two years duration, and representatives may serve multiple terms.

DECISION-MAKING:

In situations in which consensus is not achieved and the co-chairs determine that a decision is required, a motion will pass only with a vote of greater than 2/3 of the members or their designated alternates present. The Committee may by consensus entrust the co-chairs with the authority to make specific decisions.

US NABCI COORDINATOR AND STAFF

A US NABCI Coordinator will serve the needs of the co-chairs and Committee members. The Coordinator will be employed by an organization or agency committed to NABCI, but not necessarily one serving on the Committee. The Coordinator will carry out activities that advance the Committee's purposes and goal and facilitate its conduct of business. Activities of the Coordinator will be directed by the Committee co-chairs.

Each Committee member will designate his or herself or one or more individuals to serve, along with the Coordinator, as US NABCI Committee Staff. Staff will be available as needed to assist the Committee member they represent, the co-chairs, and the Coordinator in advancing the interests of the Committee.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Committee will designate three International Representatives to the Tri-National NABCI Committee. One of these Representatives will be from the federal government, one from state wildlife agencies, and one from an NGO. International Representatives may or may not be members of the US NABCI Committee or Committee Staff, but communication between each Representative and the Committee must be assured. International Representatives will serve terms of two years, but may serve multiple terms. The Coordinator will assist in serving the Committee on international issues, including participation in activities of the Tri-National

NABCI Committee.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

Every Committee member is expected to attend every Committee meeting, or to send an alternate or to submit a proxy for participation in any decisions or votes that may take place at a meeting. Complete absence will be interpreted as a vote in favor of any measure to come before the Committee. There will, however, be no official business completed without the presence of 2/3 of the members of the Committee (including those represented by alternates or proxies).

Committee meetings shall be open to alternates, staff, or other invitees of Committee members, members of subcommittees to the Committee, and any other interested party. Although the Committee welcomes such attendance, it is not under obligation to advertise meetings in any particular or general venue.