



## *American Fisheries Society*

Organized 1870 to Promote the Conservation, Development, and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries

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*President-elect*

January 17, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

Established in 1870, the American Fisheries Society is a 9000 member professional scientific association with members employed by state, provincial, tribal and federal agencies, universities, NGOs, and the private sector. Our mission is to advance sound science, promote professional development, and disseminate science-based information for the global protection, conservation, and sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems.

We congratulate you on winning the 2012 presidential election and for mentioning the need to address climate change in your acceptance speech. In the wake of the devastating destruction of superstorm Sandy and, as the most influential leader in the world, you have an opportunity to help our nation prepare for continued disruptions caused by global warming and permanently reduce carbon emissions.

Upgrading our infrastructure, discouraging development of at-risk lands, and transitioning to new technologies can create millions of much-needed jobs, spur green economic growth, and increase the probability of a healthy and prosperous future for our children. Therefore, we urge you to use science-based information to make climate change a priority for your administration and our nation.

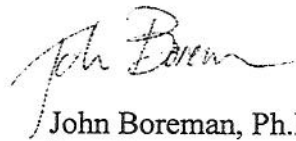
Members of the American Fisheries Society have been acutely aware of how climate change is already affecting our aquatic and marine ecosystems, and our predictive modeling forecasts much more serious threats. Consequently, we recently adopted a climate change policy by vote of our membership (see attached). Our policy includes the following statement:

1. Do not delay emission reductions. Encourage reductions in anthropogenic sources of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
2. Encourage economic mitigation options that indirectly or directly assist with water conservation practices and watershed protection of policies and laws that support wise and

- sustainable use.
3. Integrate efforts to manage for both fish and wildlife habitat. Develop partnerships with overlapping interests on shared concerns will increase overall effectiveness and temper uncertainty of difficult decisions.
  4. Restore historic hydrologic regimes that facilitate historic fish dispersal patterns. Do not support assisted migration or translocation of fish species as a standard operating policy, but consider this tool on a case-by-case basis carefully evaluating possibilities of unintended consequences. In landlocked "island" systems with imperiled or extirpated species, assisted migration may be the only viable management alternative for maintaining ecosystem function.
  5. Encourage education efforts aimed at federal and state agencies and the private sector about the general effects of climate change to our aquatic ecosystems. This ensures transparency of the principles and practices employed for either mitigation or adaptation responses to climate change in fisheries.
  6. Encourage implementation of national, regional, and local monitoring programs to evaluate the effects of climate change in fisheries. The continuation of long term monitoring (i.e., biological, hydrological, climatic) will be essential in addressing trends.
  7. Encourage management and research activities that reduce ecosystem stressors to include but not be limited to: metapopulation expansion through careful consideration (i.e., use or removal) of barriers, prescribed fire in watershed to reduce chances of catastrophic fires, pollution preventive measures, biodiversity protection, and land use practices to mitigate changes to disturbances in hydrology of riparian areas and ameliorate temperature fluctuations for protection of coldwater refugia of trout, salmon, and whitefish.
  8. Encourage research activities to characterize climate effects in marine, arctic, and freshwater systems, reduce ecosystem stressors, and optimize harvest quota for commercial fisheries stocks.
  9. Support provisions of dedicated funding for climate legislation that would provide for conservation of fish, water and other natural resources affected by climate change.

As you set our nation's course for the next four years, we urge you and your Administration to support science, address the realities of global warming, and further expand efforts to move a clean energy economy forward in the United States. As fisheries scientists and also concerned citizens, we offer our assistance in helping you redirect the Nation from a carbon-based consumptive economy to a more sustainable one.

Sincerely,



John Boreman, Ph.D.  
President