

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES ANGLING CONFEDERATION
(USAC)
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the United States Freshwater Fishing Federation (US ANGLING CONFEDERATION) and the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties.” This agreement is entered into under the purposes, intent, and authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Parties to:

- a. Advance the corporate and public appreciation of fish and wildlife and the challenges they face in our ever changing world.
- b. Identify the needs and assistance required to protect and ensure the survival of fish and wildlife and their habitat.
- c. Explore strategies and promote efforts to connect people and especially youth with nature.
- d. Develop, encourage, and promote effective working relationships among agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and corporations working to protect and restore fish and wildlife and their habitats.
- e. Support the organizational goals of both parties.

II. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION is to identify and develop American anglers to compete in World Championship Sport Fishing events, and to host World Championship Sport Fishing events in the United States. The US ANGLING CONFEDERATION also strives to create, endorse, and execute both domestic and international Conservation initiatives. The US ANGLING CONFEDERATION also engages local community action fishing groups and programs (Men’s, Women’s, Disabled, Senior Citizens, Youth, Urban) to educate, instruct, and promote the sport of fishing.

The mission of the Service is “working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” The Service acts under the authority of a broad array of statutes including the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act; North American Wetlands Conservation Act; and many others. The Service encourages proactive partnerships with the private sector to restore and enhance important fish and wildlife habitats.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To actively promote the goals of this MOU, the Parties agree as follows:

THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WILL:

- a. Coordinate with the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION, fish and wildlife enhancement opportunities where mutual benefits will be derived. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:
 1. Restoring or enhancing streams and riparian areas on public and private lands.
 2. Restoring aquatic species populations to healthy levels.
 3. Connecting people and especially youth with nature through events, programs and activities.
- b. Provide the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION with contact information for Service Washington office and Regional office personnel related to mutual projects.
- c. Share information with the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION regarding wildlife issues and concerns, and Service programs, policies, and regulations relevant to the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION efforts to educate the public and youth and enhance wildlife habitats and fisheries.

THE UNITED STATES ANGLING CONFEDERATION (US ANGLING CONFEDERATION) WILL:

- a. Provide opportunity (Sport Fishing Events, Seminars, Youth Fishing Camps, Web Based Educational Media, etc.) to increase awareness on the efforts and initiatives of The Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b. Work with The Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement programs and policies within the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION, to benefit the American fishing public.
- c. Coordinate with The Fish and Wildlife Service to strategically hold sport fishing events at domestic locations that highlight conservation efforts and increase overall fish and wildlife awareness.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of money, services, or property between the Parties to this MOU will require execution of separate agreements or contracts, subject to appropriate statutes, regulations, and policies.

- b. Within six months of the MOU’s effective date, the Parties will jointly develop a mutually acceptable implementation plan that guides the execution of this MOU.
- c. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations or individuals.
- d. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating the Service to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract or other obligation.
- e. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating the Service to reveal information to the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION that is not available to the public or render treatment that is preferential to the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION nor shall the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION or partner corporations be construed as offering preferential treatment to the Service.
- f. The Service Director or its designee and the US ANGLING CONFEDERATION agree to an annual meeting to review the ability of each organization to implement the MOU, review accomplishments, and discuss future goals.
- g. This MOU takes effect upon the signatures of the Parties and remains in effect until modified or amended upon written request of either Party, and concurrence of the other. Either Party may terminate this MOU with 60-day written notice.

VI. SIGNATURES

This instrument is executed as of the last date signed below and expires no later than five years after the last signature date, at which time, it is subject to review and renewal, or expiration. The Parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date shown below.

_____ Date:
 Tony Forte, Executive Director
 United States Angling Confederation – (US ANGLING CONFEDERATION)

_____ Date:
 Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director – Fisheries
 And Habitat Conservation
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service