

The European Federation for Freshwater Sciences

CONSTITUTION

1. As a consequence of the activities of a Committee established by agreement of the governing Councils of the Founding Organisations (The Freshwater Biological Association, The French Association for Limnology, The Italian Association for Oceanography and Limnology, The Spanish Association for Limnology, The Polish Hydrobiological Society and the Czech Limnological Society), a forum for the promotion of freshwater sciences in Europe, through improved liaison and communication among its practitioners, has been elaborated.
2. By subsequent agreement among corresponding representatives of these Founding organisations and those of other formally constituted national and pan-national learned societies in Europe having similar promotional objectives in the aquatic sciences, this forum is formalised as the **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences (EFFS)**.
3. Representative membership of **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall be open to all formally constituted, national or pan-national learned societies whose specific objectives include the fostering and promotion of aquatic sciences in European fresh- and inland waters (hereinafter, referred to as the “constituent associations”).
4. The Aims and Objectives of the **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** are directed towards the promotion of freshwater sciences throughout Europe, through facilitating improved communication and collaboration among scientists, through the convening of scientific symposia (Symposia for European Freshwater Sciences, or SEFS) and other joint meetings and through extending the benefits of learned-society membership to European nations where no such national organisation exists. It is also an objective of the Federation to find a practical and viable means of publishing a scientific journal dedicated to European Freshwater Sciences.
5. Membership and representation. The **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall comprise a committee of representatives appointed by the respective governing councils or committees of the constituent associations. Each constituent association shall appoint two nominated representatives, for such period/periods determined by that association.
6. Scientists in European nations where there is no formally constituted national association may secure representation through subscribing to one or other of the constituent associations whose membership is not restricted by national or cultural boundaries.
7. Limits of responsibility. The **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall have no powers of executive above those of the elected councils of the constituent associations, except those decisions expressly delegated to it. Constituent associations shall be expected to cover the modest expenses costs of its delegates. Should the

European Federation for Freshwater Sciences anticipate involvement in any activity in its name that incurs costs, or if it was to be in receipt of an external grant of funds to support a specific activity under its name, then the financial and accounting responsibility shall be vested in one the constituent associations.

8. It is presumed that the representatives shall communicate and conduct their business primarily by electronic means. Delegate meetings may be convened from time-to-time, where possible to coincide with delegate presence at SEFS or other scientific meetings. Where it is expedient to convene delegate meetings on other occasions, then cover for delegate costs incurred should be approved, in advance, by the constituted groups represented. (Paragraph 7).

9. Duties. It is a particular duty of The **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences**, delegated to it by the governing Councils of the constituent associations, to determine the venues and convenors of the biennial SEFS meetings (Symposia for European Freshwater Sciences). It may also recommend the convening of such additional scientific meetings, where it considers these to be appropriate.

10. By agreement among the representatives, the **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall be able to post information upon web-pages made available by courtesy of *FreshwaterLife* and thus accessible to the memberships of constituent associations. Such information may include announcements of scientific meetings, courses and academic vacancies. The same web-site offers password-secure databases (for instance, of member names and addresses), which, subject to the agreement of named individuals and with the consent of the governing councils of the constituent associations, but subject always to privacy conventions and to the stipulation of Rule 11), may be used by and at the discretion of constituent associations where these clearly assist collaboration and communication among federation representatives.

11. The **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall not otherwise communicate directly with any individual members of constituent associations, other than on the direct and explicit instruction of the governing council or committee of the constituent association(s) concerned.

12. Chairmanship. The Chair of the **European Federation for Freshwater Sciences** shall be appointed by the representatives, if necessary by majority of an elective ballot, to serve for a period of two years or until such earlier date resolved by the current representatives of the constituent associations. The chairman may be eligible for re-election for no more than two further periods of two years, any term of office being no more than a maximum of six years.

Agreed,
Kraków, 22.09.2005