

Conservation Committee of the Waterbird Society

2012 Annual Report

Membership:

Jonathan Cohen, Co-Chair (jcohen14@esf.edu)

Brad Andres

Kathy Parsons

Nellie Tsipoura

Jennifer Wheeler

Ricardo Zambrano

Mike Erwin

Susan Elbin

Charles Clarkson, Co-chair (cec2p@vt.edu)

Jeff Spendelow

This committee welcomes new members; please contact the chair if interested in serving.

2011-2012 Committee Activities:

From January to March, the Conservation Committee worked with Double-crested Cormorant experts within its own ranks and the Society at large to craft a public comment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal for renewal of federal cormorant depredation permits. The comments were submitted to Council for approval, after which they were subject to a further round of revisions based on Council comments. They were then approved and submitted to the USFWS. The position of the Society, in summary, was that depredation permits should not be renewed primarily due to inadequate monitoring of their effectiveness and effects on DCCO populations.

2012-2013 Proposed Work of the Committee:

The Conservation Committee is currently considering drafting a letter to the president of Panama encouraging protection for waterbird habitat on the Bay of Panama. The Committee has also initiated a discussion with the program committee for the 2013 annual meeting, with the aim of sponsoring a conservation-themed symposium.

Requests for Council Action:

None

2013 Actions Approved by Council:

- Get suggestions from council and membership to conservation committee for workshops, symposia for Germany meeting
- Develop plan for awarding best conservation-oriented papers