

## **AG/Committee Name: Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group**

**Submitted by: Nico van den Brink**

**Date: 25-10-2016**

**Council/Board Liaison: Bruce Vigon**

### **Executive Summary**

The Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group (SETAC-World) was established in 2014. It's membership currently encompasses approximately 120, and still increasing. Currently the Steering committee consists of the initial set of people that initiated this AG (John Elliott, Mark Johnson, Kim Fernie, Derek Muir, Barnett Rattner, Richard Shore, Clémentine Fritsch, Renaud Scheifler, Rafael Mateo and Nico van den Brink). The WTAG is currently in the process of organizing elections after which an official Steering Committee can be established.

### **Organization**

Currently the WTAG is headed by a Steering Committee consisting of the group of people that initiated the AG. As stated currently SC elections are being organized, of which the results will be announced at the SETAC-World meeting in Orlando). After this, elected positions should involve the following for WTAG:

1. A Chair;
2. A vice-chair;
3. A secretarial function person and alternate;
4. A meetings' coordinator person and alternate;
5. A 'webmaster' type;
6. Student representation.

### **Activities Summary**

The WTAG is in the process of establishment and initial development. In 2016 the following activities have been organized:

#### **Sessions at geographical branch meetings**

Members of the WTAG were involved in several sessions at SETAC-EU and SETAC-NA meetings (not all were necessarily promoted as WTAG sessions):

##### *SETAC-Europe meeting Nantes 2016*

- Wildlife ecotoxicology: from food chain exposure to population effects. Session chairs: Renaud Scheifler, John Elliott, Kim Fernie.
- Ecological traps for wildlife driven by pollutants. Session chairs: Rafael Mateo, Clémentine Fritsch and Richard Shore
- Polar ecotoxicology: hot issues in cold climates! Session chairs: Katrine Borga and Nico van den Brink

##### *SETAC-NA meeting Orlando 2016*

- Wildlife Ecotoxicology: From Food Chain Exposure to Population Effects. Chairs: John Elliott, Christine Bishop, Rafael Mateo
- Terrestrial or Wildlife Toxicology and Ecology - Poster Only.
- Birds as Indicators of Environmental Change: Molecular to Population Effects of Contaminant Exposure and other Stressors. Jonathan Verreault, Kim Fernie
- "One Health": Opportunities for SETAC Leadership in Integrating Environmental, Human and Animal Health | Nil Basu, Jeanne Garric, Thomas Augspurger

##### *SETAC-EU Brussels 2017, proposed sessions*

- Wildlife ecotoxicology: cumulative effects through the food chain to the community. Chairs: John Elliott, Veerle Jaspers, Renaud Scheifler, Kim Fernie

- Polar ecotoxicology: hot issues in cold climates! Session chairs: Nico van den Brink and Katrine Borga
- Integrating species trait, environmental compartment properties and chemical characteristics in assessment of bioaccumulation potential of chemicals (combined session with BSAG). Chairs: Nico van den Brink, Henriette Selck.

### **Business meetings**

At the Nantes meeting (SETAC-EU 2016) a business meeting was organized. Approximately 25 people were at the meeting. WTAG was presented, and the plans for further development of WTAG were detailed, including the strategic plan. Further development of the searchable database on people involved in Wildlife Toxicology was presented. People also took the opportunity to present projects they are working on.

At the SETAC-NA meeting Salt Lake City (2015) a business meeting was organized, attended by 30-40 people. At this meeting WTAG was also presented to the people, including mission and scope. Participants wanted revisions to the mission statement and scope of the WTAG to provide equal emphasis to field- and lab-based wildlife toxicology studies, and to reference the support of conservation through wildlife toxicology research. Strong support was given to having all WTAG members identify: a special symposium for wildlife toxicology research at the 2016 World SETAC (Orlando, FL) (e.g., Endocrine Disruption); themes for future workshops and focus-topic-meetings at SETAC-NA and SETAC-EU; potential reviewers for wildlife-related manuscripts and hosting a related short course to teach the skills and art of being a good scientific reviewer; WTAG expertise in support of initiatives of other AGs.

### **Future Plans**

The WTAG has been established now and needs to be restructured. A total of 4-6 additional members of the Steering Committee will be elected, for which all AG members can run. Members have self-nominated themselves to be elected. Specific focus was put on nominees from Industry and students in order to balance the tripartite background. Two seats were available for industry, 1 for academia and for government and 2 for students. One industry member and three to four academia/government members self-nomineed, however no student member stepped forward (it was also tried to reach out via the student councils of SETAC EU and SETAC-NA). Elections will be held for the academic and the government positions, not for the industry (more seats than nominees). The new Steering Committee will select a chair and c-chair, and other positions deemed needed.

Future activity plans will be based upon the strategic plan. It was decided earlier to first focus activities on the further establishment of the WTAG, including the elections. More detailed plans will be developed by the new steering Committee.. To enhance the WTAG web presence, several volunteers are working on the following:

- prepare a detailed who-is-who within the Wildlife Toxicology arena. This is currently being developed by Renaud Scheifler, University of Franche-Comté.
- best-practice inventory
- update and improve the WTAG website
- identify appropriate theme(s) for workshops and focus-topic-meetings in the near future;
- co-ordinate, identify and provide wildlife expertise to other SETAC Advisory Groups.

### **Business and Planning Meetings**

Business meetings will be organized at the SETAC EU meeting and the SETAC-NA meeting.

### **Membership Communications**

Channels of communications were as follows:

- Direct email to individual members
- Group email to all members via the WTAG web-site

Most communication was from WTAG-SC to the members, and within the WTAG-SC.

### **Issues/Problems**

Reaching out to student members for the Steering Committee is difficult.

## **Current Steering Committee**

### Government

John Elliott, Environment Canada, Delta, BC

Kim Fernie, Environment Canada, Burlington, ON

Derek Muir, Environment Canada, Burlington, ON

Barnett Rattner, USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Mark Johnson, U.S. Army Institute of Public Health, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

Richard Shore, Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (CEH-NERC), Lancaster, UK

### Academia

Clémentine Fritsch, University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

Rafael Mateo, Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos, Ciudad Real, Spain

Renaud Scheifler, University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

Nico van den Brink (acting chair), Wageningen University, sub-dept of Toxicology, Netherlands

No member of industry is involved in the Steering Committee. This was a focal point for the elections and will be resolved partially (1 member from Industry will join the Steering Committee).

SETAC-World liaison: Bruce Vigon