

Introduction of the new ASA Subcommittee on Animal Bioacoustics

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In October 2007, the Accredited Standards Committee S3, Bioacoustics, approved the first ever formation of a new subcommittee in the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) Standards Program. The new subcommittee is designated S3/SC1 Animal Bioacoustics and is a "consensus body" which can vote to approve standards that subsequently can be approved as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The main benefit of forming this subcommittee is that its voting members will have a direct and material interest in Animal Bioacoustics rather than the more general, human focused, subject matter of the parent committee, S3 Bioacoustics. This should result in a high-quality review of draft documents and ultimately in the production of standards that are useful to the scientific community. One of the goals of the Subcommittee is to develop standards that improve the quality, uniformity, and applicability of research so that resource managers and regulatory agencies can better manage for the long-term sustainability of animal populations. Over the past several years, interest in standardization has grown in the animal bioacoustics technical area. Standards Working Groups began to be formed in both S3/S1. Under the formation of the new Subcommittee, S3 voted to move the three existing working groups into the new Subcommittee, which are: S3/SC1 1/WG1 - Animal Bioacoustics Terminology, S3/SC1 1/WG2 - Effects of Sound on Fish and Turtles, and S3/SC1 1/WG3 - Underwater Passive Acoustics Monitoring for Bioacoustic Applications. An update on the activities and future direction of the Subcommittee will be presented.