

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS CONSTITUTION

Preamble

In view of the diversity of marine invertebrates in the Southern California area and the many organizations studying the ecology of these organisms, the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT) was organized by scientists who recognized the need to standardize systematic practices and taxonomic usage through a program of inter-calibration. On April 21, 1982, the Association was founded and a Constitutional Committee was formed to establish a working framework. This Constitution is the result of the Committee's activities.

Article 1: Name

The Organization shall be the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists.

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to develop standard procedures in systematic practices and taxonomic usage for marine invertebrates in the Southern California region. This will be accomplished primarily through an inter-calibration program and the exchange of information among persons interested in marine invertebrate taxonomy. This will include specimen exchange and confirmation, literature exchange, the periodic publication and distribution of standardized taxonomic listings, support for taxonomic quality control efforts, and financial support of taxonomic publication and guest lecturers. SCAMIT will also maintain an electronic presence on the web, via a website, to further these purposes.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: Membership

Membership in the Association is open to individuals or institutions interested in the systematics and ecology of marine invertebrates. Membership can be obtained upon written application to the Treasurer, or online at www.scamit.org, with an accompanying payment of dues.

Section 2: Types of Members

Only Charter, Individual, Institutional, and Honorary Life members are recognized.

Section 3: Rights of Membership

Honorary Life members and all other members whose dues have been paid for the current year shall be considered members in good standing and shall be entitled to receive notices

of the Association's activities, vote at meetings or by mail/email, and participate in any activities sponsored by the Association.

Section 4: SCAMIT Newsletter

All members will receive notification of the electronic publication of the SCAMIT newsletter as well as the rights mentioned above in Section 3.

Article 4: Dues

Dues shall be paid annually with two (2) levels of membership offered. In order of cost, they are:

- a. Individual members
- b. Institutional members

The rates for these levels shall be determined by a vote of the Executive Committee.

Dues are collected during the month of May for all members.

Article 5: Officers

Section 1: Officers

The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional non-voting officers to act in an advisory role may be appointed or removed by the elected officers.

Section 2: Term of Officers

All elected officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members voting in the election. Officers may hold the same office for an unlimited number of terms. Newly elected officers shall assume the responsibilities of their office in April and continue through March of the following year.

Section 3: Election of Officers

Request for nominations will be announced via an email to the membership in December and/or called for at the December meeting. Nominations will be entertained at the January.

Election shall be by means of a ballot sent out via email in February.

Ballots shall be emailed to members in good standing. Results will be announced in the newsletter and via email.

Section 4: Quorum and Official Actions

Three (3) executive officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A majority vote of officers present, not including abstentions, at a meeting where there is a quorum shall be required to take official action.

Article 6: Meetings

The Association shall normally meet on the second Monday of every month. The President or other Officers may change the date, venue, or content of a scheduled meeting if conditions arise to warrant such changes.

Article 7: Limitations

The purpose of the Association is listed in Article 2 of the Constitution. Lobbying, or any activities specifically designed to influence legislation, support political groups, or advance popular, political, scientific, or religious causes, are not among the objectives of the Association and neither the Association nor any official group within the Association, or officer identifying themselves as such, shall engage in such activity.

Article 8: General Prohibitions

Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution or Bylaws which might be susceptible to a contrary construction:

- a. The Association shall be organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes
- b. The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office (including the publishing or distributing of statements)
- c. The Association shall not be organized or operated for profit
- d. The property of this Association is irrevocably dedicated to scientific and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Association shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution of the Association, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- e. At no time shall the Association use its funds to hire Employees or acquire any real property. In the event the Association pays for professional or labor services to further its educational and scientific purpose, it shall be done on a contract or fee-for-service basis.

Article 9: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in an email ballot. In either case, proposed actions will be emailed to the membership.

Article 10: Bylaws

The Association may enact Bylaws for interpretation and implementation of the Constitution. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in an email ballot. In either case, notice of the proposed action will be emailed to the membership.

Article 11: Division

At the discretion of the Officers, the Association may establish ad hoc committees to carry out activities under the overall sponsorship of the Association.

Article 12: Ownership

The acronym “SCAMIT”, the Internet site listed as “www.scamit.org”, the original art SCAMIT logos, and all other original items produced by the Association are copyrighted and protected by the Association under current copyright law. Items donated to the Association become its property and may be used or disposed of in accordance with the Association’s purposes and goals.

BYLAWS

Bylaw 1: Types of Membership

The following types of members are recognized:

- a. **Charter** – members who joined the Association between April 1982 and March 31, 1983.
- b. **Individual** – members who wish to be a part of the Association and its activities.
- c. **Institutional** – organizations or groups who wish to be a part of the Association and its activities.
- d. **Honorary Life** – membership awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee in recognition of service to the Association.

Bylaw 2: Duties of Officers

- a. **President** – The President or designate shall preside at meetings of the Association and represent the Association’s interest in external business affairs. The President’s name will be listed on the financial accounts. The President will have possession of the Association Constitution, and perform such other functions as may be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. **Vice-President** – The Vice-President shall chair ad hoc committees, issue notices for meetings, be responsible for ballot preparation, tabulating and disseminating results of elections, and votes on Bylaws and Amendments to the Constitution. The Vice-President will perform the duties of the President during any period(s) when the President is unable to fulfill his or her duties as President of the Association.
- c. **Secretary** – The Secretary or designate shall keep minutes for all meetings. The Secretary shall produce, publish and disseminate the newsletter. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Association.
- d. **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall collect dues, make necessary disbursements, keep the accounts of the Association and monitor compliance with applicable Federal and State laws

and regulations. The Treasurer will present an annual summary of financial accounts in the newsletter. The Treasurer will inform the other Officers of the current location of the Association's financial records. These accounts will be available for inspection by any elected Officer upon request. All monetary funds of the Association are to be kept in FDIC insured accounts listing the Association name on the account title. The Treasurer's name will be listed on the financial accounts. The Treasurer will also maintain the current list of member in good standing.

Bylaw 3: Committees

- a. An Executive Committee shall be formed, composed of each elected Officer and a non-voting, appointed, Officer with the title Technical Support/Webmaster, and will meet at least once per year to discuss the Association's activities. This Committee is authorized to expend SCAMIT funds to further the Association's goals. Special projects or activities requiring the expenditure of SCAMIT funds are approved by a majority vote of the Committee. All such special projects will be announced in the newsletter and posted on the SCAMIT website. The Executive Committee is authorized to engage in fund raising to support the Association's goals and purposes through the sale of SCAMIT identified items. The Committee may also direct the Association to apply for grants or contracts that will support SCAMIT's purpose listed in Article 2.
- b. The Officers shall create ad hoc committees of volunteer members as needed to further the purpose of the Association.