

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

Agencies: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 2901 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the "Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980", on September 29, 1980

Summary:

The [Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act \(Act\)](#) declares that fish and wildlife are of ecological, educational, esthetic, cultural, recreational, economic, and scientific value to the Nation. The Act acknowledges that historically, fish and wildlife conservation programs have focused on more recreationally and commercially important species within any particular ecosystem, without provisions for the conservation and management of nongame fish and wildlife.

The purposes of this Act are to encourage all federal departments and agencies to utilize their statutory and administrative authority, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with each agency's statutory responsibilities and to conserve and to promote conservation of non-game fish and wildlife and their habitats. Another purpose is to provide financial and technical assistance to the states for the development, revision, and implementation of conservation plans and programs for nongame fish and wildlife.

The Act defines "nongame fish and wildlife" as wild vertebrate animals in an unconfined state, that are not ordinarily taken for sport, fur or food, not listed as endangered or threatened species, and not marine mammals within the meaning of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Source: <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/FWCON.HTML> and http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/emrrp/emris/emrishelp5/fish_and_wildlife_conservation_act_legal_matters.htm

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