

IFM Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE

IFM has adopted a code of ethics based on internationally recognized standards for social science practice in general and on the code of ethics of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in particular. IFM is committed to making the latest social science knowledge about the management and development of living aquatic resources available in a useful form to our various clients and the community as a whole. While pursuing this endeavor, we make every effort to protect the welfare of any individual, group, or organization we study or assist. We use our skills only for purposes consistent with these values and do not knowingly permit their misuse by others.

PRINCIPLE 1. Competence

As professionals, we only provide services, use techniques, or offer opinions that meet recognized standards and fall within the scope of our knowledge. We maintain our knowledge of current scientific and professional information related to the services we render. We refrain from undertaking activities in which our personal circumstances are likely to lead to inadequate professional services or harm to a client or others.

PRINCIPLE 2. Responsibility

In providing services, we maintain the highest standards of our profession, accept responsibility for the consequences of our work, and make every effort to ensure that our services are used appropriately. As scientists, we accept the ultimate responsibility for selecting appropriate topics and methods of research. We plan our research in ways to minimize the possibility that our findings will be misleading.

PRINCIPLE 3. The Welfare of Research Subjects, Clients, and Students

We respect the integrity and protect the welfare of the people and groups with whom we work. We inform all participants as to the purpose and nature of our activities, and we freely acknowledge that all participants in research have a choice of whether or not to participate or to continue to participate once an activity has begun.

PRINCIPLE 4. Confidentiality

We safeguard information about an individual or group that has been obtained in the course of practice or research. Any information we gather from our research participants will be used in research or other reports only in ways that do not identify the participant unless a) that person gives us permission to identify them or b) the information was provided by the person while speaking in a public forum.

PRINCIPLE 5. Moral and Legal Standards

IFM is committed to operating according to the highest standards of professional ethics and to deal with all clients and research participants in a transparent and honest manner. IFM has a policy of zero tolerance toward corrupt practices or illegal activities of any kind. We will remain informed about relevant regulations and association standards of practice concerning our practice and research. We also strive to be aware of prevailing community standards, and thus of the possible impact upon the quality of professional services provided by conformity to, or deviation from, those standards. IFM avoids any action that will violate or diminish the legal and civil rights of clients or of others who may be affected by our actions. We refuse to participate in any practices that are inconsistent with legal, moral, and ethical standards regarding the treatment of employees or of others.