

American Elasmobranch Society Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics was created to provide essential principles of conduct for all members of the American Elasmobranch Society (AES). The primary emphases of the AES are to increase knowledge about sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras; to disseminate that knowledge through research, publications, conferences, symposia, and other means; and to encourage and support young scientists who will make future advances in these fields. The Code of Ethics was designed to facilitate open and honest communication of research; to assure appropriate accessibility of accurate and reliable information to employers, policy makers, and the public; and to encourage effective education and training of scientists. Individuals aware of breaches of The Code should contact the President of the AES.

All members of the American Elasmobranch Society should observe the following principles:

1. Strive to represent scientifically-based understanding and knowledge accurately and to avoid and discourage dissemination of erroneous, biased, or exaggerated statements about sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras. All members have an obligation to correct errors and misconceptions propagated by other scientists.
2. Strive to examine and properly acknowledge all existing published data pertinent to current reports and publications.
3. Never plagiarize in verbal or written communication, but give full and proper credit to the works and ideas of others, and make every effort to avoid misrepresentation.
4. Never fabricate, falsify, or suppress results, deliberately misrepresent research findings, or otherwise commit scientific fraud including misrepresentation of ones status, title, or affiliation.
5. Always conduct research to minimize adverse environmental effects of their presence and activities, and in compliance with legal requirements for protection of researchers, human subjects, and research organisms.
6. Never discriminate against others, in the course of their work on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, race, color, national origin, age, economic status, disability, or organizational affiliation.