

Trout Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, American Fisheries Society (TIA) Alliance

Charter Purpose

To promote awareness of and appreciation for water quality monitoring and fisheries management within the United States by facilitating the engagement of volunteers, specifically youth and young adults, in mission oriented, natural resource conservation activities.

Membership

Charter membership consists of the following organizations:

*Trout Unlimited (TU)
Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA)
American Fisheries Society (AFS)*

Additional members may be added in the future, consistent with the purpose and actions of the TIA Alliance.

TIA Governance

Each member organization will select one governor representing their organization. The governors will be the members of the TIA Alliance Board. All board decisions will be by consensus.

Desired End Result

Youth of today, working in the outdoors in conjunction with natural resource managers, scientists, NGO volunteers and educators, will develop a better understanding of ecological principles and environmental impacts of anthropogenic influences. Equipped with knowledge through hands-on experiences, they will carry their acquired environmental awareness into adulthood and into their professional lives. Through this effort we hope the participants gain a better understanding of how to turn their data into on-the-ground actions aimed at conserving, protecting and restoring lands and waters within our communities.

Initial Plan of Action

The initial actions of the TIA Alliance are broadly stated below. Each of these initial plans shall be flexible in nature and subject to changes as members of the Alliance deem appropriate. Substantial changes shall be brought to the governing board for review and approval.

Trout Unlimited (TU) will advertise and promote the expansion of their "Trout in the Classroom" (TIC) program to include options for field activities with the minimal option of including water quality monitoring through IWLA's Save

Our Streams Clean Water Challenge. Whenever possible and where applicable, they will encourage and facilitate interaction between TU chapter volunteers, young learners and natural resource managers. Students will be given the choice of becoming full TU members of local chapters of their choice or pay the special rate for teens or youths but membership within TU will not be mandatory.

The Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) will coordinate closely with TU educational staff to ensure all youth and volunteer groups associated with TU's "Trout in the Classroom" have adequate access to IWLA Save Our Streams information to include lesson plans and training opportunities. IWLA will assist TU in facilitating the expansion of TU's TIC program to include basic water quality monitoring as outlined within IWLA's Clean Water Challenge initiative. There will be no initial requirement for participants to become members of IWLA; however, all who receive training from IWLA staff or chapter volunteers are required to pay for training and the acquisition of any necessary field equipment needed for their group to conduct independent water quality monitoring following successful completion of training. IWLA will provide access and facilitate the use of their "Clean Water Hub" database to all certified or otherwise approved participants. The IWLA has the discretion to waive any fees or associated costs listed above.

Whenever practical and appropriate, American Fisheries Society (AFS) chapters will provide a venue for high school students to interact and participate in chapter events to include field studies, surveys and sampling along with culminating activities such as presentation of scientific papers or posters. Efforts should be made to officially credit high school students for their contributions. High school students will be provided the option of a special student membership to AFS. Membership will be highly encouraged but not required.

Reporting Plan

Pertinent leaders from charter member organizations agree to at least one coordinating conference a year to occur in the month of January (or otherwise designated). The conference can be conducted via remote communication or in person. Considering all three charter organization headquarter facilities are located within 10 miles of each other as of 2018, face to face conferences are encouraged whenever practical.

Each charter organization must attempt to record and report the number of participants whose participation was inspired or facilitated by the TIA Alliance. Double or Triple counting individual participants between all three organizations is permissible since individuals will be participating within those non-government organizations (NGO) regardless of TIA.

Facilitator of the annual conference will alternate between the three NGO organizations. Since Trout Unlimited hosted the first conference call in 2018, IWLA will facilitate the next conference in 2019, followed by AFS in 2020.

As organized at the time of the publication of the charter, each member organization is responsible for funding their own activities. However, it is likely grant opportunities, corporate sponsorships, donations, etc., may become available as a result of TIA Alliance activities. All three organizations shall be made aware of the type and amount of external support once the support becomes available. Allocation of support for the alliance by external sources will be determined by the governing board.

Approved and Agreed by:

For Trout Unlimited: _____
(Signature and Date)

For American Fisheries Society: _____
(Signature and Date)

For the Izaak Walton League: _____
(Signature and Date)