

# 5. Policies

## **Instream Flow Council Advocacy Policy**

The purpose of this policy is 1) to provide guidance to IFC members and staff/contractors who propose or take advocacy positions on behalf of the IFC, and 2) to clarify for IFC members and others the role that IFC plays in advocacy.

Advocacy includes formally expressing support for or against a cause, belief, position or action, often on behalf of others, orally or in writing. It also includes providing comments or project input on IFC's behalf, as well as adding IFC's name to coalitions of groups that are advocating for/against certain positions or actions. A position taken by IFC by inference represents the overall position of its members.

The mission of IFC is to improve the effectiveness of state and provincial instream flow programs for protecting, maintaining and restoring aquatic ecosystems. Implementing this mission and taking a leadership role on instream flow issues will at times involve advocacy.

Formal IFC policies and positions are developed by the Executive Committee or with its authorization. When members advocate for their own interests or personal opinions, or those of their agency, they should clearly state who they are representing, and that their views are not necessarily those of the IFC. IFC views as expressed in its books and other publications can certainly be cited by members. Members are encouraged to communicate in advance with the Executive Committee on matters where IFC advocacy and position development may be warranted. The Executive Committee will determine IFC's approach to the suggestion/opportunity and the IFC President may do so in cases where full Executive Committee consideration is not possible or practical.

While the conduct of each state and provincial instream flow program must originate from within each agency, IFC can play an advocacy role at a broader level. For example, IFC may advocate at a national level for a policy or position. And, IFC clearly advocates for good science, transparent government, and constructive public dialogue on instream flow issues. However, IFC will at times advocate for more specific positions. Such advocacy decisions will be made based on the following considerations:

- The advocacy is consistent with IFC's mission and goals
- Overall, IFC member agencies and riverine resources within their management authority are expected to benefit.
- Potential adverse effects on individual IFC members are minimized.
- The importance of the issue and the ability to make a difference warrants the effort of IFC officers, members, and staff needed to address it.

Adopted by the Executive Committee on May 30, 2006