



## File #17-08

**Subject Member:** Registered Professional Biologist

**Complaint Submitted:** August 7, 2017

**Date of Decision:** October 24, 2018

### Complaint Summary:

A complaint was submitted from a member of the public (the complainant) against a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) alleging unethical conduct. In particular, the allegations indicated the RPBio breached the following Principles of the Code of Ethics:

- a) Code of Ethics - Section 1: Provide objective, science-based, unfettered, forthright and intellectually-honest opinion, advice and reports in applied biology.
- b) Code of Ethics - Section 2: Undertake assignments and offer opinions only in areas in which they are competent.

The complainant alleged the RPBio did not follow relevant legal guidance documents in developing management plans for a wildlife species. In addition, the complainant alleged that the RPBio was working outside of their expertise in conducting management planning for species at risk.

### Decision:

The Discipline Committee completed a thorough review of the content of the allegations made in the complaint that included information submitted by the complainant and RPBio. As well the committee contracted a subject matter expert to conduct a review of the content of management plan documents.

After a review of the subject matter summary report, the Discipline Committee determined that the allegations were not substantiated. The RPBio reached conclusions that were within the legal requirements for the species at risk. Further, the RPBio referenced appropriate guidance documents and the management planning did not require specialization for the specific species at risk to draw the conclusions that were derived. The RPBio was competent to complete the work.

The Discipline Committee determined the allegations were not supported by the evidence provided, and the complaint was dismissed.

Complaint file 17-08 is closed