

Q1 FY2027

JULY - SEPT



HUNTER ADVOCACY

SCI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS IN ACTION

State & Local • Federal • International • Legal • Hunter Information Service



AN INTRODUCTION FROM VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CHRIS TYMESON

At Safari Club International, our mission to protect the freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation is not just a tagline—it is a daily, deliberate commitment that demands vigilance, strategy, and action. This is most evident in our advocacy efforts.

Every regulation, every bill, every courtroom decision that impacts hunting rights or wildlife management is a line in the story we are writing together. Whether we are pushing back on unjust trophy import bans, defending sustainable use at national and international conventions and conferences, or challenging misguided proposals that would restrict access to public lands, our advocacy team is on the front lines.

This quarterly report provides a snapshot of that work. It shows what we have accomplished and identifies the challenges that remain. Behind each policy win or legislative push is a team of professionals working with lawmakers, agency leaders, international allies, and fellow conservation organizations to defend science-based wildlife management and your right to hunt.

But advocacy is not just about what happens in capitols or in courtrooms. It is also about engagement from SCI members, chapters, and volunteers who write, call, and show up. You amplify our voice and turn our policy positions into political action.

SCI again experienced an unprecedented level of advocacy success this quarter. Our CEO was invited by the President to the White House to celebrate the successes of hunters and anglers. We continued to reinforce our partnership with leaders in the Department of the Interior with meetings and regular communications, including hosting the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to showcase a conservation success story. We sustained relationships with our Congressional and legislative champions and their staff, holding 18 events at the Hunters' Embassy that involved 20 individual members of Congress. We had a member of our staff and a volunteer appointed to the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council. We defended the freedom to hunt and met with governments all over the globe, including France, South Africa, New Zealand, and Paraguay. I am proud of this team—the best in the business—as well as our great organization and am pleased to report on all these positives.

One Team, One Direction, One Purpose,



Chris Tymeson, J.D.
Vice President of Government Affairs
Safari Club International

STATE & LOCAL



WINS

- 1. Oregon's Initiative Petition 28 Fails.** In a significant win for hunters and anglers, IP 28, which aimed to ban all hunting and fishing in the state along with many agricultural, veterinary, and other practices, failed to qualify for the November ballot by falling below the required number of signatures threshold. SCI actively opposed the initiative.
- 2. Colorado's Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish Effort on the Ballot.** Following the delivery of 180,000 signatures, the Colorado Secretary of State officially certified the Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish initiative for the November 3 statewide ballot. The measure, supported by SCI and a broad coalition of over 60 organizations, would enshrine the right to hunt, fish, and harvest fish and wildlife by traditional methods in the state constitution. If passed, Colorado would become the 25th state to have constitutional protections for hunting and fishing.
- 3. California's Forced Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Fails.** In August, the California Assembly Appropriations Committee failed to advance SB 1305, which would have required development of a reintroduction plan for grizzly bears, effectively killing the bill for the session. SCI opposed the bill, testifying in committee and joining partners to submit a letter highlighting our concerns with the potential reintroduction.
- 4. New Jersey Crossbow Weight Limits Removed.** In early September, the New Jersey Fish and Game Council adopted a new 2026-2027 Game Code. SCI worked directly with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to remove a proposal for a crossbow maximum draw weight of 200 pounds, which would prohibit most crossbows afield.



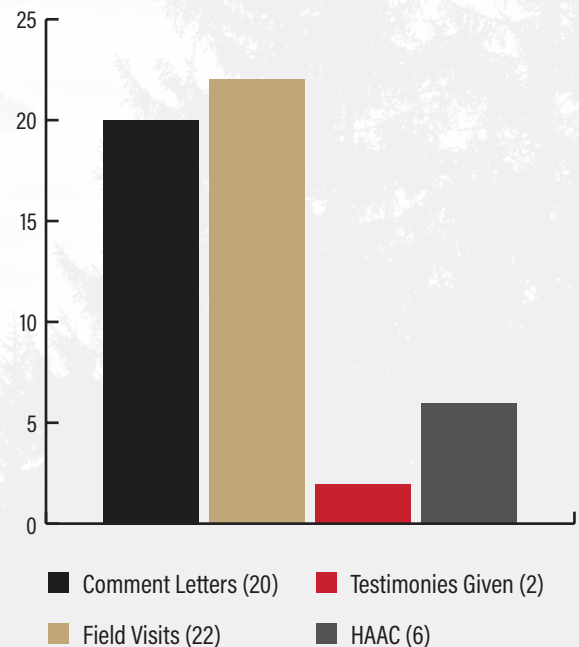
THREATS

- 1. Animals Rights Organizations Continue Assault on Traditional Ammo.** Two animal rights organizations petitioned to ban the use of traditional lead ammunition for hunting in New Jersey. When that petition was denied, the groups sued. SCI moved to intervene, but the court denied SCI's participation without explanation. Its ruling limits SCI's ability to defend hunters' interests in a case that could affect future regulation of ammunition in the Garden State. The same organizations are also actively pursuing lead ammunition bans in Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, New York, and other states.



LOSSES

- 1. CPW Commission Limits Furbearer Harvest.** The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission significantly cut daily furbearer bag limits, without first providing notice to the public or an opportunity for public comment and without any scientific support. SCI and Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation sent a letter objecting to this violation of administrative procedure and urging the Commission to re-notice and reconsider the rule, but the Commission has not yet reversed its course.
- 2. Massachusetts Bans Natural Based Deer Attractants and Drags Feet on Access Improvements.** An on-again, off-again effort in Massachusetts to allow for Sunday hunting, reduce archery setback distance reductions, and allow for full inclusion of crossbows failed to move forward. Additionally, natural based deer attractants were banned via regulation.



FEDERAL



WINS

- 1. Executive Actions Support Hunting and Science-Based Wildlife Management.** SCI applauded the President's Executive Order, "Reinvigorating America's Hunting Heritage," which recognizes hunters' vital conservation contributions and directs federal agencies to expand hunting access, support healthy game populations and venison donation programs, and prevent unnecessary restrictions on traditional ammunition (among other things). SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin attended the White House celebration honoring America's hunters and anglers. SCI also welcomed Executive Order 14425, which directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the status of gray wolves in the lower 48 states and consider removing recovered populations from the Endangered Species Act, an important step toward science-based wildlife management.
- 2. SCI Appointed to Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council.** SCI applauded reestablishment of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council and is proud to be represented by Chris Tymeson, SCI Vice President of Government Affairs, as a council member, and Mark Moore, Safari Club International — Music City Chapter, as an alternate member.
- 3. Hunting Expands on the NWRS.** SCI celebrated the largest expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities in history, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized the 2026-2027 "Hunt Fish Rule" and opened more than 92 million acres—representing over 95% of National Wildlife Refuge System lands—to hunting. The Service authorized almost 1,500 new hunting and fishing opportunities across 32 States.
- 4. Committee Passes SCI-Supported Polar Bear Bill.** SCI applauded the House Natural Resources Committee for advancing H.R. 6251, legislation that would authorize the import of 41 polar bears legally harvested in Canada and stranded there for more than 15 years. SCI has led efforts to resolve this issue and return these bears, including testimony by SCI attorney Madie Demaske in support of this bill, which is now poised for consideration by the full House.
- 5. SCI Supports Management of Wyoming Elk Through Hunting.** SCI and the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association supported the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal for the National Elk Refuge, which embraces adaptive management and regulated hunting for managing supplemental winter feeding. SCI had led efforts to protect the Jackson herd by appropriately balancing disease mitigation with the threats of starvation and depredation. The Service's proposal aligns with SCI's position and recognizes the essential role of hunting in elk management.
- 6. Progress in Combatting Burdensome Litigation.** SCI commended further efforts to reduce the incentives for unnecessary and burdensome litigation by so-called environmental organizations. SCI supported introduction of the Fixing Egregiously Expensive Suits (FEES) Act, sponsored by Reps. Tom Tiffany (R-WI) and Harriet Hageman (R-WY); as well as the House Natural Resources Committee's oversight investigation into the use of taxpayer funds to finance serial litigation against wildlife and habitat management. SCI Sr. Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox previously testified about the need for legislative reforms to ensure the federal government does not subsidize unnecessary or low-value lawsuits.

FEDERAL



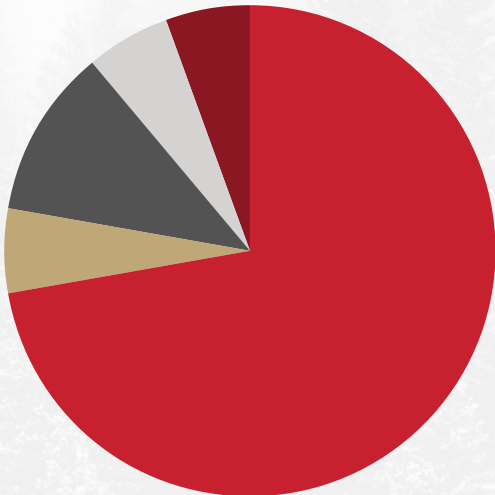
LOSSES

1. **Wolf Delisting Blocked.** SCI was disappointed when wolf delisting from the Endangered Species Act—a necessary action passed by the House—finally reached the Senate floor but failed to receive unanimous consent. Even though wolf populations have exceeded recovery goals for decades, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) objected to this bipartisan bill. SCI continues to urge the Senate to take up the delisting bill, S. 1306.



THREATS

1. **Unexpected Challenges to Protected Wetlands.** SCI submitted comments urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain its current drain tile setback policy for federally protected wetland easements, which safeguard critical waterfowl breeding habitat in North America's Prairie Pothole region. Weakening these protections could increase wetland drainage and undermine decades of conservation efforts that benefit waterfowl, hunters, and other wildlife.



HUNTERS' EMBASSY™ EVENTS

- Fundraisers (13)
- Hunt Club Roundtable (1)
- Congressional Briefings (2)
- Reception (1)
- Continuing Education Class (1)

* 20 different members of Congress visited in total *

INTERNATIONAL



WINS

1. **New Regulations Ease International Travel with Suppressors.** The U.S. government modernized export regulations and reduced unnecessary burdens on law-abiding hunters, sportsmen, and firearm owners traveling internationally with suppressors. SCI had engaged with the Departments of State and Commerce for 18 months to encourage adoption of these regulatory changes, which allow suppressors to be treated the same way as other firearms when traveling internationally.
2. **SCI Expands Engagement in South America.** A delegation of SCI and SCI Foundation staff traveled to Paraguay to meet with senior government leaders in ongoing efforts to grow international hunting. While there, a bill passed Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies, marking a significant first step toward opening the country to international hunting. A delegation from SCI and the SCI Foundation also traveled to Argentina and Uruguay to meet with government representatives and partner organizations to discuss ongoing issues and growing SCI's engagement in those countries.
3. **South Africa Finally Adopts Export Quotas.** South Africa published final export quotas for elephant, leopard, and black rhinoceros hunting trophies for 2026 and 2027. Publication of export quotas provides much-needed certainty to conservation stakeholders, hunting operators, and communities that rely on wildlife-based economies. SCI and PHASA strongly supported issuance of these long-overdue quotas.
4. **SCI Advances New Strategic Collaboration in New Zealand.** New Zealand's Minister of Hunting and Fishing has committed to developing strategies to increase the perceived and actual value of wildlife like tahr, chamois, wapiti, and deer. SCI met with the Minister and is collaborating in developing the country's strategies that will benefit the hunting industry and wildlife conservation.
5. **SCI's Chapter Influence Continues to Grow.** SCI's International Chapters held several successful events, including inaugural banquets of the Pakistan and BENELUX Chapters, both of which welcomed high-level government representatives and furthered SCI's advocacy efforts abroad.



LOSSES

1. **Duck Hunting Suspended in Uruguay.** Uruguay's Ministry of Environment has suspended sport hunting for the three duck species previously authorized for harvest, citing sustainability concerns. SCI and the SCI Foundation are coordinating with local outfitters and biologists and stand ready to support efforts to document healthy duck populations.
2. **Visa Policies Impact Travel to the U.S.** Visa policies continue to make it difficult for citizens of some countries to travel to the United States, impacting their attendance at SCI events. SCI has vigorously advocated for exemptions for affected members and government representatives who have well-documented compliance with previous visa requirements.



THREATS

1. **French Trophy Import Ban Looms.** The French government announced its intent to ban the import of hunting trophies of all CITES-listed species. The French SCI Chapter is coordinating efforts with other sustainable use organizations to lobby against this action and raising funds for potential litigation to challenge the ban, if implemented.
2. **EU Contemplates Import Restrictions.** The European Commission is increasing its scrutiny of hunting trophy imports, which may lead to increased import restrictions throughout the European Union for certain species. SCI is actively opposing any increased trade restrictions.
3. **Argentina Trophy Exports Remain on Hold.** Argentina's ongoing refusal to issue export permits for any legally hunted trophies is significantly undermining its hunting industry. SCI continues to urge Argentina's authorities to issue export permits as soon as possible.

LEGAL



WINS

- 1. Intervention Promotes Hunting Rights in Canada.** SCI was granted leave to intervene in a case before the Supreme Court of Canada challenging Canada's ban on so-called "assault-style" firearms. As the only intervenor representing hunters, SCI explained how many of the prohibited firearms are commonly used for hunting and recreational shooting.
- 2. SCI Stands Up for Hunters in the Supreme Court.** SCI and Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation also filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court explaining how bans on semi-automatic firearms violate the U.S. Constitution because these firearms are commonly used for hunting, an activity protected by the Second Amendment.
- 3. SCI Celebrates Freedom 250 with a Conservation Success Story.** SCI hosted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik in Louisiana for an alligator hunt that showcased one of North America's greatest wildlife recovery achievements. The hunt highlighted how science-based management, private landowner stewardship, and regulated hunting transformed the American alligator from an endangered species into a thriving conservation success. The hunt was filmed for an upcoming video that celebrates the alligator's sustainable-use success story and the critical role of hunting in generating incentives and benefits for local stakeholders.
- 4. Summer CLE Educates Attorneys on Conservation Law.** SCI welcomed more than 90 attendees for the inaugural Summer Series Continuing Legal Education Program, bringing together attorneys from across the country to explore some of the most pressing issues in conservation law. Participants learned from an outstanding lineup of conservation leaders including two former directors of federal agencies as well as SCI staff.
- 5. SCI and TWF Defend State-Authorized Hunting in Tennessee.** SCI and the Tennessee Wildlife Federation filed an amicus brief urging the Tennessee Court of Appeals to reverse a decision allowing the City of Sweetwater to apply a firearm discharge ordinance to punish lawful duck hunting on private property. The brief argues that local ordinances cannot prohibit hunting activities authorized by state and federal law and highlights hunting's vital role in wildlife management and conservation funding.



LOSSES

- 1. Court Refuses to Stop Deer Eradication.** Despite legal motions from SCI and its litigation partners, a Los Angeles County court refused to stop the Catalina Island Conservancy from beginning the planned eradication of mule deer from the island.



THREATS

- 1. Relisting of Recovered Wolves Remains Possible.** SCI and litigation partners continue to defend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's rejection of efforts to force recovered wolf populations in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming back on the Endangered Species Act lists. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear argument on this issue in October 2026, with a potentially unfavorable panel having the power to decide whether these populations remain under state management or face renewed federal protections.
- 2. Science-Based Coyote Management at Risk in Michigan.** SCI submitted an amicus brief in support of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's decision to reinstate year-round coyote harvest through a shortened hunting season and extended management season. The Commission acknowledged the need to address local overabundance and conflicts with coyotes, but the plaintiff seeks to reduce coyote harvest at the expense of hunters and livestock producers.

BY THE NUMBERS

4 New Cases

6 Comment Letters

90 Attendees at the inaugural summer Continuing Legal Education program

HUNTER INFORMATION SERVICE



WINS

- 1. Women Go Hunting Expands Its Support.** Women Go Hunting remained active, including by hosting a women's group hunt in Texas. It also launched the "Women's Resource Guide" on the SCI website, posting more than 20 trainings, group events, and hunts specifically for women. This quarter, Women Go Hunting received 27 stories from women hunting, published 62 blog posts with women's photos and stories and evaluated 72 new entries for the WGH Photo Challenge.
- 2. HIS Helped 35 Members Vet Potential Hunting and Taxidermy Operations.** The Hunter Information Service assisted 35 members. Among other things, the HIS vetted over 60 hunting and taxidermy operations, obtaining first-hand feedback from SCI members about these businesses.
- 3. HIS Helped Over One Dozen Members with Trophy Shipment Problems.** The Hunter Information Service was busy assisting members in resolving problems with trophy shipments. Among these successes: One member finally received his elephant trophy from Namibia; another received his shipment from Scotland; and another member received a refund from a taxidermist who sent the wrong trophy.

475 MEMBER REQUESTS

78 Trophy Shipment/Import Issues

72 Hunting Travel Assistance
(Firearms, Airlines, Visas, Insurance, Safety, Declarations, etc.)

52 Outfitter/Taxidermist Disputes/Controversies

35 Outfitter Research and Vetting Requests

158 Women Go Hunting Inquiries, Photos, Stories and
Challenge Entry Submissions

80 Other (Membership, Record Book, Advocacy, Chapters, etc.)