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PRESIDENT REPORT - WESTERN DIVISION

Semi Annual National Executive Committee Meeting  
American Fisheries Society

March 1975  
William S. Platts

I was fortunate to be able to attend three of the Western Division's Chapter meetings this winter--the California - Nevada, the Bonneville, and the Colorado - Wyoming. These meetings were impressive with large participation, excellent programs and well structured business meetings.

The Western Division has made an all out attempt this year to make the Chapters the backbone of the Division and the Chapter member's the guiding force behind the Division. This buildup of communications has identified concern at the memberships and Chapters level. Membership control of the Society, increased Chapter activity, and a responsible Division working closely with the National executive committee is the only approach to sustaining the Society as an effective professional organization. The potential strength of the Society lies in its Chapters operations and there should be balance at all levels.

## Membership Unrest

In my Chapter and membership contact within the Western Division the past year I found disturbing unrest concerning the operations and goals of the Society. This concern is real based on fact and must be acknowledged. The problems behind the unrest are frustrating because there are no easy answers.

The membership within the Division has many questions and comments of direction that need evaluation. Major questions within the Western Division are as follows:

1. Why shouldn't we split from the Parent Society and form another society which will be more responsible to its members and better meet member needs?
2. Why do certain members, Chapters, disciplines or Sections within the Society have such a hard time identifying with the Society?
3. Why doesn't the guidance and direction of Society operations and programs come more from the membership?
4. Why should I be required to pay for the Transactions when Universities, Agencies and libraries have them available for our use? Also why aren't there articles I can relate to more?
5. What is the Society doing for us and are we receiving twenty dollars worth of value?
6. Why does the Society exist in limbo and refuse to address itself to issues of national importance?
7. Why is there a need for a certain chapter to route a petition calling for amendments to the constitution where action on any question may be initiated by any member regarding any aspect of the American Fisheries Society?

Some of these questions may not seem important to the National Executive Committee but possibly this is part of the problem.

I would recommend that the National Executive Committee appoint an Ad Hoc Committee formed not of members from the National Executive Committee of members that have been on the National Executive Committee, but members that understand the problems at the ground level. This committee would be charged with identifying the concern and determining solutions to this concern and presenting their findings to the membership. Then working from the membership, through the Chapters, to the Divisions and into the ~~Division~~ <sup>Society</sup> level, maybe some of these concerns can be diminished.

### Communication

As stated before, the Western Division has made a special effort this year to develop communication between the Division, its chapters and their members. However, there is little communication between the Division and the ~~Division~~ <sup>Society</sup> level. Thus, a block develops between the members and their Society. To compensate this problem the ~~Division~~ <sup>Society</sup> level deals directly with the Chapters without Division knowledge, the Division deals directly with the Chapters without ~~Division~~ <sup>Society level</sup> knowledge and the Chapters deal directly with the Society without Division knowledge and as a result the members don't feel they are communicating with anybody. I recommend to the Executive Committee that another committee be assigned to develop a policy manual of instructions and operations to outline and provide guidance as to how the members, the Chapters, the Divisions and the Executive Committee are to function. Thus, we can build uniformity, conformity, and understanding as to how our organization is to operate.

### Meeting Time and Place

To get on to Division business the 1975 annual meeting of the Western Division will be held July 13-16, in Seattle, Washington. We invite <sup>the Executive Director and</sup> ~~the~~ the National Executive Committee to attend the meeting as your participation in the discussions and business sessions is badly needed.

### Time and Place Committee

A committee chaired by Bud Basset from <sup>ARIZONA</sup> ~~ARIZONA~~ has been assigned to evaluate the present practice of the Western Division meeting with the Western Association of Fish and Game Commissioners. Many members feel attendance and interest would be increased by meeting separately and many members feel that the present meeting arrangement best fits the membership needs.

The committee will address itself to numerous alternatives. Examples are; (1) meeting in conjunction with another organization such as the Pacific Fishery Biologists. (2) Have Chapters sponsor the Annual Division meetings. (3) Meet independently. (4) Meet with the Western Division of the Wildlife Society. (5) Continue as is. (6) Consider any other alternative they wish. The committee will submit a report to membership at the July 1975 Division meeting. Possibly the committee will, from their analysis, submit time and place recommendations. If so, the membership will then evaluate these recommendations and the Division will act as the membership directs.

## Stream Resource Flow Symposium

The Western Division is well on its way to sponsoring its first symposium thanks to the excellent work of Mr. Fred Eiserman from Wyoming. The symposium will be on "Stream Resource Flows" which has national interest. The symposium will be held in ~~March~~ <sup>April</sup> 1976. We will move at the coming Annual Meeting of American Fisheries Society that the Society be a co-sponsor of this symposium and provide editorial assistance with the symposium publication. ~~Co-sponsorship by the Society will~~ Co-sponsorship by the Society will in no way bind the Society to any financial obligation. The publication resulting from this symposium will have wide interest and we will request assistance from the Society in the selling and distribution of the publication.

This completes the report of the Western Division and I move for its acceptance.

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