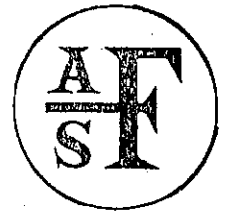


# American Fisheries Society

## WESTERN DIVISION



March 28, 1978

Carl R. Sullivan  
Executive Director  
American Fisheries Society  
5410 Grosvenor Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20014

Dear Sully:

Following is my report on the Western Division, for the record of the mid-year Executive Committee meeting in Mexico City on March 14, 1978:

I would view the Western Division as being in a transitional period, since there are several changes occurring - all pointing towards a more active attitude on fisheries issues. I was particularly interested in the report of the Southern Division, as I noted several basic differences in the organization and operating styles of the two Divisions.

The Western Division, because of its large size and broad range of environmental conditions, is more oriented towards chapters than disciplines. I have had the opportunity to visit several chapter meetings this year, and have been impressed with the high degree of interest and member participation at the chapter level. The presentations and panel discussions, often with outside speakers from many disciplines, have been excellent. There has been no hesitation in dealing with difficult and frequently controversial issues. These kinds of programs, some of which I will mention in a moment, have served to stimulate action, and have been the basis for member activities throughout the year. To me, that is very important for the Western Division, for the bulk of membership participation occurs at the chapter level.

Just in the past six months, I have also learned of efforts to create at least five new chapters in the Division, which indicates the kind of growth I wish to encourage. The North Pacific International Chapter was formed last December in Olympia, Washington, and includes members from Washington and British Columbia. Just a month later, a group of members located in the Pullman, Wash. and Moscow, Idaho areas inquired about forming a chapter related to the University of Idaho and Washington State University. At the California-Nevada Chapter meeting, I was approached by a group of people interested in forming a marine-oriented chapter in Southern California. Members in the Tucson area are in the final stages of forming a chapter associated with the University of Arizona. Another group has expressed interest in the Corvallis area to serve fisheries people at Oregon State University and the several state and federal fisheries agencies in the area. The Division already has several chapters that overlap geographically, and I see no problem with that. A localized chapter can focus on activities of a specialized nature that do not necessarily conflict but which complement the activities of a state-wide or bi-state chapter.

# American Fisheries Society



## WESTERN DIVISION

Carl R. Sullivan  
March 28, 1978  
Page 2

### Western Division Report (Continued)

The Division has been faced with some internal problems in recent years, but I submit that these have been "growing problems", and are signs of the maturing status of the Division. Time and Place is still a contentious item, and will continue to be; there is no easy solution in meeting the needs of so diverse a membership. Membership services provided by the Division is also being examined; how can a member get the most return on his investment?

During this year in office I have sought to concentrate on the following items on behalf of the Division:

1. The growth and development of chapters (and interest sections where possible) so as to provide a sound basis for member involvement.
2. Regional approaches to fisheries issues, such as endangered vs. exotic species; water rights for fish in multiple water use conflicts; better communications with other entities involved in fisheries work, and with the public; and encouraging participation by non-professionals in Society activities.
3. Initiating action on fisheries issues by providing informed opinions, resolutions, position papers, and testimony before decision-making bodies to aid them in policy decisions affecting fish resources.
4. Appointment of Division representatives to various committees of the Western Association to enhance relations between the two organizations and encourage cooperative action on areas of mutual interest.

In direct relation to the last item, the Division and Western Association are meeting jointly in San Diego July 18-20, with a fully integrated program entitled, "Fish and Wildlife in American Society - A Matter of Dollars and Sense". The conference will carry out the theme by developing information on the economic and social contributions of fish and wildlife to contemporary American society. Speakers and panelists are being sought who can contribute information on the theory and practical aspects of fish and wildlife economics; the social contribution of the resources in terms of their recreation, therapy, and community values; the contribution of fish and wildlife as generators of wealth or business; and the extent of the industries based on fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,

KIRK T. BEININGEN  
PRESIDENT

Mailing address:

15080 S.E. Laurie Ave.  
Milwaukie, OR 97222