



American Fisheries Society
Western Division

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21543 S.W. 98th
Tualatin, OR 97062

Mr. Carl Sullivan, Executive Secretary
American Fisheries Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20014

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WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS
AND TRUST TERRITORIES

Dear Carl:

Time is rapidly slipping by since our annual meeting in Louisville at which time I set forth a number of specific goals and objectives the Western Division established for 1980-81. I will bring you up to date on some of the more active committees and status of the workshop as they stand at this time.

The stream habitat symposium, coordinated by Bob Wiley, has been re-scheduled for September 1982 in Jackson, Wyoming. The symposium will emphasize field participation. As it stands now, the number of participants will be held to approximately 50 and it will be on an invitation basis.

The Acquisition and Utilization of Aquatic Habitat Inventory Information Workshop, coordinated by Neil Armantrout is scheduled for October 1981 in Portland, Oregon (see attached). Letters have been sent to federal and state agencies to generate support for the symposium.

Several Western Division committees have been very active. Glen Phillips, Membership Committee Chairman, has worked very closely with the National Membership Committee and Western Division Chapters. Glen's efforts will insure that the Western Division will remain the largest division by membership in the Society. John Peters has worked very hard in the area of the resolutions. He has developed a format for Western Division resolution presentation to annual meetings. I have attached copies of the resolution format, which I would like the Executive Committee to consider for use at our National meeting. John has also established a mitigation committee which will consist of Western Division AFS members and members from the Western Association of Fish and Game Commission. The committee will explore the mechanism by which mitigation is awarded to state and federal agencies for fish and wildlife losses.

As you are aware, the Western Division had its field trip with the Forest Service in Idaho (Sawtooth National Recreational Area) to review in the field riparian habitat conditions on Forest Service administered lands. Errol Claire, Oregon, represented the Division at this review and did a super job. A field report summarizing the trip was submitted to you for use in discussion with the Chief of the Forest Service. The Western Division has made its mark in getting recognition of the riparian concern by the Forest Service. As for the Western Division Riparian Committee, Don Duff is again chairing this committee, and is doing an excellent job. He has set forth an objective of preparing a Best Management Practices paper for riparian to be completed by July 1981, and has assigned committee people to work on various phases of this paper.

The Western Division riparian habitat position paper has been sent to Chapters. Chapters were asked to distribute the position papers to state and federal agencies and interested groups who have jurisdiction in riparian habitat management in their states or provinces. It was also requested that a list of names and addresses of those receiving the position paper be forwarded to Don Duff, Chairman of the Riparian Committee, so that the Division could follow up and send copies of the Best Management Practices paper to those receiving the position paper.

Bob White, President-Elect, is in the process of preparing our program for the Hawaii meeting. He is being assisted by Stan Moberly, Alaska, and Brian Waters, California. To date, approximately three-fourths of the program has been finalized. By the sounds of travel restrictions that have been imposed by many agencies, we may have more people on the program than have come to listen.

Chapter meetings held throughout the Division have been well attended. The North Pacific International Chapter had over 300 registered, while 275 attended the Oregon Chapter meeting. At both meetings about 60% were AFS members. Other chapters were also well attended.

Sincerely,



GORDON N. HAUGEN, President
Western Division, AFS

Enclosure

A Symposium, Sponsored by the Western Division, American Fisheries Society

Subject: The Acquisition and Utilization of Aquatic Habitat Inventory Information.

Date: October 28-30, 1981

Location: Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon

Background:

Aquatic systems exist in close relationship with other resources. With the need for all resources increasing, the ecosystems in which aquatic systems are found continue to be changed and modified. The demand for use of aquatic habitat and aquatic resources continues to increase. At the same time, the loss of habitat and the competing demands have placed added stress on the resource, resulting in a reduction in quality and quantity. To help satisfy competing demands for resources, more precise information is needed on aquatic resource conditions and trends, aquatic species habitat requirements, habitat needs, and management options, information that will help in making sound resource and land allocations. Increasingly, biologists are being asked to detail existing habitat conditions, to develop management strategies, and to predict the outcome of various management options. This has created a need for improved methods of conducting aquatic habitat inventories, evaluating the condition of the aquatic resources, and developing management recommendations.

Increasingly, fund limitations restrict the potential options. Fish management agencies, land management agencies, and other interested groups face the need to allocate limited funds in the most efficient manner. This requires better information on the resources available, their condition and need, desires of the resource users, and the potential benefits from expenditure of funds. Inventory and evaluation techniques provide the information on which such decisions are based.

New techniques are being developed for conducting inventories, evaluating the results, and incorporating the information into the decision-making process. Many of these look at more than the local aquatic resources, with work being done in a larger, ecosystem framework. Computers have made it easier to incorporate new technology into the process, and to handle the data from inventories. Many of the new techniques are most cost-efficient. A variety of individuals and organizations are working on the development of new techniques and procedures for the acquisition and utilization of aquatic inventory information, with efforts at all levels from field inventory to the sophisticated modelling of ecosystems.

At the present time, there is no regular forum for exchange of information on the acquisition and utilization of aquatic inventory information. The proposed symposium would be a method for bringing together interested people for an exchange of such information. Results of the meeting would be published in order to make them available to all interested parties.

Topics:

The following are topics to be considered at the symposium. It is anticipated that each would be a session topic, although specific topics will not be assigned until after the preliminary paper submissions are received.

- Defining the aquatic ecosystem and its individual components
- Methodology for measuring the habitat components
- Relating habitat components to species utilization
- Interfacing aquatic habitat inventories with other resource inventories

- Using habitat inventory information to evaluate habitat condition and potential
- The use of inventory information and evaluation in aquatic habitat classification systems
- The use of inventory data and evaluations in resource planning and impact analysis
- Data storage, retrieval, and analysis systems

Program:

We anticipate having a program composed mostly of contributed papers. These will be presented in sessions with a specific topic. If submissions warrant, concurrent sessions will be held. The actual make-up will depend upon the submissions. We also are considering a poster session, if sufficient interest is shown. We will be requesting papers and poster session submissions beginning in January/February. We will request an abstract, 300 words or less, with title and author(s).

Two other items are being considered if sufficient interest is shown. One is a "film festival" of habitat and inventory-related films and slide-tapes. Several agencies have developed training films on various aspects of inventories. If they are willing to share these, we will have a showing or several showings of these films. The second item is a demonstration of computer systems or models for the storage, analysis, and modelling of information. Agencies or groups which have developed and are using such programs would be invited to demonstrate their use; a formal presentation may also be made on the computer program at one of the sessions.

A banquet will be scheduled on one evening. At the present time, we are considering a review of the Mt. St. Helens events, and current work associated with it, as a program, although we would be open to other suggestions. Tours to the St. Helens area and other locations of interest may also be made available.

Arrangements:

Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Hotel at a cost of \$40 single and \$56 double. Each individual will be asked to make their own reservations. Transportation to the hotel is available on DART from the airport at a reasonable cost. The hotel is located in downtown Portland. A registration fee of approximately \$40-50 will be charged; this will include two lunches and the banquet; actual figure will depend upon meal costs.

Publication:

The proceedings of the symposium will be published, although final arrangements have not been made. Attendees will receive a copy of the proceedings; others will be able to purchase copies. Information will be provided authors of accepted papers on how to prepare their manuscripts.