



*American Fisheries Society*  
*Western Division*

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
YUKON

MEXICO

ALASKA  
ARIZONA  
CALIFORNIA  
COLORADO  
HAWAII  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
NEVADA  
NEW MEXICO  
OREGON  
UTAH  
WASHINGTON  
WYOMING

WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS  
AND TRUST TERRITORIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: AFS Executive Committee

FROM: Glenn Phillips *Glenn*

RE: End-of-year report

DATE: August 8, 1993

Division Officers:

President  
President-elect  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Immediate Past President  
AFS Nominating Committee Rep.

Glenn Phillips  
Randy Bailey  
Christine Moffitt  
Don Chase  
Tom Powell

Chapter Presidents:

Alaska  
Arizona-New Mexico  
Bonneville  
California-Nevada  
Colorado-Wyoming  
Hawaii  
Humboldt  
Idaho  
Montana  
North Pacific International  
Oregon

Bill Hauser  
Jack Kelly  
Walter Donaldson  
Tom Taylor  
Frank Rahel  
Dill Devick  
David Fuller  
Karen Pratt  
Ginger Thomas  
Duane Phinney  
Phil Howell

Committee Chairs and Other Leaders:

Annual meeting arrangements  
Audit  
Awards  
Budget  
Bull trout status review  
Environmental concerns  
Newsletter editor  
Native peoples fisheries  
Nominations  
Old growth forests  
Pacific salmon stocks

Cay Goude  
John Leppink  
Carl Burger  
Christine Moffitt  
(To be appointed)  
Kelly Hepler  
Pat Dwyer  
Joe DosSantos  
Glenn Phillips  
David Fuller  
Pat Higgins

Program  
Resolutions  
Riparian  
Stream habitat procedures  
Time and place 1994, 1995  
Threatened and Endangered Species  
U.S. Government agency budget review  
BLM  
USFS  
USFWS  
Stock transfer

Jennifer Nielsen  
Dennis Tol  
Mark Gorges  
Pete Bisson  
EXCOM  
Jerry Burton  
  
Jeff Kershner  
Brad Shepard  
Dave Burns  
Tony Gharret

## CHAPTER REPORTS

**Alaska:** Sponsored two symposia which will eventually be published including "Fish Ecology in Arctic North America," and "Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Symposia." Also sponsoring publication of a book titled "Key to the Fishes in Alaska." Received a grant to evaluate the status of anadromous salmonids in Alaska. Arranged three continuing education workshops including: (1) statistical design, (2) technical writing, (3) habitat improvements. Passed a resolution to urge the Canadian and U.S. Governments to manage the Yukon River for wild stocks without the influence of hatcheries. Developed a Chapter action plan.

**Arizona-New Mexico:** Recently celebrated their 25th anniversary and increased their membership to over 90 professionals. Developed an informational brochure describing chapter organization and function; the brochure was distributed to state and federal fishery agencies and used as a recruiting tool. Hosted a hatchery workshop in conjunction with their 1993 annual meeting and are planning an Endangered Species Act workshop in 1994. Will be hosting the 1994 Western Division meeting in June, 1994.

**Bonneville:** Commented on a highway construction project planned for the Provo River Canyon. Lobbied Congressional representatives to ease FDA restrictions on certain drugs important to fish culture. Developed an action plan to guide Chapter activities. Developed a summary of enhancement and recovery efforts for the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout that was provided to the USFWS for use during the status review process. Electrofishing and riparian workshops are planned for 1993. Will be hosting the 1995 WDAFS meeting in Park City, Utah.

**Cal-Neva:** Fought an initiative in California that would have given the board of professional foresters authority to license fishery biologists. Continue to offer a variety of continuing education classes for professionals. Continue to be active on a variety of aquatic resource issues including the Sacramento Chinook, delta smelt, and others. Hosted the 1993 WDAFS meeting in Sacramento.

**Colorado-Wyoming:** Sponsored a workshop at their annual meeting titled: "Dealing with people: how to identify and resolve conflicts among natural resource user groups." Endorsed a joint position statement with five other professional societies calling for natural resource agencies to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their management plans. Will be hosting a workshop in 1994 titled: "Wild-trout - planted trout, balancing the scale." This workshop is being partly sponsored by the Western Division.

**Hawaii:** Worked to sponsor legislation to study the effects of inshore gill net fishing with hopes of generating regulations. Examining the problem of exotic introductions originating from ballast water from tropical regions. Working to schedule meetings on islands other than Oahu and will be inviting the public to their annual meeting.

**Humboldt:** Their white paper, "Factors in Northern California Threatening Stocks with Extinction," is being widely used. National forests in northern California are using this paper as a basis for designating "key watersheds" in their forest standards and guidelines. Developed a slide presentation that is being used with the new California science curriculum that features anadromous fishes as an educational brochure centering on the importance of streams in the McKinleyville area that targets property owners and developers. Continue to host a social event called the "tuna mixer" which they use to encourage students to join AFS.

**Idaho:** Their Chinook Committee hosted a successful "Chinook and Coho Workshop" that was attended by members from several Western Division chapters. The proceedings from their 1992 Smolt Passage Workshop are now available for purchase. Developed a Chapter position statement titled: "Livestock grazing activities in riparian and stream ecosystems." Advocacy guidelines that were originally adopted by the Idaho Chapter have served as a model for similar guidelines adopted by both the Western Division and the Parent Society.

**Montana:** Appealed a timber sale in the headwaters of the Blackfoot River because of concerns for bull trout; discussed the Endangered Species Act at a public forum in Kalispell; and reviewed and commented on the Milltown Dam fisheries mitigation plan. Lobbied the state legislature opposing a bill that would expand the authority of a local Chamber of Commerce to sell paddlefish roe, and supporting bills that would expand authority to lease or purchase water for instream use and provide greater review of subdivision activities. Worked with other conservation organizations to produce a beautiful and effective aquatic ecosystems education poster. A portion of the money in the Chapter account has been placed in an environmentally sensitive mutual fund called Pax World Fund.

**North Pacific International:** The Chapter sponsored a Sockeye-Kokanee workshop in conjunction with their annual meeting -- proceedings will be published. Co-sponsored a coho salmon workshop last May in Nanaimo, BC. Received a grant from the Pugh Foundation to undertake an evaluation of the status of anadromous fish stocks in British Columbia similar to previous reviews conducted in Oregon and California. The controversial oil spill video was turned over to the Canadian aquatic resources committee.

**Oregon:** Petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a status review for listing Klamath Basin bull trout. At the request of Congress, they are participating in a multi-organizational effort to develop recommendations for protecting old growth watersheds in eastern Oregon and Washington. Working with a state legislative committee to develop recommended agricultural practices for protecting fishery habitat and are continuing to prepare for hosting the 1993 national meeting in Portland scheduled for late April and early September. Developing a video illustrating effects of grazing on riparian ecosystems. Co-hosting a workshop on rangeland management. Hosting a symposia dealing with watershed restoration and coho and chinook salmon management.

#### **COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of the Western Division was held jointly with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies in Sacramento, California the week of July 24-29, 1993. The theme of the meeting was "the changing face of conservation." Over 500 registrants were in attendance. The meeting was preceded by an EXCOM retreat and pre-business meeting at Lake Tahoe. Jennifer Nielsen did an outstanding job with the program and other members of the Cal-Neva Chapter including Ken Hashagen, Chuck Knudson, Tom Taylor and Cay Goude did an excellent job with arrangements.

**Audit:** Christine Moffitt is doing an excellent job of accounting for expenditures. Recommendations include: (1) continue to require receipts for all expenditures, (2) purchase a ledger that can be transferred when offices change, (3) invest funds that are not being used annually to provide greater income, (4) develop a committee for budget planning.

**Arrangements:** The committee made several recommendations regarding future meetings with WAFWA including: (1) the contract with the hotel should be signed by both parties; (2) all money issues should be discussed and agreed upon in advance; (3) scheduling and coordination of meetings should be agreed upon on advance; (4) complimentary rooms should be split equally between WDAFS and WAFWA; (5) every attempt should be made to cooperate and coordinate. These items should be dealt with by the EXCOM well in advance of the meeting.

**Awards:** Several awards were presented at the annual meeting including: Award of Excellence (Dr. Robert Behnke), Award of Merit (Pat Higgins, Robert Lea), Special Recognition (Cay Goude), Borovicka (Fred Holm, Eldon Vestal), Conservation Achievement (Hal Thomas), Chapter of the Year (Alaska), and Best Student Paper (Ramona Swenson).

**Budget:** A new committee was formed at the annual meeting that will give more attention to budget planning and investment options and will develop a process for the Division to entertain requests to fund special projects.

**Bull Trout Status Review:** A new committee is being formed to respond to a request from the timber industry to provide oversight and peer review of a study which they are funding and that is being conducted by Don Chapman and Associates to review the distribution and status of bull trout in the Western United States. The committee will be comprised of members from Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. We are waiting to hear from the timber industry to find out if travel funds are available to committee members.

**Environmental Concerns:** A draft WDAFS position statement on reform of the 1872 Mining Law was tentatively accepted by the membership. The draft was distributed to the various EXCOM members and will be edited prior to being finalized. The Division intends to use this statement to lobby Congress for reform that will protect fishery resources and restore damage to fisheries caused by previous mining.

**Membership:** The membership recruitment and retention plan was distributed to each of the Chapters. There appeared to be little enthusiasm for participating in "Friends of Fish" and in recruiting library members. Greg Kindschi was singled out of his recruitment efforts in the Montana Chapter.

**Native Peoples Fisheries:** The two major items being worked on by this Committee are securing a stable funding base for tribal fisheries programs and compiling information on the religious, cultural and subsistence importance of fisheries to native peoples. The Committee is planning to organize a session on native peoples fisheries for the 1994 Division meeting in Flagstaff.

**Nominations:** The newly elected Vice President of the Western Division is Dennis Lee from California. Terry Roelofs from California is our National Nominating Committee representative.

**Old Growth Forests:** This newly formed committee chaired by David Fuller, completed a draft policy statement outlining why protecting forests also protects watersheds and ultimately protects fishery habitat. The statement was approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

**Pacific Salmon Stocks:** Pat Higgins and his committee are focusing on educating the public concerning the status of stocks of pacific salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. Worked with the Fisheries Action Network to develop an educational poster describing rivers and stream that support stocks that are at risk. Requested that WDAFS join the Pacific Rivers Council in a petition to request a status review for all coho salmon stocks in the lower 48 states for possible listing under the Endangered Species Act. EXCOM members decided to poll their Chapter members before voting. A mail ballot has been distributed and votes are due by September 1, 1993.

**Riparian:** The committee, led by Mark Gorges, drafted a riparian resolution that was approved by WDAFS EXCOM. Copies were sent to both the BLM and the USFS. The riparian challenge awards continue to be an important focus; four awards were presented at the annual meeting. Conducted a session at the annual meeting dealing with watershed and ecosystem management. Prepared comments on a Bureau of Reclamation document that dealt with wetlands and reviewed a statement prepared by BLM employees expressing concern over riparian management policies.

**Stream Habitat Procedures:** Pete Bisson's committee hosted a highly successful stream habitat symposium in Corvallis, Oregon that was attended by over 400 people. Have begun revisions of a stream habitat glossary. Hosted a technical session at the Division meeting dealing with stream habitat. Responded to a request from the Parent Society to review the standing water glossary.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** The major focus of Jerry Burton's committee is to provide fishery input during the process of reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act. Jerry has been working with the Parent Society Endangered Species Committee to provide input for the Division.

**Time and Place:** The 1994 Western Division meeting will be in Flagstaff, Arizona near the end of June and will be hosted by the Arizona - New Mexico Chapter. The 1995 Western Division meeting will be in Park City, Utah and will be hosted by the Bonneville Chapter.

**U.S. Government Agency Budget Review:** Working with Pam McClelland of the Fishery Action Network, several committees were formed to review the fishery budgets of three federal agencies. The effort was led by Dave Burns (USFWS budget), Brad Shepard (USFS budget), and Jeff Kershner (BLM budget). I am told they all did an excellent job.

**WDAFS Review of AFS Position on Stock Transfer:** Tony Gharret, Alex Wertheimer and Bill Smoker provided an excellent review of the draft AFS position statement: "Protecting genetic resources of aquatic organisms: elimination of stock transfers." They pragmatically argue that it is not feasible to totally eliminate

stock transfers but that we need to have a process in place to evaluate and manage risk.

Action Items: None.

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