



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

To: Charles C. Coutant, AFS President
From: Thomas P. Nesler, Western Division President
Subject: 1997 Midyear Report to the Governing Board
Copies: Western Division EXCOM

Action Requested: None

Division Officers

President
President-elect
Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer
Past President

Tom Nesler
Pete Bisson
Bob Bilby
Jean Baldrige
Dennis Lee

Division Chapter Presidents

Alaska
Arizona/New Mexico
Bonneville
California/Nevada
Colorado/Wyoming
Hawaii
Humboldt
Idaho
Montana
New Mexico State Student
North Pacific International
Oregon
Portland

Peggy Merrit
Thomas R. McMahon
Eric Larson
Dennis McEwan
William H. Bradshaw
Robert A. Skillman
Bret C. Harvey
Charles E. Corsi
Bradley B. Shepard
Jason Davis
Bryan W. Hebden
Thomas W. H. Backman
Robert E. Bayley

Western Division Committees (Internal Affairs)

Archivist	Venice Beske
Arrangements	Ken Hashagen
Audit	Lou Carufel
Awards/Nominations	Dennis Lee
Equal Opportunity	(vacant)
Membership	Robert Bilby
Newsletter Editor	Greg Kindschi
Policy Review	Dennis Tol
Program	Jennifer Neilsen

Western Division Committees (External Affairs)

Bull Trout Conservation	Karen Pratt
Endangered Species	Leo Lentsch
Environmental Concerns	Michael Ward
National Nominating Rep.	Robert White
Native Peoples Fisheries	Kelly Meyer
Riparian	Jill Silvey
AFS Resolutions	Dennis Tol
AFS Certification Appeals	Frank Pfeifer

Division Highlights

- 1) Chapter Presidents contacted January 15 by letter to update communication lines and solicit discussion of issues/concerns.
- 2) Division Officer conference call - January 3: update on AFS topics from Special Management Committee meeting (Dec. 9) in Omaha, and potential needs for Division or Chapter action.
- 3) Completion of Goose Lake Native Fishes Poster by the Fremont National Forest (Oregon)
- 4) Participation in Special Management Committee Meeting - December 9, Omaha NE.
- 5) Preliminary discussion with NMFS on Division role as source of expertise and comment on NMFS listing assessment for Pacific salmon. (October 28)
- 6) Participation in AFS Aquatic Habitat Inventory Standardization Project.

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- 7) Division issue steward and task group appointed for 1872 Mining Law reform.
- 8) Participation on nine AFS committees by Division Officers and 19 AFS committees by Western Division members.
- 9) Task force on redraft of Human Use of Fish and Other Living Aquatic organisms.
- 10) Joined with Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics to develop a Range Stewardship Certification Program for western public lands.
- 11) Produced two issues of Division Newsletter, The Tributary, February 1997 & October 1996.
- 12) Consideration of funding requests for Proceedings of Sustainable Fisheries Conference, Symposium on Pathogens and Diseases of Fish in Aquatic Ecosystems (June 1997); and AZ-NM Chapter Student Scholarship Travel Award is continuing.
- 13) Participation in Organizational Audit of AFS.
- 14) Solicitation for 1997 Graduate Student Scholarship Award.
- 15) Planning of Point-counterpoint debate for joint WD/AFS Monterey meeting.
- 16) Financial assistance awards exceeding \$12,000 were provided to:
 - * Alaska Chapter for travel stipends for women and minorities
 - * Fremont National Forest for native aquatic wildlife poster
 - * Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund
 - * AFS Youth Education Committee
 - * North Pacific International Chapter for AFS/Chapter promotional display
 - * AFS 2000
 - * Two graduate student scholarship awards

Chapter Highlights (not meant to be complete)

- 1) Alaska-
 - * position statement on logging impacts on fisheries and habitat.
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group
 - * contribution to Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project

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- 2) Arizona/New Mexico-
 - * review of Environmental Assessment for renovation of Virgin River
- 3) California/Nevada-
 - * program and arrangements for 1997 AFS Meeting in Monterey, CA.
 - * participation on Human Use of Fishes task group
- 4) Colorado/Wyoming-
 - * briefing statement on public lands divestiture issue
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform
 - * annual meeting with special sessions on management of declining species, management problems associated with introduced fishes, and fisheries management at the basin level; and continuing education workshop on watershed scale analyses and stream restoration
- 5) Humboldt-
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group
- 6) Idaho-
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group?
- 7) Montana-
 - * participation on bull trout restoration team
- 8) Oregon-
 - * position statement on PACFISH guideline implementation issues
 - * Annual meeting on Ecological and Social Complexity in Fisheries Science: Scales of Time and Space
 - * undergraduate and graduate student scholarship awards
 - * Inland Rainbow trout Workshop sponsorship
 - * Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative peer review
 - * Comment on FWS Proposed Rule modifying category 1 and 2 candidate list
- 9) North Pacific International-
 - * Annual Meeting on Achieving Biodiversity in Ecosystem Management
 - * Contribution to Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project
 - * Review of British Columbia professional biologist certification issue
 - * Review of Riparian Protection on Agricultural Lands Initiative

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Committee Reports

- 1) Bull Trout Conservation-
 - * search for new chairperson
 - * review of three conservation planning documents for Montana from Montana Science and Restoration teams
 - * Division comment on Montana restoration goals for bull trout anticipated
 - * anticipated participation in review and comment on Jarbridge River EA.
 - * follow-up on Idaho conservation by watershed program
 - * follow-up on Oregon restoration program

- 2) Riparian-
 - * response to newspaper article on grazing improves habitat?
 - * special session on riparian management at AFS Monterey meeting
 - * issued Riparian Challenge award program (January 17) to USFS and BLM

- 3) Native Peoples Fisheries-
 - * investigated joint meeting proposal of Native Americans Fish and Wildlife Society with Arizona-New Mexico Chapter
 - * formulating new goals and objectives; coordinating review with six AFS members active in Tribal issues
 - * travel grant award to 1997 AFS Monterey meeting

- 4) Endangered Species-
 - * Special session on native trout management at AFS Monterey meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas P. Nesler
Western Division President
February 28, 1997