

American Fisheries Society

Western Division

February 13, 1998

To: William W. Taylor, AFS President
From: Peter A. Bisson, Western Division President
Subject: 1997-98 Mid-Term Report to the Governing Board
Copies: Western Division Executive Committee

Action Requested: None

Recommended Motions: None

Officers

President
President-Elect
Vice President
Past-President
Secretary-Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Nominating Rep.

Peter A. Bisson
Robert E. Bilby
Ken A. Hashagen
Thomas P. Nesler
Dave Drake
Paul Evans
vacant

Chapter Presidents

Alaska
Arizona-New Mexico
Bonneville
California-Nevada
Colorado-Wyoming
Hawaii
Humboldt
Idaho
Montana
NM State Univ Student
No. Pac. International
Oregon
Greater Portland
U. Wyoming Student

Mason D. Bryant
Colleen A. Caldwell
William A. Bradwisch
Camm C. Swift
Patrick J. Martinez
Robert A. Skillman
Susan C. McBride
Charles E. Corsi
Mark E. Lere
Nikkoal McClelland
Juanita Ptolemy
Harold J. Weeks
Robert E. Bayley
Andrew D. Gryska

Committees (internal affairs)

Archivist
Arrangements
Audit
Awards/Nominations
Equal Opportunity
FAN Manager
Membership
Policy Review
Program

Venice Beske
Cindy Hartmann
Lou Carufel
Tom Nesler
Jerry Salazar
Tom Nesler
Ken Hashagen
Dennis Tol
Cindy Hartmann

Committees (external affairs)

Bull Trout
Endangered Species
Environmental Concerns
Native Peoples Fisheries
Riparian
AFS Resolutions
AFS Certification Appeals
Mining Reform

Shelly Spaulding
vacant
Michael Ward
Kelly Meyer
Ron Wiley
Dennis Tol
Pete Bisson
Steve Wolff

Division Highlights:

I. Professional development

- The 1998 Western Division annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the 16th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium on Sept. 30-Oct. 3 in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Western Division, Alaska Chapter, North Pacific International Chapter, and Alaska Sea Grant. The Wakefield Symposium attracts an international audience of scientists, particularly those interested in marine shellfish and oceanography. The theme of the combined meeting is *Ecosystem Considerations in Fisheries Management*. The combined attendance at the Western Division meeting and Wakefield Symposium is expected to more than double the average attendance at our annual meeting and give members an opportunity to learn about topics not usually highlighted at our meetings.
- The Western Division will continue annual financial awards to outstanding fisheries graduate students within the Division, an initiative that was begun by Carl Burger several years ago.
- The Western Division approved a disbursement of \$300 to Washington Trout in support of a forum on *Uncertainty in Salmon Harvest Management*, in which a Bayesian decision model was developed to help managers account for uncertainty in setting harvest limits. Two members of the Excom participated in the program, which was attended by salmon managers from several Pacific Northwest states.

I. Diversity

- The Western Division contributed approximately \$1650 to the AFS International Fisheries Section to help provide AFS journal subscriptions to Russian Far East laboratories (with matching funds from Oregon and Alaska chapters).
- The Excom approved a disbursement of \$275 to the AFS Native Peoples Section to help defray Monterey meeting attendance costs for a Native American section member.

I. Visibility

- The Division's Riparian Committee is undertaking a review of the proposed Grazing Act.
- The Division's Bull Trout Committee is providing technical assistance regarding a plan for management of the Wigwam River watershed. The Wigwam River is a transboundary stream between US and Canada and contains a native bull trout population.
- The Excom is continuing to discuss a request from the AFS Resource Policy Committee for a possible AFS policy statement on resolution of the US-Canada Salmon Treaty. At present our plans are to highlight the issue at our annual meeting in Anchorage with speakers representing both scientific and political perspectives.

Chapter Highlights:

Alaska

- A travel award to attend the annual meeting was presented to a native Alaskan.
- The WWW site has been expanded and includes additional links.
- The Alaska salmonid stocks at risk study may be expanded to include the entire state.
- Assistance was provided to the Alaska state legislature and the Governor's office on a variety of fisheries issues.
- Work is continuing on the production of a key to the fishes of Alaska.
- Jim Reynolds reports that the Student Unit has been active and membership in has increased.

Humboldt

- ESA Workshop - April 25, 1997, Arcata, CA. We organized this workshop to address local concerns about the coho listing. Speakers addressed sections 4, 7 and 10 during the one day event. Over 100 agency personnel, students, timber company representatives, non-profit restoration groups, county supervisors, and environmental groups attended. We prepared a 500+ page binders with a copy of the Act, the Federal Register and handbooks developed by NMFS or USFWS for each sections.
- President elect, Dr. Kristine Brennaman, HSU Fishery Faculty, is working with the CAL NEVA chapter and the CDFG to put on one of their California Stream Bioassessment Procedure, 3-day workshops.
- Our fall seminar series included 5 presentations by fishery professionals and a PhD candidate. Topics and speakers were:
 - Sept 18* - Mike Orcutt, Fisheries Director, "Overview of Hoopa Tribal Fisheries"
 - Oct 18* - Mary Yoklavich, PMEL-NOAA- Coastal Rockfishes: Surviving to Old Age in a sea of technology
 - Nov 3* - Tammy Newcomb, Michigan State - Watershed Analysis of Juvenile Steelhead Production and Environmental Limitations
 - Nov 10* - Joe Cech, UC Davis- Temperature effects on California Fishes: Chinook Salmon, Bat Rays, and Delta Smelt
 - Nov 20* - Pete Kalvass, CDFG - The California Red Sea Urchin, *Strongylocentrotus franciscanus*: Catch, Effort and Management Trends
- Our spring seminar series is:
 - Feb 5* - Jon Heiftz, NMFS - Emerging issues in marine fisheries management in the North Pacific: habitat, endangered species, and ecosystem considerations
 - Feb 26* - Claude Singleton, BLM- Fitzhugh Creek rehabilitation: a high desert fishery
 - Mar 12* - George Watters, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission- Chilean sea bass: Out of the frying pan and into the fire: a case history of the Antarctic fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides*

Apr 16- Robert N. Lea, CDFG- Fishes of the San Benito Islands: California and Panamerican fish connections

- We will hold our 24th Annual Joint Technical Conference with the North Coast Chapter of the Wildlife Society on March 28 at Humboldt State University. The theme is "Current Biological Research on the North Coast and Klamath Region."

Montana

- Continuing work toward completion of status summaries for 17 species of special concern in the state
- Continuing work toward completion of an educational poster depicting species of special concern
- Provided Chapter representation on the state's Montana Bull Trout Restoration Team and tracked ongoing efforts
- Provided Chapter representation on the state's Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering committee and tracked ongoing efforts
- Provided comments on the state's draft westslope cutthroat trout recovery goals
- Provided comment on two landscape assessments, a salvage timber sale and a grazing permit re-evaluation
- Provided comment to a governor's appointed task force addressing floodplain management on the upper Yellowstone River
- Provided technical comment on the proposed McDonald gold project on the Blackfoot River
- Tracked FERC re-licensing of the Madison/Missouri dams
- Provided Chapter representation on the state's Grazing Best Management Practices technical group
- Provided \$8,500.00 in funding assistance for four projects through our Chapter's Resource Action Fund. These projects included an educational "comic book" on bull trout; a children's fishing club newsletter; modification of a diversion structure on a stream to insure passage by bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout; and a re-naturalization project on a bull trout/westslope cutthroat trout stream that was altered in the past by placer mining
- Helping organize and co-chairing two upcoming symposia: 1) fisheries management in Yellowstone National Park and 2) conservation strategies for native salmonids in the Rocky Mountains
- Provided Chapter representation on the Intermountain Journal of Science editorial board
- Distributed recruitment letters to all former members of the Chapter and annual meeting attendees from last year
- Published and distributed three Chapter newsletters and held 3 EXCOM meetings
- Developed a Chapter Web page

Other chapter reports not received as of mid-February.