

2001 Mid-year Report

To: Carl Burger

From: Bill Bradshaw, President, Western Division

Subject: Mid-Year Report

Date: February 20, 2001

I. Action

Action Requested: None

Recommended Motion: None

Minority View: Not Applicable

Background for Motion: Not Applicable

II. Outcome or Accomplishments as Relevant to Strategic Plan

Charge or Annual Program of Work: No Charge or Program of Work Defined.

Outcome and Accomplishments Organized by Major Goal and Subgoal Reference.

Member Services:

MS 1.1

Continuing Education workshops were hosted in 2001 by the Colorado/Wyoming (Aquatic Insect Identification and Ecology), Arizona/New Mexico (Whirling Disease), Oregon (Watershed Management), and Montana Chapters (Managing Fisheries in Drought Situations).

MS 1.4

The Division Time and Place Committee has been charged with conducting a survey to determine if holding the annual meeting in months other than July would better meet member needs and facilitate attendance at the meeting. It is expected this will be done with assistance from the Computer Users Section and accomplished by use of an email survey.

MS 1.5

The Division will award 3 \$1,000 graduate student scholarships through the Eugene Maughan Student Scholarship program.

The Montana Chapter is actively recruiting and mentoring students and has created a Student Subunit at the University of Montana. Another Student Subunit is being promoted for Montana State University.

The Arizona/New Mexico Chapter is establishing a student scholarship fund to honor the memory of long-time AFS member Miles McInnis.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter has incorporated the University of Wyoming student chapter as a student subunit. An endowed scholarship fund is being developed to promote and assist graduate student fisheries education.

MS 2.1

The 2001 Division annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the AFS annual meeting in Phoenix. All Chapters will have hosted an annual meeting by mid-May of 2001. Division officers attended Chapter meetings in Alaska, Montana, Oregon, Bonneville, Idaho, Arizona/New Mexico, and Colorado/Wyoming by the end of March. The California/Nevada, Humboldt, and North Pacific International Chapter meetings will also be attended by a Division officer. The Hawaii Chapter meeting was not attended and there are no plans to visit a Mexico meeting.

The Greater Portland Chapter is attempting to re-establish their annual meeting to serve the 200+ members.

The Arizona/New Mexico Chapter is hosting the annual AFS meeting in 2001 – a most serious undertaking!

MS 2.4

The Division is co-hosting a ½ day symposium (Special Regulations and Sport Fishing: The Promise of Science Lost?) at the AFS annual meeting with the Fisheries Management Section, North Central Division Centrarchid Technical Committee, and the International Fly Fishing Center.

MS 2.4

The Division is co-sponsoring the Montana Chapter workshop "Practical Approaches for Conserving Native Inland Fishes of the West", June 6-8, 2001.

MS 3.1

The Division website continues to evolve and is routinely updated with new information. As agreed during the Division retreat, Chapter Presidents are notified of updates so they can pass information on to Chapter members accordingly. Allen Bingham (Alaska) has done an outstanding job of administering the website. Monthly conference calls are used to convey information between the Division and Chapters.

The Montana Chapter is moving toward use of their website as the location for posting newsletters.

The Greater Portland Chapter currently mails its newsletter (The Confluence) but is moving toward use of the website for posting the newsletter. The Chapter website is maintained by Robert Bayley, and is a primary source of information for members.

MS 4.1

The chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee has not been appointed. This is an ad hoc committee with no documentation of history or mission readily available. It is anticipated that this committee will be reorganized with an expanded role, perhaps implied by a name change to "Diversity Committee". Individuals willing to begin developing a defined mission have tentatively been identified.

MS 4.2

The Oregon Chapter annual meeting was held jointly with the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The Division President contacted the President and President-elect of The Wildlife Society and discussed ways to institutionalize relations between organizations. It is anticipated that liaison functions will become the responsibility of the Division's Riparian Committee.

MS 4.3

The Division continues to sponsor the AFS Equal Opportunity Section's minority student travel program by providing \$500 annually to the Section. This contribution will be perpetuated as a Division budget line item.

MS 4.4

Diversity concepts were consciously considered when developing 2000/2001 Division election slate, and similar consideration was directed by Colorado/Wyoming Chapter President (Paula Guenther-Gloss) to her nominating committee.

MS 5.1

The AFS Strategic Plan was distributed to Chapter Officers at the late-October Division EXCOM retreat in Sacramento, and was a specific discussion topic. The plan is available on the Division website. Division By-laws and AFS strategic plan were also distributed to all Division and Chapter Officers shortly after the 2000 AFS meeting.

MS 5.2

The importance and utility of Strategic planning were discussed at the Division retreat and all Chapters were urged begin developing their own. A Division Strategic Plan framework has been prepared and will be reviewed and refined. The current goal is to present a plan for adoption at the 2001 annual meeting.

MS 5.4

A 1 ½-day Division EXCOM (Division and Chapter officers) retreat was held in Sacramento, California during late October. Three Division officers (President, President-Elect, Past-President), two Division Committee chairs (Time and Place, Grants Funding), and eight Chapter (Alaska, Oregon, Cal/Neva, Idaho, Colorado/Wyoming, Bonneville, Humboldt) representatives participated. Interest was high, and only scheduling impossibilities prevented Montana Chapter participation. Travel funding assistance was offered to all participants, though most did not avail themselves of the offer. Discussion topics included: AFS, Division, and Chapter governance, Putting the Division's money to work (Grants Funding Committee), Communication between Chapters and Division, Achieving a Quorum at EXCOM meetings, Division and Chapter Committees, Time and place of future Division meetings, Division Awards, Eugene Maughan Student Scholarships, Division and Chapter Advocacy, AFS, Division and Chapter Visibility, Aligning the Division with AFS parent society strategic plan, and Chapter Issues and Concerns. By unanimous agreement of all attendees, another retreat is planned for the late fall of 2001.

Information Transfer and Outreach:

ITO 1.2

A Certification Challenge was initiated in 1999/2000 by Past President Ken Hashagen to promote AFS certification. Members from Chapters agreeing to participate were eligible for an expense-paid trip to the Division annual meeting and would have their certification fee paid for. The rules simply required that individuals be certified by July 2000. Though

widely advertised, participation was fairly low, and only 13 participants from 3 chapters (Colorado/Wyoming, Oregon, Cal/Neva) were eligible. A winner was randomly selected from the pool of participants (Heidi Tillquist, Colorado/Wyoming) and will receive an expense paid trip to the annual AFS/Division meeting in Phoenix.

ITO 2.1

A ½ day session devoted to effective communication; Communicating with the Public, was held at the Oregon Chapter meeting in February 2000.

At the request of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, the Division helped coordinate local involvement (Montana Chapter) in a workshop planned for April.

ITO 2.2

Prepared and distributed a press release about Division comments on the NMFS Draft Biological Opinion on Columbia River hydropower operations. Release was targeted to about 20 regional (NW) media contacts. Division President also participated in a phone interview with a NW environmental news broadcast regarding the Bi-Op comments.

ITO 3.1

Discussions between the Division and the Council of Aquatic Scientists (CAS) regarding Division participation in the 2005 CAS meeting in Portland, Oregon continue. The Division must also consider some of the same issues that prompted AFS to decline participating in this meeting. While the potential benefits of a participating in this meeting are widely recognized, key Division participants remain unidentified, it is unclear if Division criteria for joint meeting participation can be met, the Division will have an opportunity to combine with the annual AFS meeting hosted by a Western Chapter, and the financial risk seems high.

ITO 3.2

The Division President contacted the President and President-elect of The Wildlife Society and discussed ways to institutionalize relations between organizations. It is anticipated that liaison functions will become the responsibility of the Division's Riparian Committee by the time of the 2001 annual meeting.

ITO 5.1

Guidelines prescribed by the by-laws are used to steer Division advocacy involvement. Recent examples include oversight by the Resource Policy Committee applied to development of comments on the NMFS Draft Bi-Op on Columbia River hydropower operations, and process review of ongoing Bull Trout Committee work. Division advocacy guidelines were discussed at the Division retreat and all Chapters were encouraged to develop an advocacy process (many have).

ITO 5.6

The Bull Trout Committee continues to progress toward publishing the results of their effort to develop sampling protocols for establishing the presence or absence of bull trout in recovery areas. The committee's process is currently under review by the Policy Review Committee and submittal for publication will follow a peer review of the final protocols.

Aquatic Stewardship:

AS 1.1

The Division was invited to participate in facilitated discussions about state-based conservation agreements as a means of "getting ahead of the ESA listing curve". This series of meetings across the US is organized by the T&E Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. A Division representative, well versed with the issues was selected, and will participate in the Las Vegas meeting in late March 2001. Chris Keleher (Bonneville Chapter) is also Co-chair of the AFS Endangered Species Committee.

The Montana Chapter's Species of Special Concern Committee is collaborating with the Montana Natural Heritage Program as the transition to a new statewide listing process is implemented.

The Greater Portland Chapter is collaborating with the Oregon Chapter, the North Pacific International Chapter, and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section to organize the 2001 International Salmonid Nutrient Conference in Eugene, Oregon (April 24-26).

AS 1.5

Through the efforts of President-elect Eric Knudsen and Vice-president Don Mac Donald, the Division is sponsoring a featured symposium on fisheries sustainability at the 2001 AFS annual meeting.

AS 2.5

The Division continues to administer a Grants program to distribute up to \$10,000 in grants to Subunits promoting AFS goals. An ad hoc committee charged with developing an investment strategy for long term grants funding at the current spending level has developed draft guidelines to accomplish this.

The Montana Chapter awarded about \$15,000 from their Resource Action Fund to promote native fish restoration projects.

AS 3.3

A representative of the Western Governors Association (WGA) was contacted and preliminary discussion regarding Division involvement in ENLIBRA implementation was discussed. ENLIBRA is the set of principles adopted by the WGA to guide resolution of environmental issues throughout the west. Incorporating science-based information is a key ENLIBRA element and seems to offer some potential for Division participation and heightened visibility. This has been discussed with a former staffer for Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and The Idaho Chapter EXCOM has also been approached about their potential involvement (a WGA meeting is scheduled for August 2001 in Idaho). Initial interaction will likely center on ways to increase awareness among WGA members about AFS.

The Montana Chapter hired a lobbyist to promote fisheries issues and interests as efforts to "gut" environmental protection laws begins under new gubernatorial and legislative leadership.