

TO: Chris Kohler, President
FROM: F. Joseph Margraf, President Western Division AFS
DATE: August 11, 2006

I. Motion Report

(A) **Recommended Motion 1:** The Governing Board shall dissolve the Portland Chapter and membership annexed by the Oregon Chapter. All Chapter assets shall be forwarded to the Oregon Chapter.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: The Portland Chapter has ceased to function. Officers have not been elected nor annual meetings held for at least 4 years. A poll of the members residing in the Portland area overwhelmingly supported dissolution and annexation by the Oregon Chapter.

(A) **Recommended Motion 2:** The Governing Board shall dissolve the Hawaii Chapter. All Chapter assets shall be forwarded to the Western Division.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: The Hawaii Chapter has ceased to function. Officers have not been elected nor annual meetings held for at least 4 years. A poll of the members residing in Hawaii failed to generate support for resurrecting the Chapter. There has been some positive discussion with students at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu about forming a student subunit that will most likely be affiliated with the Cal-Neva Chapter. Should such a student subunit be formed the Western Division will forward all assets from the Hawaii Chapter to the subunit.

(A) **Recommended Motion 3:** The Governing Board shall dissolve the Humboldt Chapter and general membership annexed by the Cal-Neva Chapter. All Chapter assets shall be forwarded to the Cal-Neva Chapter to hold for use as needed by the newly formed Humboldt State University Student Subunit.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: The Humboldt Chapter has ceased to function. Officers have not been elected nor annual meetings held for at least 4 years. A poll of the members residing in the Humboldt area was generally not supportive of resurrecting the Chapter, but did favor development of a University student subunit. A motion has (or will) be made to establish the subunit at this meeting.

(A) **Recommended Motion 4:** The Governing Board shall dissolve the New Mexico State University Chapter and general membership annexed by the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter. All Chapter assets shall be forwarded to the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter and held for use by a New Mexico State University Student Subunit upon its formation and approval.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: The New Mexico State University Chapter has not functioned as a regular chapter for at least 4 years. The Chapter has not elected AFS member officers, participated in Division EXCOM activities, or adhered to tenets of the AFS Constitution, Western Division Bylaws, nor its own

Bylaws during this time. Discussions with an AFS member faculty advisor suggest that they will likely work with the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter to develop a Student Subunit during the next year.

(A) **Recommended Motion 5:** The Governing Board shall adopt a new policy for split of profits (or losses) from its annual meeting among the Society and the co-sponsoring Units. The details of the split will be inserted in the motion at the time of presentation based on discussions from the Governing Board Retreat the previous day. The new policy shall take effect with the annual meeting in San Francisco 2007.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: The current policy providing for a 10% share of profits to each co-sponsoring unit has been in place for several years. Annual meetings have been budgeted to attain approximately \$100,000 in total profit, or \$10,000 per subunit, with the remainder going to the Parent Society. Given that the Parent Society no longer gains a significant proportion of its annual budget from the meeting profits and is no longer in financial distress, it is time to provide a greater share to the sponsoring units. At its last two independent annual meetings (Salt Lake City in 2004 & Bozeman in 2006) the Western Division and the sponsoring chapter(s) each cleared over \$25,000 in profit. The larger chapters in the Western Division normally clear about this much or more at their annual meetings. Thus, sponsoring a Parent Society meeting is likely to represent a financial loss to the sponsoring unit over the profit made at its standalone meeting, while the workload and financial risk are considerably greater. While meetings such as the 2006 Anchorage meeting resulted in considerable profit for the Alaska Chapter, such profit was based on attendance greatly exceeding that upon which the meeting was budgeted.

(A) **Recommended Motion 6:** The Governing Board shall direct the Executive Director to include the costs and income from the tradeshow portion of the annual meeting in the accounting for the annual meeting. The new policy shall take effect with the annual meeting in San Francisco 2007.

(B) Minority View: none.

(C) Background for Motion: Currently the tradeshow is budgeted outside of the annual meeting. The tradeshow takes up a significant portion of the space available for the meeting and is totally dependant on the annual meeting for its existence, i.e., there would be no tradeshow without the annual meeting to subsidize its presence. The tradeshow in recent years has netted over \$60,000, the profits from which are not shared with the co-sponsoring units. Given the integral nature of the relationship between the tradeshow and the annual meeting, the tradeshow accounting should be nested within the overall budget for the annual meeting and the expected net profit from the meeting adjusted upward accordingly.

(A) **Recommended Motion 7:** Annual and mid-year unit reports to the Governing Board, and chapter of the year applications shall be limited to two pages, except in exceptional circumstances; units lacking reports may be noted in the Table of Contents, and need not submit pages stating same.

(B) Minority View: none

(C) Background for Motion: The current Governing Board briefing book is excessively long, much of the material is unread by many Governing Board members, it is a waste of paper and space if printed, and a minority of Board members employ laptop computers at Governing Board meetings. Chapter of the Year applications are often longer than research grant proposals, difficult to follow, redundant, and wasteful of

paper and time. We elect our officers based on less than two pages. Paper manufacturing has a negative effect on aquatic ecosystems, and many of us have many competing demands on our time.

(A) Recommended Motion 8: Because of perceived political interference with science by decision makers, AFS resolves as follows: (1) The recommendations from the Best Available Science Committee's white paper shall form a position statement regarding political interference with science. (2) These recommendations shall be published on the AFS website and sent to the US Congress, the White House, and the media. (3) A web-based survey on political interference with science shall be designed for members, and the survey results shall be published in Fisheries. (4) A press release shall be prepared and disseminated when the survey results are published. (5) Members shall be reminded that AFS ethical standard II-9 requires that they "Expose scientific and managerial misconduct, including misrepresentation to the public of aquatic science/professional information, by informing the president of the AFS." (6) The AFS president shall summarize these concerns (in a manner that protects the member) in an annual report in Fisheries.

(B) Minority View: none

(C) Background for Motion: The 2005 WD EXCOM meeting (attended by Jennifer Nielsen, Chris Kohler, Barbara Knuth, and Gus Rassam) began with a lengthy discussion regarding concern about political interference in scientific determinations. This had been a topic of discussion at the Montana Chapter meeting, as was the need to bring this matter to the attention of the Parent Society. The Montana and Cal-Neva chapters were especially interested in what the Parent Society could do to help. Examples of political interference brought up included changes to the administrative record and inappropriate positions by agencies regarding ESA listings and biological opinions. Parent Society officers suggested that the Society can facilitate dialogue with federal and state agencies, but could not act as an "enforcer". It was suggested that the AFS Best Available Science Committee be the vehicle for Parent Society input/position. Chapter and Division officers urged the Parent Society to take a stronger stance than facilitating discussion. A potential action discussed was asking for an independent investigation by the Inspector General's office. AFS officers suggested polling chapters on their experience and opinions and noted that AFS involvement should be limited to large, general (beyond local) concerns. Chapter officers expressed concerns about this approach because chapter members work for the agencies in question, and because chapters have less influence than the Parent Society. It was finally agreed that the best approach would be "multi-pronged".

II. Activity Report

The Annual Program of Work for AFS (AP-AFS) is based on the Strategic Plan of the American Fisheries Society, 2005-2009 (SP-AFS) that was revised and adopted in 2004. The SP-AFS is intended to guide the Society's activities through 2009. The plan was developed for AFS as a whole and includes goals, strategies, and targets for each Unit within AFS. As each unit is encouraged to adapt elements of the AP-AFS to meet the goals that are most pertinent to that Unit's mission, the Western Division includes a subset of the strategies in the AP-AFS

The strategies and activities outlined to address the interests and needs of the members of the Division are based on continuing Division efforts from last year and on stepping down from new elements identified in this year's AP-AFS.

Aquatic Stewardship

To be more effective in the public policy arena and increase public perception of our Society, the WDAFS needs to enhance communication and provide leadership on key issues that are currently influencing fisheries and aquatic resources. Some of the key strategies and indicators of success for promoting effective aquatic stewardship over the coming year and beyond should include:

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals AS 1 and AS 2 - Efforts will highlight the importance of biodiversity, watershed management, habitat conservation and educating the public/lawmakers about fisheries sustainability and sound stewardship of aquatic ecosystems.

Indicators of Success:

- Standing and *Ad Hoc* Committees have been created to address key aquatic stewardship issues in western North America, including the Environmental Concerns Committee, Fisheries Sustainability Committee, Riparian and Watersheds Committee, Policy Review Committee, Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Workgroup, Non-Native Fish Introductions Workgroup (Pike), Student Unit Formation Workgroup, and Western Native Fishes Committee.
- The status of native fishes in western North America is being evaluated by collating, reviewing and evaluating published data and information.
- Support appropriate projects that advance aquatic stewardship in western North America through the WDAFS Grants Funding Program.
- Take an active role in participation with AFS and the Fisheries Administrators Section to foster implementation of the North American Agenda for Aquatic Resources and collaborate, when possible, with activities of the National Fish Habitat Initiative.

Information Transfer and Outreach

The members of WDAFS are recognized by decision-makers and natural resource professionals as essential sources of science-based information regarding the conservation, management, and sustainable development of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Some of the key strategies and indicators of success to facilitate information transfer and outreach include:

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals ITO 1 and ITO 2 - Enabling our membership to be viewed as aquatic resource professionals by employers and the public. Improve visibility and AFS image as a scientific organization and information source.

Indicators of Success:

- Partnerships with organizations that share our concern about the future of fisheries and aquatic resources in western North America have been maintained and further developed.
- The visibility of WDAFS as a scientific organization and information source has been further improved.
- The WDAFS Web Site has been further developed to provide timely access to science-based fisheries and aquatic resource management information.
- The Hutton Program has been actively supported and further developed to provide opportunities disadvantaged high school students to participate in the fisheries and aquatic ecosystem programs.
- WDAFS has participated actively in the development of public policy on key issues affecting fish, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems in North America.
- The WDAFS has created an ad hoc committee to develop options for sending its newsletter electronically which should reduce costs and make the communications easier with professionals in other countries.
- Links between AFS and Stakeholder web sites have been further developed.
- Enhance student involvement in activities of the Division by appointing at least one student member to each Standing and Ad Hoc committee and by encouraging greater student involvement in Chapter activities.

Member Services

The strength of the WDAFS is in its members. Therefore, it is incumbent upon WDAFS to meet the needs of our members if it is to maintain and enhance the relevance and future success of the organization. Some of the key strategies and indicators of success to support WDAFS members in 2006 include:

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals MS 1, MS 2, MS 3, and MS 4: Meeting efforts will revolve around professional development opportunities and continuing education classes. The WDAFS should provide primary scientific and technical information on fisheries and aquatic resource topics from our wide array of fisheries professionals in western North America and Mexico. Continue to enhance electronic services and communications to all AFS members.

Indicators of Success:

- Student access to WDAFS and Parent Society Meetings has been enhanced by providing funding through the Western Division's Eugene Maughan Scholarship Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Foundation's William Trachtenburg Scholarship Fund, as well as abundant opportunities provided for student volunteer participation and monetary compensation at the Annual Meeting.
- Communications with the Chapters has been maintained and enhanced by convening monthly conference calls.
- WDAFS Officers will make every attempt to attend the Annual Meetings of each Chapter (or meet with Chapter officers at other times) and communicate information on WDAFS activities.
- Broader involvement in WDAFS committees has been solicited through direct communications with members and other means.
- Registration fees at WDAFS Annual Meetings have been established at levels that encourage non-members to join the Society.
- Mexican scientists have been actively recruited by facilitating their participation in Annual Meetings. The WDAFS will continue to foster and mentor the AFS Chapter in Mexico.
- Members will be provided with abundant opportunities to share information and refine their communication skills by presenting papers and posters at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

- Timely access to information relevant to WDAFS members has been provided through delivery of the Tributary, further development of the WDAFS Web Site, and application of the WDAFS List Server.
- An array of continuing education opportunities will be offered to members during the 2006 Annual Meeting.
- Increase income to support the activities of the Division through an active program of external fund raising, prudent investment of funds obtained, and internal sources such as dues rebates and annual meeting income.

Addendum—Committee Reports:

Western Division Grants Funding and Investment Committee—Bill Bradshaw, Chair

AFS Strategic Plan Item

V. Member Services

Goal MS6: Financial Security

The Grants Funding and Investment Committee mission as approved in 2002 and incorporated as a Western Division (Division) standing committee states: A Grants Funding and Investment Committee responsible for making investment recommendations to the Western Division Excom, quarterly (minimum) review of the Grants Fund investments, and implementing the funding motion approved at the 2001 business meeting. The committee consists of a Chair appointed by the President and at least 4 Division members. Periodic review of the Division's grants funding criteria and fund-raising activities may be coordinated under the Grants Funding and Investment Committee through ad hoc committees appointed by the Division President.

- Henry Boone (Oregon) chairs the ad hoc Investments sub-committee, which is charged with making investment recommendations to the Division Excom, and for quarterly review of the Grants Fund investments. Other members are Dave Ward (Oregon, Division Secretary-Treasurer), Roy Whaley (Colorado-Wyoming), Pete Bisson (NPIC), and (Wayne Lifton, California-Nevada). Bill Bradshaw (Colorado-Wyoming) chairs the committee.

- Investment decisions continue to be made by the process approved by the Division Excom on January 29, 2002, and the current fund balance is \$93,302 (2-16-06) held in 8 investment vehicles.

- The ad hoc funding committee chaired by Bill Bradshaw (Colorado/Wyoming) was inactive from the fall of 2005 through December of 2005. A fund raising event planned for the fall of 2006 was cancelled, however the committee is currently exploring other funding options, and proceeding with developing a means for Chapters to participate in the Grants Fund.

- Two Chapters (Colorado-Wyoming, Arizona-New Mexico) expressed interest in exploring options for investing in the Division Grants Fund. The primary benefit to the Division is that additional funds create opportunities for diversifying investments and reducing overall risk to sustainable growth. The main benefit to Chapters is the likelihood of increasing income beyond what is typically realized from bank accounts, cd's, or other simple investment vehicles, while minimizing risk through the diversification of the Division's portfolio.

- A proposal to allow Chapter participation in the Investment Fund was discussed with the Division Excom in February 2006. Based on this discussion, changes to Division procedures were developed and approved at the 2006 Division annual meeting in Bozeman.
- Procedures requiring signatures of the Division President and Secretary-Treasurer prior to Investment Fund withdrawals were submitted for discussion in February 2006 and were approved at the 2006 annual meeting in Bozeman.

Recommendations:

- 1) Continue to operating under Division procedures approved in 2004 that facilitate reaching the \$100,000 goal for the Grants Fund (on going).
- 2) Develop new procedures requiring the signatures of both the President and the Secretary-Treasurer to withdraw funds from the endowment fund (proposed February 2006)
- 3) Ensure that the Division website incorporates all approved procedures governing the Grants Funding and Investments committee and its sub committees (pending).
- 4) Develop pursuing the mechanics of receiving funds from Chapters into the Division investment fund as a means of reducing risk while providing income growth for all parties (proposed February 2006).
- 5) Continue exploring options to raise additional funds for the Division Investment Fund.

Annual Report –Western Division of AFS
Western Native Fishes Committee, Jim Tilmant, Chair

During this past year, our Native Fishes Committee has continued to work on a project aimed at developing a database of information on the current distribution and status of western native freshwater fish species. All native freshwater species within states of the Western Division of AFS, including the northern states of Mexico and western Provinces of Canada are to be included in this database and status assessment. Once completed, this database will be made available to federal, state, and local agencies and others to help better manage these species. This project has received funding support from the Packard Foundation, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Bring-back-the-Natives Initiative, and AFS's Fisheries Conservation Foundation. The Western Division of AFS has contracted with Garcia and Associates' Office in Bozeman, Montana, to assist us with data collection and database development.

The Western Native Fishes Project has completed the creation of a database and the first round of species data collection for all western U.S. states. GIS maps depicting species distributions at the 4th HUC level have been produced for most of the species within the database. Hydrologic unit maps, comparable to the USGS 4th level HUC maps, have been received from Canada and incorporated into the database. Comparable hydrological unit maps have been developed by Garcia and Associates for Mexico and are being put into the species database. Work on populating the database with species information for Mexico and Canada is continuing. A project poster and papers describing the results of this project to date were presented at several chapter meetings, the National AFS meeting in Anchorage, and at the Western Division's Annual Meeting in Bozeman, Montana, during the past year. The committee has also completed its peer

review of papers presented at a Native Fish Symposium held in conjunction with the WDAFS's annual meeting in Salt Lake City in 2005. These papers have been submitted to AFS's editorial board for publication as a Symposium Proceedings. We are expecting these Proceedings to be published in the coming year.

The Native Fishes Committee intends to complete work on this project during the coming year. Work remaining includes: Incorporation of all species information data from Mexico and Canada; Review and assessment of species distribution data gaps and phase II searches for additional information to fill such gaps; Further documentation and identification of species historic distributions; Production of final documented species distribution maps for all species; Identification of habitat and species distribution concerns; and, Publication and reporting of project results.

The WD-AFS Bull Trout Committee has formed a sub-committee, the Bull Trout Survey Committee, to develop a bull trout biologists survey on important science and policy questions related to bull trout recovery and to establish a scientific consensus about specific bull trout concerns. The sub-committee has been working on the survey via email and conference calls and hopes to have the survey out within the next month. A member of the committee will present the results at the WD AFS meeting in Bozeman. Shelley Spalding—Chair

Proceedings of the Second International Burbot Symposium, Vaughn Paragamian. We have a possibility of 16 chapters. We now have three ms. in final form that need little revision, six have completed the first phase of the review process and are to authors for revisions, three that are in the review process, two that are well overdue (authors tell me they are nearly done), and two ms. that are in preparation that are the result of having to split a ms. that would have been two large and/or had two different goals. I have explained to the delinquent authors that I will not remind them anymore of their tardiness. If I can work them through the train of events without compromising our goal they will have that chance of being published but otherwise I can't guarantee they will be included. We also have a verbal commitment from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho for \$700 to sponsor a color photo of a burbot for our book. So we are late but making progress.

Addendum—Chapter Reports:

California-Nevada Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Report (2005-2006)

I. CHAPTER STRUCTURE

President: Russell Bellmer, Ph.D.

President-elect: Jeff McLain

Past-president: Tina Swanson, Ph.D.

Treasurer: Mark Gard, Ph.D.

Secretary: Joe Miyamoto

Standing Committees: Membership, Finance, Bylaws and Nominations, Conservation, Continuing Education, Awards, Policy, International, and Resolutions, Pisces (Chapter newsletter), Local Arrangements, Merchandise sales

Ad-hoc Committee: Lamprey Committee

Sub-Units: Sacramento-Davis Student subunit and Humboldt Student subunit

Total membership: 488

Student membership: 67

II. ACTIVITIES (2005-2006)

A. Aquatic Stewardship

Goal AS 1, Local and Global Leadership: The Cal-Neva Chapter, through its officers, committee chairs and members, regularly engages fishery and resource management issues by providing science-based, technical analyses and policy recommendations. During the past 12 months, the Chapter participated in the following:

1. Letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the New Don Pedro Dam, Tuolumne River;
2. Provided chapter expertise at the CALFED Science Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) workshop in Sacramento, CA;
3. Letter to the State Water Resources Control Board on the periodic review of the 1995 water quality control plan for the SF Bay and Sacramento/San Joaquin Estuary;
4. Letter to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding rotenone treatment of Silver King Creek to protect Paiute Cutthroat trout;
5. The chapter signed on a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity to list the Santa Ana Sucker under the ESA based on inadequate critical habitat designated by the FWS.
6. Supported the nomination of a member to the State Water Resources Control Board;
7. Supported public outreach by getting the Cutthroat trout DVD out on local public TV stations.

In addition, several Chapter members participated through Western Division and parent Society committees, including the AFS Resource Policy Committee, and have been key players in the continuing development of the Mexican Chapter and their participation in the chapter's annual meeting conference. The Chapter's International Committee is currently developing training curricula with the Mexican Chapter for their 2006 annual meeting in La Paz.

Goal AS 2, Stewardship Education and Goal AS 3, Promotion of Stewardship:

Annual meeting - Each year the Cal-Neva Chapter organizes an Annual Meeting and Symposium, held at one of five locations in the California-Nevada region. The 2006 Meeting, held in San Luis Obispo, CA, was attended by more than 330 members and non-members featuring symposia on tidewater goby and bioengineering, 170 oral and poster technical presentations by fisheries biologists, and two training courses; basics of Electrofishing, and presentation skills. The plenary session included a distinguished panel of speakers including several from the Mexican chapter that addressed the challenges and opportunities facing West Coast international fisheries management. *Newsletter* - In addition to our annual meeting, the Chapter, through its quarterly newsletter (*Pisces*), offered our members an ongoing forum for discussion of fisheries and management issues. This year's articles featured the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, scientists from Mexico, Global Climate Change, the North American Green Sturgeon. All written public comment letters submitted by the Chapter were reprinted in *Pisces*, which is distributed both electronically on the Chapter website and via regular mail.

Other Activities - The Cal-Neva Chapter sponsors and participates in a number of activities geared towards non-professionals, including the annual American River Salmon Festival (which draws thousands of people from all over the Chapter's region), the University of California, Davis, Picnic Day, and the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) River Teachers education program. At the Salmon Festival

and Picnic Day, Cal-Neva and the student subunit operated a booth and/or display that included information on our organization and mission (including brochures for the Chapter and Student subunit), information about fishes geared towards the general public, displays of live fishes, and merchandise. The Chapter's \$5000 donation to SYRCL was used as matching funds to obtain a \$25,000 grant from NOAA Fisheries for broadening the salmon education program at school assemblies.

B. Information Transfer and Outreach

Goal ITO 1, Visibility: The Chapter and the student subunit have developed brochures that were distributed at various public events, including the American River Salmon Festival, UC Davis Picnic Day, and our Annual Meeting. The Chapter and the student subunit both have websites that include information on the organizations and their mission, the quarterly newsletter, and links to other relevant sites (including the Western Division and parent Society). The Chapter is in the process of redesigning its existing website to further enhance its value as a resource and outreach tool.

Goal ITO 3, Professional Stature and Goal ITO 5, Public Policy: AFS is widely recognized by California and Nevada local, state, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, conservation and fishing groups, and universities as a highly visible professional society engaged in resource management science and issues in the region. In 2005-2006, the Chapter participated in a number of local, state, and federal workshops and public comment meetings and provided written comments and analyses on a variety of fishery and aquatic stewardship issues and appropriate use and interpretation of science in resource management.

C. Member Services

Goal MS 1, Professional Development and Recognition: In 2005-2006 year, the Chapter continued its commitment to its Continuing Education Program. At the 2006 Annual Meeting, we offered a course in backpack electrofishing and effective presentation skills class. Additional continuing education classes are presently in development. The Chapter acknowledges and celebrates the achievements and contributions of members by presenting awards at our Annual Meeting. The award categories included Journalism, Professional Achievement, and Special Contribution. The student subunit also presented awards to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of its members and faculty advisors.

Goal MS 2, Science-based Information: At the 2006 Annual Meeting, more than 170 scientific presentations on a variety of fisheries issues were offered (oral presentations and posters) and summarized (including 100 abstracts in both English and Spanish) in the meeting program (also available on our website). In addition, the Chapter website provides links to the recently established electronic journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, state and federal agency data vaults (e.g., California Data Exchange Center), and other technical information web site supported by our membership. Chapter membership provided technical information and support to numerous private and public entities in support of fisheries resources.

Goal MS 3, On-line and Web Services: In 2006, the Executive Committee authorized funding for new web site development software. Enhancements to the website will include a new appearance, catchy logo, database, page for chapter letters and media articles, links to species basic biology and hot topics. In addition, conference registration for the 2006 annual meeting in San Luis Obispo was provided to registrants on-line.

Goal MS 4, Diversity: During the past year, the Chapter has made a concerted effort to reach beyond our region and our membership. Cal-Neva Chapter provided financial assistance to complement the donations by the Western Division and parent society for the attendance (including housing) of ten Mexican Chapter students and scientists at the chapter's annual meeting conference. The Chapter continued support for an exceptional grade school education program (offered by the SYRCL).

Goal MS 5, Strategic Plan Implementation: During the past 12 months, the Chapter continued its efforts to promote aquatic stewardship through active involvement in technical and public policy reviews, and education (for members and non-members); worked towards improving our ability to provide services to and communicate with our members through an upgrade of our website; and encouraged and fostered the growth of a outstanding student subunit (new memberships increased by 700% in 2005-2006).

Goal MS 5, Financial Security: The financial status of the Chapter is also strong. Chapter income comes from our Annual Meeting (registration fees, trade show, merchandise sales, raffle, and donations), Chapter membership dues, and interest. The 2006 annual budget for the Chapter is about \$80,000. The Chapter also has more than \$100,000 in savings and market accounts. On the basis of our excellent financial status and our renewed commitment to improving member services and promoting education and aquatic stewardship, the Chapter has agreed to invest substantial funds to improve our website; provide more financial support for various education and outreach programs that support our strategic plan; continue to subsidize the student subunit and student participation in our annual meeting; and provide continuing education classes at minimal fees.

IDAHO CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 2006 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society held their 2006 annual meeting February 15-17 at the Red Lion Riverside in Idaho Falls, ID. Approximately 180 chapter members participated. There was a record attendance by college students and many folks attended from neighboring states. During the 2 days prior to the annual meeting, the chapter sponsored 2 workshops and a symposium. That Monday, Dr. Mary Connor from Utah State University taught a Population Viability workshop. The workshop enabled students to create their own population viability models. Tuesday, Ann Gannam from USFWS Abernathy Technology Center in Longview, WA taught a workshop on hatchery nutrition. Both the Population Viability and Hatchery Nutrition Workshops were well attended. A symposium exploring the differences between large-spotted and fine-spotted Yellowstone cutthroat trout also occurred the second day. That symposium attracted 135 biologists intent on determining if the two varieties of Yellowstone cutthroat trout are separate subspecies. The annual meeting (Wednesday through Friday) drew 180 biologists from all over Idaho and neighboring states. The plenary session, Economic Aspects of Idaho Fisheries-The Great but Seldom Used Economic Tool, provided chapter members important tools they could use in their everyday conservation efforts. The annual meeting had a total of 43 presentations and 12 posters. Best papers were awarded in Student and Professional categories.

Best Student Paper:

Dawson Dunning, Fine-scale Genetic Structure of Westslope Cutthroat Trout in a Tributary to the Selway River

Best Professional Papers:

Brian Leth, Reproductive success of hatchery and natural origin Chinook salmon in a stream with a history of supplementation management.

David Teuscher, Predation by double crested cormorants and American white pelicans on native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and hatchery rainbow trout in Blackfoot Reservoir, Idaho.

Vaughn Paragamian, Seasonal movement and the interaction of temperature and discharge on burbot in the Kootenai River, Idaho, USA and British Columbia, Canada.

Committees are extremely active in the Idaho Chapter and the committee meetings, held during lunch on Wednesday, were very well attended. The banquet on the second day of the meeting was an opportunity to discuss AFS business with the Chapter as a whole. Bob Hughes, Western Division President, shared Western Division perspectives. During the banquet, the chapter recognized several exemplary members and volunteers with awards, including artist Judy Hall-Griswold for her art contributions and Jimmy Gabettas of Jimmy's Fly Shop for his annual financial support. Bruce Rieman was awarded the coveted annual RL Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year award for his leadership in native fish conservation. Also at the banquet, the chapter leadership announced a newly established state-wide student scholarship. The chapter has already fully endowed a scholarship for students attending University of Idaho. Everyone had a great time at the social/fund-raiser on Thursday night, where a lot of money was raised for the chapter. Keith Munn, an auctioneer from the Idaho Falls stockyards, volunteered to auction contributed items and an Idaho Falls jazz/swing band, Swingshift, played great dance music all night long. The 2006 ICAFS annual meeting will be one that will not be forgotten for a long time.

2005-2006 Annual Report of the
Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Respectfully Submitted by
Hilda Sexauer, President
August 7, 2006

Introduction

The following 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the AFS includes Chapter accomplishments within the three focus areas of the Strategic Plan: Aquatic Stewardship, Information Transfer and Outreach, and Members Services. Please recognize that several Chapter accomplishments may be considered within multiple focus areas; for brevity, such are included only within the most appropriate category.

Aquatic Stewardship

Per the Strategic Plan, "AFS and its members will be leaders in promoting the sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems." The following three goals, focusing on stewardship, have been established:

AS Goal 1 (Local and Global Leadership)-lead outreach and advocacy efforts for sustainable fisheries from local to global levels

- The Program Committee solicited presentations and posters related to aquatic stewardship for the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The Chapter arranged a plenary session at the annual meeting to discuss the evolution of piscicide treatments politics and the challenges agencies are confronted with during planning and implementation.
- The Chapter presented two student scholarships via the Chapter Scholarship Endowments at Colorado State University (CSU) and the University of Wyoming (UW).

- The Chapter provided two continuing education courses at the 2006 Annual Meeting.
- The Chapter provides two Chapter representatives as Chairs to the Western Division Committees for Grants Funding and Investment, and the Division Archives.
- The Chapter provides two Chapter representatives as Chairs to the Western Division Committees for Riparian, Watersheds, and Habitat, and the Riparian Challenge.
- The Chapter provides one Chapter representative as a Western Division representative for the American Fisheries Society Management Section.
- The Chapter provided Wyoming Council of Trout Unlimited a 5K grant to assist with funds and implementation of a land conservation and management strategy to ensure the sustained ecological conditions of 58,675 acres, including 162 stream miles of historic Colorado River cutthroat trout and Snake River cutthroat trout habitat.

AS Goal 2 (Stewardship Education)-educate those outside the scientific arena on the complex issues surrounding fisheries and aquatic natural resources

- The Chapter sponsored a booth at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo; Chapter representatives promoted the missions of the AFS and Chapter, and provided interactive displays that focused on the Hutton Program, careers in fisheries, fish aging techniques, western native species, and aquatic nuisance species.
- The Membership Committee provided information regarding the AFS Hutton Program to fisheries staff and human resource administrators at the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Wyoming Game and Fish Department

AS Goal 3 (Promotion of Stewardship)-promote the sound stewardship and conservation of aquatic ecosystems

- The Chapter supported the land conservation and management project that promotes the conservation of native fish species and watershed health.

Information Transfer and Outreach

Per the Strategic Plan, "AFS and its members will be recognized by decision makers and natural resource professionals as an important source of science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and their conservation, management, and sustainable development." The following five goals, focusing on information transfer and outreach, have been established:

ITO Goal 1 (Visibility)-improve the visibility of AFS

- The Membership Committee continues to actively promote AFS (specific examples provided throughout this document).
- Chapter members participated in the Hutton program. Scott Gilmore and Garrett Thomas mentoring Chiquita Cole and Brittany Jackson and John Alves mentoring Daniel Armstrong

ITO Goal 2 (Collaboration)-collaborate with other scientific and professional organizations

- The Chapter provides access to other scientific and professional organizations through the CO-WY website.

ITO Goal 3 (Professional Stature)-improve public perceptions about the professional stature of AFS members

- The Chapter has participated in the Hutton Program during 2005.
- The committee mailed 10 recruitment packets to Wyoming Game and Fish Department Fish Culturists and provided packets to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Human Resource personnel to hand out at new employee orientation.

ITO Goal 4 (Information Network)-use information networks to their greatest capacity

- The Chapter has an active website that promotes the Chapter and Division activities.
- The Chapter provides members with an electronic newsletter (3 issues/year).

ITO Goal 5 (Public Policy)-actively influence public policy

- The Environmental Concerns/Policy Committee addressed issues that arose in Colorado and Wyoming on behalf of the Chapter and elevated issues to the Western Division when appropriate.

Member Services

Per the Strategic Plan, “AFS will provide excellent, cost-efficient services, operations, and support for its members. The following six goals, focusing on member services, have been established:

MS Goal 1 (Professional Development and Recognition)-provide services for professional development and recognize volunteer accomplishments

- The Best Paper and Awards Committees recognize the accomplishments of Chapter members at the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The CSU and UW Student Subunits actively assisted the Chapter with arrangements, presentations, and student social for the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The Chapter supported the CSU and UW Student Subunits financially with annual donations, and travel expenses to the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The Chapter waived the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting registration for outstanding student volunteers.

MS Goal 2 (Science-Based Information)-provide scientific and technical information

- The Program Committee prepared the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting program that provided valuable learning opportunities in many topics of interest to Chapter members.
- The Continuing Education Committee arranged two excellent continuing education courses for the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting (INAD workshop and ALLTOPO workshop).
- The Membership committee contacted AFS Section presidents to solicit their recruitment materials. The Fish Culture Section (FCS) provided the chapter the opportunity to bring the INAD workshop to the annual meeting and provided the chapter with raffle items and door prizes.
- The Membership Committee provided a Membership Services booth at the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting; information was provided on Professional Certification for members, the Hutton Program, AFS membership, and AFS catalogs and brochures.

- The CSU and UW Student Subunits feature weekly meetings where speakers within the fisheries profession are invited to provide presentations discussing their research and work experience in the fisheries field.
- The UW Student Subunit has arranged a professional development course for 2006.
- The Chapter solicited trade-show participants for the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The Chapter will proceed with the process of moving the archived materials to the Spearfish South Dakota facility. The materials will be loaned to the facility, not donated, for a specified time frame.

MS Goal 3 (Online and Web Services)-provide online information networks

- The Chapter website is maintained, and the Chapter encourages the CSU and UW Student Subunits to continue updating their respective websites.
- The Newsletter Committee provides electronic versions of the Chapter newsletter to members via email, as well as the Chapter website.

MS Goal 4 (Diversity)-increase membership diversity

- The Chapter maintains an active Membership Committee who continues to attract new Chapter members.
- The membership for the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society stands at 234 members for year ending 2005. The break out for categories is as follows: 3 US Hutton, 31 US Life, 139 US Regular, 11 US Retired, 33 US Student, 17 US Young Professional.
- The Chapter provided opportunities for Chapter members to socialize and network with each other during several social events at the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting.
- The Chapter increased attendance of Colorado and Wyoming fish culturists at the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting by actively soliciting posters and papers, soliciting their participation on Chapter committees and targeting these individuals to participate in the free continuing education course of interest to aquaculture biologists.
- The Newsletter Committee provides timely access to information relevant to Chapter members through the delivery of at least three issues of the Chapter newsletter.
- The Nominating Committee actively pursued two highly qualified candidates for the position of Chapter Secretary-Treasurer.
- The Chapter has means to increase student membership by providing up to 12 free memberships to undergraduate students at CSU and UW; 1 application has been received for 2005-06.

MS Goal 5 (Strategic Plan Implementation)-implement and monitor progress on the Strategic Plan

- The Chapter Procedures document was completed and posted on the Chapter website.

MS Goal 6 (Financial Security)-assure financial security

- The Budget Review Committee developed an annual Chapter budget that targeted a fiscal year-end checking balance of at least \$10,000.
- The Chapter participated in the development of the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting budget and ensured that the Chapter was likely to receive sufficient revenue.
- The Chapter has agreed in participating in the Western Division Investment Fund pending the discussion at the Western Division and Chapter Excom meeting, May 2006.

- The Endowment Funding Committee continued efforts to raise additional funds for the student scholarship endowments at CSU and UW.
- The Chapter completed taxes for tax year 2004.

Montana Chapter—Kate Walker, President

Aquatic Stewardship:

The Montana Chapter of AFS continues to comments on issues related to aquatic integrity and conservation in the state. In the past 6 months the chapter has sent letters to various agencies and entities to provide input from fisheries professionals. Chapter Correspondence has been sent to the Premier of British Columbia and the Governor of Montana regarding proposed gas and oil developments in the headwaters of the Flathead and Kootenai Rivers; the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding use of genetic markers in pallid sturgeon recovery.; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding the introduction of tiger muskie west of the Continental Divide; and Lewis and Clark National Forest regarding draft environmental statement addressing the Rocky Mountain Ranger District Travel Management Plan. In addition MTAFS has been represented at Westslope and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout conservation planning meetings and Fluvial Arctic Grayling recovery meetings.

Information Transfer and Outreach:

The MTAFS members are active participants in the Hutton program. Over the last year members were mentors to 4 students.

Member Services:

MTAFS chapter membership continues to grow, almost doubling in the last two years. These members are active in government agencies and private industries.

ORAFS Accomplishments and Plans

May 15, 2006

Submitted by Barry McPherson, Chapter President

Annual meeting held Feb 28-March 1, 2006, at Sunriver Resort, central Oregon.

Approx 500 registrants

3 workshops (Statistics, Radio and acoustic telemetry, and Legislative processes)

3 plenary speakers (1 to start each day, highlighted by Dr. Jane Lubchenco)

125 papers and 31 posters

One session had graduate student conveners and all student presenters.

A Best Student Paper and a Best Student Poster Award were granted.

A student mentor social was held for about 100 students and 50 mentors.

Four \$1,500 scholarships were awarded: AS, BS, MS, and PhD levels.

Awards of Merit given to a fishery biologist, an irrigator, a rancher, and a stream restoration contractor.

A first ever “Texas Hold’em” poker tournament was held after the banquet and proved to be a successful raiser of both fun and funds.

The Oregon Chapter partnered with the USFWS, the PSMFC, and the Humboldt, Alaska, and North Pacific International chapters to sponsor the *Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium: Biology, Status, Management, and Conservation* in fall 2005.

A \$5,000 graduate student scholarship for work on coastal cutthroat trout was one use of the profits, and this will be awarded at this WD meeting by the WD Scholarship Committee.

The Student Subunit at Oregon State University was granted \$992 to make 4 field trips where they learned from professional biologists on the job

The Chapter contributed \$125 to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University to help recruit diversity students from high schools.

Several Chapter members were involved in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program last year.

A grant of \$250 was given to an outdoor education organization (Wolfree) for supplies to educate children about fish and watershed ecology.

The Salmon 2100 project was granted \$200 to support a conference in Portland (Alternative Futures for Wild Pacific Salmon in Western North America) that was an outreach to the public beyond fishery researchers and managers.

The Jefferson Fish Society, a group of fishery biologists and aquatic scientists in SW Oregon and NW California was granted \$125 for start up of a website to facilitate information flow in this somewhat isolated region.

And finally, \$750 was granted to WD in support of this meeting here in Bozeman.

ORAFS will be hosting the 2008 WD Annual Meeting, to be held May 3 – 9 at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel in Portland.

ORAFS submitted comments to ODFW on that agency’s draft of “Oregon Native Fish Status Report 2005.”

President McPherson began representing ORAFS as a “Science-at-Large” member on the Advisory Committee to the new Oregon Hatchery Research Center.

The Chapter sent letters to the Oregon congressional delegation to support a \$1 million dollar request for research activities at this joint OSU/ODFW facility.

Most recently, the Chapter wrote a letter to Oregon’s Congressional Delegation in support of Wilderness designation for the Copper-Salmon area on the Elk River on the south coast of Oregon.

The Oregon Chapter has just completed its first year of implementing distribution of the quarterly newsletter primarily via email and our website, unless paper copies are explicitly requested.

Financially, the Chapter continued to build and maintain a financial reserve. The reserve is maintained at a level to exceed two years' annual operating budget.