

TO: John Boreman, President AFS
FROM: Christina Swanson, President Western Division AFS
DATE: February 1, 2013

Western Division AFS (WDAFS) Mid-Year Report

I. Motion Report

(A) Recommended Motion:

The WDAFS recommends no motions at this time.

II. Activity Report

The WDAFS and Chapters of the WDAFS offer the following mid-year outcomes and accomplishments related to the AFS Strategic Plan (Section A), as well as recommendations for future consideration by AFS (Section B).

Section A: Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

Objective 1.1. Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities (see also Objective 3.4)

Alaska: The Chapter meeting was held in Kodiak, Alaska, under the theme “Ecosystem, Fishery, and Food Sustainability in a Changing World”. The conference had over 20 special sessions and registered 236 participants.

AZ-NM: The Chapter held its meeting in conjunction with the Wildlife Society in Phoenix in February 2012, and has its 2013 meeting in Albuquerque in February 2013. The University of Arizona Student Sub-unit held the student colloquium in November of 2012 in Tucson.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter held its 46th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Mission Valley San Diego March 29-31st 2012. The conference included a special symposium on the conservation of threatened and endangered species of southern California, were 12 presentations were made on the conservation and status of southern Steelhead, razorback suckers, tidewater goby and the Santa Ana Sucker. The conference has several networking opportunities with members from northern and southern California and members from Mexico.

CO-WY: The Chapter hosts an Annual Meeting each year. In 2013, the annual meeting is scheduled for February 25-27 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Idaho: The Chapter hosted its second largest meeting to date in 2012, helping to educate fisheries students, professionals and retirees from a diversity of affiliations. In 2013, the Chapter is co-hosting the WDAFS meeting in Boise, Idaho titled: Fisheries-Learning from the Past and Looking Toward the Future. 2013 will also be the Chapter's 50th year anniversary.

Mexico: The number of members of this new Chapter is growing and includes fisheries professionals from Mexico, the US and Central America. The Chapter will host the 2014 WD AFS meeting in Mazatlan, on April 7-11.

Montana: The Chapter held its 2012 meeting on February 5-8 at Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana. The Chapter awarded \$6,000 toward conservation projects in 2012.

Oregon: The Chapter will host its 49th annual meeting February 19-22, 2013, with a theme of "Building partnerships between fish and folks". Attendance is projected to exceed 400, and the conference will include three workshops on public speaking, monitoring, and fly fishing. In addition, the Chapter hosted an anadromous run forecasting workshop in Portland in November 2012 that brought fishery scientists and managers together to investigate ways to improve techniques. The workshop was attended by over 50 professionals from the Columbia Basin and Canada.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by inviting individuals from government agencies, NGOs and industry to participate in our annual meeting (2013 theme: *Keeping Up With The Times: The Changes in Fisheries Techniques and Philosophies*). The meeting featured plenary speakers who highlighted new techniques or approaches in fisheries biology, in order to further the fisheries biological science field and increase fisheries biologists efficiency and effectiveness.

WA-BC: The Chapter held its 2012 Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC Canada in conjunction with the Society of Ecological Restoration, which also has an international membership.

WDAFS: In conjunction with the CO-WY Chapter, the WD hosted its 2012 Annual Meeting in Jackson, WY. Plans for the 2013 Annual meeting, co-hosted with the Idaho Chapter, are in the final stages. In addition to these annual scientific conferences, which promote dissemination and exchange of fisheries science and conservation, the WD publishes a quarterly newsletter, offers opportunities for continuing education for fisheries professional and students, provides direct support for student participation in AFS, and engages on regional fisheries issues. The WD's reach is international division, with chapters, student sub-units and members in Canada and Mexico. In the past year, the WD has continued to provide and develop support for the new Mexico Chapter, co-hosting its 2014 annual meeting with the Chapter and proposing and promoting development of a special travel grant fund to support attendance and participation of fisheries professionals in the Mazatlan meeting.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked with the WD and chapter and university-based student sub-units to organize and support the annual student-led Student Colloquium and to participate in chapter and WD annual meetings.

Objective 1.2. Increase science-based fisheries conservation by increasing interactions with AFS members and government policy makers.

Alaska: Many of Alaska members continue to be heavily involved in developing policy and guiding resource management direction around fishing, mining, timber harvesting, invasive species, and other land management issues.

AZ-NM: The Chapter's Environmental Affairs committee chair set up a piscicide information sharing page on our website to deal with the opposition to use of this management tool.

Cal-Neva: Several of the Executive Committee members are participants in the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), a major multi-agency habitat conservation plan to restore the San Francisco Bay Delta Ecosystem. Science related subjects are discussed at executive committee meetings regarding the BDCP and these members directly communicate with state and federal policy makers and stakeholders for the Bay-Delta Ecosystem.

CO-WY: The Chapter adopted revised bylaws including a chapter rule on advocacy to improve our ability to put forth thoughtful position statements, etc.

Idaho: The Chapter members include students from five universities, professional affiliations from 46 different entities and a strong retiree involvement. The Executive Committee's elected and non elected positions are also filled by members from a variety of affiliations.

Mexico: The Chapter was invited to participate in a regional Network for Research of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the NW part of the country. Several academic institutions are involved in this network, which was created by different Mexican States along the Gulf of California to promote fisheries science. This network is composed by institutes and universities from the Estates around the Gulf of California. This Network is similar to a National Network with similar objectives, in which the Mexican Chapter is also participating. Through these networks, the Chapter will be able to accomplish with the AFS objectives in Mexico.

Montana: The Chapter provided a comment letter to the EPA responding to a request for information on building a better scientific basis for restoration through a solicitation for recovery-relevant literature, data or indicators. The Chapter also provided a comment letter regarding the Montana Department of Environmental Qualities draft list of chronically dewatered streams in Montana.

Oregon: The Chapter continues to support a legislative liaison to facilitate interaction with policy makers in the State capitol. The Legislative Affairs and Executive committees continue to track important legislation and offer science-based comments and input as appropriate. The Chapter recently sent a letter to congressional representatives supporting the formation of an Elk River Fishery Emphasis Area in SW Oregon. The Chapter also continues to participate in quarterly Oregon Conservation Leader's meetings, which connects the Chapter with several government resource agencies and other non-profits.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by inviting individuals from government agencies, NGOs and industry to participate in our annual meeting. Catered breaks and socials provided opportunities to interact and network with policy makers.

WA-BC: Many Chapter members are in government or are private consultants who supply results of research to their agency policy makers to assure science-based fisheries conservation

WDAFS: The WD engages in regionally significant fisheries issues with technical review, comment letters, resolutions and, in 2012, by becoming a signatory to an *amicus* brief for a Supreme Court case involving sediment run-off from logging roads. In 2012, two resolutions (one on Bristol Bay and the impacts of proposed mining activities, and the other on Snake River salmon and dam removal) adopted by the WD were brought to the national AFS for approval by the national membership.

Objective 1.3. Promote fisheries conservation through development and dissemination of public outreach materials. (See also Objective 3.4)

Alaska: Alaska Chapter members continue to serve on review panels and participate in public workshops throughout the state examining the ecological and sociological risks associated with the proposed Pebble Mine in SW Alaska.

Cal-Neva: One of the Chapter's Executive Committee members serves as a moderator for fish conservation related issues on a public fishing online forum in northern California. He frequently disseminates information and answers fish biology and conservation questions from the forum.

CO-WY: The Chapter funded the creation and continues to fund the maintenance of a public website to educate the public on the problems associated with the illegal stocking of aquatic organisms (<http://stopstocking.cowyafs.org/>). The website provides national and international information on this topic.

Idaho: Updates are regularly made to the Chapter's website to assure an easy pathway for all visitors. During the present mid-year period the Chapter has supported two public outreach projects that promoted fisheries conservation: the Caldera Symposium and the Idaho Wildlife Summit. The Chapter is also supporting the archiving of interviews from fisheries professionals in Idaho, the videos will be distributed to libraries, museums, and chapter records.

Mexico: The Chapter is promoting fisheries conservation through development and dissemination of public outreach materials, mainly through the electronic journal denominated *Pesca y Conservacion* (Fisheries and conservation; available at: <http://200.23.161.228/ojs-2.2.2/index.php/pyc/login>). The Chapter has launched its new website (<http://pesquerias.mx/>). At this moment is only in Spanish, but the Chapter expects to have a fully functional site in English by March this year.

Montana: The Chapter's Student Sub Units, in conjunction with Chapter members, conducted a variety of public outreach programs in 2012. For example, the MSU Subunit worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to conduct a Family Fishing Event during the summer of 2012.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by finally assisting a "Wounded Warriors" fishing event.

WA-BC: The Chapter is in the process of overhauling the website to improve the distribution of conservation outreach materials. The chapter also posts relevant information and articles through the newsletter, listserv as well as social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. Both the chapter and student subunits (BC and UW) have Facebook sites. The Chapter has also funded requests from both government and environmental NGOs related to environmental education outreach programs (e.g., USFWS youth fisheries camps, Salish Sea Expeditions).

WDAFS: The WD continues to support the Western Native Fishes database and ensure that it is available and accessible to the membership and general public. The WD also completed upgrades to its website, which is a resource for both members and the public.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked to build a comprehensive contact information list for all chapter- and university based student sub-units.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

Objective 2.1. Encourage educational institutions at all levels to maintain excellent academic programs in fisheries sciences and related disciplines to assure recruitment of fisheries professionals that meet the needs of employers.

Alaska: The Chapter supported the travel of nearly 40 students to attend the annual meeting held late 2012. Three continuing education courses were held, plus four additional free educational tours centered around fish processing, hatcheries, and windmill energy generation.

AZ-NM: The Chapter sponsored the annual fisheries education summit held between Arizona universities and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AFGD). This summit allows AFGD to show universities what curricula are needed for future employees of the agency.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter supports three student sub-units: Sacramento-Davis Sub-unit, Humboldt State University sub-unit and the University of Nevada Reno sub-unity. These sub-units work with their respective departments and faculty advisors to ensure fisheries related course work is teaching relevant and up to date science. The sub-units also invite faculty to meetings to present research and other practical tools, including lectures on the NEPA-CEQA process, how to navigate the State and Federal hiring process.

CO-WY: Many students present at the annual meeting of the Chapter. This gives members an opportunity to provide students and professors feedback on the direction of current research and the applicability to current management challenges.

Idaho: The Chapter has supported the following projects aimed at the education of grade school students: Trout in the Classroom, Wild Science Explorers, Willow Creek Field Trip, Boulder Creek Study, and Salmon Camp, co-managed the Susan B. Martin fisheries scholarship for college and graduate school students, and supported the development of the *Native Fishes of Idaho* book.

Mexico: The Chapter is working towards the establishment of a formal Student Subunit. At the moment the Chapter is looking for ways to send at least 5 students to the WDAFS 2013 meeting in Idaho.

Montana: The Chapter continues to support student attendance to the Annual meeting through reduced registration costs and by providing student lodging. The Chapter also awards three scholarships to students. Finally, the Chapter works closely with the two State of Montana Student Subunits.

Oregon: The Chapter continues to provide an annual meeting that is extremely affordable for students to attend. Not only is the registration fee very low, but there are volunteer opportunities that provide access to free lodging. During the annual meeting, the Chapter hosts a 'student-mentor mixer', which allows students to network with professionals from public, private, and academic sectors. The goal is to increase participation at the annual meeting and introduce students to the professional society and its benefits. The Oregon Chapter annually awards over \$8,000 in student scholarships, and a \$5,000 Carl Bond memorial scholarship, to students at the AA, BS, MS, and PhD level. The Chapter continues to support its student subunit, and worked through its student representative to finalize bylaws for this subunit. The Chapter's student representative is a key member of the Executive Committee, participating in monthly calls and bi-annual retreats.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by providing a continuing education class on Hydroacoustics use as a reservoir habitat mapping tool. This training was free to AFS members as well as individuals from government agencies, NGOs or industry who participated in our annual meeting. Also the UTAFS will be hosting an NRCS Habitat Analysis certification this year as well.

WA-BC: The Chapter now has two active student sub-units (University of Washington and BC Universities – UBC, SFU, UVic, VIU) with representatives on the Executive Committee. This is in addition to the student representative on the Executive Committee. The Chapter sponsors education related activities in both student sub-units, which are active at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Chapter continues to make students a priority at the Chapter meetings, with reduced registration fees, travel scholarships, best paper awards and mentoring sessions at the annual meeting. The current Chapter president is a professor from a BC university, who has been networking with academic institutions regarding the benefits of student membership in AFS. The Chapter has recently sponsored a graduate student conference where student ex-com members will attend and present a recruitment poster on AFS.

WDAFS: The WD supported and promoted the participation of students in AFS using a variety of strategies. In addition to convening the annual meeting, which offers students scientific, professional, and social engagement and networking opportunities, the WD provides financial support for student travel and participation in the annual meeting, for the annual student-led Student Colloquium, and for small research and education projects. The WD Executive Committee includes an elected Student Representative, who both represents student interests and serves as a liaison to the student sub-units.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked with the WD to support and coordinate activities of chapter- and university-based student sub-units.

Objective 2.2. *Ensure that the fisheries professional certification program reflects the integration of many sciences relevant to fisheries while ensuring its recognition as a mark of scientific excellence and expertise.*

CO-WY: The Chapter is not involved in the professional certification process, although several members have received their certification in recent years.

Idaho: The Chapter is developing guidelines for young professionals (Law of Fisheries) expected to be completed by 2014 meeting.

Montana: The Chapter has not actively promoted professional certification in recent years; however, many members have been certified through AFS.

Oregon: The Chapter sponsored a professional certification scholarship to a member this year, to alleviate the out-of-pocket costs to that member for certifying with the society.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by encouraging members to take advantage of the profession certification opportunity provided by the Western Division and by committing to fund the certification of two of our members.

WA-BC: The Chapter offers a workshop on the scope and benefits of AFS certification at its annual meetings. While the Chapter is not actively involved in the professional certification process, several Chapter members have received their certification in recent years. There is an issue in BC regarding the interest in pursuing certification as an AFS fisheries professional, as the province has its own registered professional biologist certification requirement (RPBio) for working biologists. Fisheries biologists in BC are more likely to pursue this “right to practice” certification rather than AFS certification that is not required for employment.

Objective 2.3. *Provide a wide array of continuing education opportunities using innovative methods to reach the widest possible audience of fisheries professionals.*

Alaska: Continuing education courses are offered every year at the annual meetings.

AZ-NM: Each year, the Chapter hosts trainings, which include a piscicide course, GIS, and use of statistical analysis software, at the annual meeting.

Cal-Neva: At the Chapter’s 2012 Annual Meeting, the Chapter held two continuing education workshops. One continuing education course, on Pacific Salmonid Spawning Habitat Restoration, was taught by Dr. Joseph Merz (University of California- Santa Cruz & Cramer Fish Sciences) and Rocko Brown (ESA-PWA Hydrology). The other continuing education course, on Applied Genetic Techniques, was taught by Dr. Scott Blankenship and Gregg Schumer (Cramer Fish Sciences).

CO-WY: The Chapter will host a continuing education workshop in association with the annual meeting. The title for the workshop is “Instream Flow Principles and Water Law Concepts for Fishery Managers.”

Idaho: A workshop (*Fish Without Borders*) at the 2012 annual meeting of the Chapter was attended by over 100 members. The Chapter will present six workshops at 2013 co-hosted WDAFS annual meeting.

Montana: The Chapter provided a continuing education course, led by Dr. Scott Bonar, on the social dynamics of natural resource management.

Oregon: Workshops are an important part of our annual meeting, and the chapter typically hosts two or three each year.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by providing two continuing education classes on the use of hydroacoustics and habitat analysis. Both were free to AFS members as well as individuals from government agencies, NGOs or industry who participated in our annual meeting.

WA-BC: Continuing education opportunities are promoted on the Chapter website, listserv, newsletter and Facebook. Continuing education workshops are offered at the Chapter annual meeting, usually on the day before the main meeting.

WDAFS: In addition to the annual meeting, the WD provides and/or support continuing education and professional development with an annual student-led Student Colloquium and financial support for fisheries related research, education and public outreach.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked with the Idaho Chapter student sub-units and other student sub-units to plan and organize student activities at the 2013 WDAFS Annual Meeting, including student-led scientific programs, social events and student volunteer activities and responsibilities.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

Objective 3.1. Determine and respond to the needs and opinions of AFS members.

Alaska: Alaska Chapter has a comment submission form and contact information on its website. Requests are handled regularly by Executive Committee members.

AZ-NM: The Chapter adapts to the needs of the members via concerns or opportunities voiced at our business meetings or via our listserve.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter is working on increasing communication between the Executive Committee and Chapter members through social media such as Facebook. The Chapter currently has over 180 members on Facebook and the group is open to any member to post news stories or ask questions of the membership. The Chapter also responds to requests sent to the Cal-Neva list serve from the membership, such as requests for support of conservation positions or petitions.

CO-WY: The Chapter conducts surveys of the membership 1-2 times annually to determine their needs and opinions. Recent surveys include continuing education topics, interest in hosting an annual meeting and fundraising direction for the Chapter.

Idaho: Membership directory was recently updated to assure reliable distribution of Chapter news. All Executive Committee members have their contact information posted on the website allowing anyone with questions or concerns to contact the appropriate person(s). All inquiries are answered in a timely manner. The Executive Committee members represent a wide array of affiliations providing contact “ports” across the state and different agencies. Executive Committee meetings occur every 1-2 months providing a venue for determining the most appropriate response to the needs of members as questions or concerns arise.

Mexico: On the Chapter’s new website, a “Members Only” section has been created where Chapter members can download their card with the membership number and can access material that is exclusively for members. The Chapter is also going to conduct a survey to identify the needs and views of its members.

Montana: In 2012, the Chapter surveyed members regarding interest in Continuing Education topics. The 2013 course was listed as a priority by members.

Oregon: All of the Executive Committee contact information is posted on the Chapter website. Suggestions and comments submitted by membership are taken very seriously and discussed regularly amongst the Executive Committee. The Chapter recognizes contributions of individuals and teams to Chapter and society goals through peer-nominated awards presented during the annual meeting.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by providing members with the opportunity to vote on funding special projects and scholarships at our annual meeting. In 2013, the Chapter received no proposals for scholarships from either high school or college students.

WA-BC: All of the Executive Committee contact information is posted on the Chapter website. The Chapter has a comment/request submission form on its website. Responses are quickly prepared by Chapter officers to the requesters; Members are invited to provide feedback on issues before the AFS via the newsletter and listserv.

WDAFS: Contact information for the Executive Committee, as well as information on WD priorities, activities and committees, is available on the WD website. In the past year, the WD has responded to member requests for technical comment, advancing Wd resolutions to the national level, and expert engagement on an amicus brief for a Supreme Court case.

Objective 3.2. Enhance participation of students and professionals at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future.

Alaska: Graduate and undergraduate students participate in and present at the annual chapter meeting each year, and the chapter supports their travel through travel grants to those presenting talks or posters. Members (from industry, academia, and agencies) also participate in the student subunit training and educational activities and socials.

AZ-NM: The Chapter strongly encourages student participation. Last year, the Chapter had a record number of student presenters (including two undergraduates) in its annual meeting, and one of the student sub-units hosted the Western Division Student Colloquium.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter enhances student participation by providing funding to the student sub-units and inviting the officers of each sub-unit to participate in Executive Committee meetings.

CO-WY: Students (undergraduate and graduate) are actively encouraged to participate in and present at the annual Chapter meeting. The student subunits also collaborate to host a student mentoring social that brings professionals and students together in an informal environment. The Chapter's membership committee also provides a job board at the annual meeting which advertises temporary job opportunities that may provide students with professional experience.

Idaho: Two affiliated student chapters are actively involved with Executive Committee. Affiliated student sub-units also encourage participation of students from schools without organized student sub-units. To assist and encourage young professionals guidelines for a career in fisheries are being developed. Public Education and Mentoring committees have actively involved students of all ages in projects throughout the year; one project of note is the 'bookmark' project that will continue for the 2013 annual meeting.

Mexico: Through the organization of meetings, the Chapter is encouraging the professional development of its members as well as recognition of their accomplishments. The Chapter has established awards that are given during the meetings. It is also working to establish a permanent way to promote its annual meeting as well as Chapter activities to the students using social networks such as Facebook. The Chapter is hoping to have a large student presence in the 2014 meeting.

Montana: The Chapter encourages and subsidizes student attendance of the annual meeting. The Chapter provides three student scholarships. The MSU Student Subunit has sponsored a mentoring social at the past two chapter meetings.

Oregon: The Chapter has formalized a process to provide reduced registration fees at the annual meeting through a 'fish-out-of-water waiver' process. This has allowed several people who would not have otherwise been able to afford to attend the annual meeting to do so. The Chapter contributed \$3,000 to the WDAFS travel grant funds to professional travel to the 2014 in Mexico. The Chapter sponsored travel for the President to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN and the 2013 Western Division meeting in Boise, ID. It also sponsored travel for the student representative to the 2013 WDAFS student colloquium in Arizona in November.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by encouraging the Utah State University and Brigham Young University subunits to participate in our annual meeting and all Executive Committee meetings. The Chapter also supports the student subunits by assisting them set up field trips to work with State fisheries personnel and with financial donations.

WA-BC: The chapter has active student participation in the Executive Committee and Chapter that covers the majority of the Chapter's geographic area (see objective 2.1). Efforts are

underway to increase this coverage to universities in eastern Washington. The Chapter 2013 Annual Meeting will be held in Chelan, WA this year, the first time it has been held east of the Cascades in several years. This has been done to serve the student and professional members in this region, as well as increase recruitment in this part of the state. The development and expansion of social media communication (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) has been done to enhance the participation of students and young professionals in the Chapter's activities.

WDAFS: In the past year, the WD has enhanced student and professional participation with financial support (travel and research grants), professional recognition (awards), scientific conferences (annual meeting and Student Colloquium), information dissemination (WD newsletter and listserv), partnerships with chapters (e.g., strengthening the new Mexico Chapter by co-hosting the WD annual meeting with them and developing a robust professional travel grant fund to increase attendance to the meeting), and active engagement with an elected Student Representative.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked with the WD and chapter- and university-based student sub-units to build a comprehensive contact information list in order to facilitate and support student involvement in AFS activities.

Objective 3.3. Promote diversity within AFS and the fisheries profession.

Alaska: Diversity is actively promoted across the board from the student group up through chapter committees and professional activities. The chapter has roughly a 50:50 male to female balance.

AZ-NM: The Chapter has a great history of women in leadership roles; its Executive Committee has been a female majority for the past five years.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter promotes diversity within the Chapter by having members on the Executive Committee of both sexes and several races, including; Japanese, Filipino, African American and Pacific Islanders. We specifically chose a Mexican speaker and a female speaker for the plenary session at the 2012 annual meeting.

CO-WY: The Chapter continues to be strongly supportive of women in leadership roles. The Chapter is encouraging the active participation of a wider range of age groups in chapter committees.

Idaho: The Chapter's Nominations Chair recruits interest from a diversity of agencies for Executive Committee positions. Membership includes representation from five universities and 46 entities. Public Education and Mentoring Committees encourage high school students to apply for scholarships.

Mexico: The Chapter is expecting to discuss, with colleagues from Central American countries, the possibility of forming a new chapter of these countries, or a subsection within our Chapter. This discussion will take part during the Chapter meeting in May.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by inviting individuals from Ute Indian Tribe to participate in our annual meeting.

WA-BC: The Chapter's Executive Committee has a range of ages and backgrounds in its members, reflective of the Chapter membership as a whole. The leadership positions in the Executive Committee are occupied by an equal balance of men and women (6 F/5 M).

WDAFS: The WD is an international division, with active chapters in Canada and Mexico. In the past year, the WD has been particularly active helping to build and strengthen the new Mexico Chapter by careful planning and raising support for the 2014 WD meeting in Mazatlan, MX.

Objective 3.4. Develop innovative and cost effective methods to make fisheries science and management information readily available to AFS members and all levels of government entities worldwide.

Alaska: The Chapter has an excellent website and active listserv for disseminating all types of relevant information.

AZ-NM: The Chapter's new bylaws allow for electronic voting. The Chapter is investigating a chapter Facebook page to disseminate information.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter has gone to paperless publications of the *Pisces* Newsletter and it is using social media such as Facebook to disseminate new information and communications to our members.

Idaho: The Chapter is working to provide options for viewing of annual meeting for those not able to attend in person. The Chapter regularly updates its website and distributes 3-4 chapter newsletters annually.

Mexico: The Chapter has upgraded its website.

Montana: The Chapter is revamping its website to simplify updating and will consider the ability to use various social media outlets in conjunction with the chapter website.

Oregon: The Chapter continues to disseminate information through its listserv, which connects to professionals and students from not only Oregon but the entire region as well. Our listserv also connects to Chapter Presidents in the Western Division. The Oregon Chapter website was updated this year to a more modern and interactive format. The Chapter makes regular contributions to the Chapter own Facebook and Twitter accounts to target members using social media. The Chapter has an approved social media policy, which guides how this platform is used. The Oregon Chapter's social media policy was the first of its kind in the society and is now being adopted by other chapters and the Parent Society.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by maintaining an up-to-date web page with information about the Chapter, our officers, by-laws, funding opportunities and scholarships. The web page also provides links to AFS, the Western Division, and other aquatic conservation groups.

WA-BC: The majority of the fisheries science and management information produced by the Chapter is now delivered electronically (e.g., website, newsletter, listserv, Facebook, twitter). The abstracts from the 2012 Annual Meeting were available to not only the conference attendees but other Chapter members and the public through the meeting website.

WDAFS: Following the WD's successful upgrade of its website, the WD is now exploring using social media such as Facebook to stay better connected with its members. The WD is also investigating the possibility for future web-based meetings and online educational courses for the WD's membership.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative is working with the WD and chapter- and university-based student sub-units to organize the annual Student Colloquium and other student led activities at the 2013 WDAFS Annual Meeting.

Objective 3.5. Practice good governance and organizational management.

Alaska: The Chapter holds annual elections and monthly Executive Committee teleconferences.

AZ-NM: The Chapter's Executive Committee conducts conference calls as needed or quarterly. Annual officer elections are held at the business meeting.

Cal-Neva: The Chapter follows all the parliamentary rules laid out by the parent society during Executive Committee meetings. The Chapter disseminates meeting minutes within 30 days of any meeting, and makes sure that all Executive Committee chair positions filled.

CO-WY: The Chapter held annual officer elections. The Chapter has 18 active committees and associated committee chairs. The Chapter holds Executive Committee conference calls as needed.

Idaho: The Chapter's Executive Committee meets every 1-2 months. The Chapter recently overlapped the term of Secretary/Treasurer, Fundraising, and Public Education positions to assure transfer of existing knowledge to new officers. The Chapter also re-examined its mission statement. It provided funding to nine different proposals since the last annual meeting, using proper rules of order. The Chapter annually updates its Meeting Planning Guide.

Mexico: The Chapter held monthly Executive Committee conference calls. It has updated its bylaws, and different committees have been included. Currently, the Chapter is working with the Western Division to plan and organize the 2014 WDAFS Annual meeting, to be held in Mazatlan, MX.

Montana: The Chapter posts all Executive Committee meeting minutes, business meeting minutes and treasures report on the chapter's website. The Chapter has also invested funding to better manage membership information. The Chapter has an active Historian working to document and catalog important Chapter history. Finally, the Chapter is cognizant of financial security and annually determines a budget for annual meeting costs and Resource Action Fund grants.

Oregon: The Executive committee meets monthly via teleconference and at a bi-annual, in-person retreat. The spring retreat includes all incoming and outgoing members to ensure smooth transition and good governance amongst executive committees. All meeting minutes and agendas are posted on the website after they are approved. The Past-President updates the chapter's administrative handbook annually. The Chapter archived the Chapter's historical records at the Oregon State University library this year, in anticipation of the Chapter's 50th anniversary in 2014. The Chapter President develops and implements an annual Chapter work plan and budget, which ensures that the Chapter has two years of operating costs in reserve.

Utah: The Chapter supported this goal by electing new chapter officers at our annual meeting, allowing members to address new business at our business meeting and by having members vote on how chapter funds are allocated.

WA-BC: The Chapter holds Executive Committee meetings by teleconference, on the second and fourth week each month (i.e., twice per month). All meeting minutes are posted on the chapter website after they are approved. An annual, face-to-face Executive Committee retreat is held each fall (e.g., October) to discuss the plan and priorities for the upcoming year. The budget is also presented and approved at this meeting. The annual business meeting for the Chapter, open to all members, is held at a lunch meeting during the annual meeting. The election of new officers, as required, is also carried out in conjunction with the annual meeting.

WDAFS: Governance procedures for the WD are now fully described in a Procedural Manual, which is reviewed and updated annually and available to on the WD website. The Executive Committee, comprised of elected WD officers and presidents of the ten member chapters, met monthly via teleconference and twice in-person. Executive Committee activities were memorialized in meeting minutes, which are available on the website. The WD Grants Endowment Fund, which supports member-proposed research and education projects and is managed by a Grants Funding and Investments Committee, grew substantially in 2012.

WDAFS Student Representative: The Student Representative worked with the prior Student Representative to develop a description of Student Representative responsibilities which will be incorporated into the WDAFS Procedural Manual.

Section B: Recommendations or Suggestions for Future AFS Consideration

1) Challenges for recruiting people to serve on the committees and in leadership roles within the WD and the chapters remain. The WD continues to explore strategies to increase the apparent value of service as well as to minimize and/or distribute the time commitment required to accomplish WD activities and responsibilities.

2) The value of AFS's professional certification is not apparent to membership. Because many organizations that employ fisheries professionals do not require certified fisheries professionals, many members find little value in completing the certification process. For at least one of our international chapters (WA-BC), AFS certification is not valid as the province has its own registered professional biologist certification requirement (RPBio) for working

biologists. Fisheries biologists in BC are more likely to pursue this “right to practice” certification rather than AFS certification that is not required for employment.

3) More frequent communication between AFS Staff and Chapter Executive Committee on matters such as ListServ issues, membership lists, financial issues, etc. is desired. We realize the limitations in staffing at head office but we would like to have better contact on issues that are likely common to all chapters. For example, the WA-BC Chapter president for 2012-2013 received his first email from AFS staff welcoming me to the position six months after assuming the office.

4) Just as many fisheries professionals are members of AFS chapters but not members of national AFS, there many national AFS members who are not members of their local chapter. It would be useful to make it easy (or automatic) for AFS members in a chapter’s area to become part of the local chapter. This would increase chapter membership dramatically. For example, based on data from the past couple of years, there are over 400 people in Oregon who are AFS members but not members of the Oregon Chapter. Chapters will have more influence in their engagement with government agencies and the public if they can demonstrate larger membership.

5) The WA-BC Chapter and WD recommend the AFS work with international chapters and units to resolve the insurance issue so that these units will not have to pay more than US chapters for insurance for chapter activities.

6) The Utah Chapter has expressed interest in substantially increasing their annual dues in this upcoming year.

1) We recommend that AFS continue to examine the opportunities for linkages that could be made between chapters with Canadian members (e.g., WA-BC, Ontario) and CARS.