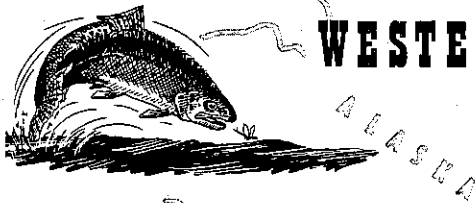


American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER



Jerry Bouck, President
Kirk Beiningen, President-Elect
Del Skeesick, Secretary-Treasurer
Paul H. Reed, Editor

President's Comments

It was my pleasure to represent the Western Division at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Dearborn, Michigan, September 19-22, 1976. Here are some highlights of special concern to members.

A motion was passed to create a Water Quality Section in AFS. Howard Johnson of Michigan State University will act as Chairman and invites your participation.

The Finance Committee reported that AFS has a cash reserve of about \$100,000 and that this reserve is expected to increase to 2.5 times that level. (The purpose of the additional reserve seems unnecessary to me, unless it is related to the following item.)

International President Bob Hutton (former AFS Executive Director) moved to create an ad hoc building committee to oversee the matter of construction of an AFS office building in Washington DC. The motion was tabled until Bob determines if the membership wants an office building and if so, where it should be located. (Keep your eye on this issue!)

A proposal was approved to have AFS meet independently of the IAGFCC Commissioners in 1978 as a result of the mail ballot on meeting location. This meeting will be held at the University of Rhode Island and will be the first such meeting in many decades. However, a narrowly passed motion committed AFS to meet jointly with the Commissioners in 1979 at West Yellowstone, Montana.

At my suggestion, the Society held a job market during the annual meeting which provided potential employers and potential employees a chance to meet. It proved to be a success mainly due to the efforts of Oregon's Nancy Rosentreter. Here's to Rosie! Hopefully, we will see more of this service to members.

You can read more about these items in Fisheries or you can request the minutes of the meeting. Last but not least, I encourage you to attend the meetings and participate in the decision making processes.

President's Perspective:

Many issues face the Western Division and need to be openly discussed within the membership. I want to share my views with you and obtain your counsel and guidance. That seems like an appropriate way for a President to function and serve all the members including those who cannot attend the meetings.

My experiences at the Society meeting in Dearborn have deepened my concern for the way AFS does its business. I suppose I am a liberal, but I believe that the membership should have a voice in deciding all major items of business and policy. By that means, we can broaden the basis of concensus and develop sound decisions.

The problem with our present system is difficult to describe; you really need to experience it to appreciate the situation. Certainly the existing system has allowed our survival over the years, and that alone is good. However, things have changed a great deal since the time when most members could attend meetings of the fledging Society. As the Society grew in size it was impossible for members to attend all of the meetings. The issues facing the Society increased in importance. Now we actively lobby in the halls of the U.S. Congress with the hope of implementing or improving laws pertaining to our interests.

Many of us believe that AFS urgently needs adjustment to improve our ability to solve problems and implement policy on important fishery and environmental issues. Failing that, I believe that AFS will become a tool of well organized special interest groups.

I will illustrate the problem by describing a situation which has continued for years involving the selection of a location for our annual meeting. This year a problem began by suppression of the Time and Place Committee's report involving invitations to meet in over 20 locations and a rotation of the meeting between geographic regions. The intent was to maximize the opportunity to attend meetings and to minimize costs. Almost none of the attending members knew about the report, hence when West Yellowstone was proposed and was quickly brought to a vote, they tended to vote favorably. In spite of being the only choice on the ballot, this issue was defeated once before it was passed by a narrow margin on a second ballot. As one Western Division member put it, we were ripped off, not by the location, but by the process. I agree! Let us examine the track record regarding the annual meeting location. AFS went to Disney World, Hawaii, Las Vegas, and unwittingly selected a vacant lot in Detroit which was subsequently changed to Dearborn. By the same process, AFS voted to meet in Vancouver B.C. before discovering that the available facilities were too small to accommodate the meeting under one roof. From this experience, one must conclude that neither facilities nor costs were criteria used to decide the meeting location.

This problem exists because AFS has not developed specific goals, selection criteria, or rules for their administration and implementation. The result is confusion, and allows one to very honestly and sincerely pursue any course of action which they believe to be a goal of AFS. For example, the construction of an AFS office building is heralded by some as the salvation by which our professional goals can be achieved; others see it as the "straw that will break the camel's back" and cause massive losses of members.

A broadly based concensus is needed in major policy and business areas, yet the opposite is promoted by the present system. You cannot vote unless you attend the annual business meeting which applies to less than 5% of the members. They are neither a representative sampling of the membership nor an apportioned electorate. All in all, it is easy to see how things go awry. If we cannot objectively solve

the mundane issue of meeting location, how can we hope to deal objectively with major issues of professional concern? To this end, I will propose revisions in our constitution and by-laws both for the Western Division and for the Society.

There is a bright side to this dilemma; our problems are exposed by a growing interest among our members who want to contribute to AFS. Better we should have this kind of a growing pain than problems which stem from apathy.

Editor's Comments

As your new Editor I take this opportunity to thank Bob Wiley for initiating and publishing the first issues of the Western Division Newsletter. On behalf of the Western Division, thank you Bob for your excellent efforts.

The Executive Committee plans to publish two more issues of the Newsletter before the next annual meeting. The deadline dates for submitting material for inclusion are April 1 and June 1, 1977. Material submitted will be approved for publication on the basis of relevance to a substantial portion of the Division membership. Please provide a typed double-spaced copy to the Editor. Chuck Berry has agreed to act as Assistant Editor. Any address additions or changes should be sent to Chuck.

Credit for artwork used in the Newsletter is due Harold Cramer Smith, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Thank you Harold!

The Bulletin Board

The 1977 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting will be held July 10-13 in Tucson, Arizona. Persons wishing to participate in the technical sessions or to recommend topics for the sessions are asked to contact Gary Chapman, Chairman of the Program Committee.

Anyone wishing to suggest candidates or nominate persons for President-Elect and for Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Division must send the names for consideration to Gordon Haugen, Chairman of the Nominations Committee.

Invitations to hold the 1979 Western Division meeting in your area are solicited by Bill Platts, Chairman of the Time and Place Committee.

The Western Division Forum

What issues within the Western Division concern you? How can we help the Society be our Society? What other questions need to be asked and answered? There must be lots of young ideas out there in Western membership land. The Western Division Forum is your spot to exercise your freedom of speech. Do it in the Forum!

Western Division Elected Officers:

President

Jerry Bouck
12609 NE 5th St.
Bellevue, WA 98005

President-Elect

Kirk Beiningen
15080 SE Laurie Ave.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Secretary-Treasurer

Del Skeesick
3438 Pringle Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97302

Immediate Past-President

Ron Goede
Rt. 1, Box 254
Logan, Utah 84321

Western Division Chapter Presidents

Alaska

Ralph Pirtle
P. O. Box 699
Cordova, AK 99574

Bonneville

Jack Coates
1674 Beck St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Calif. -Nevada

Bruce Kimsey
4612 Pedersen Way
Carmichael, CA 95608

Colo. St. Univ.

Paul Stacey
1600 W. Plum St.
23-E University Village W.
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Colorado-Wyoming

Dave Dufek
P. O. Box 948
Green River, WY 82935

Humboldt

Al Merritt
Humboldt St. Un.
Arcata, CA 95521

Idaho

Greg Munther
P. O. Box 438
Ketchum, ID 83340

Montana

Gordon Haugen
Rt. 3 Box 58-B
Bozeman, MT 59715

New Mexico St. Univ.

Bryan Pidgeon
1920 Louise Court
Las Cruces, N. M. 88001

Oregon

Chris Christianson
4480 Corona
Eugene, OR 97402

Portland

Frank Young
17220 SE Evelyn St.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Sacramento

David Vanicek
6000 J St.
Sacramento, CA 95819

Western Division Committee Chairpersons

Audit

Bruce May
Box 606
Cedar City, UT 84720

Awards

Paul Cuplin
BLM Bldg. 50
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80215

Constitution Reform

Kirk Beiningen
15080 SE Laurie Ave.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Editor

Paul Reed
Bldg. #3, Mar. Sci. Dr.
Newport, OR 97365

Ass't Editor

Chuck Berry
Utah State Univ.
Logan, UT 84321

Finance

Del Skeesick
3438 Pringle Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97302

Instream Flow

Fred Eiserman
188 Dahlia
Casper, WY 82601

International Relations

Dave Narver
324 Terminal Ave.
Nanaimo, B. C. V9R 5C8

Local Arrangements

Chuck Ziebell
4949 E. Alta Vista St.
Tucson, AZ 85712

Membership

Doug Jester
New Mexico St. Univ.
Las Cruces, N. M. 88003

Mitigation Symposium

Bill Melander
Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Nominations

Gordon Haugen
Rt. 3 Box 58-B
Bozeman, MT 59715

Pollution/Water Quality

Dale Becker
Battelle Northwest
Richland, WA 99352

Program

Gary Chapman
1350 SE Goodnight Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Publicity

Bob Patterson
2885 Calle Be Pinon Altos
Santa Fe, N. M. 87501

Resolutions

Lou Carufel
1615 Continental St.
Redding, CA 96001

Striped Bass

Gary Smith
3009 Roman Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95826

Time and Place

Bill Platts
316 E. Myrtle St.
Boise, ID 83706

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salem, OR
Permit 329

4961 W A67
ALVIN D MILLS
3290 SW CHINTIMINI
CORVALLIS OR 97330