

# American Fisheries Society

## WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

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Number 1

### SAN DIEGO JOINT CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

The Joint Annual Conference of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (58th annual meeting) and the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (30th annual meeting) was held in San Diego in July. About 300 attended sessions based on the conference theme, Fish and Wildlife in American Society: A Matter of Dollars and Sense. The Proceedings will be full of sometimes hard to find facts on the economic and sociologic aspects of fish and wildlife. Technical sessions were recorded on cassette tapes by Convention Recorders, Box 23415, San Diego, CA 92123. Tapes cost from \$6 to \$10 per session and the cost is tax deductible. If you can't wait to read what was said, order a tape and attend the session yourself. Proceedings will be available for \$8 from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Box 25, Boise, ID 83707. Past year's Proceedings are also available from that address for \$5.

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Division was attended by a quorum of 33 members. In his address to the members, President Beiningen stated that the Division must have definitive goals and objectives, a balanced budget and operating capital, strong chapters, and chapter participation in Division activities. He stated that the regional nature of some conflicts must be emphasized to accent their importance. Elaborating on this point, Beiningen stated that some resource problems in the West lacked attention by AFS because they seemed to fall between the Chapter's domain and that of the Division as a whole. This type of resource problem usually concerns a watershed. Two examples are the upper Colorado River Basin fisheries problems and the anadromas fisheries problems of the coastal states. He suggested that some inter-Chapter activities like meetings

or workshops might be a way to develop a coordinated AFS prospective on and analysis of this type of problem.

Chapter reports were heard from the following Chapters: Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, Bonneville, Cal-Neva, Col-Wyo, Montana, New Mexico State Univ., North Pacific International Chapter (the Division's newest Chapter), and Univ. of Wyoming.

As usual, the Division's meeting was attended by AFS officers from the Parent Society. Carl Sullivan, Exec. Dir., reported that the sale of the proceedings of the Division's Instream Flow Needs Symposium will reach the break even status. Sale of the remaining sets will generate a profit of about \$2000 and retire all debts. Transactions Editor Bob Kendall noted that although the Western was the largest Division, it ranked third in papers submitted to Transactions. Soon to be available is a monograph on Columaris in the Columbia River system, and the proceedings of the Salmon and Steelhead Symposium.

The Division's Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Wiley, reported that the treasury contained a balance of \$1330, the largest in the history of the Division. The major expense in the past FY was \$1205 for the Newsletter. The Finance Committee reported that the books were in order.

There was discussion of the Bylaws Revision begun at the 1976 Sun Valley meeting. Proposed revisions were submitted by Committee Chairman Del Skeesick but the group decided to take no action until the proposed constitutional changes within the Parent Society were acted on at the Rhode Island meeting. (Continued)

President Beiningen's proposed budget for FY 79 was adopted and is as follows:

Estimated Income

Membership Dues Rebate	\$3000
Balance from FY 78	1330
Total	<u>\$4330</u>

Estimated Expenses

Newsletter	\$1350
President's Travel	750
Western Assoc. Membership	150
AFS Diary purchase	180
Loan to North Pacific	
International Chapter	120
Communication	150
Miscellaneous	300
Subtotal	<u>\$3000</u>

Balance to FY 80	1330
Total	<u>\$4330</u>

Two resolutions, both submitted by the Bonneville Chapter, were passed. The first urged Western States to recognize and maintain instream flows for fish when formulating land management plans. It also commended the states of CO, ID, MT, OR, CA, and WA, which have formerly recognized by statute the need for instream flow maintenance. The second resolution commended the efforts of the BLM, Forest Serv., and Nev., Utah and Wyo. state fish and game agencies for their management efforts in behalf of the endemic cutthroat trout in the Bonneville Basin. Copies of the resolutions may be obtained from Clare Carlson, Sec-Treas.

The Time and Place Committee recommended that the Division meet with the Western Association in 1980 in Montana. Next years meeting, of course, will be in Alaska.

The newly formed North Pacific International Chapter asked the Division for a monetary loan to help them initiate activities. It was decided to extend to them an interest-free loan which, when repaid, would be set aside to help other chapters get started. An organizational meeting of the chapter was recently held and a first annual meeting is scheduled for February 1979. The Chapter includes Washington and British Columbia and is the Division's first International Chapter.

To continue the Division's International interests, Paul Turner, New Mexico State Univ., reported that he was contacting Mexican fishery biologists in an effort to establish greater contact on AFS and fishery problems in the Southwest. An Ad Hoc committee has been formed to pursue this effort and any interested

Division member should contact Paul (Dept. Fish and Wildlife Science, Las Cruces, NM 88003).

Other business items discussed were reports by the following committees: Endangered species, Legislative, Nominations, Program and Stream Flow/Water Quality. The Division was asked to support an upcoming Engineering-Biological Conference and an update on the mitigation symposium was presented.

Election results were announced. Western Division members cast 563 votes, about 40% of the membership, to elect officers. Officers for the coming year are: Bob Wiley (WY) President Elect, Clare Carlson (CO) Secretary-Treasurer, Bob White (ID) Society Nominating Committee Member. John Skinner, President Elect for 1978, presented Kirk Beiningen the past presidents plaque and then stepped into the roll as President by introducing the new officers. President Skinner then mentioned issues that he will address in his term. Among these are a final resolution of the time and place problem for Division meetings, completion of the Bylaws revision, establishment of committees to consider riverine and riparian habitat and consideration of organizing a symposium on the value of fish and wildlife habitat. He also stated that the aqua- and mariculture industries are growing and the Society must strengthen its interests in these areas if it is to remain influential in fisheries developments in North America.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY CENTER ESTABLISHED  
AT ANNUAL MEETING OF PARENT SOCIETY

During the 1978 AFS Annual Meeting at the Univ. Rhode Island, a Career Opportunity Center was available to all attendees. New graduates and other opportunity seekers were encouraged to register and submit resumes. Prospective employers were requested to post vacant position announcements and interview candidates. A person was on hand to answer questions about Civil Service positions.

The Center met with measurable success. A total of 66 prospective employees registered and a total of 25 positions were posted. Employers encouraged the continuation of the Center at future meetings. This may lead to a new function of the Parent Society: to standardize the Centers operations and possibly maintain a continuous career opportunity service.

The role of the Parent Society in the career opportunity service is perhaps controversial. What role should AFS play?





## COWS & FISH: More News



The Cows and Fish topic (June Newsletter) seems to be a contemporary item in fishery circles. BLM and the Forest Service are now revising their grazing management guidelines and are relying heavily on rest-rotation grazing systems. However, do riparian zones and rangeland aquatic systems need special consideration? There will be 3 symposia this fall which should help answer this question. Western AFS members should be aware of this issue since so much of the West is grazed land.

The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society is among several groups sponsoring a Lowland River and Stream Habitat Symposium on the campus of the Univ. N. Colorado, Greeley on Oct. 4-5. A paper of specific interest to fishery biologists is by Bob Behnke titled "Grazing and the Riparian Zone: Impact on Aquatic Values". Behnke cites several studies on western streams where riparian zone protection has resulted in the production of 3-4 times more trout biomass. He states that implementation of adequate riparian protection under multiple use management on federal lands has been a slow process even though the value of the riparian zone is well known. The proceedings of this symposium will be published; write to S. Bissell, Col. Div. Wildl., 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

Trout Unlimited and 11 federal and private agencies will present a forum on Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems at the Stauffer's Denver Inn, Nov. 3-4. Among the technical sessions are ones titled: Grazing Riparian Stream Ecosystems on Federal Land - The Ranchers Viewpoint, Management and Policy for Grazing Riparian/Stream Ecosystems on Federal Lands, Managing Grazing on Riparian Ecosystems to Benefit Wildlife, and Livestock Management Approaches and the Fisheries Resource. As a forum, this meeting will bring together all concerned agencies and organizations to present current private and public interests along with scientific state-of-the-art, biological and management viewpoints. For more information, write TU, 4200 E. Evans Ave., Denver, CO 80222.

A National Symposium on Strategies for Protection and Management of Flood plain Wetlands and Other Riparian Ecosystems will be held on December 11-13 at Gallaway Gardens near Atlanta, Georgia. The Steering Committee has prepared the following definition of

riparian ecosystems (in case you've been wondering):

"Riparian ecosystems are wetland ecosystems which have a high water table because of proximity to an aquatic ecosystem or subsurface water. Riparian ecosystems usually occur as an ecotone between aquatic and upland ecosystems but have distinct vegetation and soil characteristics. Aridity, topographic relief and presence of depositional soils must strongly influence the extent of high water tables and associated riparian ecosystems. These ecosystems are most commonly recognized as bottomland hardwood or floodplain forests in the eastern U.S. and as bosque or streambank vegetation in the west. Riparian ecosystems are uniquely characterized by the combination of high productivity, high species diversity and high species densities. Continuous interactions occur between riparian, aquatic, and upland terrestrial ecosystems through exchanges of energy, nutrients and species."

For further information on this meeting, write Dr. C. Segelquist, U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv., Room 200 Federal Bldg., 608 E. Cherry St., Columbia, MO 65201

Fishery Biologists dealing with the aquatic resource in riparian zones dominated by hardwoods might check the Symposium on Management and Use of Northern Plains Rangeland, held at N. Dakota St. Univ., Feb. 27-28, 1978. One paper entitled "Cattle, Wildlife, and Riparian Habitats in the Western Dakotas" by K. Severson, and C. Boltdt, indicates that deciduous trees are susceptible to damage from livestock. Season-long, summer grazing is most detrimental because of 1) soil compaction which reduces moisture infiltration and increases runoff, 2) herbage removal which allows soil temperature to rise and increases evaporation, and 3) physical damage by rubbing, trampling and browsing. The authors recommend several management methods which could be used to rehabilitate and maintain natural stands of trees and shrubs. Write Charles Boltdt, U.S. Forest Service, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Oregon is really getting after the riparian zone rehabilitation and maintenance problem. They recently held an in-house workshop on riparian zone habitat improvement where biologists presented talks and slide shows on on-going field projects concerning riparian management. For a summary of this meeting, (continued page 4)

contact Ralph Swan, Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildl., 506 SW Mill St., Box 3502, Portland, OR 97208. Also, an interagency group in Oregon has been formed to establish what optimal riparian conditions are and to standardize methodology in producing them.

Also, from Oregon, Harold Winegar (Dept. Fish and Wildl., Box 5, Prineville, OR 97754) has related to the Newsletter some observations he made on Camp Creek in an Exclosed area (see Ranageman's Journal 4(1):10-12, 1977). During last years drought, when Camp Creek was dry, the stream began flowing inside the exclosed area and at the lower end of the 4 mile enclosure, there was about 1/2 CFS of cool, clear water. Below the enclosure, the flow disappeared once again. What is the relationship between livestock grazing, soil compaction, vegetation, and flow maintenance? Can intermittent or ephemeral streams experience flow recovery through riparian recovery? If anyone has quantitative data or even visual observations of examples of flow recovery through riparian management or livestock grazing management, please contact Mr. Winegar.

(Editors Note: Enhanced flow volumes and improved water quality could benefit fishery biologists by serving as justification for riparian zone management when fish and wildlife benefits alone are not convincing enough to justify management efforts to land owners.)

One last thing. How long does it take a riparian zone to recover? Of course this is variable, but generally, the recovery is rapid for a few (2 to 4) years, after which time, no significant improvements occur. Take for example, a study by Glenn Crouch (U.S. Forest Serv., Ft. Collins, CO 80521) in which he conducted vegetation transects of an area along the N. Platte River 7 years after a 10 mile section had been exclosed, and then again 18 years after his first survey. He found that most recovery took place in the first 7 years and 18 years later, the area didn't look much different. Most range scientists believe that 3 to 4 years of grazing prohibition is needed to restore hydrologic integrity and vegetative productivity to upland areas. What about this? Opinions, please.



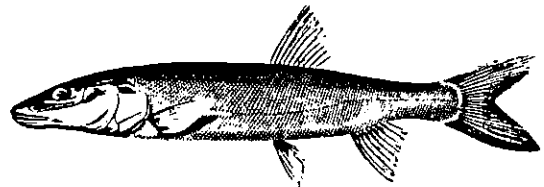
SIX PHASES OF A PROJECT

- 1) Enthusiasm,
- 2) Disillusionment,
- 3) Panic,
- 4) Search for guilty,
- 5) Punishment of innocent,
- 6) Praise for the non-participants.

A fish has been proposed for removal from the endangered species list -- because it is presumed extinct. This is the first time such an action will be taken. The fish in question is the Tecopa pupfish, native to the Amargosa River near California's Death Valley. The fish was thought to have disappeared because of human activities such as stream channelization, pollution and the introduction of competing, non-native species. The fish could tolerate water temperatures up to 108 degrees.

Meanwhile, three others may get on the list. Proposed for addition to the list are the Virgin River Chub, a minnow which lives in pool areas of the Virgin River in Utah and Nevada, the bonytail chub and the razorback sucker (the Newsletter, June issue, erroneously reported that these fish were listed, rather than proposed for listing). Once proposed, there is a waiting period for public comment to the proposal, following which the species is listed or not listed depending on the determined status. The status of these three fish should be determined soon.

Critical habitat has been proposed for one fish already on the list, the Colorado squawfish.



Parts of the Yampa, Green, Gunnison and Upper Colorado have been identified as critical to the survival of the squawfish.

A status report on endemic fishes of the Colorado River System is available from W. Kirch, Nev. Dept. Fish & Game, 4747 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89106.



CEQ: What is it?

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created and is guided by the National Environmental Policy Act. The Council provides policy recommendations on environmental matters for the President, and gives policy advice to Federal agencies regarding the EIS process. President Carter is the first to invite the Chairman of CEQ to attend Cabinet meetings.

## D-J Act

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, also known as D-J, has been a boon to fisheries management. The Act works like this: Federal funds from a 10% excise tax on fishing tackle are rebated to State fish and game agencies for use in fish restoration and management. In 1975, 53.8 million fishermen spent \$21.9 million in D-J taxes. This money is apportioned to each State according to its land area and the number of fishing licenses it sells. Projects to be funded are selected by the State, and approved by the Feds. When approved, the State is reimbursed for up to 75% of project costs.

Two things are happening about which Western fisheries biologists should be aware. First, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been threatened with a suit by the Friends of Animals and the Committee for Humane Legislation unless they develop an EIS on the two federal grant programs, D-J and P-R (P-R is the Pittman-Robertson Act which generates funds for wildlife management projects by States). In response, the FWS has drafted an EIS, held a public hearing and will have a final statement in December. The statement examines the impact of the grant programs on sports fish, nongame fish, threatened and endangered fish, and some water quality and economic conditions. There weren't many pro-hunting and fishing interests represented at the public hearing. Keep an eye on this issue as it develops during the winter months.

Second and more important to AFS members is the upcoming legislation being drafted by the International Assoc. State Game and Fish Comm. to amend the D-J Act. Present plans call for the introduction of a bill in next years congress which will triple D-J funds available to states. How will this be done??

By placing a tax on boat, boat trailer and outboard motor prices which will increase the price 3%. This move is justified because several studies have shown that the average recreational boat is used at least 70% of the time for fishing purposes, yet the industry is not presently contributing to better fishing opportunities. The 3% manufacturers excise tax will generate approximately \$75 million per year in D-J funds to be used for fisheries management, research, and development.

As you might expect, not only is this a bad time to be suggesting a new tax, but the boat lobby will probably be strongly opposed. The future of the bill is definitely not clear at this time.

Where does AFS fit in? Members, Chapters and Divisions should become familiar with the bill and support it at the local level. Include a discussion of this when you talk to fishermen's groups. Chapter presidents will be contacted soon to begin organizing Chapter efforts to document needs and uses for the additional funds. This item should be on every Chapters meeting agenda this fall and winter. No activity of AFS could have a greater impact on the future of aquatic resources in this country or on the future of the fisheries profession!



### NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Your Newsletter will still be coming to you 3 times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) but will be traveling 3rd Class. Since the information in the Newsletter isn't particularly urgent and since the monetary savings are great, it was decided at the San Diego meeting to try this approach. As 3rd Class Mail, the Newsletter will not be automatically forwarded when you move nor will undelivered Newsletters be returned. Also, time of delivery will be increased from several days to several weeks.

About addresses; the Newsletter is addressed using mailing labels purchased from the parent society. If you move, promptly inform them of your new address, NOT the Editor.

In the future, the Newsletter Editor will be a nonvoting member of the Divisions Exec. Committee. This change was made at the San Diego meeting.

The Newsletter will continue to be a vehicle for two main types of information, Division business and Western fishery science topics. Each member of the Division should consider the Newsletter an outlet for announcements, project results, and opinions. For contributions to the Winter edition, write Chuck Berry, Editor, Western Division Newsletter, Utah Coop. Fish. Unit, USU, UMC-52, Logan, UT 84322.



THE WESTERN DIVISION OF AFS

Chapters

Officers

- 77-78 - President Kirk Beiningen OR  
 Past-President Gerald Bouck WA  
 President-Elect John Skinner CA  
 Sec-Treas. Bob Wiley WY  
 AFS Nominating Comm. Bruce May ID
- 78-79 President John Skinner CA  
 Past-President Kirk Beiningen OR  
 President-Elect Bob Wiley WY  
 Sec-Treas. Clare Carlson CO  
 AFS Nominating Comm. Bob White ID

Committees

The Division presently has 16 committ-es. If you are interested in serving, contact President Skinner.

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Audit                   | Program             |
| Finance                 | Time and Place      |
| Resolutions             | Legislative         |
| Newsletter              | By-laws Revision    |
| Indian Affairs          | Internat. Relations |
| Stream Flow/Water Qual. | Membership          |
| Endangered Species      | Conservation Educ.  |

The Division is made up of 14 Chapters. The Chapter names and Presidents are:

- Alaska/Charles Meacham
- California-Nevada/Dale Lockard
- Humboldt/Douglas Albin
- New Mexico St. Univ./James Hanifen
- Oregon/Donald Clark
- Arizona-New Mexico/R. Patterson
- Colorado St. Univ./Mike Miller
- Idaho/Mel Reingold
- Portland/Robert Vreeland
- Bonneville/Donald Duff
- Colorado-Wyoming/Bob Wiley
- Montana/Norman Peterson
- Sacramento/Marc Sazaki
- N. Pacific International/Robert Rulifson

For addresses of officers, consult the AFS Membership Directory.

TRANSACTIONS INDEX COMING

AFS has an Index of Volumes 59-82 presently available. Soon to be published is an Index for Volumes 83-105. Retired AFS member Bill Beckman did the volunteer work. This publication has been needed and will be valuable,

Western Division Newsletter  
c/o Utah Coop. Fish. Res. Unit  
Utah State University, UMC 52  
Logan, Utah 84322

