

# American Fisheries Society

## WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

JUNE 1980

No. 3

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S QUILL

As my term in office draws to a close I find that the experience has been rewarding and a source of enjoyment. A hearty THANKS to the many people who contributed through committee assignment and individually along the way.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is information concerning a split of the Western Division. Please carefully consider the information - it is important to AFS in the western North America. The issue has been discussed for many years with little settling. This is your opportunity to make your opinion known.

Before pursuing the issue the executive committee of the Division provided their opinion. About 60% favored taking the issue to the members. The material here is a result of that mandate.

Program Chairman Gordon Haugen has arranged for an excellent program - I hope many members will be able to attend the meeting. The riparian habitat sessions promise to be particularly interesting.

Please attend the Executive Committee and business meetings slated for July 14, 1980 in Kalispell. This is where the workings of the Division and Society will be discussed and it is your opportunity to be involved. At that time Gordon Haugen will be installed as President - please support Gordon during his year. Bob Wiley

### FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue there are several opportunities for you to "make your mark" on the organization. I am sure I will receive a fair number of complaints from members who do not wish to send in a ballot that is signed. If you feel that way, send your ballot to me unsigned and send your interest form directly to Gordon Haugen. 21543 S.W. 98th Tualatin, OR 97062.

I seem to be in a never-ending battle with the postal service. Our last newsletter cost 8.4 cents per piece (except Canada which has to go first class) rather than the normal 3.1 cents for a non-profit educational organization. In order to determine our effectiveness, I am asking each of you to indicate the date you received the newsletter on the dissolution ballot. If we are not getting prompt distribution, it may be necessary to use first class. Please let me know.

The summary of last years' questionnaire by Chuck Berry indicates that the number two priority for the newsletter is articles on current fisheries topics. We can not print them if we do not know about them. If you have a hot item let us hear about it.

Del

## DIVIDE THE DIVISION ??

The question of dividing the division has surfaced many times in the last decade. Such self-questioning is a healthy activity for a dynamic organization. Although complete objectivity is probably impossible I will try to offer arguments for and against dividing the Western Division and leave it to you to decide the future.

Currently the division is made up of 13 states of the USA; 5 provinces and/or territories of Canada; Mexico; and U.S. Islands and Trust territories in the Western Pacific Ocean. Membership is approximately 1900 at this time. The Western Division is the largest of the five Divisions, containing about 30% of the members but over 50% of the land. The recent adoption of the by-laws (1979) assures that the Division is in conformance with parent society constitution, by-laws and has the most up-to-date operational procedures.

President Wiley corresponded with parent society officers who, in turn asked constitutional consultants Mercer Patriarche and Dan Coble to delineate procedures by which a Division could be split. He then polled the Western Division Executive committee and found that the majority of that group favored putting the question on the 1980 ballot.

### Arguments in favor of splitting the Division:

1. Because of the large membership, numerous chapters and large geographical area covered by the Western Division, it is very difficult for one set of officers to administer. Splitting into two divisions would mean each administrative group would be responsible for a smaller geographic area, fewer chapters and smaller number of members.
2. Two divisions would give more members the opportunity to participate in AFS activities beyond the chapter level. Current by-laws require 5 officers, (President, President Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and representatives to the parent society-executive committee and nominating committee).
3. Annual meeting program subject matter can be tailored more closely to the needs of the members if the division represents a more homogeneous area and members have mutual interests.
4. Meetings could be held with the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies when the WAFWA meeting is held within the Division boundary.
5. Smaller divisions with more common interests will be able to address more specific issues at business meetings and become more effective voices for the fish resources within the geographical area of the division.

6. Member would not have to travel as far to attend annual Division meetings.

### Arguments against splitting the Division:

1. The key to long term continuity and effectiveness of an organization is the people willing to accept leadership responsibilities. It is difficult to find people whose time commitments, agency support and personal finances allow them to accept the responsibilities associated with a regional organization. It will be even more difficult for smaller divisions, with smaller membership bases, to continue to attract the best candidates for office each year.
2. Each division would have to develop the ability to organize and execute annual meetings. The energy drain of having to put together annual meetings will tax the leadership of the new divisions.
3. The added costs would severely tax the meager budget of the division. By meeting annually with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, our commitment is \$150. That amount would not even pay for printing and mailing programs for two separate meetings. Newsletter printing and mailing costs for two separate publications would be higher because of fixed costs for bulk mailing permits and page preparations. Since Newsletter costs use nearly 50% of the current Western Division budget, higher costs would be detrimental. Partially subsidizing costs of travel of the Western Division President to the parent society meetings is the other major budget item (\$1100 for 1979-80). Splitting into two divisions would spread the money even thinner while requiring two presidents to attend the parent society meetings. The additional out of personal pocket expenses would certainly discourage many capable members from considering officership at the division level.
4. Splitting into two divisions would severely disrupt the existing relationship with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. We depend very heavily on the WAFWA to provide arrangements, program development, registration and long-term stability. Their presence allows the AFS program to attract excellent participants and justifies the travel expenses of many AFS members. Since planning of a WAFWA meeting begins over a year in advance, it would be difficult for the new divisions to participate in planning for the next meeting.

5. The Western Division Time, Place and Organization Committee, (chaired by Art Whitney) presented a report at the 1979 meeting in Anchorage recommending that the Western Division continue to meet with WAFWA for 5 years and lay aside considerations for splitting the Division to conserve energy for more constructive activities. That recommendation had the support of all but one of the chapters responding to his query and was adopted unanimously by the members at the meeting in Anchorage.

6. Currently, Western Division program participants publish their presentation in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Proceedings at no cost. That opportunity would not be available to the new division's participants except when their meeting was held in conjunction with the WAFWA meeting.

Please consider the above information and use the enclosed ballot to voice your opinion. If you vote to split the Western Division and vote for an alternative, please sign your ballot so it can be used as part of a petition to establish the new divisions. DEL

### FISHING HOT SPOTS

Many of you who will be attending the Western Division meeting in Kalispell may also mix a little business with pleasure and sample the local ichthyofauna. If you would like a little lead information so as not to appear totally tourist, contact:

Greg Munther  
Lolo National Forest  
Bldg. 24 Ft. Missoula  
Missoula, Montana 59801

### RIPARIAN HABITAT POSITION STATEMENT

The Western Division Riparian committee chaired by Don Huff has prepared a position paper regarding management of the riparian ecosystem. The paper outlines current state of the art in riparian ecosystem management and documents the importance of riparian vegetation to wildlife, fish, stream channels, stream banks and water quality. The impacts of livestock grazing, mining, water development and irrigation, road construction, agriculture and urbanization, timber harvest, and recreation and human use are documented.

The entire paper is too long to print in the newsletter, but the following position statement was generated by the facts presented. The Riparian Habitat Committee recommends its adoption. For the complete text of the paper contact Don Huff.

Continued on p. 5

## 1980-81 CANDIDATES

The Western Division Nominating Committee through its Chairman Kirk Beiningen, offers this excellent slate of officer candidates for your consideration. Please mark your ballots and return to Del Skeesick by June 23.

### President Elect

Robert White: Currently Assistant Unit Leader for the Idaho Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, University of Idaho. However, Bob has accepted the Unit Leader position for the Montana Cooperative Fishery Unit and will be transferring to Bozeman soon. Bob has been very active in the Idaho Chapter of the AFS, serving as Sec.-Treas., President-Elect and President. He actually served two terms as President. He was instrumental in the Instream Flow Symposium sponsored by the Western Division. Committee assignments for the Division included: Student affairs, Membership and Best Student Paper. Bob also served as the Western Division representative on the Parent Society Nominating Committee. Bob has a great deal of enthusiasm and is interested in the American Fisheries Society and the Western Division.

Brian Waters: Employed as a Senior Biologist with Pacific Gas and Electric Company. He has a B.S. in Fisheries from Humboldt State University (1965) and an M.S. in Fisheries from the University of Washington (1968). He has been a member of AFS for 18 years and is a Certified Fisheries Scientist by AFS. He has served as Secretary, President-Elect, and President of the California-Nevada Chapter of AFS, served as a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee of the Parent Society of AFS for two years, and is presently Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Western Division. He is also an active member of Pacific Fishery Biologists, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and the Western Society of Naturalists. He has worked on a broad range of marine and freshwater fisheries management and research projects in his professional career. Two specialty areas that he has done a lot of work in are studies relating the effects of different streamflows to salmonid production and the effects of different streamflows to salmonid production and the effects of large capacity water intakes on fish and invertebrate populations.

### Secretary-Treasurer

Stanley Smith: A fisheries biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service assigned to the Marrowstone Field Station in Washington State. Stan was instrumental in forming the Northern - Pacific International Chapter and worked very hard to insure the success of this endeavor. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of this Chapter for two and a half years, gaining valuable experience in this post. He has also been involved with other aspects of the International Chapter program.

Willis Evans: Fisheries biologist with the Fisheries and Wildlife Unit, US Forest Service, San Francisco, CA, having been located in the Regional Office since 1971. He is in his 40th year of professional fisheries work, and has been an AFS member since 1946, having joined the Society after surviving four years of wartime service in the US Army. Previous to WWII, he was employed as a fishery biologist (including supervisory work) by the California Department of Fish and Game, and continued with that agency for a period following his military service. He also spent five years as a fisheries biologist for the FAO (United Nations) in Africa. His interests in AFS are longstanding, having served the California-Nevada Chapter as President, and has worked with distinction on several committees of the Western Division and the parent Society.

### Representative to AFS Nominating Committee

Jon M. Nelson: Assistant Area Director for fisheries, endangered species and federal aid programs. He returned to Alaska in 1979 after similar responsibilities in Washington, D.C. for four years. Prior to that work, he served as a field biologist in Alaska and the midwest. Jon helped form the Alaska chapter in 1974 and applied that successful effort to initiating the Potomac Chapter the following year. He was also the charter chairman of the Society's Environmental Concerns Committee in 1975 and served as co-chairman of its expanding membership the next year. He was recently the charter secretary-treasurer of the Potomac Chapter and is presently chairman of the Alaska time and place committee.

His current employment responsibilities would allow active representation of the Western Division.

Ronald Marcoux: Regional Fisheries Manager, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Bozeman, Montana. Ron has been active in the Montana Chapter, serving as Secretary-Treasurer, President-Elect and President. He has always been involved with Chapter affairs and is a willing worker. Ron was co-chairman of the National Arrangements Committee and did a fantastic job putting on the 1979 meeting in West Yellowstone. He is also handling the arrangements for the up-coming Western Division meeting in Kalispell. Ron has been active on many other Western Division Committees also.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

The standing committees of the Western Division are an important part of our operations. To insure that each member is given an opportunity to participate in the standing committees, we have included a form upon which you may indicate your desires or preferences. We would like to claim credit for this clever technique, but truthfully, it was used very successfully by the late Cam Stevenson when he became AFS president.

Gordon Haugen wishes to involve as many members as possible in the functions of the Division. It will be very helpful to he and the incoming executive committee to know who would like to be a part of the action. Responsibilities and other information about the committees may be acquired by contacting Gordon Haugen, 21543 SW 98, Tualatin, OR 97062.

Just fill out the form and return it with your ballot.

WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

OFFICIAL BALLOT 1980-81

President-Elect:

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert White  
\_\_\_\_\_ Brian F. Waters  
\_\_\_\_\_

Representatives to Parent  
Society Nominating Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ronald Marcoux  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jon M. Nelson  
\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary-Treasurer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Stanley Smith  
\_\_\_\_\_ Willis Evans  
\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN BALLOTS TO: Del Skeesick  
BY JUNE 23 3733 Greenwood  
Eugene, Or 97404

PLEASE SEVER HERE

WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

OFFICIAL BALLOT 1980-81

- Yes "Shall the Western Division American Fisheries Society be dissolved to allow the formation of two smaller divisions?"
- No

\_\_\_\_\_ Date you received the Newsletter.

If you voted Yes, please indicate your preference.

- Northwest
- Southwest
- Pacific-Northwest
- Inter-Mountain
- Other (please specify)

RETURN BALLOTS TO: Del Skeesick  
BY JUNE 23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

PLEASE SEVER HERE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN WESTERN DIVISION ACTIVITIES:

Please indicate your preference to participate. These forms will be given to President-Elect Gordon Haugen to help him organize the standing committees.

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Resolutions        | _____ Newsletter        |
| _____ Riparian           | _____ Membership        |
| _____ Habitat            | _____ Canadian Concerns |
| _____ Endangered Species | _____ Publications      |
| _____ Student Concerns   | _____ Nominating        |
| _____ Awards             | _____ International     |

**PROPOSED RIPARIAN HABITAT POSITION**

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society strongly supports the awareness and developing trend of riparian habitat identification and its protection by State, federal and provincial agencies. The Division further supports close coordination and cooperation among these agencies in maintaining and sustaining riparian habitats on state, federal and provincial lands in the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, Canada and Mexico. Agencies should continue this close coordination in the future to assure riparian zone protection and maintenance for the good of the fisheries and the public use of these resources.

The Western Division American Fishery Society strives to create an awareness to all for a more productive western fishery resource to meet the recreation and food requirements of the American people. To meet these goods and services the fishery and its habitat must be at its potential. The Division is extremely concerned that the past and present degradation from land uses is decreasing the fishery and riparian habitat potential, thus not allowing it to produce its share of the recreation, food, and fish and wildlife resources it has been capable of producing in the past.

The Western Division strongly urges that all public land agencies from Alaska to Mexico declare that, as a matter of policy, all riparian and wetland areas will be recognized as entities separate from state and private lands, and that they be prudently managed to the best currently known management practices to insure continuation of renewable fish and wildlife resources. These riparian areas contain valuable water resources and important key habitats where multiple-use management if not prudently managed will cause significant irreparable resource losses. All riparian zones should be considered areas of critical environmental concern.

The Western Division American Fisheries Society urges that the individual western states and the federal governments continue to pursue for riparian zone and fisheries protection the inclusion of instream uses in all water resource planning activities. The western states and the pertinent federal agencies should provide for the identification and qualification of riparian resources and instream flows through the development of management plans. The Western Division American Fisheries Society strongly urges all states, provinces and governments to recognize instream flows as a beneficial public use, and urges a rapid adoption of plans to provide for similar legal recognition of instream uses under law, so that riparian ecosystems can be maintained and protected for future resource use.

The Western Division encourages on-going management and research, and new administrative studies on all wetland and flood plain ecosystems in relation to grazing activities, mining systems, energy exploration and development, water impoundments and irrigation use, timber harvest, road construction and other land use practices. Data and information scientifically gathered will provide the tools for restoration, maintenance, and protection of riparian habitats to their most productive conditions for sound multiple-use management. Therefore, the Division strongly recommends that the land management agencies and the private land owner move forward in determining the "Best Management Practices" for riparian environments and in turn implementing these "Best Management Practices."

It is our belief, based on scientific facts, that "Best Management Practices" are not now being applied in land and water resource management and many of the land managers and agencies are not abiding by their responsibilities under the law. We strongly encourage all agencies and individuals to take a serious look at their management, planning, and research programs to identify what it will take to manage the riparian systems properly and then implement wise riparian management consistent with their vested policies. The Division and the Society stand ready to assist in this endeavor.

**WHAT SHOULD THE WESTERN DIVISION BE DOING ??**

The results of the recent opinion poll have been analyzed. It appears that that division is moving in the right direction in some areas, other areas which are important to the membership are not being addressed. Sponsoring the Newsletter may be one of the most important functions of the Division.

In 1979, the Executive Committee wanted to know just what the members of the Division desired of the Division and of the Newsletter. Consequently, an opinion survey was conducted in conjunction with the 1979 election of officers. On the ballot, the members were asked to (1) rank in order of priority, nine possible Newsletter functions, (2) rank in order of priority 8 possible Division functions, (3) identify their primary job responsibility, and (4) describe their Newsletter reading habits. About 500 members replied to the opinion survey. The 17 possible Newsletter and division functions were ranked according to the total number of first, second, and third priority rankings given them by the members.

Most members felt that informing the members of Division business was the most important function of the Newsletter (Table 1). Following in order of importance to the members were: articles on current fishery topics, reports of ongoing western fishery work, recent legislation, and chapter business. A quick check of past newsletters revealed that each of

these categories had been addressed somewhat. The recent inclusion of chapter annual reports in the fall edition is a direct response to members desires. Most members did not feel that it was important to place in the Newsletter items concerning Parent Society business, short research articles, articles about fishery personnel, or fishery literature summaries.

Members felt that the most important function of the Division was to inform the members (Table 1). It would seem that this reaffirms the need for and importance of the Newsletter. Other Division functions in order of importance were: coordinate chapter activities, develop workshops, develop symposia, and provide information to the public about current fisheries topics. Members did not feel that it was as important for the Division to become involved in politics, gather data or consult on research developments in the West. The Newsletter is now being sent on an experimental basis to outdoors writers in the West. This may help meet the need for public information. In addition, a fairly active movement toward developing slide-tape modules is occurring among some chapters. Perhaps a list of these could be maintained at the Division level to further meet the need for public information and education. President Wiley's recent call for the development of workshops and symposia (Newsletter 5(1):3) directly addresses two areas that the membership thought were important Division functions.

Of the members that returned the questionnaire, 88% always read the Newsletter, and 12% sometimes read it. Those that never read the Newsletter, probably did not respond, consequently these data are biased. Of those that read the Newsletter, 56% read it partially, and 44% normally read the Newsletter, totally. Most readers (43%) were entirely or partially involved with research, 32% with management and 25% with administration.

Table 1. Results of 1979 opinion survey of Western Division Newsletter readers concerning the functions of the Newsletter and the Division.

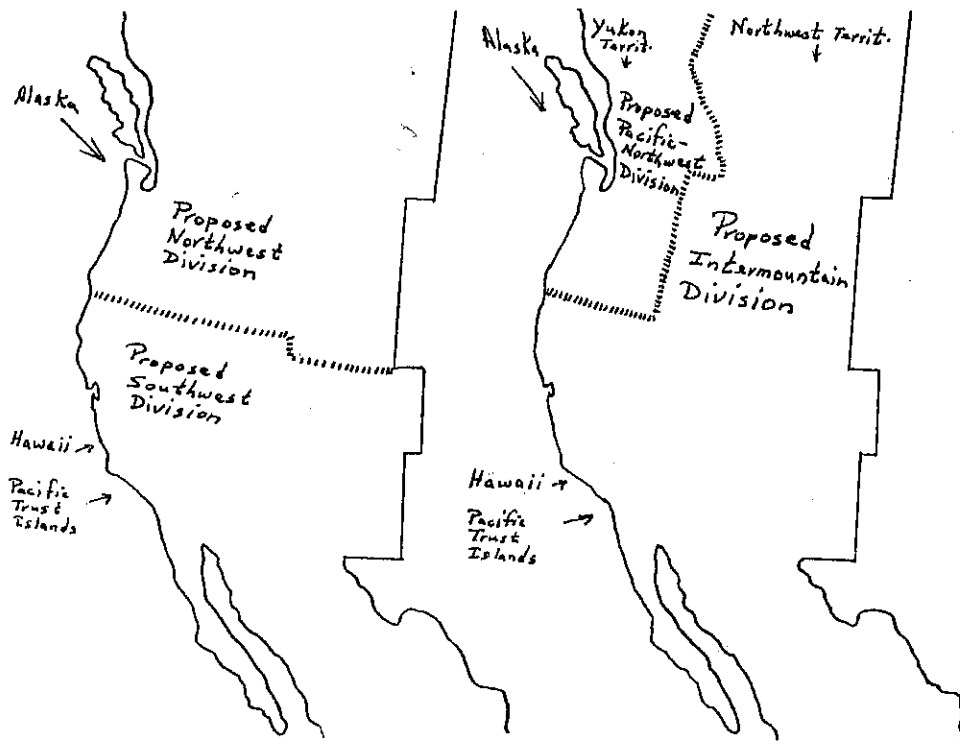
**Function Of the Newsletter Rank**

- 1. Division Business 1
- 2. Current Fishery Topics 2
- 3. Western Fisheries Studies, (Ongoing) 3
- 4. Recent Legislation 4
- 5. Chapter Business 5

**Of the Division**

- 1. Inform members 1
- 2. Coordinate Chapter Activities 2
- 3. Develop Workshops 3
- 4. Develop Symposia 4
- 5. Supply Information to the Public 5

Chuck Berry



Alternative New Divisions

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EUGENE, OR 97404

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