

American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

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Number 1

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

A productive year for the Western Division culminated at our annual meeting in Honolulu, July 13-16. Despite the remote location and tight travel restrictions, a surprisingly large number of AFS members (79) attended, many at their own expense. We had an excellent program and all technical sessions were well attended. Officers installed at the meeting included Bob White (MT), President; Don Duff (UT), President-elect; and Pat Graham (MT), Secretary-Treasurer; Fred Everest was elected to the National Nominating Committee.

During executive and business meetings we discussed the exceptional work of various committees and chapters, acted on two resolutions, discussed D-J expansion and other business items and heard from AFS President Dr. Richard Ryder. Director Kenji Ego and the Hawaii Fish and Game staff were super hosts and deserve special thanks for making the meeting a success.

During my term as President, I intend to perpetuate the active program we have seen in the Division in recent years. Most accomplishments are a direct result of the dedicated efforts of the various committees. This year's standing committees and chairman are: Nominating, Gordon Haugen, OR; Resolutions, John Peters, CO; Audit, Mary McAfee, CO; Program, Don Duff, UT; and Membership, Stan

Moberly, AK. We will also continue most of the sessional committees which were active last year including Riparian Habitat (Gordon Haugen, OR), Endangered Species (John Rinne, AZ), Student Concerns (Jim Reynolds, AK), Awards (Jack Griffith, ID), Newsletter (Glenn Phillips, MT), and Water Development and Streamflow (Christopher Estes, AK).

In addition to these committee activities, we will continue to be active in the development of regional or national symposiums and workshops. At the recent National AFS meeting in Albuquerque, the Division co-sponsored a symposium on "Fishes of the Upper Colorado River System: Present and Future" which will be published later this year. Before this newsletter reaches you, the "Acquisition and Utilization of Aquatic Habitat Inventory Information Symposium," organized by Neil Armantrout and Larry Everson, will be history. This symposium will summarize the state of the art in aquatic habitat inventories and will be a significant contribution to better management of aquatic resources. Bob Wiley will continue work on the Rocky Mountain Stream Habitat Management Workshop to be held in September, 1982. Additionally, the Division will begin organizing a symposium on impacts of low-head hydroelectric development on aquatic resources. This symposium, planned for 1983, will be developed jointly by the Western Division and the new Bio-Engineering Section of

AFS. If you have ideas for developing a symposium of regional or national importance, let us know.

This year we will also continue to develop and provide timely, objective and professional responses to resource issues; I will be calling on some of you for help on these evaluations, as appropriate.

One of the most important activities we will initiate will be a re-evaluation of Division goals and how the Division can better serve the chapters, individual members, and the resource. Based upon the number of members voting in this years election (167 of about 2200 members), there is widespread apathy regarding Western Division activities. We must identify the problems and determine how to go about making the Division a more viable unit. To accomplish this, I have appointed a Membership Concerns Committee chaired by David Bennett (ID) and a Self Evaluation Committee chaired by Ron Goede (UT). Further, myself or Don Duff will attempt to attend as many chapter meetings as time and finances allow. This will provide us with the opportunity to interact more closely with Division members.

I appreciate the few responses I received during the balloting process regarding suggestions for changes, future direction, and activities of the Division. We need this type of interest and input if we are to provide the active organization members desire. I have addressed some of these concerns by forming new committees and I will respond to others in the winter newsletter. The new committees formed are Public Lands chaired by Bob Borovicka (OR) and Marine Fisheries chaired by Mic Griben (WA). If you are interested in serving on either of these committees contact Bob at P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208 or Mic at Tetra Tech, Inc., 1900 116th Ave. N.E., Bellevue, WA 98004. If you have suggestions relative to Division activities, take a minute to communicate

these to me; this is the best way for you to have a positive influence on guiding our effectiveness as a Division. Send comments to Bob White, 1111 Tayabeshockup Road, Bozeman, MT 59715.

BOB WHITE, President

BUDGET

Secretary-treasurer Pat Graham reports that the total outlay for last year was \$4,463.91, the present balance in the Western Division budget is \$503.13 (this includes several expenditures for this year). The breakdown on last year's spending was as follows:

Newsletter	32%
Travel	20%
Printing & processing	
riparian position paper	18%
Workshop	11%
Lables, stationary	10%
Postage, etc.	6%
Western Association dues	3%

President Bob White welcomes your comments on how your money is being spent.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual meeting of the Western Division American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada July 19-22, 1982. The meeting will be held jointly with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). The program will consist of several special topic sessions and two or more contributed paper sessions. The joint conference theme will be centered around the allocation of natural resources on public lands. Special fisheries topic sessions will deal with energy developments and their impacts (i.e., low head hydro, fossil fuels, etc.); endangered species; fish culture (marine and freshwater); marine fisheries management; riparian habitat and livestock use; and, aquatic habitat

improvement. A poster and exhibit session will also be conducted provided there is adequate response.

If you have an interest in any of these topics or a general interest paper to contribute, send an abstract of 200 words or less to Donald A. Duff, U.S. Forest Service, Division of Wildlife Management, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 by 1 January, 1982.

DON A. DUFF, Program Chairman

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOTES

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in me. Western Division AFS (WDAFS) members, chapters, and programs are held in high esteem throughout the AFS. WDAFS actions and programs during the 1980-81 year were commended several times during the recent AFS Executive Committee meetings in Albuquerque. In working with President Bob White during the 1981-82 session and during my tour in 1982-83, I will try to maintain the past quality of and enthusiasm for WDAFS programs and activities. Working together as chapters and members, I feel we can maintain the WDAFS as the quality Division in the AFS. I am looking forward to working with you and for you in the ensuing years. If I can be of assistance to you or your Chapter, please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me a line. Strong and frequent communications and interaction within the Division between Chapters and the Executive Committee help maintain good and effective Divisional programs. Let's hear from you!

DON A. DUFF, President-Elect

INSTREAM FLOW SURVEY

The Water Development Streamflow Committee (WDSC) received a good response to their survey questionnaire regarding instream flow. Responses were received from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,

Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and the Province of British Columbia.

Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and British Columbia respondents reported that instream flow related legislation has been enacted. The remaining states reported that efforts to pass legislation were unsuccessful because of conflicting water development and agricultural interests and an inability to educate legislators as to the benefits and need for instream flow legislation.

Respondents representing states which had enacted instream flow legislation reported that enforcement of instream flow laws ranged from low to high depending upon the willingness of enforcement agencies to execute their responsibilities. Only one respondent reported that his state wasn't utilizing the services offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Instream Flow Group (IFG).

Respondents reported a variety of methods for determining instream flows, ranging from application of the sophisticated IFG Incremental Methodology to "professional judgment". It was also reported that the selection of instream flow evaluation methods was based on the nature of the problem to be solved; time, financial, logistical and personnel constraints; the reliability and acceptance of a procedure in the courtroom; and the availability of fishery and hydraulic historical data.

Respondents emphasized the need to collect local spawning, incubation, rearing, and fish passage habitat data in order to refine and/or develop stream specific fish habitat suitability curves. They also stressed the need to improve and simplify procedures for evaluating aquatic habitat alterations and a need to strengthen communication channels for sharing information and procedures.

Respondents requested that federal reserved water rights be quantified in 5 years and that water quality,

recreation, riparian corridor and mitigation issues be tackled by the WDSFC in 1982. The majority of respondents were unfamiliar with the Western States Water Council.

A more detailed analysis will be distributed later this year.

IDAHO-DISSOLVED OXYGEN CRITERIA

Carl Sullivan recently wrote new EPA administrator Ann Gorsuch to voice AFS opposition to Idaho adopting a dissolved oxygen standard of 5 mg/l below Idaho dams. In a letter dated August 10, 1981 Sullivan writes:

"It has come to the attention of the American Fisheries Society that EPA may not promulgate water quality standards for Idaho as recommended by the EPA Administrators from its Region X. The principal issue is whether dissolved oxygen standards of 5 mg/l or less shall be permitted below all dams in Idaho.

Our Society presented formal statements to the Idaho Legislature prior to their adoption of what we consider to be dangerously low standards. The dissolved oxygen standard, as written, allows an oxygen level of less than 5 mg/l for three hours provided the four hour average is a minimum of 5 mg/l. This criterion does not protect trout and salmon resources and is entirely unacceptable to the American Fisheries Society.

The American Fisheries Society supports EPA Region X in its opposition to the Idaho dissolved oxygen standard of 5 mg/l average. We believe that an instantaneous minimum of 6 mg/l is essential for adequate protection. This position is strongly supported by testimony of fishery scientists knowledgeable of the requirements of the Pacific salmon and steelhead which will be impacted."

We hope that this action will influence national EPA administrators to back the recommendations of Region X. Any additional support from members would be appreciated.

COLORADO-WYOMING CHAPTER

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter has published Proceedings of their past two (1980, 1981) Annual Meetings. These publications are intended as a means for Chapter members to communicate information and experience to fishery workers outside the Chapter and to provide a permanent record of fishery activities in the two state area. Response to the 1980 Proceedings has been so large that a second printing was required to meet the demand. The 1981 Proceedings will be available by August 1 and is expected to generate similar interest. Copies of both publications are available at \$6.00 each by contacting: Mary McAfee, Secretary-Treasurer; Colorado-Wyoming Chapter, AFS; Colorado Division of Wildlife; 711 Independent Ave.; Grand Junction, CO 81501.

ALASKA CHAPTER MEETING

The Alaska Chapter announces that their annual meeting will be held November 17-19 at Chana Hot Springs Resort located about 60 miles east of Fairbanks. An excellent program has been arranged, including panels on "fish and the environment" and "fish and agriculture". Details can be obtained from the Alaska Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, 138 AHRB, University of Alaska, 901 Koyukuk Avenue South, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

EXCERPTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT - 1981

"In March the four million member National Wildlife Federation named AFS as the Conservation Organization of the Year. That's pretty strong evidence that we are active in more than fisheries science, and that our efforts are being recognized.

Under our initiation and continuing encouragement the nation's recreational fisheries organizations have joined in an effort to expand Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Fisheries legislation which could add 100

million dollars a year to the nation's fisheries programs. Congress has received many thousands of letters, and state funding need surveys conducted by AFS have led to a general awareness of the critical nature of the problem. The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee held D-J hearings in July, and hearings are expected in the House Ways and Means Committee this fall. The opposition is strong and well funded, but I believe it is possible for us to persuade Congress to bring the issue to a vote before adjournment in the fall of 1982.

Thanks to the initiative of our Western Division the management of riparian habitats on public lands is receiving more fisheries emphasis. As a result of letters, reports, discussions, and field trips, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have reexamined management priorities. We should begin seeing on-the-ground improvements and we will be watching."

POTPOURRI

Ray White, salmonid habitat specialist formerly of Michigan State University has recently joined the Fisheries and Wildlife faculty at Montana State University. Welcome to the Western Division, Ray!

Ron Marcoux former regional fishery manager in southwestern Montana for the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks has accepted the post of Assistant Director. Congratulations Ron! We all know that Ron will do an excellent job of representing Montana's fish and wildlife interests in his dealings with the legislature.

The Alaska Chapter of AFS has recently published the first edition of their new chapter newsletter, Oncorhynchus. Its purpose is to keep Alaska Chapter members abreast of AFS activities in Alaska.

The Colorado-Wyoming Chapter recently passed a resolution supporting the Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to place the Bonneville cutthroat trout on the threatened species list.

Bob Wiley is organizing a Rocky Mountain Stream Habitat Symposium to be held in Jackson, Wyoming 13-17 September 1982. Attendance will be limited to 75 invited participants so that field tours can be conducted.

The D-J raffle sponsored by the Western Division at the National AFS meeting in Albuquerque was a huge success thanks to the generous gift donations by sporting good manufacturers and some of the sub-units of the Society. Nearly \$5,000 worth of donations were received. Gordon Haugen did an outstanding job of coordinating the event.

Western Division member Bill Platts was elected to the office of second Vice President of the parent society; this was possible only because the Western Division sponsored a petition to have Bill's name placed on the ballot. Congratulations to both Bill and the Western Division!

The Best Management Practices Paper being developed by the Riparian Habitat Committee is in draft form and available for review by interested members. Contact Gordon Haugen if you would like to comment on this important document. (21543 S.W. 98th, Tualatin, OR 97062)

The Western Division is sponsoring production of an AFS belt buckle with the proceeds to go to the new Society Capital Improvement Fund. The AFS logo is favored for the design but if you have alternative suggestions contact Don Duff.

Two Resolutions, one supporting the Cooperative Unit Program and the other supporting management of forest lands for habitat diversity were

passed at the annual meeting. Both will appear in entirety in the next newsletter.

FROM THE NEW EDITOR

As many of you already know, Del Skeesick resigned as editor of the Western Division Newsletter effective last summer. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Del for his hard work on behalf of the Division.

The fact that most of us are able to attend divisional meetings only occasionally gives added importance to the communications provided through the newsletter. I would like to begin my editorship by inviting everyone to use the newsletter to keep all of us posted as to important

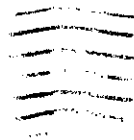
issues and events within the Division. You do not have to be an officer in the society to use the newsletter; uses can range from short notes on your research or management projects to introductions of new biologists that have moved to the west from other regions of the country.

I am looking forward to working with President Bob White and the rest of the membership to continue this important avenue of communication. I whole-heartedly welcome ideas and comments from all of you.

The deadline for submitting material for the next newsletter is January 31, 1982. I would also like to remind everyone to keep your addresses current with the parent society; we use their computer to generate mailing labels. Thanks!

GLENN R. PHILLIPS, Editor

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