

The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 32, No. 1, February 2008



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Editor

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Annual Meeting 2008



Greeting Colleagues, The members of the 2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting Planning Committee are excited to facilitate your stay in Portland for what promises to be an exciting and stimulating conference. Portland provides an excellent venue for fisheries professionals to discuss the effects of human population growth on fisheries, advance your professional networking, and to keep current on emerging issues in fisheries science and management. Your enthusiasm has generated 31 symposia. We anticipate receiving more than 600 abstracts, and expect an attendance of nearly 1,000 during the week of May 4-9. As is customary for AFS conferences, all attendees (including oral and poster presenters) must pay registration fees. The city of Portland has been proclaimed as North America's "Best Big City," according to a recent publication. One visit will explain why. Come get a first-hand look at the unmatched natural beauty, bustling local scene, sumptuous dining, and welcoming accommodations that are all effortlessly accessed via the city's light rail system. Though it's not easy being green, it's exactly why so many visitors flock here, year-round. More information about the meeting and travel arrangements is attached to this newsletter.

You can also check the 2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting website at <http://www.orafs.org/meeting2008/Annual2008.htm> for the latest updates. *Online registration is now available.* Thank you on behalf of the 2008 WDAFS Annual Meeting Planning Team!

President's message

Eric Wagner, Western Division AFS President

Greetings fellow Western Division members! As we move into the New Year, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. I have been reviewing the archives of the WD and have been inspired by the efforts of those who have led in the past. As an example, in 1980, 15 resolutions were passed at the annual meeting relating to endangered species, minimum flows, and other fisheries issues. These were sent to decision makers in Congress and natural resources agencies and helped effect change in favor of fish. Hopefully we can collectively make a similar effort. One case in point is commenting on a Biological Opinion formally requested by Congress (HR1507) on recovery of native salmonids that are threatened or endangered in the Columbia River. I found out about the issue a little late in the process, so we did not have time to read and provide scientific based input into the Biological Opinion. I have submitted a letter requesting more time to comment on the issue. I am currently playing phone-tag with NOAA trying to communicate with someone there on about the opportunity to comment. Hopefully in the future you, as active members, can advise the WD about these opportunities for input and help provide a balanced, professional response.

The Western Native Fishes (WNF) project is still trying to secure funding for continued work with the WNF database development. We have a draft database developed and now need to get input from a greater portion of the biologists in the West to make it as accurate as possible. The WD has committed up to \$2,000 for the current year to continue efforts to update the file and develop an interactive website where biologists can access the data, print relevant maps, and conduct queries. Leanne Roulson, our vice-president and WNF database manager, has been working with University of Redlands, California, Professor Jim Ciarocco to get a student to work on the project.

Continued Page 3.

Western Division AFS Officers

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(President's Message, continued from Page 2)

We are beginning a new cycle of awards, so consider nominating a colleague for one of the Western Division awards. Graduate students take note! We offer \$3,000 in scholarships each year for deserving graduate student projects in fisheries. See the website (www.wdafs.org) for more details on the Maughn/Trachtenburg scholarships. We also will award a grant of up to \$1000 for fisheries related projects. The project will be selected at the annual meeting in Portland, so get your proposal in by the end of April 2008. See the website (www.wdafs.org) for details.

The 2008 WD meeting planning committee has been working hard to prepare the upcoming meeting, May 4-8, 2008 in Portland (see more on the meeting in this issue). We plan to get another issue of the newsletter out prior to the meeting, giving a more developed overview of the meeting. Please plan on attending that meeting if you can.

Thanks for all you do for fish and fisheries!



Eric Wagner

2008 Riparian Challenge Call for Entries

Troy Brandt, Committee Chair

The WDAFS Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee is seeking entries for the 2008 Riparian Challenge Award. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other conservation agencies or private industries in the region encompassed by the Western Division (thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, Mexico and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific), are invited to participate in the Riparian Challenge. Winners will receive the Western Division's Award of Excellence in Riparian Management to be presented at the Western Division Annual Meeting hosted by Oregon Chapter AFS in Portland, Oregon May 4-9, 2008.

The purpose of the Riparian Challenge award is to:

- Encourage the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other conservation agencies or private industry to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management;
- Encourage agencies to progress in on-the-ground accomplishments which, when added together throughout the West, will significantly improve riparian systems;
- Recognize managers and resource specialists for their efforts in maintaining, restoring, and improving riparian and watershed ecosystems.

Continued Page 4.

If you are aware of a project that should be considered, please ask the appropriate USFS, BLM, conservation agency or industry to submit an entry form. Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions received):

Group	Award
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Best Resource Area or Field Office
USDA Forest Service (USFS)	Best Ranger District
Other (conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry)	Best Riparian Project

More information, along with a description of the entry format and the criteria for evaluating entries can be found on the Western Division AFS web site <http://www.wdafs.org/>. Click on "Committees, Riparian and Watersheds Committee".

Completed entries should be submitted to the Riparian Challenge Committee Chair and must be received by March 15, 2008. Contact Committee Chair Troy Brandt (tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net or 503-307-8367) for more information and Riparian Challenge guidelines.

Excellence in Fisheries Education

Mike Quist, Committee Chair

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award Education Section, American Fisheries Society

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the Education Section and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nominees must be AFS members, have been actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years, and have had at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education. Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one nominator must be an AFS member. The nominator(s) is responsible for compiling supporting material and submitting the application. The suggested format for applications can be found on the Education Section web site (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/education/index.htm>). Application materials should be sent to **Michael Quist** (mcquist@iastate.edu) in digital form. Nomination deadline is **May 16, 2008**. Additional information can be obtained from **Michael Quist, Chair, Excellence in Fisheries Education Committee, Phone: (515) 294-9682, mcquist@iastate.edu**.



Wanted: WDAFS Award Nominations

Bob Hughes, Awards Committee Chair

Please nominate a deserving colleague or institution for one of the following awards!

Award of Excellence. This award is given to a WDAFS **member** who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and exceptional competence in fishery resource applications through monumental works, new methodologies, or multiple successful contributions that benefit our resources and profession. Successful nominees have usually excelled in research or management programs at the regional, national, or international levels. Other examples include fresh, innovative approaches to improving our understanding of aquatic resources, and imaginative and successful programs in education at any level of teaching.

Send nominations or inquiries to Bob Hughes (hughes.bob@epa.gov). Previous winners are listed at: http://www.wdafs.org/committees/awards/awards.htm#award_winners.

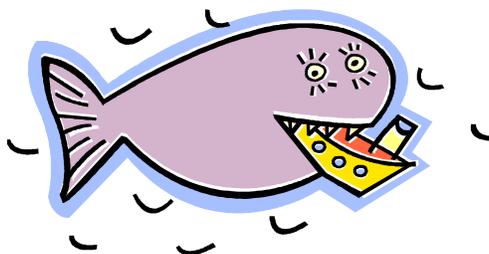
Award of Merit. This award is given to WDAFS **members** who have made a regionally significant and worthy contribution to our Division, our profession, or our fishery resources. Nominations deadline March 1, 2008.

Award of Special Recognition. This award is given to an individual or entity (WDAFS **member or non-member**) making a significant contribution to the development and success of the Western Division. Nominations deadline March 1, 2008.

Robert Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award. This award is given to an **individual** (WDAFS **member or non-member**) who has significantly contributed to fishery conservation within the Division. Nominations deadline March 1, 2008.

Conservation Achievement Award. This award is given to an **entity** (such as an agency, tribe, or organization) that has demonstrated a significant contribution to the conservation of fishery resources within the Division. Nominations deadline March 1, 2008.

WDAFS Outstanding Chapter Award. This award is given to a large chapter (> 100 members), small chapter (< 100 members), and student subunit of a chapter. Criteria are *Aquatic Stewardship* (promoting sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems), *Information Transfer and Outreach* (providing science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems to the public), and *Member Services* (supplying excellent, cost-efficient services for members). For application details, see <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards/2007outstandingchapter.pdf>. Nominations for Outstanding Chapter Awards are due April 30, 2008.



Grants Funding and Investment Committee Update ~ Endowments Fund Yields Grants for WDAFS Projects

Bill Bradshaw and Eric Knudsen

For years, the Western Division AFS (WDAFS) has financially supported Chapter projects through the Grants Funding Program, with income from the WDAFS annual revenue stream used to support the program up to this point. However, the idea of creating an endowment fund for the Grants Funding Program was discussed for quite some time, and finally solidified at the 1999 WDAFS annual meeting. A fair amount of dialogue ensued to flesh out details of endowment fund creation and oversight, when to begin disbursing funds to the Grant Funding Program, and a process for disbursing those funds. The Grants Funding and Investment Committee (GC) was created by unanimous approval at the 2000 annual meeting to raise money for the endowment fund and oversee its operation, and to seed the endowment fund with \$50,000 from WDAFS savings accounts.

Investments are never risk free but our fund is managed conservatively to ensure moderate long-term growth and sustainability under the direction of Henry Booke (Oregon Chapter). The fund has surpassed the initial \$100,000 target by about \$13,000, and we now have a much more reliable and predictable funding source for Grants Funding Program projects.

Provisions for Chapters to invest in the WDAFS fund were approved in 2006 and the Colorado-Wyoming and Arizona-New Mexico Chapters are now partners in the WDAFS investment fund. All partners are co-owners of the WDAFS investment portfolio, each retains complete control of their funds, and each subunit is able to add or withdraw all or part of their interest in the endowment fund at will.

This gives Chapters an opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio that typically yields higher returns than CDs, money market certificates, or simple savings accounts, while allowing even greater diversification of the WDAFS fund. This greater diversification in turn reduces investment risk for all parties. The Parent Society is currently offering the same service to AFS subunits but no decisions have been taken regarding WDAFS involvement.

The GC committed to growth and sustainable use of the endowment fund. To those ends, the GC is currently in the process of establishing criteria for 1) using some of the earnings from the WDAFS portion of the endowment fund to support the annual Grants Funding Program, rather than continually using annual cash flow for that program, and 2) maintaining growth of the endowment fund.

And finally, the GC is pleased to announce a very generous \$4,500 donation from the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter. The Colorado-Wyoming Chapter has received WDAFS grant support in the past, and their selfless contribution acknowledges the value of supporting a Division program that benefits other Chapters as they have benefited. Of course it goes without saying (but we'll say it anyway) that we encourage other Chapters or individual members to follow the example set by the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter. Please direct any contributions to Dave Ward, our WDAFS Secretary Treasurer (Phone: (503) 229-0191, Dave.Ward@cbfwa.org).



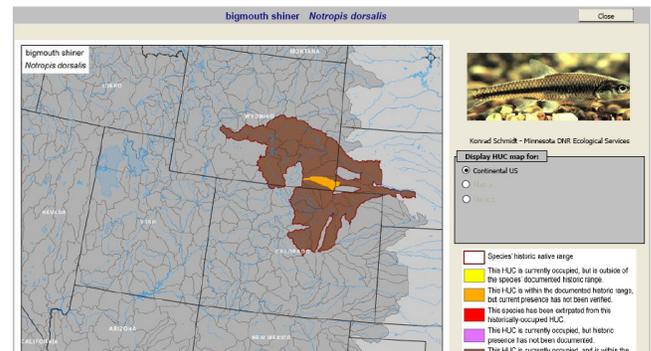
The Status of Western Native Freshwater Fishes

Native Fishes Committee Project Report

Jim Tilmant, Western Native Fishes Committee Chair

The Western Division's Native Fishes Committee has completed the creation of the **Western Native Freshwater Fishes Database** and the first round of data collection on the status of freshwater native fishes for all western states. Maps depicting species distributions at the watershed level (4th Hydrologic Unit Code) have been produced for 292 species within the database. Work on populating the database with species information for Mexico and Canada is continuing.

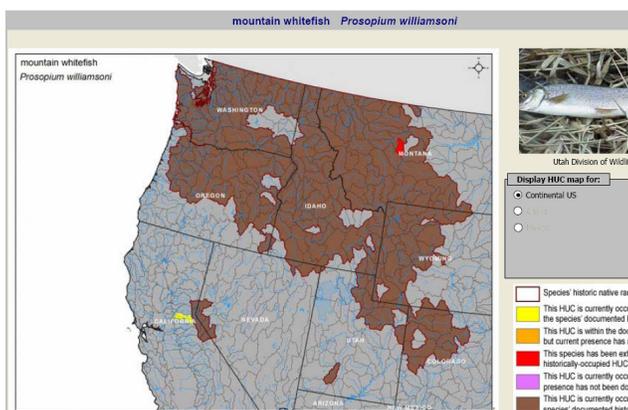
A CD containing a copy of a final report for the first two phases of the project is being sent to state fish and game departments' native fish coordinators and is available upon request through the Native Fish Committee. To obtain a copy, contact committee chair Jim Tilmant at jim@tilmant.com. The CD contains Adobe .pdf files of the completion report; selected species accounts in Appendix B; maps and reports on all species in Appendix C; a brief "readme" file to introduce users to the species database and how to access it; and, the most recent copy of the Western Native Freshwater Fishes Database. The database will also be posted on the Western Division's website in the near future. The species database can be queried for species information through an interactive format associated with the database file and the committee is working to improve the interactive capabilities of the database.



Sample display of species distribution map.

In addition to the Western Native Freshwater Species Database, the Native Fish Committee has published the papers presented at the a Native Fish Symposium held in conjunction with the WDAFS annual meeting in Salt Lake City in 2005 as a special publication of the AFS, *Status, Distribution, and Conservation of Native Freshwater Fishes of Western North America*, Mark J. Brouder and Julie A. Scheurer, editors. This publication is now available through the AFS publications office (<http://www.afsbooks.org/>).

The Native Fishes Committee intends to continue work on this project during the coming year. Work remaining includes: incorporation of all species information data from Mexico and Canada; continued review and updating of additional species information as it becomes available; increasing the audience and usability of the database by linking the GIS mapping and database components so that maps can be user-generated in real time; correcting distribution and status errors as they become evident; and, further documentation and identification of species historic distributions. Members of the Western Division are encouraged to review current distribution maps and suggest edits or changes where additional information may be available on a species distribution or status. Needed updates or corrections can be sent to jim@tilmant.com.



Sample display of species distribution map.

WDAFS AquaQuiz - What the heck is *that* thing?!

This material was removed from the Chehalis River, WA in July 2007 (Photo courtesy Bob Hughes).
Do you know what it is? Turn to page 13 for the answer.



If you have a photo for a future AquaQuiz, please email it to Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov.

Alaska Chapter Update

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>

The 2007 Annual Alaska Chapter AFS Conference, *Fisheries under Pressure: Development, Environment and Climate in the 21st Century*, was convened at the Cape Fox Lodge in Ketchikan, Alaska on November 13 to 16, 2007.

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter Update

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/aznm/index.htm>

2008 Joint Annual Meeting of AZ/NM Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society

The 41st joint annual conference of the Arizona and the New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and the Arizona and New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held February 7 to 9, 2008 at the Prescott Resort in Prescott, AZ (www.prescottresort.com).

California-Nevada Chapter Update

<http://www.afs-calneva.org/>

The 2007 Chapter Annual Meeting was held in September 2007 in conjunction with the AFS National Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The 2008 Chapter Annual Meeting will be held in March at Lake Tahoe. Watch for details.

For more news, check out the Cal-Neva Chapter Newsletter, *Pisces*:

<http://www.afs-calneva.org/pisces.htm>

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter Update

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/>

The CO-WY Chapter's 2008 meeting will be March 3-6, 2008 in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the Plains Hotel.

For more news, check out the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter Newsletter, *the Angler*:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/co-wy/>.



Idaho Chapter Update

<http://www.idahoafs.org/index.php>

Jim Fredericks



2008 Idaho Chapter AFS Annual Meeting, February 6-8, 2008

Location: Red Lion Templin's Inn on the Spokane River – Post Falls

Plenary Session Theme: Impacts of Climate Change on Idaho's Fishery Resources

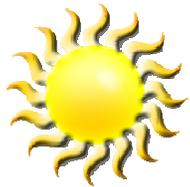
Other session topics will include Supplementation, Watershed Restoration, and more!

Workshops on February 5, 2008: *How to Work Effectively With the Media* and *Designing for Aquatic Organism Passage at Road-Stream Crossings*. For more news, check out the Idaho Chapter Newsletter, *The Gill Raker Gazette*: <http://www.idahoafs.org/news.php>.

Montana Chapter Update

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>

David Schmetterling, Chapter President



“Warming to the Future: Preparing for the Potential Effects of Climate Change on Montana’s Aquatic Resources”

Montana Chapter AFS 2008 Annual Meeting, February 12-15, 2008

We are pleased to announce that the 41st annual meeting of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held February 12-15, 2008 at the Billings Crowne Plaza Hotel. A plenary session will open the meeting and will feature presentations regarding the science and policy of climate change and its effects on aquatic resources.

For more information about the meeting, please contact:

Carter Kruse

2007 Meeting Chair and President-Elect

406-556-8508

carter.kruse@retranches.com

For more news, check out the Montana Chapter Newsletter, *the Outlet*:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>.

North Pacific International Chapter

<http://www.npic-afs.org/>

Eric Knudsen, Chapter President



The North Pacific International Chapter (NPIC) of AFS would like to invite you to our 2008 Annual General Meeting to be held in Bellingham, WA on March 4-6, 2008. “**Sound Management: Mountains to the Sea**” is our 2008 theme. Find the meeting online at <http://www.npic-afs.org/category/agm/>. The conference will provide a venue to showcase how fisheries and aquatic policy and research are helping to recover Puget Sound, Georgia Straits, and their watersheds. Planned symposium and session topics include:

- Future of Puget Sound/Georgia Straits
- Puget Sound Habitat and Trends
- Puget Sound Water Quality
- Marine Habitats and Function
- Hydrokinetics (Wave and Tidal Energy)
- Forage Fish Ecology
- Salmon Recovery and Habitat Restoration
- Tagging and Monitoring
- Seagrass, Seaweed, and Salmon Interactions
- Fish Health
- Fish Genetics
- Hatchery Reforms
- Elwha River Recovery
- Contributed Paper, Adaptive Management and more.

In addition to a plenary of keynote speakers and a wide array of technical papers and posters, there will be educational workshops on Adaptive Management, Leadership Skills, and AFS Scientific Certification.

Bellingham is conveniently located for both Washington and British Columbia professionals and students. The international nature of our chapter makes it imperative that we continue to encourage participation from individuals living on both sides of the border. In addition to a great location, Bellingham is also a beautiful town between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound.

Abstracts for posters and oral presentations are due January 30th and can be submitted on our website at www.npic-afs.org. You can also register for the conference through our website. Registration fees are \$150 for AFS members and \$175 for nonmembers who sign up before February 15th and increase by \$20 for those who register after that date. Our website also has details about accommodations in the Bellingham area.

Please contact Eric Knudsen (ericknudsen@gci.net, 360-424-5767), if you or your organization is interested in sponsoring and/or exhibiting at NPIC’s AGM. Sponsorship/exhibitor levels range from \$250 to over \$5000 and all sponsors/exhibitors are provided with at least one complementary registration to the conference. Your sponsorship will be advertised on the Chapter web site, at the conference, and on the printed program.

Tangible outcomes of your sponsorship include:

- Student fund for conference travel, project support, awards, and scholarships,
- A venue for increased communication among fisheries professionals and stakeholders,
- Science-based peer reviews for the public process, and
- On-line access to all presentation abstracts

NPIC is interested in increasing student involvement and we have taken many steps to provide students with opportunities to attend our AGM. Our student registration fee is only \$90 for those who sign up before February 15th. We encourage students to get involved in the AGM and we will be providing registration fee waivers for student volunteers contributing a minimum amount of time (~8 hours). If you're interested in helping out, you can contact Larry at larry.dominguez@dnr.wa.gov (preferred) or by phone at 360-902-1718. In addition, we will be waiving registration fees for some students who submit abstracts for a poster or oral presentation, contact Larry for more details. We will also provide best student talk and poster prizes of \$250. Please encourage all the students you know to check out our website and attend our AGM this year.

Looking forward to seeing you in Bellingham!

Utah Chapter Update

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/Bonneville/>

Paul Cowley, Chapter President



Actions are in full swing for an excellent annual meeting this year at Red Cliffs Lodge, just outside of Moab, Utah, on February 25-27, 2008. We are currently making the final preparations for the meeting, which include finalizing registration and the agenda and making last minutes requests for raffle items donations. It looks like it will be an excellent meeting. The theme of this years meeting is "Aquatic Resource Management/Stewardship Changes Over Time". We will be reviewing how the management of the state's aquatic resources has changed over time and who are the resources being managed for? The Student Subunit will sponsor the continuing education training this year dealing with fishery statistics. Additional information can be found in the newsletters on the Chapter's web page

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/Bonneville/index.htm>.

The Utah Chapter focus this year is on

- (1) Reaching out to the public and especially the youth around us and encouraging them to become involved in managing their aquatic resources;
- (2) to develop united approaches between the various institutions that we work for to benefit the aquatic resources of Utah; and,
- (3) and finally, to deal our historic material. Like the Western Division we have quite a load of material that has been passed from one officer to another. We hope to get this summarized and condensed this year.

Also, check out the Utah State University Student Subunit!

<http://www.cnr.usu.edu/wats/hm/graduate-program/american-fisheries-society>



Hutton Scholar Program 2008

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a summer mentoring program for high school students sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Application to the program is open to all current sophomore, junior, and senior high school students regardless of race, creed or gender. Because the program seeks to increase diversity within the fisheries professions, preference will be given to qualified women and minority applicants.

Students accepted into the program are matched with professional mentors and enjoy a hands-on fisheries science experience. A scholarship is provided to students accepted into the program. Applications for 2008 are due on February 15th.

For more information, visit: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/hutton.html>.

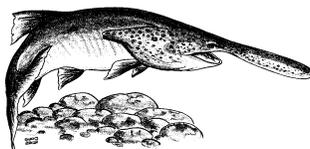
PADDLEFISH (books) are GOING, GOING, gone!

Joe G. Dillard, Paddlefish Book Sales Coordinator for North Central Division/American Fisheries Society (NCD/AFS), says he still has few of these classics available for sale. For you new timers, or you old timers who have forgotten, *The Paddlefish: Status, Management and Propagation* is NCD/AFS Special Publication No. 7. Topics covered include paddlefish biology, distribution and abundance, management, propagation, threats to the future of the species and an extensive bibliography of all known publications on paddlefish from the 1700s to 1985. These symposium proceedings filled a long-standing need for synthesis of the research and literature on paddlefish.

This is an important book for paddlefish managers, biologists, and anyone who would like to know more about this intriguing and valuable fish. Copies of this rapidly vanishing, valuable reference source of paddlefish information are available from:

Joe G. Dillard
3535 West Arbor Way
Columbia, MO 65203-9260
Dillardj@missouri.edu

Cost is \$15 (U.S.) per copy including tax and shipping. If you are outside the U. S., add \$2 (U.S.). **Make checks payable to the North Central Division/American Fisheries Society in U.S. currency.**



AquaQuiz Answer: The photo shows a bryozoan colony identified as *Pectinatella magnifica*! Magnificent!

Letter to the Membership

Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force Report

Barry McPherson, Oregon Chapter AFS Representative to Task Force

As the Oregon Chapter AFS representative to the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force, I attended the final meeting of the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force formed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to advise them on the three-state application under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to conduct lethal take on California sea lions that prey on returning anadromous salmonids below Bonneville Dam. This was the third two-day meeting held over 60 days. The Section 120 Task Force Report can be viewed at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Seals-and-Sea-Lions/States-MMPA-Request.cfm>. NMFS is scheduled to complete an Environmental Assessment on this Section 120 application and provide a public comment period. NOAA in Washington DC will then make a decision on the states' permit application.

Last summer, NMFS asked me to serve as a representative of the Oregon Chapter AFS and the Chapter ExCom approved. I served with 17 other Task Force members that included representatives from state and federal agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations. I thought it was an excellent group that worked well together through some contentious issues. Nearly all Task Force members agreed that the states should be authorized to do some level of lethal. The sole dissenter was the representative from the US Humane Society. She has been an expert on marine mammals for the Humane Society since the early 1990s and helped Congress craft Section 120 as part of the 1994 amendments to the MMPA in response to sea lion predation on returning steelhead at Ballard Locks in Seattle. In a minority report, she argues that the information presented did not meet the requirement of showing that sea lions predation below Bonneville Dam was having a significant negative impact on the recovery of salmonid fishery stocks. For more Humane Society views on the topic, visit: http://www.hsus.org/marine_mammals/marine_mammals_news/salmon_and_sea_lions_in_the.html

The Task Force report will show two alternative approaches to lethal take of California sea lions. Both alternatives were guided by the principle of killing as few sea lions as possible over the long term in the process of reducing predation on listed salmonids. The allowable lethal take per year is more liberal (double) under one alternative compared with the one I favored (approx. 85 California sea lions), but the marine mammal experts on the Task Force stated that neither level of take would come close to having a negative effect on the abundance or sustainability of California sea lions. The sea lions number around 238,000 throughout the west coast, have reached their optimum sustainable population level, and their foraging trips have recently expanded to southeast Alaska. Both alternatives state that killing will be done in a humane manner and all reasonable and practicable efforts will be made to recover carcasses. Both alternatives include hazing of sea lions upstream of navigation marker 85 (about 5 or 6 miles) concurrent with lethal take to discourage recruitment of new sea lions to the Bonneville Dam area and perhaps rid the area of some of the established salmon predators without killing them.

Seven Task Force members favored the "zero tolerance of sea lions" approach where all California sea lions entering the area extending from Bonneville Dam down to navigation marker 85 were candidates for legal take whether they were seen eating a salmonid or not. This was consistent with the states' application. Ten members, including me, favored a more restrictive approach that we felt met the Section 120 requirement that lethal take could only occur on individually identifiable sea lions documented to be predators on salmonids. The state representatives were very supportive of this alternative, though I didn't track whether they favored it over the first alternative in the final votes. This second alternative included a 3-year kill period on individual California sea lions with the requirement that if the 3-year average of predation in the observation area just below the dam was below 1%, no additional kill could occur in the fourth year. The predation rate in this small area was 4.2% in 2007 and does not represent additional predation that occurs in over 100 miles of river below

the dam. The states said they had no good way to estimate the predation rate for the entire lower river and would not speculate if it were double, triple or more of the rate in the observation area just below the dam. In our alternative, an updated rolling 3-year average would be used in deciding whether to kill in each succeeding year. However, if the run of spring Chinook is predicted to be below 82,000 fish in any of those years, exceptions would be made to using the 1% rolling 3-year average of predation as the criterion. We also included a recommendation to reevaluate the 1% goal based on monitoring and evaluation after 3 years. After six years of implementation of this alternative, if the rolling 3-year average has not been brought below the goal, Section 120 would be deemed a failed tool and application for more sea lion management control under Sections 103 or 109 of the MMPA is recommended.

I and some others on the Task Force repeatedly pushed the point that this sea lion predation problem exists in part because the dam concentrates and delays the migration salmon and steelhead (and some other fish species) such that predation by sea lions is greatly facilitated. This will be in the report. The report will also include a consideration that California sea lion pursuit of adult salmon is putting anglers and commercial fishers at risk as sea lions have chased human-caught fish all the way into boats, dumping at least two people out of boats into the river, and injured people whose hands were in the water or landing net when a sea lion tried to take a protected salmonid they were attempting to unhook and release.

I may be on this Task Force for years if NOAA grants the states authorization for lethal take under Section 120. The Task Force is required to evaluate the effectiveness of the permitted action and shall be disbanded if the implementation was effective. The Task Force report will recommend that we reconvene after 1 year and 3 years of implementation, at a minimum.

*Submitted by:
Barry McPherson
Former ORAFS President
Oregon Chapter AFS Representative to Task Force*

Educational Opportunities

Stream Restoration Workshop **May 8th & 9th, 2008**

Held at the Western Division AFS meeting in Portland, Oregon

*Presented by the Western Division & Oregon Chapter
American Fisheries Society*

Coordinators: Bianca Streif & Janine Castro – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



This is a training workshop featuring prominent scientists and practitioners with aquatic restoration applications pertinent to western States, Mexico, and Canada. The plenary format will cover current restoration practices set in a watershed context and aimed at restoring our native fish assemblages. Topics include: foundations of physical and ecological river functions; data requirements for design and effectiveness monitoring; restoring channel complexity in wet, arid and urban stream systems; restoration of tidal areas; aquatic invasive species issues; and physical and biological implications associated with dams and their removal. The practical aspects of working with private landowners, as well as project management and implementation will also be addressed. Attendees will receive an electronic notebook of key restoration literature. Speakers include: Dave Montgomery, Jason Dunham, Leslie Reid, Derek Booth, and many others.

About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published three times per year.

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About the American Fisheries Society

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

About the Western Division AFS

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific.

Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region.

Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>

Upcoming Events

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter Meeting

Feb 7-9, 2008, Prescott

California-Nevada Chapter Meeting

April 2-4, 2008, Lake Tahoe

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter Meeting

March 3-6, 2008, Cheyenne

Idaho Chapter Meeting

Feb 6-8, 2008, Post Falls

Montana Chapter Meeting

Feb 13-15th, 2008, Billings

North Pacific International Chapter Meeting

Mar 4-6, 2008, Bellingham

Oregon Chapter

Joint Meeting with the Western Division

May 4-8, 2008, Portland

See the full listing online:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/aboutus/calendarofevents.pdf>

