



The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 33, No. 3, August 2009

Welcome to the Tributary, the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS)! This issue introduces our new e-newsletter format as an experiment to improve communication within the WDAFS membership. We hope to deliver news and information to you – more, better, and quicker – with this new e-newsletter format and enhanced web content. If you have suggestions, comments, feedback, please contact Tributary editor, [Kajsa Stromberg](mailto:Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov) at Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov.



Upcoming 2009 AFS Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from August 30 through September 3, 2009. For more meeting information:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs09/>



American Fisheries Society Western Division Annual Meeting Evolution of the Western Landscape: Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish.

Western Division AFS Annual Meeting Held in May 2009

The Annual Meeting of the WDAFS was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. You can view [meeting abstracts](#), download the [final printed program schedule of oral presentations](#), and visit the [meeting page](#) for further

information.

See the upcoming issue of [Fisheries](#) Magazine for a full meeting recap!

AWARDS

- Best Student Poster Award went to **Eric Andersen** of Oregon State University for his poster summarizing work on Bayesian networks for prioritizing stream connectivity projects.
- Best Student Oral Presentation Award went to **Jonathan Gerken** of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.
- The Eugene Maughan Scholarship for a Master's student went to **Gerard C. Carmona** of UC Davis and the PhD student recipient was **Joseph H. Anderson** of the University of Washington.
- The Sustainable Fisheries Foundation William Trachtenberg Scholarship went to **Matthew P. Corel** of the University of Montana.
- The Western Division's Award of Excellence this year honored Emeritus Scientist **Bruce Rieman** of the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and his exemplary career contributions to

fisheries science.

- The Conservation Achievement Award was given to the **Devil's Hole Pupfish Incident Command Team and Associates** for their continued efforts at preventing the extinction of this species.
- The Chapter of the Year award was given to the **Oregon Chapter**.
- The **Palouse Unit** (Idaho Chapter) was recognized with the Student Unit of the Year Award for a second year in a row. Both Oregon Chapter and Palouse Unit applications were forwarded to the Parent Society to compete for awards to be received at Nashville. Recipients of the **Riparian Challenge Awards** included the **Bureau of Land Management's Coos Bay District** for the North Coquille River Restoration Project, and the U.S. Forest Service's West Fork Clear Creek Streambank Restoration Project led by Bill Janowsky on **the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands**.
- **Leanne Roulson** and **Jim Tilmant** were also recognized for their years of service in the development of the Western Native Fishes database. Congratulations to all of this year's award winners.

ELECTION RESULTS and NEW OFFICERS

Dave Ward (Oregon) has been elected as WDAFS Vice President. Dave has served two terms as Secretary-Treasurer for the Division and will now serve as Vice President. **Mary Buckman** (Oregon) has been elected Secretary-Treasurer. Thanks Dave and Mary for your service!

Upcoming WDAFS Annual Meetings: 2010 and 2011

Join us at the Salt Palace in 2010!

The WDAFS 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah's [Salt Palace](#) and Radisson Hotel. We'll meet April 19-23, 2010 and more information should be available soon through the Utah Chapter's new website, <http://utahafs.org/>.

Planning underway for WDAFS in Seattle 2011

WDAFS will meet in Seattle, Washington, September 1 to 8, 2011. Larry Dominguez, WA-BC Chapter President reports the planning team has already developed a lot of momentum – "With the help of volunteers organized into several committees, we hope to stage the most successful AFS conference to date. If you are going to be in Nashville for this year's meeting, be sure to stop by WA-BC's AFS 2011 exhibit at the Trade Show to meet some of the gang, find out more info about plans for AFS 2011 in Seattle, and see how you can help out." If you are interested in serving on a committee, or have ideas you'd like the 2011 AFS conference planning team to consider, visit the [2011 Team webpage](http://www.wabc-afs.org/team-2011/) (<http://www.wabc-afs.org/team-2011/>) on the WABC website.

WDAFS Environmental Concerns Committee

The [WDAFS Environmental Concerns Committee](#) has recently produced three letters and one resolution to advance fisheries science in resource management decisions.

1. **Lower Snake River Dam Breaching and Salmon Recovery**
A letter was sent to NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco regarding Columbia River salmon recovery, encouraging consideration of multiple options including breaching of the four dams on the lower Snake River in order to rehabilitate Columbia River salmon.
2. **California Suction Dredge Mining Moratorium**
A letter was sent to Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, supporting SB670, which would suspend suction dredge mining until a rigorous scientific review of the practice's cumulative impacts on fish is prepared and new regulations



are promulgated.

3. **Kensington Mine, Alaska and Discharge of "Fill" Material**

A letter was sent to President Barack Obama concerning the Kensington Mine permit to allow gold mine tailings to be deposited into Lower Slate Lake, Alaska, despite the corporation's admission that the tailings will extirpate the lake's resident Dolly Varden char and threespine stickleback populations. The permit was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, setting an important legal precedent, because of the federal government's standards regarding mine wastes as "fill" rather than a "pollutant."

4. **Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska**

The WDAFS passed a resolution supporting a rigorous ecological survey and independent scientific review of the proposed Pebble Mine Project, which threatens Bristol Bay fisheries.

All letters and resolutions are available in [this report on the WDAFS website](#).

Group Seeks Scientist Signatures on BiOp Letter

Scientists Letter

RE: Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion

The WDAFS would like the membership to be aware of the following opportunity, facilitated by Save our Wild Salmon Coalition, to weigh in on Snake River salmon recovery.

WDAFS passed a resolution encouraging rigorous recovery planning including consideration of the removal of four lower Snake River dams was adopted by the Division in 2000, and the Division submitted a scientific peer review of the 2004 BiOp Remand in 2005. Additionally, the Division has recently submitted a separate letter to Dr. Lubchenco on this issue (see above).

The Save our Wild Salmon Coalition letter was not written by WDAFS and does not necessarily represent our position; however, this may be of interest to WDAFS members. You can find background information and read the Save our Wild Salmon scientists letter at <http://www.wildsalmon.org/2009scienceletter>.

The signature deadline has been extended to **Monday August 10, 2009**.



Help needed on WDAFS Endowment Committee

Do you want to be a big spender for the Division? We need at least two more committee members to join the WDAFS Endowment Committee. Committee members suggest stocks and funds for WDAFS to buy and sell. Please email [Henry Booke](mailto:Henry.Booke) at hnbooke@yahoo.com if you'd like to help.

Newsletter Editor needed!

Are you experienced herding cats and making up facts? (just kidding) Are you available to help compile and create the Western Division newsletter? The newsletter is an important communication conduit for our membership and we need your help! If you are interested or would like more information, contact [Kajsa Stromberg](#).



Additions to the WDAFS Archives online

The Western Division [archives](#) have been updated online with [meeting abstracts](#), [annual and midyear reports](#), and [resolutions](#).



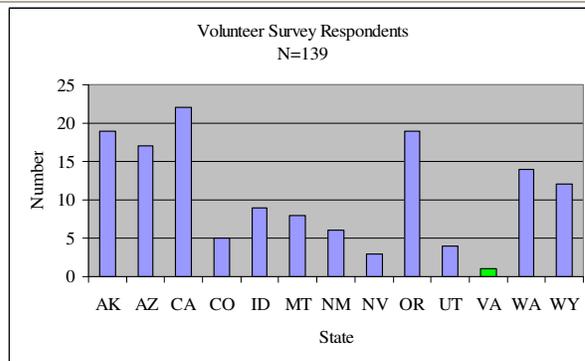
Burbot are on a Roll – a Third Symposium

Love em or hate em, like em or not, the burbot is on a roll. After two successful symposia - one in Baltimore in 1998, and a second in Anchorage in 2005, and two Burbot Proceedings, a third burbot symposium is in progress. The Third International Burbot Symposium is scheduled for Barcelona, Spain in July of 2010. Although in Europe, North American scientists are encouraged to participate. This symposium will be in coordination with the International Congress on the Biology of Fish meeting. For those who are interested, email vaughn.paragamian@idfg.idaho.gov or call at (208) 769-1414.

Fisheries Biologists Spend a lot of Time in the Classroom! Results of the Educational Volunteer Survey

By Leanne H. Roulson

In May 2009 the WDAFS Education Committee initiated an informal survey of its membership to determine the existing level of volunteer involvement in their local public schools. The questions in the survey focused on the grade level, the frequency and duration, the topics covered, the method of presentation, and the key factors that contributed to the participant's sense of success and likelihood to repeat their volunteer effort. Nearly 140 fisheries biologists participated in the survey and the results are in!



RESULTS

- More than 93% (130) of the respondents had volunteered in some capacity in the public schools.
- Over half of the respondents volunteered between 2 to 6 times annually, with just under 35% volunteering once a year.
- Biologists covered a variety of topics and many (79%) discussed their career in fisheries as part of their presentation.
- 96% of respondents said they would be interested in volunteering or teaching again.

A short report will be available on the [WDAFS website](#).

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>

Calendar

Annual Meetings

- ['09, Nashville, TN-Aug 30-Sept 3](#)
- '10, Pittsburgh, PA-Sept 12-16
- '11, Seattle, WA-Sept 4-8

[Unit Meetings & Other Events](#)

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, Mexico, and nine student subunits!

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.

<http://www.wdafs.org>

AFS Job Board

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/jobpage.php>

AFS Publications

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/publications.html>

AFS Policy and Media

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/policy.html>

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions on this newsletter?

Contact newsletter editor, [Kajsa Stromberg](#).