



THE TRIBUTARY

A Newsletter of the

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

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Upcoming Western Division Chapter Meetings

The Idaho Chapter will be hosting the Western Division Annual Meeting in 2013 (April 15—18, 2013) in Boise, Idaho. The topic of the meeting will be **"Fisheries: Learning from the Past and Looking Towards the Future"**.

Please see page 9 of this newsletter for more information on the meeting and the call for symposia on page 4. The meeting website is: <http://www.idahoafs.org/western2013.php>

Dates and locations for the other Chapter meetings can be found below.



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Chapter	Location	Dates
Alaska	Kodiak, Alaska	October 22—26, 2012
Arizona - New Mexico	Albuquerque, New Mexico	February 7—9, 2013
California - Nevada	Davis, California	April 4—6, 2013
Colorado - Wyoming	Fort Collins, Colorado	February 25—27, 2013
Idaho (Western Division Annual Meeting)	Boise, Idaho	April 15—18, 2013
Mexico		
Montana	Fairmont, Montana	February 4—8, 2013
Oregon	Bend, Oregon	February 19—22, 2013
Utah	Bullfrog, Utah	March 26—29, 2013
Washington-British Columbia	Lake Chelan, Washington	March 25—28, 2013

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Western Division Excom members
Dave Ward, Lori Martin, Mary Buckman,
and Tina Swanson.

President's Hook

It's fall and the Western Division torch has been passed to me. As I begin my year as President of the Division, I want to express my thanks to my two most recent predecessors, Lori Martin (Colorado-Wyoming Chapter) and Dave Ward (Oregon Chapter), now our Past-president. Both of them, by providing such great service and leadership to the Division, have been excellent mentors and role models—in the coming year, I will work hard to live up to their examples.

I also want to welcome the Division's newest officer, Vice-president Hilda Sexauer (Colorado-Wyoming Chapter), and President-elect Pam Sponholtz (Colorado-Wyoming Chapter). Along with our secretary-treasurer, Mary Buckman (Oregon Chapter), and the presidents of our ten Chapters, the Western Division has an impressive Executive Committee and we are all looking forward to a great year.

In August, representing the Division, I attended AFS's 2012 Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, and met with the AFS Governing Board in a planning retreat and board meeting to review the Society's status and activities. I also received my "25-year" AFS pin—and, while it was a bit of shock (where have the years gone?), it was a good reminder to reflect on the role of the Society and our Division and Chapters.

AFS exists to serve us—but it also depends on the active participation and support of its members. The Society's activities are structured to meet three goals: promoting fisheries conservation through science, providing education to its members and outreach to the public, and representing and providing services to its members. These activities extend beyond our annual conferences, continuing education workshops, and journal and book publications. I'd like to report on four recent Society and Western Division activities that exemplify this. First, at the August meeting, the AFS Governing Board approved two resolutions brought forward by the Western Division, both advocating the critical importance of science in regional fisheries and resource management. The two resolutions, one on proposed mining operations in the Bristol Bay (Alaska) watershed and the other on the Snake River (Washington) dams, are available for review and member approval on the AFS website (under "Draft Resolutions"). I encourage you all to review them and vote. Second, last month at our mid-year meeting, the WDAFS Excom voted to sign on to an amicus brief on a case before the Supreme Court addressing the issue of pollution from logging roads. The brief, which was also signed by Dr. Christopher Frissell (Oregon State University and University of Montana) and Richard Nawa (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center), provided information on the importance of healthy waters for fish and other aquatic organisms, logging road pollution (mostly sediment), and how this pollution adversely affects and fish and other aquatic wildlife. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the brief. Third, the parent Society is completing a comprehensive salary survey for fisheries professionals. Keep an eye out for the results, which will be published in an upcoming Fisheries. And finally, the University of Arizona student sub-unit is hosting the Western Division Student Colloquium on November 1—3, 2012. This annual event, for which WDAFS provides partial financial support, is entirely student organized and run, providing these young fisheries professionals with challenging and valuable experience.



And last, but not least, hold the date for our annual WDAFS conference to held Boise, Idaho, on April 15—18, 2013. I'll look forward to seeing you all there!

— Tina Swanson, President

Announcements

University of Arizona Hosts the Western Division Student Colloquium

The 2012 Western Division Student Colloquium of the American Fisheries Society, held November 1—3 at the University of Arizona, was a huge success. The 29 attendees – students, professors and professionals – enjoyed ten scientific presentations, a field trips to the Sonora Desert Museum and to Romero Canyon in the stunning Santa Catalina Mountains, and excellent southwestern food and hospitality.

Call for Western Division Annual Meeting Symposium Proposals

The Program Committee for the 2013 Western Division AFS meeting is asking anyone who has a strong interest in any fisheries related topic that would be of general interest to AFS members to submit their symposium proposal at <http://www.idahoafs.org/symposiaProposals.php>. Guidelines on how to submit symposia proposals can be found on this website. For those proposals selected, the lead person will be expected to select and organize as least six presenters, collect and organize abstracts for each speaker, and provide a moderator/chair for their session. We thank you for helping to make this Western Division meeting a success. The deadline for symposium submissions is **November 30, 2012!**

If you have questions, feel free to contact the program committee: Joe DuPont at joe.dupont@idfg.idaho.gov or (208) 799-5010 or Pamela Sponholtz at Pamela_sponholtz@fws.gov or (303) 236-4255

Top 5 Common Mistakes With Electrofishing Equipment

Smith-Root has put together a short video on the most common mistakes or equipment issues when backpacking electrofishing. This video can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=JnCo7zE4aPs

Aquaculture Drug Update

Authorization Granted for the Immediate Release of Fish Sedated with AQUI-S[®]20E under INAD 11-741:

Based on a recent request, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted amended authorization for the use of AQUI-S[®]20E, a sedative drug, to allow for the immediate release of freshwater finfish sedated as part of field-based fisheries management activities. The amended authorization comes under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (USFWS-AADAP) Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) 11-741. Prior to the amended INAD authorization, all freshwater fish sedated with AQUI-S[®]20E were required to be held for 72 hours—a withdrawal period impractical for field use. The immediate-release provision is for field use only; the withdrawal period remains at 72 hours for hatchery use.

FDA approval of an immediate-release sedative for use in fisheries management has been a high priority for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), whose ongoing activities are coordinated by its Fisheries and Water Resources Policy (FWRP) Committee's Drug Approval Working Group. "This amended INAD authorization represents an enormous leap forward in our ability to effectively and safely sedate fish as part of field-based fishery management activities; activities that state and federal agencies and their partners use to restore, recover, protect, and manage fish populations that are important to the 48 million recreational anglers in the U.S., as well as to many others who depend on fish for sustenance and commerce," said Virgil Moore, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director and chair of AFWA's FWRP Committee.

For more information about aquatic animal drugs, AQUI-S[®]20E, or to sign-up to participate in USFWS-AADAP INAD 11-741, go to <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/home.htm> or contact the USFWS-AADAP INAD Administrator, Bonnie Johnson, at Bonnie_Johnson@fws.gov (406) 994-9905. For further information, please see full AFWA press release at http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=afwa_press_releases&prid=180

Announcements

Acoustic Tag and Hydroacoustic Winter Short Courses

Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish - http://www.htisonar.com/at_short_course.htm

7—8 February, 2013 from 9 AM—5 PM in Seattle, Washington

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on-operation and a variety of applications are covered.

Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment - http://www.htisonar.com/ha_short_course.htm

14—15 February, 2013 from 9 AM—5 PM in Seattle, Washington

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. For more information or to save a seat for either of these courses, email support@HTisonar.com.

Smith-Root Introduction to Electrofishing Courses in 2013

Smith-Root, Inc.'s Introduction to Electrofishing courses for 2013 will be held March 12—13, April 18—19, May 7—8, and September 24—25 at their headquarters in Vancouver, Washington, USA. This two-day course includes classroom and hands-on training in the field with backpack electrofishers. For more information go to www.smith-root.com or call (360) 573-0202.

Online Fish Passage Reference Database Available

The American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental/Water Resources Institute (ASCE/EWRI) – American Fisheries Society/Bioengineering Section (AFS/BES) Partnership Development Ad Hoc Committee is proud to announce the availability of the **Joint EWRI-AFS Fish Passage Reference Database**, an online database of citations of current and historic literature on technical aspects of fish passage, including engineering, biology, design, and other relevant disciplines. The EWRI-AFS Partnership Development Ad Hoc Committee has created this database as part of its goal to develop initiatives for new projects to assist fish passage information and technology transfer. The database includes compilations of existing literature databases, bibliographies, published and unpublished (i.e., reports, gray literature) from multiple sources, and is intended to be a clearinghouse for new literature as it becomes available. The purpose of the database is to provide a resource for information on fish passage for use by fishery biologists, managers, engineers, and the public and private sectors.

The database can be accessed via <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage/>. Database users may search for citations (many with accompanying abstracts) using author, journal, and/or subject keywords, and may also enter additional citations into the database through the Scholarworks web portal.

To enhance the effectiveness of the database and its repository function, practitioners in fish passage can also add records to the database using the “author’s corner” and instructions at the same website above.

Support for the database was provided by the University of Massachusetts Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydraulic Investigations and Laboratory Services Group, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 5) and the U.S. Geological Survey S.O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory.

Announcements

9th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Okinawa, Japan

Alexei M. Orlov (orlov@vniro.ru) of the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries & Oceanography, Moscow, Russia is organizing a symposium on Top predatory fish in the Indo-Pacific ecosystems at the 9th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Okinawa, Japan, (<http://www.fish-isj.jp/9ipfc>) **June 24–28, 2013**.

Top predatory fishes of Indo-Pacific region are represented by the variety of different species, including sharks, large skates and rays, barracudas, lancetfish, daggertooth, tunas and billfishes, halibuts, sablefish, cod, toothfishes, etc. However, diet compositions and forage resources consumed by these large predators are studied insufficiently, level of feeding competition between them is largely unknown, and the role of top predators in the ecosystems is poorly understood. Meanwhile, many of top predators are important targets (e.g. tunas, billfishes, halibuts, cod, sablefish, toothfishes) of trawl, longline, net, pot, trap, and troll fisheries. These fisheries may impact ecosystem structure (e.g., if large top predators are overfished, abundance of forage fishes may increase or one predatory fish might be replaced by another). The knowledge of feeding habits and trophic relations of large top predatory fishes might help to understand fluctuations of their abundance and to make exploitation of their resources sustainable.

Symposium themes include:

- Diet composition of top predatory fish in different areas of Indo-Pacific region;
- Forage resources consumed by top predatory fish in the Indo-Pacific;
- Trophic relations and feeding competition between large top predators;
- Fisheries impact to ecosystem structure through the harvest of both large top predators and/or their forage resources.

Papers related to other relevant topics within symposium overall theme are encouraged.

Participation: Colleagues interested in attending this symposium should contact Alexi detailing their proposed contributions (prospective title, oral or poster) before **November 1**. See you in Okinawa!





American Fisheries Society

Western Division

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee

- 2013 Riparian Challenge Call for Entries -

The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee is seeking entries for the Western Division's 2013 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 (twelve western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Mexico), 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 American Fisheries Society's Western Division Annual Meeting hosted by the Idaho Chapter in Boise, Idaho, April 15—18, 2013. 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.

If you are aware of a project that should be considered for the award, please ask the appropriate USFS, BLM, conservation agency or industry to submit an entry form. Winners will be selected in the following categories:

BLM

- Best Resource Area or Field Office

Forest Service

- Best Ranger District

Other (conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry)

- Best Riparian Project

More information, along with a description of the entry format, criteria for evaluating entries, and examples of recent winning entries, please visit:

<http://wdafs.org/awards/information-deadlines-applications/riparian-challenge-award/>

Questions concerning the Riparian Challenge and completed electronic entries should be emailed to the Riparian Challenge Committee Chair, Troy Brandt (tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net, (503) 307-8367). Entries are to be submitted by **February 1, 2013**.

Western Native Fishes Database Now Public

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) has been working on developing a database on native fish distributions in the western U.S., Mexico, and western Canadian provinces since 2003. Efforts in the last few years have been directed at getting the data available online where people can access it and create maps. See the November 2011 issue of the Tributary for more details on the project's history. In 2011, there were 155 species in the database. With funding from WDAFS, we have now reached an important milestone in the project -- the entire dataset (274 species) is now available to the public for download and web-mapping.

The datasets can be accessed through Data Basin (www.databasin.org), a non-technical mapping and analysis platform managed by the Conservation Biology Institute (www.consbio.org). Data Basin is being used by thousands of interested citizens, students & educators, natural resource practitioners, and scientists to facilitate learning, research, and sustainable environmental stewardship. You can start by exploring our datasets in a gallery organized by family (Western Native Fish: <http://bit.ly/V5cRf9>). If you want to download our datasets or use the Data Basin custom mapping and analysis tools to create overlay with the thousands of other well-documented datasets available, you will need to create a free account (<http://app.databasin.org/app/pages/createAccountPage.jsp>). To learn how to navigate the Data Basin platform, you can watch a short overview video (<http://bit.ly/U0D9De>), watch an introductory webinar (<http://bit.ly/Rz6PSV>), or contact the Data Basin team with any questions (databasin@consbio.org).

As mentioned in the last missive, we could use help in updating the information in the database. Send along any new data (e.g., species presence/absence; hydrologic unit code; status changes) with the published reference to me at ericwagner@utah.gov. New data must be based on published sources such as agency reports, articles, museum specimens, etc.

The screenshot displays the 'Western Native Fish' database interface. At the top, it shows the title 'Western Native Fish' and the 'Western Native Fishes Committee' logo, along with the creation date 'Created Aug 22, 2011' and the last modification date '(Last modified Jul 2, 2012)'. Below this, there are two tabs: 'Overview' and 'Contents'. The 'Contents' tab is active, showing a list of fish families under the heading 'Content'. The families listed are: Acipenseridae - sturgeons, Atherinopsidae - neotropical silversides, Catostomidae - suckers, Centrachidae - sunfishes, Cyprinidae - carps and minnows, Ictaluridae - catfishes, Lotidae - lings and rocklings, Osmeridae - smelts, Percidae - darters and perches, Petromyzontidae - lampreys, Salmonidae - salmon, trout chars, white, Characidae - tetras, and Cottidae - sculpins. To the right of the list, there are controls for 'Sort By' (set to 'Creation Date (newest to oldest)') and 'Items per page' (set to '10'). Below these controls, it says 'Showing 1 - 4 of 4 items'. The first item is 'White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) distribution status by HUC8'. This item includes a small map showing the distribution area, a 'Credits' section mentioning 'US watershed boundaries from USGS' and 'Canada watershed', and a 'Layer Package' section with the text 'White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) status data the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society'. At the bottom of the item, it says 'Uploaded Jul 28, 2011 by Western Native Fish'. There are also buttons for 'view details' and 'display in map'.



Don't miss the 2013 Annual Meeting!! Western Division AFS

Boise, Idaho April 15-18, 2013

Fisheries: Learning from the Past and Looking Towards the Future

Sponsored by AFS Idaho Chapter and AFS Western Division



Join us in downtown Boise

- April 15-18, 2013
- Conference at the Boise Centre
- Rooms will be reserved at the Grove Hotel
- For more details or updates on the meeting visit:
<http://www.idahoafs.org/western2013.php>

While in Boise, you can also:

- Tour the World Center for Birds of Prey
- Experience spring skiing at Bogus Basin
- Whitewater raft one of the local world famous rivers
- Hike, jog, or bike the green belt, foothills, or local wildlife management area.
- Tour local wineries (20+) or breweries (7)
- Fish for steelhead in the Boise River just 5 minutes from the Grove Hotel.



All photos courtesy of Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

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About the Tributary

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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 of the American Fisheries Society

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from twelve western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Mexico. 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>