American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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IT HAPPENED IN TUCSON ARIZONA

The 29th Annual meeting of the Western Division convened on July 10, 1977 in Tucson, Arizona. Fifty-six members were in attendance. The National Society was represented by President Robert Hutton, President-Elect Art Whitney (a Western Division member, Montana Chapter), Executive Director Carl Sullivan and Transactions Editor Robert Kendell. Among the topics of discussion were a new set of bylaws, a proposed mitigation symposium, election of officers and meeting places by mail ballot, and the 77-78 Budget adoption.

Gerry Bouck delivered the President's report. He spoke on the need for sound financial management of the Division and on the Division's relations with the WAFGCC. He suggested a reevaluation of the traditional July Annual Meeting date, since a summer meeting may conflict with field work and also occurs in the last quarter of the new federal fiscal year when travel moneys are in short supply. Bouck suggested that splitting the large Western Division into two Divisions would reduce travel time and expense to the Annual Meeting and give more members a chance to participate in officer roles. Bouck summed up his address by suggesting that future goals for the Division might be (1) fund raising, (2) better public relations and (3) better service to Division members.

Executive Director Carl Sullivan spoke about the Society's membership. He reported that there were 5308 AFS members and 1200 library members. The Western Division has the largest membership with 1205 regular members and 335 student members.(Membership as of January 1, 1978 is 1601). In accordance with the Society's dues rebate policy, Mr. Sullivan presented the Division with a $500 check as an advance on the total rebate sum of $2745.

Activity reports were presented by members of the California-Nevada, Oregon, Bonneville, Colorado-Wyoming, Idaho and Montana Chapters. A Washington Chapter is being planned (the Washington Chapter is now a reality, it is named the North Pacific International Chapter, has about 40 charter members, contact Bob Rulifson, President, EPA 1200 6th Ave., Seattle, WA. 98101).

Treasurer Del Skeesick reported that the Division has an income of $1101 in the past year and presently had a balance of $237. The Audit Committee reported that the books were in order. Skeesick then presented the 77-78 Budget which was adopted by the group. A budget summary follows:

Estimated Income	
Membership Dues Rebate	$2745
Annual Meeting Registration	750
Balance from 76-77	237
Total	$3732

Estimated Expenses	
Newsletters	$1350
Presidents Travel	500
Western Assoc. Membership	150
Western Assoc. Registration	750
Communication	100
Miscellaneous	396
	$3246

The adopted budget represents the first formal budget ever adopted by the Division and is a step in meeting President Bouck's call for better financial management.

Kirk Beiningen presented the Constitutional Reform report. The Division's Constitution is the same as that of the parent society but the Division has it's own bylaws. The Bylaw Review Task Force was reported to be in the review process with plans to present the revisions to the membership before the San Diego meeting. Kirk has indicated that one portion of the bylaws which has received specific attention is that part dealing with the procedure for deciding the Annual Meeting time and place by mail ballot.

Fred Eiserman reported on the activities of the Instream Flow Needs Committee. He stated that the Division has raised the interest in this problem to the level that a federally sponsored Instream Flow Service Group has been established. The Group has a monthly newsletter entitled Instream Flow Briefs (Write: FWS, OBS, Western Energy and Land Use Team, Room 206, Federal Bldg., 301 S. Howes St., Fort Collins, CO 80521). Eiserman pointed out that there was a further need to get the instream flow needs message to the public and several possibilites were discussed. Eiserman reported that the Division was still in debt to the parent society for the printing of the Proceedings of Instream Flow Needs Symposium and Specialty Conference. This 2 volume document set has emerged as the most important source of information on this subject in the world. (Copies are available from AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20014, $20).

John Peters reported on the proposed mitigation symposium. The working definition of mitigation was accepted to be "all actions designed to maintain the values and productivity of fish and wildlife resources associated with land and water use changes". Peters recommended guidelines for developing the symposium and discussed technical aspects of the proposed meeting. (It was decided at the National Meeting in Vancouver, that this project should be national in scope. At the present time, verbal committments for funding the proposed $30,000 symposium budget have been made by several agencies. A time (July, 1979) and place (Colorado State University) have been decided. A program director, Dr. Gus Swanson, Professor Emeritis, Colorado State University, has been appointed. A steering committee with representatives from several national organizations including the AFS, WLS, Wildlife Federation and American Society of Civil Engineers, has been formed).

Brian Waters reported for the Nominations Committee and announced the results of the election. This was the first mail ballot used by the Division to elect new officers. Although Division bylaws require election of officers at the Annual Meeting, a provision in the Society's Constitution for officer election by mail ballot was ruled to supercede the Division's bylaws. Only 17% of the membership voted, but this was more than had ever voted in any previous Division election. John Skinner was elected President-elect, Bob Wiley was elected Secretary-Treasurer and Bruce May was elected to the Parent Society's Nominating Committee. On the same ballot, a great majority accepted the Time and Place Committee's recommendation that the Western Division meet with the Parent Society in West Yellowstone in 1979. A majority also accepted the proposed amendment to the AFS Constitution which concerned time and place arrangements for the Parent Society's Annual Meeting.

Dale Becker reported on the activities of the Western Division Pollution Committee. The Committee worked with the Parent Society to establish a Water Quality Section. (The Water Quality Section was formally established at the Vancouver Meeting. Interested members should contact John Meldrim, Ich. Assoc. Inc., Middletown, DE 19709). The committee also established a pollution section at the Tucson Meeting. Presented papers dealt with effects of thermal pollution, tritium irradiation and chlorination on freshwater biota.

The Division passed 2 of 3 resolutions presented. Abstracts of the favorable resolutions are as follows:

1. Title: Concern for Habitat Occupied by Populations of Salmo clarki pleuriticus
Abstract: Whereas pure populations of the rare Colorado River cutthroat trout have been found in Medicine Bow National Forest, the Western Division urges the U.S. Forest Service to protect the habitat necessary to maintain the present biological status of the fish and further urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the fish a threatened species.

2. Title: Concern for Physical Aspects of Water Quality
Abstract: Whereas quality waters are defined in terms of chemical, physical and biological parameters, the Western Division urges the Environmental Protection Agency and the states to consider water depth and flow velocity as part of water quality and to establish numeric criteria for these parameters.

Time and Place considerations dominated the remainder of the business meeting. The Time and Place activities over the past year were reviewed. Only 5% of the membership responded to the questionaire placed in the Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 2). There was nearly unanimous approval for annual meetings. However, the July data was not clearly favorable and most respondents indicated that they would rather have meetings in the winter for southern meeting sites and in the summer for northern meeting sites. Most respondents felt the Division should annually have the option of meeting with whomever they want, including the option to meet alone. Sixty-one percent did not want to meet in Alaska in 1979. Most felt that they would not miss having the Western Proceedings in which to publish. Based on these results, the Committee recommended that (1) the Division meet in San Diego in 1978, (2) hold the 1979 meeting in Yellowstone and (3) decide with whom they want to meet and decide 2 years in advance. Following this survey, the Executive Committee voted 10 to 1 to select the 1979 meeting location via mail ballot and the ballot was mailed in the July issue of the Newsletter. When the ballots were tallied, there was clear acceptance (93%) of the recommendations.

During the business meeting, it was pointed out that the bylaws required that the Division vote each year at the Annual Meeting on where to have the Annual Meeting 2 years hence. (Actually, the present bylaws contain contradictory language about the method for selecting the meeting time and place. As a further complication, the Constitution did not permit this decision to be made by mail ballot until an amendment was approved at the annual meeting of the Parent Society this past September). It was moved to reconsider that part of the mail ballot dealing with the 1979 meeting location. By this time, only 27 members were in attendance and the motion passed. President Bouck then formed an ad hoc Time and Place Committee which met briefly during a short intermission. Later, the ad hoc committee recommended that the 1979 meeting be held in Alaska. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made, seconded and passed. Therefore, the Division will meet with the WAFGCC in Alaska in 1979.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

As we move into the second century of our Society's life, I would like to highlight a couple of points of particular importance to the Western Division:

1. Creation of chapters covering every geographical part of the Division. The local chapter has become the basis for participation for the bulk of the membership. Much good work is occurring at the chapter level in behalf of fisheries resources by committee and individual efforts. While there are numerous opportunities for action at all levels of the Society, the chapter is still the best bet for direct involvement. In several areas there

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Endangered Species Programs In The WEST Reviewed

During the 1977 Annual Conference of the Western Association, there was broad interest and a fair amount of activity concerning endangered species. The newly formed Endangered Species Committee (Howard Leach - California, Chairman) met to outline endangered species programs in the thirteen western states. The following table synthesizes the state programs.

	State Has Authority To Comply [1]	Cooperative Agreement Requested or Approved [2]	Recovery Team Participation	Endangered Species Legislation Enacted	State List Available	Number Species Listed by State and Federal Authority
Alaska	X	X	X	X	X	4
Arizona	X		X		X	12
California	X	X	X	X	X	68
Colorado	X	X	X	X	X	25
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	30
Idaho						4
Montana	X	X	X	X		5
Nevada	X		X			23
New Mexico	X	X	X	X	X	108
Oregon	X		X	X	X	12
Utah	X	X	X		X	5
Washington	X	X	X			5
Wyoming					X	9

1/ State interpretation of compliance with the Act. Final decision made by U.S.F.W.S.
2/ Cooperative Agreements approved to date are California, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington.

EISERMAN RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Fred Eiserman was presented the Western Division's Award of Excellence at the Tuscon Meeting. Fred has served the AFS in many capacities over the years and recently was the prime mover of the successful Instream Flow Needs Symposium. Fred has been with Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. for 26 years and is presently Fish Resource Manager.

The Award was presented for the first time since 1970. The only other recipient to be so honored by the Division was Alex Calhoun.

DIVISION MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Western Division	1545 members
Southern Division	1218 members
North Central Division	1172 members
North Eastern Division	957 members

Executive Director Carl Sullivan reports that the number of new members has increased dramatically in the recent months (approx. 100 new members per month). He attributes the increase to the new Membership Brochure. It is indeed attractive.

THE 1977-78 OFFICERS ELECTED

The newly elected President-Elect is John Skinner. John has been employed by Cal. Fish and Game since 1954. He has been a member of AFS for 24 years and has been very active in the California-Nevada Chapter.

The new Secretary-Treasurer is Bob Wiley. Bob is Supervisor of Research for the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. He has held elected offices in both the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter and the Bonneville Chapter. He has served the Division on numerous committees and as Editor of the Newsletter.

Mr Bruce May was elected for the Parent Society Nominating Committee. Bruce was formerly with the Utah Dept. of Natural Resources. Recently, Bruce accepted a position with the Forest Service, Salmon National Forest, Salmon, Idaho. Bruce is currently President of the Bonneville Chapter.

Good luck to all the officers. Keep the Division rolling!!!

Do It In San Diego !

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of AFS and Western Assoc. Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel in San Diego, Cal. on July 18-20. The theme of the Conference is "Fish and Wildlife in American Society - A Matter of Dollars and Sense. The Conference will carry out the theme by developing information on the economic and social contributions of fish and wildlife to contempory American Society. One goal of the Conference is to produce a compendium of the value of fish and wildlife to society.

Mark those dates on your calendar and watch the next issue of the Newsletter for further details.

CATCH AND RELEASE SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

Copies of the Proceedings of the Symposium of Catch and Release Fisheries can be obtained from Dr. F. Reolofs, California Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521.

INTERESTED IN ENDANGERED SPECIES??

...portions of the main channel of the Virgin River in Nev., Ariz., and Utah have been proposed as Critical Habitat for the woundfin (Plagopterus argentissimus)...

...there are 30 fish, 5 amphibians, 10 reptiles, 68 birds and 36 mammals listed as endangered in the U. S.....

...the success of Federal and State agencies in restoring the greenback cutthroat trout (Salmo clarki stomias) has led the FWS to propose changing the fish's protection catagory from Endangered to Threatened....

...a 2.5 mile stretch of Ord Creek in Arizona underwent habitat restoration in attempts to aid the threatened Arizona trout (Salmo apache).

The above notes are short excerpts from the Endangered Species Technical Bulletin published monthly by the FWS. The Bulletin is free to individuals and organizations having direct involvement in the Endangered Species Program. Write:Dept. Interior, FWS., Endangered Species Program, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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