American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 October 1980 Number 1

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Fellow members; We have just completed a very successful Western Division meeting in Kalispell, Montana. We had well over 150 biologists in attendance, which is a record for at least the 18 years that I have been associated with the Western Division. We had an excellent program, which was reflected in the attendance at each of our AFS technical sessions (85-357/session).

We acted on 25 resolutions submitted from Chapters throughout the Division. Many of the resolutions were not as broad based as I feel Western Division resolutions should be. All resolutions except the one addressing the Northwest Power Bill were passed and transmitted to their respective recipients.

Don Duff's Riparian Habitat Committee did a super job in developing the Division Riparian Habitat Position Paper, which was accepted unanimously. The position paper is in the process of being published, and will be transmitted to the Chapters throughout the Division for distribution in their areas.

Committee Chairmen were appointed for the 1980-81 year and are as follows:

Awards Committee
Art Whitney, Montana
Canadian Concerns Committee
P.A. Larken, British Columbia
Endangered Species Committee
John Varley, Wyoming
Newsletter
Del Skeesick, Oregon
Publications
Brian Waters, California
Resolutions
John Peters, Colorado
Riparian Habitat
Don Duff, Utah
Student Concerns
Richard Tubbs, Oregon
Water Development Streamflow
Christopher Estes, AL, Bob Raleigh, CO
Nominating
Bob Wiley, Wyoming
Membership
Glen Philips, Montana
Environmental Concerns
Louis Carufel, Oregon

Chairmen were given the names of those responding to the committee assignment questionnaire in the May newsletter. Chairmen were asked to make their selections from those indicating interest in a committee assignment. Forty-seven percent of those who voted in the 1980 election responded to the questionnaire.

Dr. Robert White, leader of the Fisheries Cooperative Unit at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, is the new President-Elect, and Willis Evans, Regional Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Forest Service in San Francisco, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The division will remain intact. I, for one, was in favor of the split; however, based on the excellent working relationship that we had with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the progress we are making with Hawaii in developing the 1981 meeting, I feel that this was a wise decision. In the past, much of the desire to split came from the fact that the Division felt we were not being given a fair shake in developing the Fisheries program at the annual meeting.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS CONT'D

As for 1980-81, The Western Division is in the process of publishing its Riparian Position Paper. We intend to sponsor two workshops; one on Rocky Mountain Fish Habitat, coordinated by Bob Wiley, Wyoming, and Bill platts, Idaho; the other on Stream Survey and Data Storage coordinated by Neil Armentrout, Oregon. We also intend to be a part of the riparian field trip to evaluate riparian conditions in Idaho sponsored by the Forest Service. The riparian field trip is in direct response to our concern regarding riparian management on Forest Service administered lands.

The 1981 meeting will be held in Hawaii, and we are in the process of developing the fisheries technical program for this meeting. The Program Chairman is President-Elect Bob White. He is being assisted by Stan Moberley, Alaska, and Brain Waters, California. The theme of the meeting will be marine fisheries. We hope to develop a program which will be of interest and draw fisheries professionals from throughout the Western Division.

Del Skeesick, Editor of the Newsletter, intends to publish three Newsletters (October, January, May) and he will be pleased to receive material from you for publication.

Looking forward to an active year.

GORDON N. HAUGEN, President

WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY INSTREAM FLOW PRESERVATION RESOLUTION

The Water Development-Stream Flow Committee co-chaired by Christopher Estes, Alaska and Bob Raleigh, Colorado presented the following resolution at the annual meeting in Kalispell. Their committee has set an excellent goal and we are looking forward to their position paper.

WHEREAS, instream flows support an abundance of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, and that uses of these resources comprise a significant socioeconomic base for Countries, States, and Provinces within the Western Division region; and

WHEREAS, these resources include soil, minerals, water, timber, forage, a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, and resident and anadromous fish stocks and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, these instream water uses includes but are not limited to: Sport and commercial fisheries; recreation; navigation; hydropower generation; waste assimilation; conveyance of water required by downstream irrigated agriculture, municipal and industrial development; ecosystem maintenance; (estuaries, riparian vegetation, and floodplain wetlands), and scientific study; and

WHEREAS, narrowly conceived water management practices can and do detrimentally impact these renewable and nonrenewable resources and their uses; especially the fish resources, and

WHEREAS, present day streamflows in most western streams represent significant depletions from historic streamflows, and competing demands for existing streamflows continue to increase; and continuing utilization of diminishing streamflows for competing uses without adequate consideration of fish and wildlife needs has created and will continue to create deteriorated stream habitat conditions and adversely impact fish and other aquatic resources, and

WHEREAS, the Western Division American Fishery Society has a particular interest in preserving sufficient instream flows to maintain healthy, productive, self-sustaining fish stocks in America's streams, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that through the Water Development-Stream Flow Committee, the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society will within the next year develop a policy position for the preservation of adequate instream flows to maintain healthy, viable, self-sustaining fish populations in America's streams, and be it further

RESOLVED, that once this policy is established and ratified by the membership, that the Western Division will pursue an active course of action to have the said policy implemented by enactment of appropriate State, Provincial and National legislation, and by action oriented decisions by land and water management agencies and private sector entities.

ANCHOR ICE AFFECTS TROUT

In a brief article in the 1979 winter issue of SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE (Vol. 26, No. 2:2), Fisheries Professor Robert L. Butler (The Pennsylvania State University) and Research Biologist Vernon M. Hawthorne (University of California at Berkeley) provide succinct descriptions of the formation and biological effects of anchor ice.

Aspects of anchor ice such as when, how, and where it forms-as well as its breakup and effects on aquatic organisms-are documented in an 18-minute film in both color and sound, prepared by Drs. Hawthorne and Butler, entitled A Trout Stream in Winter. They have been developing the subject since 1962 and filming has continued when the formation of anchor ice was inevitable. Underwater views were filmed in time-lapse so one can see the development of frazil ice and anchor ice, and breakup of the latter in morning. Surface views are also provided in time-lapse.

The film should be of value to those interested in trout; their behavior and their winter environment. Frazil and anchor ice is common wherever freezing temperatures occur coupled with high radiation and neglible snow cover. Conditions similar to those shown in the film are found in some impounded streams in the mid-latitudes developed for hydraulic power. The imposed nighttime drought relative to minimum releases below a dam maximizes development of anchor ice. Sudden and heavy releases of water for power in the morning float away the anchor ice with its load of gravel. The rockload is dropped downstream in pools and deposited as gravel bars.

Copies of the film for purchase ($195.00) can be obtained from Robert L. Butler, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, 328 Mueller Laboratory, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802. Rental is $16/showing. Renter pays postage and insurance ($195.00) in return mail.

1 out of 257 isn't bad
thanks Max

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS
1981 ANNUAL MEETING

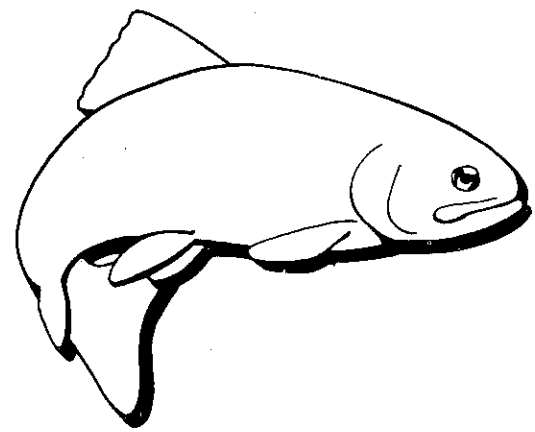
The 1981 Annual Meeting (111th) of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Classic Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 16-18, 1981. The meeting will be held in cooperation with and overlapping the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The theme for the Meeting will be "Fishes in their Environment" with a view towards promoting closer liaison between fisheries workers, ecologists and limnologists. Proposals for symposia, modules, debates and poster sessions to be convened by individuals or groups will be accepted until January 31, 1981.

The deadline for submission of formal abstracts to be considered for contributed paper sessions is March 15, 1981. Abstracts should be double-spaced on plain paper and limited to a maximum of 250 words. The abstract should include a title, objectives of the study, principal results and conclusions. It must include the full name, address and telephone number of each author. Please indicate if any of the authors is a student and visual aid requirements for the presentation. Authors will be notified of the status of their submissions by late May.

Those submitting abstracts should be aware that visual aids will be held to a high standard and are subject to approval by the Program Committee in advance. The 2"X2" slide is preferred. Authors of accepted papers will receive detailed information on presentation requirements.

All proposals, abstracts, and queries should be sent to J.H. Leach, AFS Program Chairman 1981, Lake Erie Fisheries Research Station, R.R. No. 2, Wheatley, Ontario, NOP 2PO, Canada.



AT LAST SOMETHING ABOUT FISH

RAZORBACK CULTURE UNDERWAY

Students working with the Larval Fish Laboratory of Colorado State University have obtained and incubated the eggs and are now rearing the larvae of the endangered razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus - not yet on the federal list). Ed Wick, with the assistance of former student Robert Hufziger, and the loan of equipment by Tom Lytle (Northwest regional non-game biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife) stripped and fertilized the eggs of fish found in the backwaters of the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado. Mark Castagneri, under the supervision of Ed Wick, has accepted responsibility for much of the culture work. Much of the effort is voluntary and without monetary compensation.

As with past culture efforts which include the flannelmouth, bluehead, white and longnose suckers (Catostomus latipinnis, discobolus, commersoni, and catostomus, respectively), these fish are being reared for developmental study and identification purposes. Unlike past efforts we expect to feed these fish via a food chain cultured and maintained with the fish in greenhouse pools. The specific technique has been under development by CSU's Fishery Coop Unit with the most recent work, "Sugar Enrichment as a Method for Culturing Warm-water Fish Fry" (Master's thesis), completed by David Jensen.

The biology of this fish, as with most other non-game and endangered species, has not yet been adequately studied to determine its current reproductive status, specific reasons for decline, or even to determine its critical habitat. Much information to date is speculative and uncertain. For example, it is not yet known whether the fish actually spawn in the backwaters in which they tend to aggregate (many of which are old gravel pits) or simply use the habitat as resting, feeding and/or staging grounds. Water temperatures are considerably higher in these backwaters than in the river and may be, at least in part, the attractive force. Pending adequate determination of the characters which distinguish the larvae and early juveniles of the razorback sucker from those of other species, field studies of these early life history periods should contribute much to our knowledge of the fish. If all goes well, we expect to issue a Larval Fish Laboratory "Identification Circular" on this species within the next two years. Funds are being sought for the necessary developmental study and preparation of the circular.

Darrel E. Snyder
Larval Fish Laboratory
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523
6/28/80

CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual meeting of the Western Division American Fisheries Society will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, July 13-17, 1981. The program will consist of several special topic sessions and two or more contributed paper sessions. If you have a general interest paper to contribute, send an abstract of 200 words or less to Robert G. White, Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717 by November 21, 1980. Papers on both marine and fresh water topics are welcomed. Also, if you have an idea for a special topic session let me know your throughts by the above date Special topic sessions will be issue oriented and of general interest. This is your chance for input into the program so let us hear from you.

ALASKA MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

Alaska has been conducting a membership drive using the "buddy system" to identify potential members. Once identified, these persons are contacted by the Chapter and encouraged to join and hopefully can provide additional names of potential members. Effort is being made to encourage other disciplines to join such as engineers that work with fish related projects. There appears to be a lot of interest. Also, some of the engineers have expressed interest in forming or supporting the formation of a bio-engineering section in the society.

WESTERN DIVISION MEETING

The annual Joint Meeting with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at Kalispell was an outstanding example of a purposeful program ideally balanced with pleasant experiences.

The obvious highlite of the entire program was the panel whose topic was FEDERAL AGENCY DIRECTION FOR MANAGING RIPARIAN HABITAT IN THE WESTERN U.S. with Max Peterson, USFS; Frank Gregg, BLM; General Wells, USAC of E; Kenneth Williams, SCS; and Lynn Greenwalt, USFWS. The session topic was introduced by past Division President Bill Platts and Gordon Haugen, President-Elect moderated the panel. For that time period we were the only act in town. Consequently, the session was well attended by commissioners, agency heads, and administrative staff as well as our own members. One can't help but feel that the Western Division has given this topic its "best shot" and really identified our concerns to people who should be able to effect improvements.

The Western Division Program, in general, was the strongest, and the best attended of any that this author has attended. Credit certainly goes to Art Whitney, Gordon Haugen, and Ron Marcoux for their outstanding efforts. Free-time activities were outstanding.

The Montana Chapter of AFS and the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks were terrific hosts. The hospitality room was a rallying point for visiting AFS members to inter-act with their counterparts from Montana. The excursion boat ride and bar-b-que drew a heck of a crowd and the Mission Mountain Band had everyone hopping and stomping after the awards banquet.

Dr. Richard Whitney of University of Washington received the Western Division's Award of Excellence at the Annual Awards Banquet for his work guiding the Washington courts in the resolution of the Indian Treaty Rights issue. In receiving this award, he joins Roger Burrows, Fred Eiserman and Alex Calhoun who have been similarly recognized for their outstanding service.

All who attended the meeting owe a great THANK YOU to Keith Colbo, the new Director of Montana Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and to his able staff for hosting an exceptional meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Environmental Concerns Committee has determined a course of action to guide their activities this year, according to Louie Carufel, their chairman.

Each chapter is encouraged to select a liaison who can prepare and present chapter concerns as they surface. The committee would like to emphasize issues, policies, or conflicts, that are of regional, interstate or international significance. If anyone is in doubt, submit it to the Environmental Concerns Committee and they will screen it for timeliness and applicability.

Issues submitted should be presented in as complete a report as possible so the committee can take a specific action. If the topic is to become a discussion item at the annual Division Meeting, it should be submitted six weeks in advance to allow time for analysis and preparation of a response that will have maximum impact.

The committee is chaired by Lou Carufel. Committee correspondence should be addressed to Lou Carufel, BLM, 701 C St. Box 13, Anchorage, AK 99513.

The members are Lou Carufel, William Hauser, Dave Narver, Al Elser, Robert Patterson, Max Katz, and Almo Cordone.

TRIAL AND ERROR

Last year, we tried to save a few bucks by sending all the newsletters third class. The information you provided when you sent in the ballots firmly demonstrated that the U.S. Post Office can not deliver third class mail in a timely manner. Johnie Crance recieves credit for having mail delivered after the longest period of time. It took 2 months and 2 days in transit.

Consequently, the executive committee decided to send the October and February newsletters third class and the May (election) newsletter first class. We think that will assure that information will get to you in a timely manner.

Thanks very much for taking the time to fill out the questionaire. Be assured that we tallied all ballots received before July 12 (not the June 23 deadline indicated on the ballot).

Live and learn

SPLITTING THE DIVISION

After several years of debate and discussion about splitting the Western Division, the general membership has spoken. The final results were 109 votes in favor of dividing and 149 votes to retain the present organization. About 75% of those who voted for dividing were in favor of a Northwest-Southwest split. Since it took a 2/3 majority to effect a split, the issue was not even very close. Now that the matter has been decided, it is time to direct our energies to improving our Division's activities and coordinating our meetings with those of the WAFWA.

ALASKA ANNUAL MEETING

The Alaska Chapter will hold its 7th Annual Conference at Alyeska Ski Resort November 18 through 21. President-Elect and Program chairman, Roger Grischkowsky has put together a varied and stimulating program. Panels will discuss such subjects as regional comprehensive planning among the various agencies in the State; how to avoid problems such as have happened in Bristol Bay this past year; fish disease and genetics and individual contributed papers. Efforts are being made to include fishermen industry representatives and legislators as program participants and attendees.

RESULTS

As a direct result of Western Division concern for riparian habitat, a field trip to the Sawtooth National Forest, and perhaps others, has been scheduled for October 6, 7 and 8, to inspect and discuss riparian habitat management on National Forests. Participants include representatives of the Washington D.C. and Region 4 U.S. Forest Service; The Wildlife Society; National Wildlife Federation; and Western Division of American Fisheries Society. Errol Claire from Oregon and Ron Marcoux from Montana have been selected to represent AFS. Watch the next newsletter for a report from Ron and Errol.

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