

Western Division, American Fisheries Society

**Vice President**  
**2000 Candidate Biographies**

***Donald D. MacDonald***

Donald D. MacDonald, *R.P. Bio.*, is the principal of MacDonald Environmental Sciences Ltd., an environmental consulting firm that specializes in environmental assessment and ecosystem-based management. He is also the Canadian Director of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation, a non-profit, charitable organization that is focussed on the development and implementation of a sustainable fisheries strategy for west coast salmon and steelhead populations. Over the past 20 years, Don has published more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and technical reports on a wide variety of topics related to aquatic resource management, water quality assessment, sediment quality assessment, and ecosystem management.

Don has been a member of AFS for the past 15 years. Over that time, he has served on the executive committees of the North Pacific International Chapter and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section. He has also served on various committees at the chapter, section, and parent society levels. As Director of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation, he has also organized and facilitated a number of technical meetings, workshops, and conferences, frequently in partnership with various AFS subunits.

“I believe that the Western Division has the potential to be one of the most potent and productive subunits of AFS. Recent history has shown that the members and the Chapters in the Western Division are among the most

***Richard N. Williams***

Rick Williams is a geneticist and ecologist who owns and directs Clear Creek Genetics, a small research and consulting firm in Meridian, Idaho. He is also a Research Associate Professor at the University of Idaho’s Hagerman Center for Salmonid and Aquatic Species at Risk. His research and publications have focused on the application of molecular genetics to conservation problems for native salmonids in western North America.

Rick has been active in Columbia River salmon recovery issues since 1989. Currently, he is Chair of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), a panel of senior scientists that advise the Northwest Power Planning Council on issues of salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. He is one of the co-authors of *Return to the River*, an in-depth review of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. *Return to the River* identified many critical problems in the current salmon restoration program and proposed a new ecologically-based approach to salmon recovery and restoration.

As a WDAFS officer, Rick would work to ensure that AFS maintains a presence and a the most active and effective in the Society. As a Society, we have done an outstanding job of promoting science-based role in assisting policy development and management programs to recover populations of our indigenous western fishes, including sturgeon, salmon, steelhead, cutthroat, and rainbow trout. Recovery programs for many of the

***Rick Williams*** (continued)

interior trout taxa lag behind those of the anadromous salmonids, in terms of development and funding. Thus, involvement by AFS chapters, sections, or the Western Division may assist those programs in a number of ways including peer-review, advisory or technical panels, or manpower. Rick will work with the members and officers of WDAFS to find opportunities for the Division to make material contributions to the conservation of western fishes.

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***Don MacDonald*** (continued)

active and effective in the Society. As a Society, we have done an outstanding job of promoting professionalism and scientific excellence. Our ability to publish and disseminate scientific research and technical information is unsurpassed. These activities have provided fisheries scientists, fisheries managers, and others with the best tools and information available for managing fisheries and the habitats upon which they depend. Nevertheless, the integrity of aquatic resources throughout west has declined dramatically over the past few decades. Therefore, it is apparent that scientific information and professional excellence alone are not sufficient to assure the future of our shared fisheries resources. In addition, we need to become more effective in the shaping of public opinion and public policy.”

“If elected to the Western Division Executive Committee, I will focus my efforts on maintaining our long-standing tradition of scientific excellence and expanding our role as advocates for the resource. In the near-term, I will work diligently with you to identify how we, as fisheries professionals, can most effectively address the major issues that are currently undermining our ability to effectively manage fisheries and associated freshwater and estuarine habitats. As a first step, I will work with others on the ExCom to organize a major symposium on this topic for the 2001 Annual Meeting of AFS. This symposium, *Can the Journey of Science and Education Lead to Fisheries Sustainability in North America?*, will result in the development of a series of recommendations for addressing these major issues and empowering fisheries professionals in the public policy arena. The organization of this Symposium represents a cornerstone of my platform.”

“I also believe that fisheries professionals need to develop more effective partnerships with community groups and other non-governmental organizations to achieve our common objectives with respect to fisheries and aquatic resource management. For this reason, I will encourage the Western Division to expand the focus of its annual meetings and, in so doing, by making them more relevant to fisheries professionals and others with a stake in aquatic resource management. More specifically, I will propose that the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Western Division be organized as a Coast-wide Salmon Recovery Conference. I will further propose that such a conference be designed to provide opportunities for involvement by fisheries professionals, community groups, tribal organizations/First Nations, conservation groups, policy makers, agency representatives, and other interested groups. I am hopeful that such a conference will provide an opportunity to share technical information and engage in the development of cooperative solutions to the challenges that we are currently facing in the management of fisheries

resources.”



Dr. RICHARD N. WILLIAMS

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