

American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Time is swiftly passing with one half of the Western Division year already behind us. We have accomplished much and are well on our way to a very productive year. Some committees have been extremely active while others are just picking up momentum.

The Water Development and Streamflow Committee has finalized the draft AFS policy statement on "Effects of River and Streamflow Alteration on Fishery Resources" and submitted it to the parent society Environmental Concerns Committee. The ECC has approved the statement and recommended that it be adopted by the Society Executive Committee and published in Fisheries in the near future. We owe a great deal of appreciation to John Peters (CO), Christopher Estes (AK) and other committee members for their efforts. I believe that development of position papers is one of the more important functions of the Division.

The Riparian Committee, under the leadership of Gordon Haugen, has also been very active. The second draft of the Riparian Best Management Practices Paper has been completed and is presently being reviewed. They expect to have the final draft completed and edited by May 15, with publication expected before our

annual meeting in July. The committee is also working on completing a slide-tape module on riparian habitat.

The Endangered Species Committee under the chairmanship of John Rinne has reviewed one recovery plan and is presently working on the role of states in preservation of threatened and endangered species. In addition, a mini symposia on "Problems Associated with Culturing Threatened and Endangered Species," is being planned for the annual meeting.

Don Duff and his program committee have done an excellent job developing a timely and informative program around the theme of "Allocation of Natural Resources on Public Lands: the Challenge of the 80's." Joe Greenley, Director of Nevada Fish and Game and President of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has been extremely helpful and cooperative. Our 1982 meeting in Las Vegas is going to be a good one so plan to attend!

Stan Moberly is developing an active membership campaign. He has been working at the chapter level in recruiting new members and encouraging delinquent members to become active. Stan has asked each Chapter President to appoint someone to the Membership Committee, but relatively few chapters have responded. We hope that all chapters will respond soon.

We need your help. In fact, I encourage each of you to help in the recruitment effort. I see no legitimate excuse for any fisheries professional to not be an active supporter of AFS, both from a professional and resource standpoint.

The Aquatic Habitat Inventory Symposium held last October was a huge success. Neil Armantrout is now in the process of negotiating with potential publishers. The program for the Rocky Mountain Stream Habitat Management Workshop, to be held September 7-10 in Jackson, Wyoming is nearly complete. Bob Wiley, steering committee chairman, says the workshop will emphasize field aspects of stream habitat management and will be limited to 75 invited participants.

The Division has been involved in numerous other activities. For example, we sent telegrams to key congressmen in support for the Cooperative Instream Flow Service Group; John Peters (CO) represented the Society at a symposium entitled "Public Lands and the Reagan Administration"; and we have worked on D. J. Expansion. We are an activist organization and can do much to benefit the resource and the profession. If you know of issues that need our attention, please contact the editor. Thanks for your interest.
BOB WHITE, President

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Cal-Neva Chapter meeting was held 22-23 January in conjunction with the Western Section of the Wildlife Society in Reno. The Parent Society was represented by President John Magnuson and Don Duff represented the Western Division. The meeting was a huge success. Phil Pister received the membership excellence award for his international efforts with Mexico. Don Odenweiler became President-Elect and Ken Hashagen was installed as President. The role of hatcheries in trout and salmon management was the topic of this year's AFS/Cal-Trout Symposium held in conjunction with the meeting.

The eighth annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter was held 17-19 November at Chena Hot Springs Resort, 60 miles east of Fairbanks. An excellent program was attended by the 97 registrants. Don Schell received the Chapter's first best paper award for his presentation, "Overwintering Ecology of Colville River Fish". Bill Heard (NMFS) became President-elect and Tom Kron (ADF&G) Secretary-Treasurer; Jim Reynolds (USFWS) was installed as President. The Chapter also established the "Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence" to be given to anyone, private or government, who is judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Alaska fisheries. In the long run, the beneficiary of this type of professional recognition is the resource that we are all working to enhance and preserve.

The Bonneville Chapter held its annual meeting on February 8-9, at the University of Utah. The theme of the meeting was "Resource Development in Utah: Impacts on Fishes and Fish Habitat". Chapter representatives will be working with the Utah Water Alliance Center regarding impacts and concerns related to proposed hydroelectric projects and (FERC) permits in Utah. The Chapter will also work with the Nature Conservancy in developing recommendations for adding unique natural areas to the national list, based on their fisheries and aquatic habitat values.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN '81

Manage Forest Lands for Habitat Diversity:

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are rapidly converting their remaining stands of old growth timber on lands they manage in the western states to intensively managed second growth forests under short rotations, and

WHEREAS, management to provide old growth for habitat diversity,

particularly in riparian zones, will provide benefits to water quality and important fish habitat in the form of stream structure and stability -- primarily for salmon and trout, and

WHEREAS, the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society adopted a position paper on "Management and Protection of Western Riparian Stream Ecosystems" on July 14, 1980, which emphasizes the importance of riparian areas to the productivity of western streams, and

WHEREAS, both the USFS and BLM are currently preparing land use plans which will determine how riparian areas will be managed, and how much old growth will be provided for habitat diversity to benefit all wildlife species including fish, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the USFS and BLM to provide habitat for all species of fish and wildlife, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society fully supports the management of western forest lands to provide an adequate amount of old growth timber for habitat diversity, and be it further

RESOLVED, by adopting this resolution, the American Fisheries Society recommends to the USFS and BLM that they incorporate provisions in their land use plans to provide old growth for habitat diversity in stream corridors as well as on other forest lands to meet site specific conditions in individual geographic planning areas, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to appropriate Regional Foresters of the USFS and State Directors of the BLM for all western states to be considered in land use plans being prepared within their respective jurisdictions.

Support Cooperative Unit Program:

WHEREAS, the proposed FY82 budget does not allocate funds for the continuation of the Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Research Units; and

WHEREAS, this action will result in the termination of all 50 Cooperative Research Units in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, termination of the Cooperative Research Units would end a long history of successful, cost-shared cooperation among Federal agencies, State agencies and Universities in solving practical problems of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Research Units conduct high quality research at a savings of 60 to 90 percent to cooperators; and

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Research Unit Program has been the cornerstone of Federal fish and wildlife research since its inception in 1935; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Unit Program has produced, through graduate training, a large proportion of the high-caliber professional fish and wildlife people employed by state, Federal and private agencies, and Universities; and

WHEREAS, the Western Division American Fisheries Society recognizes and appreciates the contributions of the Cooperative Research Unit Program to environmental quality, outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, and commercial fisheries in the West and Nation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Division American Fisheries Society urges the Congress of the United States to assure that funds are appropriated to continue the Cooperative Research Unit Program.

WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

WDAFS 1982 Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 19-22, 1982, at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Joe Greenley, WAFWA, and Don Duff, WDAFS, are in the process of finalizing the agenda. Papers and poster/exhibit displays for the meeting are still being accepted. If you have anything to present at the meeting, or would like to volunteer your services in some way, please contact

Don Duff, Program Chairman, c/o Wildlife Management Staff, Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401, phone 801-625-5662 or FTS 586-5662.

FERC WEAKENS WILDLIFE PROTECTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has weakened its regulations pertaining to small hydropower developments. The change allows FERC to license hydropower developments under 16 megawatts with much reduced consideration for effects on most fish and wildlife. The regulations limit input from state and federal agencies to that pertaining to anadromous fish and threatened and endangered species. Non-migratory fish and all nonendangered and nonthreatened wildlife reportedly will be ignored. Furthermore, the fish and wildlife agencies may no longer have the means to address key issues such as instream release rates and impoundment water-level fluctuations.

Section 408 of the Energy Security Act authorizes FERC to grant exemptions from licensing procedures only if such exemptions contain the terms and conditions provided by state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. The new regulations will treat the "terms and conditions" requirements of the Act as "recommendations" which will not be considered binding.

Congress is viewing legislation that would give FERC even broader powers to ignore fish and wildlife. S. 1299 would allow the Commission to waive environmental requirements pertaining to hydropower plants less than 30 megawatts (this includes 98 percent of the plants likely to be built nationwide).

The regulations reportedly were so confusing in their original form that few fish and wildlife agencies bothered to comment. This absence of criticism apparently was interpreted by FERC as a sign of support.

Members are urged to write their congressmen in an effort to change these regulations.

CLEAN AIR ACT IN TROUBLE

The Reagan administration has proposed guidelines to relax the Clean Air Act which expired on September 30, 1981. These guidelines have taken the form of the Broyhill-Dingell Bill (H.R. 5252) which was introduced in congress just before Christmas. If passed, the bill would provide for a doubling of allowable emissions of many toxic pollutants including the precursors of acid rain. Additionally, many other clean air standards including those dealing with National Parks and Wilderness Areas would be compromised. Members and chapters are urged to voice their opposition to H.R. 5252 and support H.R. 252, the Vento-Lewis Clean Air Resolution.

WEST COAST AQUACULTURE FOUNDATION

The West Coast Aquaculture Foundation, a non-profit, educational organization, was incorporated to encourage the development of aquaculture in the Western States by stimulating and enhancing communication to bring about a balanced apportionment of those public resources needed to support a successful aquaculture community. To accomplish the goals stated in their Charter, the Foundation will have to be funded for about 3 years at about \$200,000 per year. Costs of membership include \$100-producer, \$300-sustaining and \$15-associate. For more information contact George Ray, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

WESTERN ACID RAIN

The acid rain controversy is making headlines throughout the United States and Canada, and is the subject of major recent articles in National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. Acid rain problems in the Northeast have received the majority of media and research attention to date, but some research (Oregon State University, EPA/Corvallis, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) is

now beginning to assess the potential effects of acid rain on western fish species and populations. For further information, contact Robert Lackey (Environmental Protection Agency, 200 S.W. 35th Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97333).

HABITAT EVALUATION PROCEDURES COURSES SCHEDULED

The USFWS in cooperation with Colorado State University is offering a course in Habitat Evaluation Procedures in Juneau, AK (March 15-19); Los Angeles, CA (April 12-16); Seattle, WA (May 17-21), and Fort Collins, CO (Aug. 9-13). The class is designed for field biologists, foresters, land use planners, and fish and wildlife managers. The course focuses on developing management plans and preparing environmental assessments. For additional information contact Chuck Solomon, WELUT, 2625 Redwing Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526 (Phone: 303-226-9421).

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alaska District, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists will sponsor a symposium on Old Growth Forests and Fish in Juneau, Alaska on April 12-13, 1982. The AIFRB symposium will be followed on April 14-16 by a companion symposium on Old Growth Forests and Wildlife, sponsored by the Northwest Region of the Wildlife Society. Emphasis will be on western U.S. and Canada. For further details contact John H. Helk, Director, Alaska AIFRB, Auke Bay Laboratory, P.O. Box 155, Auke Bay, AK 99821 (Phone: 907-789-7231).

MISSOURI RIVER STUDY

The Montana Power Company recently funded an investigation of the fishery along a 4 mile reach of the Missouri river directly below Hauser Dam near Helena, MT. The study is designed to predict effects of flow fluctuations associated with power

peaking and is being conducted by state and federal biologists. Factors being investigated include seasonal abundance and distribution of fishes, rainbow and brown trout spawning, trout rearing, trout food habits, and the potential effects of various operating regimes upon sport fish populations in the reach.

POTPOURRI

Congratulations to the Oregon Chapter for receiving the "National Resources Council of America Award of Achievement." The award is in recognition of the chapter's work in creating the new Oregon riparian law. We hope that the good example of the Oregon Chapter will stimulate other chapters to higher achievement in the future.

The mid-term parent society Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 17-19 March, 1982. Western Division EXCOM members Bob White and Don Duff will attend.

Joe Greenley, Director Nevada Fish and Game and President of the Western Association was recently named Executive Director Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Anyone interested in participating in the symposia on "Problems Associated with Culturing Threatened and Endangered Species" which will be held at the annual meeting should contact John Rinne, Forest Services Lab, ASU Campus, Tempe, Arizona 85287.

Stan Moberly has sent letters to all AFS members in Hawaii, trying to stimulate their interest in forming a chapter.

The Western Division is sponsoring a belt buckle to raise money for the AFS Capitol Building Fund. Hopefully the buckles will be ready for the Las Vegas meetings.

The Western Division Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for Chapter of the Year Award. Send written justification to Jack Griffith, Biology Department, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID 83209.

EDITORS NOTE

One of our greatest responsibilities as fishery biologists is to react to issues that affect aquatic resources and to voice our opinions to the appropriate government agencies and to congress. It goes without saying that the Reagan Administration, including James Watt and Ann Gorsuch have given us plenty to react to. Changes in the Clean Air Act,

the Clean Water Act, and FERC regulations are just a few of the very important issues facing all of us. If we do not take the time to fight for the resource, who will? I urge all of you to bring these issues to the attention of the membership via the newsletter.

The deadlines for submitting material for the next newsletter is May 15, 1982. I would again like to remind everyone to keep your addresses current with the parent society. Speaking of addresses, I recently moved from Bozeman to Helena and my new address is indicated below. I am looking forward to receiving your contributions to the next issue.

GLENN R. PHILLIPS, Editor

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