



“The Confluence”

FALL 2011 AFS WA-BC Chapter Newsletter

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Our Focus: Informing and strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science, and conserving aquatic and fisheries resources.

The Confluence is only as good as your contributions. Please feel free to info on upcoming events, new publications, new hires, retirements, promotions as well as longer articles to Orly Johnson (orlay.johnson@noaa.gov) or Stephanie Caballero (scabellero@fs.fed.us). If you have questions don't hesitate to contact us.

Info on Washington-British Columbia Chapter is at: <http://wabc-afs.org/>. Info on American Fisheries Society is at: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/index.html>.

Up Coming Events

FREE WA-BC Chapter Salmon BBQ and Thank You Party in Seattle

Why: Let's start off the New Year by thanking each other for all the tremendous efforts we put into our flourishing WA-BC Chapter AND a special thanks to members for the hundreds of volunteer hours you donated to the AFS Seattle 2011 meeting!

AFS Seattle volunteers from UW Student Chapter (top) and Simon Fraser Univ. (bottom)



Who: All Chapter members, potential members (e.g. students) and their families.

When: Saturday, January 21st from 2 – 8 p.m. Come for all or part of the afternoon – salmon will be served continuously.

Where: The Wedgewood and Viewridge Rooms at the Seattle Parks and Recreation Facility Bldg. 406 (“The Brig”), Magnuson Park, NE 74th Street, northeast Seattle (NE 74th Street is off of Sand Point Way). See map at: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson>

How Much: FREE, but bring a potluck side dish, munchies, or dessert to share. Chapter will supply lots of salmon fillets, soft drinks and keg beer for adults, as well as utensils. Donations are also welcome! Come for an hour or all day -- there is an off-leash dog area next door, paths along Lake Washington in Magnuson Park to wander, and even a climbing wall at the Mountaineers headquarters.



Beyond Borders is the theme of the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the WA-BC AFS Chapter. This will be a joint conference of the WA-BC Chapter, The Society for Ecological Restoration: Northwest and British Columbia Chapters, and the University of Victoria's Restoration of Natural Systems Program. The AGM will be held at the University of Victoria in Victoria, B.C. on May 15-18, 2012. Registration will open later this month (December 2011).

This conference will be a gathering of scientists, professionals, and government agencies involved in ecological restoration and fisheries issues in the northwestern U.S. and B.C. The event will be a tremendous opportunity to communicate and network with people who share your business, academic, and/or non-profit goals in fisheries and ecological restoration. Attendance is expected to exceed 500 people.

“Beyond Borders” is a four-day event. There will be three full days of technical talks/symposia and concurrent workshops and one day of field trips (Thursday). We welcome all disciplines,

including: botany, ecology, fisheries, wildlife, forestry, hydrology, and marine biology, as well as the expertise of academics, practitioners, researchers, and government.

Call for Symposia Proposals: If you would like to lead a symposium, please submit a brief (~500 word) abstract to Brian Missildine at <cohophysh@yahoo>, which describes your proposed symposium. Deadline for symposia submittals is Friday, January 20, 2012.

For more information, see:

<http://agm2012.wabc-afs.org/2011/11/second-call-for-symposia/> or contact Brian Missildine by email at <cohophysh@yahoo> or by phone at 360-455-3177.



Fishing in Nanaimo, BC
(Photo credit: Nanaimo-info-blog.com)

Chapter Officer Reports

President Mark Celedonia

Last weekend, my wife and I took our two young boys to the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail just west of Olympia. Whenever I



come here, I always reflect on a certain scientist who was instrumental in helping to create the trail - Jeff Cederholm. Having been a student of Jeff's, I hear his familiar refrain "wild salmon forever!" even before I hit the Jeff Cederholm Memorial Bridge that takes the trail over a small tributary. As many of you know, Jeff was one of the most active and outspoken scientists advocating for salmon conservation. The Kennedy

Creek trail and the Jeff Cederholm Memorial Bridges are fitting tributes to his legacy. Through these and other activities, active professionals such as Jeff educate, encourage, and inspire the general public, ecologists, and conservationists. These are the next generation of fisheries and aquatic tangible and vital products of active involvement.

It is this same type of active involvement that makes our Chapter run. Look at the success of the Seattle conference. We hosted by far the biggest and no doubt best AFS conference ever! I was truly inspired by the outpouring of support and active involvement from so many Chapter members. We could not have had near the success we did without the help from so many. On behalf of the Chapter, thank you!! And if you haven't done so already, give yourself a big pat on the back – you deserve it!!

The Seattle meeting was indeed a proud showing of the strength and vitality of our Chapter. And just a few short weeks after the

conference, your AFS WA-BC leadership team (a.k.a. the Executive Committee) met to chart the course for growing that strength and vitality in the coming year. We set an ambitious agenda that includes engaging in more education and outreach activities, increasing support to our student membership (which, by the way, we have an extraordinarily active and vibrant student membership!), redesigning our website, and enhancing our presence online and in the social media. We have numerous committees for these and other activities that are in need of Chairs and members. And let's not forget about our 2012 WA-BC Chapter Annual General Meeting (<http://agm2012.wabc-afs.org/>). We are co-convening with the University of Victoria and the Society for Ecological Restoration: Northwest and British Columbia Chapters in Victoria, B.C. on May 15-18. In order for any of these activities to be successful, we need help from our members - you!

There has never been a better time to get more involved in your Chapter. If you've ever thought about volunteering, even just a little bit, now is the time to do it. You can give as much or as little as you want. The bottom line is that every contribution - no matter how small it may seem - makes a tremendous difference in what we can achieve. You can and will make a difference, even with just one hour per week! And who knows, maybe someday you'll have a bridge named after you too!

Contact Mark for more information on how you can help the WA-BC Chapter: mark_celedonia@fws.gov or 360-534-9327.



Vice-President Brian Missildine

Hello, fellow WA-BC members! This is my first report of my term as your Vice-President, so I am still navigating my way through what I am supposed to do. This has been quite an interesting year. As most of you know, our Chapter hosted the largest AFS conference ever this past fall in Seattle, and I personally want to thank each and every one of you who volunteered: **thank you, thank you, and thank you!**

As this is my first report, I thought I would touch on some of the VP's responsibilities. So, for those of you who don't know, the primary role of the VP is membership. There was a lot of enthusiasm for AFS during the 2011 conference in Seattle, and I hope it sparked some interest in our own WA-BC Chapter. Currently, we have 904 members and out of those 904 members, 499 of you clicked the WA-BC Chapter box when renewing your annual AFS membership online. We encourage all of you to click on the WA-BC Chapter box when renewing.

Along with being responsible for our Chapter membership, I am also responsible for the symposia during our 2012 AGM, so if you have any thoughts for a symposia topic, please send me an email at: cohophysh@yahoo.com. Also, I am responsible for securing a venue for our AGM in 2013, which will be held in Washington. So far, I am looking into conference centers in Tulalip, Vancouver, Wenatchee, and Lake Chelan.

Finally, the Executive Committee is here for you so, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us. Good Fishing!

Treasurer Emily Pizzichemi

Currently, our assets total \$52,750.

We are in the process of finalizing our budget for the upcoming year. We are expecting to bring in \$40,000 from the AFS Seattle meeting and \$19,000 from the upcoming AGM in Victoria. Most of our major expenditures will go toward student activities and scholarships, non-student sponsorships and events (i.e., conferences, workshops, outreach), and administrative and professional development services for running the Chapter (i.e., website redesign and support, travel for AFS business, awards, etc.). A full list of budgeted expenses will be released to our members when finalized.



University of Washington Student Chapter News



“Greetings, Friends of AFSUW!”

From Chapter President Jessica Rohde

Don't forget to check out the UW Student Chapter's Facebook page!

<http://www.facebook.com/AFSUW>

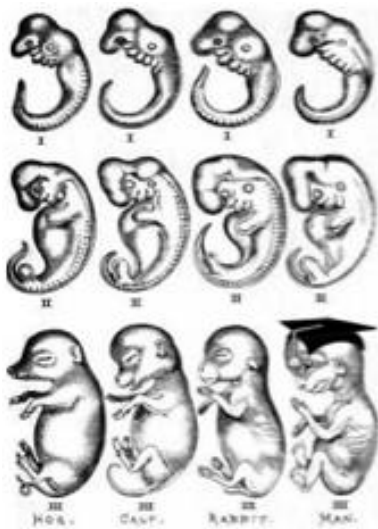
Now it's even easier to know what the Student Chapter is up to! "Like" us to show your support. In addition, you will get Facebook notifications about our upcoming events, and can share your pictures, videos, and links, or tell us that story about "the big one" that got away.

TRIVIA NIGHT on February 9th 2012 at 6:30pm in the main lobby in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (map may

be found at: <http://washington.edu/maps/?FSH>). The Student Chapter wants to meet and mingle with parent chapter members, so please come enjoy some beer, pizza, and fishy trivia! Check the website and facebook page for updates on time and place.

To receive UW Student Chapter updates: become a member (anyone can sign up regardless of student status) on our website: <http://students.washington.edu/afsuw/member.html>.

Please contact us at afsuw@uw.edu with any questions.



4th Career Development Seminar Series & "Blue Drinks" Social was held November 14th

AFSUW and the UW Student Chapter of the Coastal Society jointly sponsored the 4th installment of the Career Development Seminar Series. Seminar Speaker was Mark Celedonia, current President of the Washington - British Columbia Chapter. Following Mark's talk there was the interdisciplinary "Blue Drinks" social and a career panel discussion sponsored by the Coastal Society. Mark spoke on his experiences working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and opportunities for employment in his Agency.

AFSUW's Mentor Program in action (left) and Spring Beach Cleanup 2011 (right) (photos from AFSUW website)



Congratulations Caroline Storer and Neala Kendall!

Two outstanding Student Subunit members were honored at the AFS 2011 Conference.



Caroline Storer (left) was awarded the James Wright Student Travel Award, given in recognition of her potential for success in research in fisheries genetics as well as her service to the American Fisheries Society. Caroline was invaluable in her role as the President of the UW Student Subunit in 2010-2011, coordinating the development of several new outreach programs.

Neala Kendall (right) was awarded the J. Frances Allen Scholarship and the Eugene Maughan Scholarship in recognition of her research promise, scientific merit, and academic achievement. Neala has always been an active UW Student Subunit member, and she recently organized a Student-Mentor Happy Hour and Lunch, Career Fair, and Student Social as the Chair of Student Activities at AFS 2011. She joins the NWFSC staff as a post-doctoral student in 2012.

WA-BC Chapter Fall Retreat at the University of Washington-Tacoma

The annual Fall Retreat of the WA-BC Chapter was held this past October 22, 2011 at the UW-Tacoma Campus. Present were members of the Executive Committee, as well as the President and Vice-President of the UW Student Subunit of AFS, Jessica Rohde and Iris Kemp. The agenda included setting goals for increasing the Chapter's education and outreach opportunities, further engaging the Student Chapters, expanding our online and social media presence, communicating with current and potential volunteers, as well as redesigning our Chapter website. There will be a link to the Fall Retreat meeting minutes posted soon on the WA-BC Chapter website: <http://wabc-afs.org>



Chapter Fall Retreat attendees, clock-wise from top of table: Mark Celedonia, Brian Missildine, Stephanie Caballero, Lisa Harlan, Iris Kemp, Jessica Rohde's computer, John Morgan, Mark Pedersen, Orlay Johnson, and Emily Pizzichemi.
(photo: Jessica Rohde)

Dr. Richard Beamish has retired as head of DFO's Pacific Marine Station in Nanaimo, BC

I retired in May and am an Emeritus scientist with an office at the Pacific Biological Station and a small budget. I try to keep my fisheries stuff to less than 30 hours a week. I am finishing a book on the Strait of Georgia with a number of other authors and a second book on the marine ecology of Pacific salmon. Our book on "Salmon Lice" just came out a few months ago. My plans are to continue "part time" with the reporting of the salmon studies we did over the past 20 years and begin to write up my work on lamprey. I think that I have at least one new species to describe as well as a new character that may help understand lamprey evolution. I am continuing as an Editor for TAFS as I think that it is important for people to publish. My recent medical event makes me watch what I do a little more carefully and spend more time in the gym. I also have more time to do things that I used to think I didn't have time for.



**At right:
Pacific Marine
Station in
Nanaimo, BC**



Fish Genetics Across the Cut -- Celebration held in honor of Dr. Utter's work in genetics at NWFSC and the UW

Dr. Fred M. Utter turned 80 in December. To mark this historic event and his long association with the University of Washington and NOAA Fisheries, SAFS and the Genetic Monitoring Working Group (GeM) hosted a one-day celebration titled, "Fish Genetics Across the Cut". The event included a workshop by the GeM group featuring presentations by Fred Allendorf, Nils Ryman, Dave Tallmon, and Robin Waples followed by the SAFS Departmental Seminar given by Dr. Allendorf. In the evening a dinner in honor of Dr. Utter was served for attendees at the University of Washington's Waterfront Activities Center.



Seattle's Montlake Cut separating NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the University of Washington campus (photo: Orlay Johnson)



Spotlight
on the
2011 recipient of the
WA-BC Chapter
Volunteer Organization
Award

Each year, the WA-BC Chapter of AFS searches for a volunteer organization that is active in our region and who has made exemplary contributions to fisheries conservation, education, and/or science to be the recipient of our Volunteer Organization Award. This award is given to the chosen organization at our Annual General Meeting, which was held during the American Fisheries Society conference in September in Seattle, Washington.

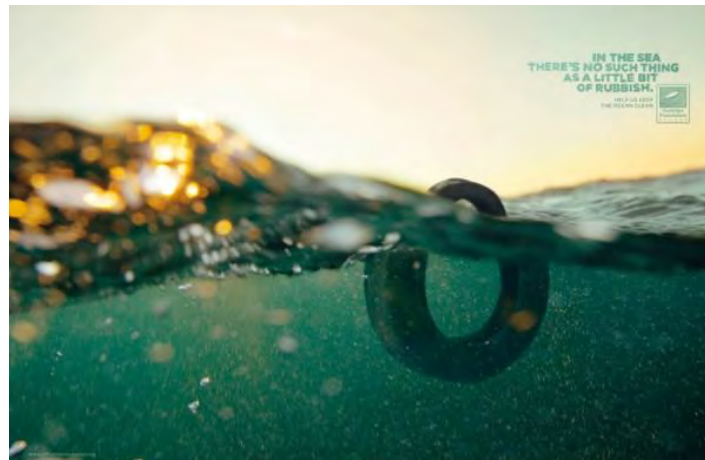
The Pacific Northwest is lucky to have so many active and dedicated volunteers and volunteer organizations, so the decision of who will receive this award can be a daunting one. However, one organization that quickly came to mind when the WA-BC Chapter Executive Committee asked for 2011 award nominees was the Surfrider Foundation. This is because the Surfrider Foundation has been active for more than 25 years in education, outreach, monitoring, and stewardship efforts to protect coastal and marine resources in the Pacific Northwest and now in 15 countries.

A brief overview of the Surfrider Foundation is provided below, but go to their website (<http://www.surfrider.org/>) to learn about volunteer opportunities and projects near you.

Mission Statement: Our mission is the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network.



Activities/Campaigns: The core activities and campaigns that the Surfrider Foundation uses to protect coastal and marine resources fall into the categories of: clean water, beach access, beach preservation, and “protecting special places”. In Washington, the campaigns that are currently active are: Bellingham Ban the Bag, Larrabee State Park Water Quality Campaign, No Oil Spills in Washington Waters, Save Cherry Point, Seattle Rise Above Plastics, Special Places Campaign for the Washington Coast, and Tacoma’s PSSSED (Puget Sound Stormwater Education and Defense). The two active campaigns in Canada are Water Quality Monitoring and Dune Restoration. Further information on these Washington and Canadian campaigns, as well as information on the local volunteer chapters, can be found through the website’s homepage.



Volunteer Programs: There are four main programs of the Surfrider Foundation. These are: Blue Water Task Force, Know Your H2O, Ocean Friendly Gardens, and Rise Above Plastics. From the Surfrider Foundation website:

[Blue Water Task Force](#)

The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) is the Surfrider Foundation's volunteer-run; water testing, education and advocacy program. Our chapters use this program to alert citizens and officials in their communities about water quality problems and to work toward solutions. The BWTF has demonstrated success by identifying problems with beach and coastal water pollution, raising public awareness of these incidents, and working collaboratively with local stakeholders to find and implement pollution solutions.



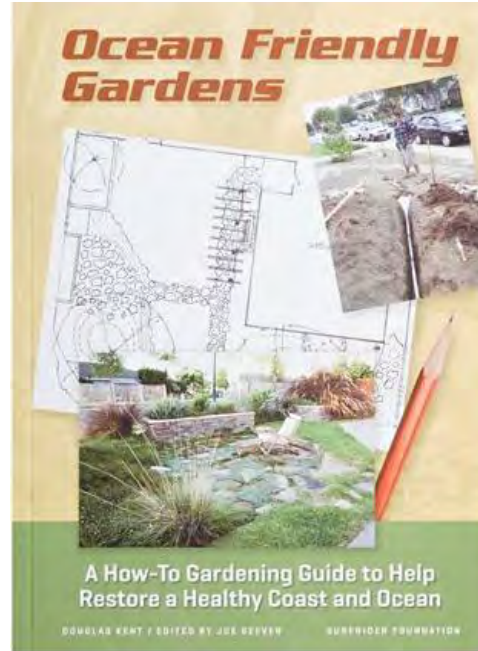
[Know Your H2O](#)

Know Your H2O is our program that promotes education and action regarding the interconnections between water supply, urban runoff, and wastewater treatment. By rethinking our water management approach, we can conserve water, save energy, and reduce pollution in our oceans. The program is based on the simple mantra: reduce, reuse and recycle...

[Ocean Friendly Gardens](#)

Urban runoff is often the primary source of ocean pollution. The Ocean Friendly Gardens (OFG) Program educates and assists

people in creating landscapes that utilize native plants, permeable groundcovers, and water retention features to prevent urban runoff, create wildlife habitat, and design beautiful spaces.



Rise Above Plastics

Rise Above Plastics is designed to eliminate the impacts of plastics in the marine environment by raising awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution and by advocating for a reduction of single-use plastics and the recycling of all plastics.



THE BOOK NOOK

Do we really need another shark book?

A review by Orlay Johnson of Juliet Eilperin's, *Demon Fish: Travels through the Hidden World of Sharks*. The book is published by Pantheon Books, 2010, hardcover, 320 pages, and lists at \$26.95. Available from most booksellers.



Juliet Eilperin

Do we really need another book about sharks? Absolutely YES on this one. It is a great read and has it all: a worldwide travelogue of swimming with sharks, a mythology of sharks going back 1000 years, a study of their biology, a history of human-shark interactions, a

compilation of interviews with shark researchers, and most importantly, a strong and vibrant case for shark conservation. I strongly endorse this book for shark enthusiasts, anyone interested in marine conservation, or folks who just want a good read.

The author, Juliet Eilperin, is the Washington Post national environmental reporter, which likely explains her extensive visits to the dive sites she describes. Through a series of adventure stories, such as lassoing sharks for tagging, swimming with great whites, or talking to a “shark caller”, she entertains and informs lay readers and biologists alike. In drawing the reader into a very different view of sharks and their place in the world, the book diverges from the usual “shark trade” treatise. Beyond a worthy read, you can view the author talking

about her book and her shark dives on YouTube at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LekzVpcAoMU>



Acknowledged by educators and biologists as important, but rapidly declining, apex predators in oceanic ecosystems, sharks have been portrayed to the general public at their lurid worst via the likes of “Jaws” (book, movie, movie sequels, including “Jaws 3D”) and spin offs (e.g. Megalodon and Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus). Even non-fiction books (for instance “Shadows in the Sea”, “Tragedy in the Water”, “Twelve Days of Terror” or “Close to Shore”) tend to

emphasize the terror of the attack rather than the need for shark conservation. Some biologists have struggled against this one-sided view and it is nice to see a book written for the general reading audience that focuses on more than feeding frenzies.

This book indeed is different. While Juliet is not a trained biologist, keen biological insights gained through her experiences are evident in her writing and are a huge positive for this book. The reader quickly realizes that there is much more substance here than just a tourist diving with sharks. As part of the detailed recording of her worldwide SCUBA diving experiences, Juliet Eilperin talks with “sharkheads” (of all varieties) and allows the sharks and those who study them to be the center of attention. In her travels, she observes whale sharks in Mexico, black tips in Belize, great whites in Shark Bay and South Africa, and lemon sharks in the Bahamas (alas, she missed our magnificent

six-gills and basking sharks in Puget Sound). She interacts with most of the world's best-known shark researchers and describes applications of methods that have revolutionized studies of large marine predators; a notable technology is computerized tags that can measure depth, temperature, GPS, and even pH to provide far more information than was even imaginable just a few years ago. Among much interesting historical information, the author suggests that while the rest of the world was actively engaged in "sharkology" (envisioning sharks in many ways including important food sources, deities, reincarnations of dead relatives, horrible predators, or just fellow travelers in the ocean), sharks were invisible to Europeans and perhaps even the word "shark" did not enter the language until Spanish sailors encountered it from the Mayans. I'm not sure I believe the present day word "shark" did not originate somewhere in Latin or Greek,

but she does build a plausible case for a New World origin.

There are many PNW connections to this book. Despite ignoring local sharks (somehow the lure of the tropics seems to defeat the best of us), she describes the work of Ellen Pikitch (professor at University of Washington, 1987-1996) who does shark tagging near Florida. She also interviews Stanford University biologist Stephen Palumbi ("... a baby boomer with an irreverent sense of humor, Palumbi combines a geeky passion for technology with a keen understand of pop cultures...") and spends many pages discussing California's politics and shark sleuths, including many with PNW connections.

This book is a passionate, data rich, and readable testimony that states that the present time is indeed the last stand for a predator that has survived virtually unchanged for over 400 million years. Only public awareness and action

will prevent mass extinctions in the next few decades, especially if human development, over-exploitation, and habitat destruction continue unchecked. Juliet Eilperin has

produced a worthy book that works toward the prevention of just such a disaster. Thanks to Kathleen Neely, Shirley Kronheim, and Fred Utter for ideas and reviews.

Meetings of Interest to WA-BC Chapter Members

Winter

Biomathematics in Ecology, Education & Research. Portland, Oregon. **December 2011.**

Endangered Species Act Training Workshop. Seattle, Washington. January 2012.

NE Pacific Pink & Chum Workshop. Juneau, Alaska. February 2012.

World Aquaculture Society Las Vegas, Nevada. February 2012.

West Coast Steelhead Management Meeting. Port Townsend, Washington. February 2012.

Spring

30th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference: Focusing on a New Generation of Watershed Recovery, Davis, California. April 4-7, 2012

International Conference on Ecology & Conservation of
Freshwater Fish Vila Nova de Cerveira, Portugal. May 2012.

[Aquaculture Canada 2012](#) Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island,
Canada. May 27-30, 2012.

Summer

2012 National Marine Educators Conference- *North to Alaska's
Seas: A Confluence of Science and Culture*. Anchorage,
Alaska. June 24-28, 2012.

Society for the Study of Evolution & American Society of
Naturalists. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. July 2012

Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Symposium. Davis, California.
July 2012.

Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Minneapolis,
Minnesota. August 2012.

Ecology Society of America. Portland, Oregon. August 2012.

**The WA-BC Chapter publishes “The Confluence” quarterly.
Chapter Officers are:**

President Mark Celedonia
President-Elect John Morgan
Vice President Brian Missildine
Past-President Mark Pedersen
Treasurer Emily Pizzichemi
Secretary Lisa Harlan
Communications Orlay Johnson and Stephanie Caballero
Chapter Student Representative Christopher Clark

If you have comments or would you like to be contributor, please contact editors Orlay Johnson (orlay.johnson@noaa.gov) or Stephanie Caballero (scabellero@fs.fed.us).

More information on the Washington-British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is available at our website:
<http://wabc-afs.org/>

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