

# American Fisheries Society

## WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

May, 1977

Number 2

### 1977 Western Division AFS Meeting to be held in Tucson, July 11-14

The meeting will be held at the Tucson Marriott Hotel, 180 Broadway, (toll free 800-228-9290). Rooms go for \$20 (single) and \$26 (double). Students, with identification, may rent rooms for \$16 per 4 persons. Plenty of other accommodations are available within walking distance. As in the past, the meeting will be with the WASGFC.

Registration fees are \$7.50. Registration for students is free. The registration desk is tentatively scheduled to be open from 8 AM to 6 PM, Sunday, July 10. A late registration table will be available on Monday morning. Pre-registration forms are available from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2222 Greenway Road, Phoenix, AR 85023.

As usual, a variety of social events will take place. On Sunday, July 10, an Arizona reception for meeting attendees will be held from 6-7 PM. A hospitality room will be open from 8-11 PM the same evening. A western barbecue takes place Monday night; the traditional banquet, Tuesday night (fees for both not set yet). A Ladies Program featuring tours of the Tucson area and near-by Mexico will also be available.

The Western Division portion of the meeting will certainly be of interest to western fishery biologists. Program Chairman Gary Chapman has done an excellent job in developing 6 technical sessions which cover a wide range of contemporary topics.

#### Meeting Schedule

Sunday, July 11: Committee Meetings

Monday, July 12:

0900-1200: Keynote address and general session with WASGFC.

1300-1500: Fisheries Technical Session I. Striped Bass in the West. Don Stevens, California F & G.

1500-1700: Fisheries Technical Session II. Water Quality and Fisheries. Dale Becker, Battelle N.W. Labs.

Tuesday, July 13:

0900-1000: The Japanese Salmon Enhancement Program (film and slide show), Stan Moberly, Alaska F & G

1000-1200: AFS Business Meeting

1300-1500: Fisheries Technical Session III. The Role of AFS Sections at the National, Division and Chapter Levels. Gary Chapman, EPA Western Fish Toxicology Lab.

1500-1700: Fisheries Technical Session IV. Contributed Papers. Douglas Jester, New Mexico State Univ.

Wednesday, July 14:

0830-1000: Fisheries Technical Session V. A Panel: Protection of Instream Flow Under Western Water Law. Fred Eiserman, Wyoming F & G.

1000-1200: Fisheries Technical Session VI. Realistic Management of Endangered Species. Richard Wydoski, Utah Coop. Fish. Res. Unit.

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### Is the Western Division An Anacronism?

One of the oldest topics at our meetings concerns whether the organization has outlived its usefulness. As a result, one of the oldest items of "unfinished" business is a recurrent proposal to split the Western Division into at least two independent Divisions, i.e., Northwest and Southwest. This proposal has arisen before and previously was left unresolved by a lack of process in the constitution and by-laws. Now all of that has been remedied and the proposal has arisen again like the mythical Phoenix bird.

My first reaction to the proposed split was very negative, but as I listened to its proponents, I began to warm up to it and now favor the idea of splitting the Division. Here are some aspects of it, although I am by no means its most effective advocate. Give it some thought and later, maybe we can lay this to rest, one way or the other.

The eastern half of North America (Canada and United States) has already been partitioned by AFS into three Divisions, i.e., North Central, North Eastern, and Southern. Revisionists point out that the Western Division contains more land, more water and more fishery resource than the sum of the other three divisions. Additionally, these smaller Divisions facilitate communication and travel between their membership, and intensify mutual interests by having greater ecological uniformity therein.

Certainly the Western Division is enormous and could stand subdivision because it stretches from the arctic to Hawaii to the western Texas border and back again. The diversity and size therein are both a wonder and tourist's delight, but also, they are a nightmare for the organizational administration. For example, how can a volunteer President meet with the chapters when they are scattered so far and wide? And how long can one neglect their employer's goals to pursue AFS goals before career slippage becomes irreparable? Can a volunteer secretary/treasurer handle the needs of so many members?

One alternative to the above is to split the Western Division into two Divisions at approximately the northern border of California. The specifics could be worked out later, but for now it is appropriate to consider what would or might happen if the Division did split. Obviously one can only predict, but I think that the worst result would be its failure and subsequent return to the present condition as one Division. The best result would be the evolution of two new and highly productive Divisions, with twice as many officers to serve, twice as much representation in the Parent Society, and about half the work load, distance and diversity. Another predictable result of the change would be stimulation for most of the unit.

Another alternative is to dissolve the Division per se and elect representatives to the Parent Society on an apportioned basis. This has been considered before too, but I tend to dislike the idea.

Certainly the winds of change continue to blow and we cannot stop the process of evolution. In relatively recent times, a then radical idea evolved which eventually culminated in the formation of AFS Chapters and special interest sections. At present the Chapters have become the main and thriving entity in AFS, perhaps because most of the members are in contact with them. Chapters provide over 95% of the AFS

experience to individual members, hold annual meetings of high quality, publish their own newsletters and in one case, publish its own technical journal. But the most incredible thing about Chapters is that they accomplish all of this essentially without assistance (technical or financial) from the Division or the Parent Society.

The Chapters have become, as I see it, analogous to the bone and muscle of the AFS organization. Likewise, the Division and the Parent Society have evolved into something more like the nerves and skin, providing communication and binding qualities among other things. If that is the case, then I think we should tune the function of the Division to the Chapter and not visa versa. If we do this the Division will never become an anachronism.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP

During the past, the selection of meeting places has caused confusion and hard feelings among members of the Western Division. Section 3 of the Bylaws states that the Western Division shall meet at least once a year at a time and place decided upon by the membership present at the preceding annual meeting. Section 7 states that the Time and Place Committee shall consider and recommend meeting conditions two years in advance.

The Committee is seeking the help of the membership. Please fill out the information form below, detach and mail to Committee Chairman Bill Platts. Hopefully, the Committee can receive sufficient membership input to help make valid suggestions in their report at the Tucson meeting.

TIME AND PLACE PETITION  
SENT TO PARENT SOCIETY

AFS members in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and California have signed a petition to amend the AFS constitution regarding the selection of time and place for the Parent Society meetings. The main thrust of the proposal is to develop uniform administrative procedures, advertise for bids, and finalize site selection by the members via the annual mail ballot. This proposal would allow joint meetings with anyone, at any time or location, that the majority chooses. And, if you believe in majority rule, this measure just might resolve the hassle over time and place.

-----DETACH-----

- 1. Are you in favor of Annual Divisional Meetings? Yes  No
- 2. Are you in favor of a July Divisional Meeting? Yes  No
- 3. Would you rather have the Divisional meeting in the winter for southern meeting sites and in the summer for northern meeting sites? Yes  No
- 4. Do you favor meeting each year with the WASGFC? Yes  No
- 5. Do you feel that the Western Division should have the annual option to meet with whomever they want? Yes  No
- 6. Do you feel the Division should hold its own meetings? Yes  No
- 7. Do you favor meeting in Alaska in 1979? Yes  No
- 8. Do you feel that if we did not meet with the WASGFC that we would miss not having the Western Proceedings to publish in? Yes  No
- 9. Are there any alternatives? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. What is your meeting site recommendation for 1978? \_\_\_\_\_  
1979? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this questionnaire to Mr. William Platts, 1603 Sunrise Rim, Boise, ID 83705

AFS PARENT SOCIETY NOW  
POLITICALLY ACTIVE

The 1976 General Tax Reform Bill has clarified the amount of activity the AFS and other organizations can engage in to influence legislation. Activities in which the AFS can undertake without limit include providing results of analysis or research, technical advice to government in response to a written request, communicating with the executive branch of government, and informing AFS members of legislation of interest (the Parent Society may not however, encourage members to lobby for certain legislation). These provisions and others took effect on January 1, 1977 and the AFS Parent Society has not let any grass grow under its feet since then.

Executive Director Carl Sullivan has presented written testimony on behalf of the Society on several topics including the Fish and Wildlife Service budget allocation, strip mining legislation and Bureau of Reclamation Northwest Projects. A limited number of copies of each statement are available from the Parent Society Office (5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20014).

The Parent Society is now pressing congress for expansion of Dingle-Johnson monies.

AFS MEMBERS GET DISCOUNT  
ON SPORTING GOODS!!!

Fishery workers should get a price break when they purchase aquatic sporting goods. Consider it a professional courtesy, fringe benefit or whatever, President Bouck has pursued this for all AFS members. As a point of beginning, one boat manufacturer has agreed to sell its boats at wholesale prices to AFS members. To avoid conflict of interest, Bouck did not buy one, but he tested several models and commented, "the Wauconda is a helluva fine boat". If you are interested in further details, contact Mr. Forest Collins, General Manager, Fiber Tech. Co., Box 280, Wapato, WA 98951.

President Bouck has asked the AFS Executive Director, Carl Sullivan to investigate other possible sources of discounts or economic advantage for AFS members.

Along these same lines, did you know that when sporting goods stores go bankrupt in the Northwest, their assets are purchased and resold at substantially lower prices in a new chain of stores called "The Liquidators". Outlets already exist in the Portland (Beaverton) and Seattle (Bellevue) area. Naturally, the stock is new, but available irregularly.



### INSTREAM FLOW NEEDS SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS STILL ON SALE

There are a number of copies left of the Proceedings of the Instream Flow Needs Symposium. The publication sells for \$20 (ca 1400 pages), and may be obtained from The American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20014.

The Symposium was somewhat of a landmark effort since the organizations sponsoring the conference, Western Division AFS and the Power Division, American Society of Civil Engineers, have frequently crossed swords. Papers presented at the Symposium dealt with methods for calculating instream flows, the economics of water for commerce, recreation, industry, and agriculture, history of various projects, aspects of biology and engineering, and communication of ideas and thoughts from sportsmen and professional fishery managers regarding what is needed in the way of instream flows.

A recent communication from AFS Editor Kendall revealed that the Western Divisions' debt for the Symposium is still significant. The final magnitude of the debt depends upon how well copies of the Symposium sell. The parent society has been asked to help in all possible ways. However, Western Division members should be forewarned that there could be lean years ahead for the Division if the debt is not substantially reduced.

Every fishery biologist will certainly have to grapple with the instream flow needs problem in the future. The Symposium papers will be invaluable for your library, your agency's library, or your school's library.

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### CHAPTERS! PLEASE REPORT NEW OFFICERS TO SEC/TREAS. SKESSICK

Most Chapters have recently changed administrative officers. Names, addresses, and phone numbers should be reported to Sec/Treas. Del Skessick (3438 Pringle Rd., Salem, OR 97302) so that we can get them in the next Newsletter.

The Newsletter would also like to hear from the Chapters concerning their activities.

### WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER MOVES

Apologies from the editorial staff to the membership are in order. It's been a while since the last issue and with the Annual Meeting approaching, this mailing is admittedly tardy. This issue is coming to you from Logan, Utah.

Future contributions to the Newsletter should be mailed to Assistant Editor Chuck Berry, Utah Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, USU, UMC 52, Logan, Utah 84322. Another issue will be coming your way in June. Watch for the June issue for final details about business to be conducted at the Tucson meeting.

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### WESTERN DIVISION LAUNCHES PLANS FOR ANOTHER SYMPOSIUM

The Western Division will undertake the planning and conducting of a symposium on the subject of mitigation. This is a major undertaking and a much needed symposium. A great deal of preliminary work by Chairperson Bill Melander, has culminated in the formation of a Steering Committee made up of persons from all over the North American continent. They are still trying to enlist a Canadian representative - - any takers?

The Western Division tackles the tough ones. The Division's Instream Flow Needs Symposium was a great contribution to the science and this landmark effort is now the word on the subject.

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### SEVERAL WESTERN SYMPOSIA HELD

The Humboldt Chapter of the AFS is co-sponsoring a symposium on the genetic implications of steelhead management. The symposium will be held May 20-21 at the Ramada Inn, Arcata, California. For information, contact Tom Hassler, Calif. Coop. Fish. Res. Unit, Humboldt State Univ., Arcata, CA 95521.

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Also coming up at Humboldt is a Symposium on catch-and-release fishing. The Symposium is sponsored by the California Cooperative Fishery Research Unit and the Humboldt Fishery Staff. Meetings will be held on campus, September 7-8. Goals of the symposium are to investigate the effects of catch-and-release fishing on both the fish populations and the fisherman. Participants will deal with a variety of fisheries including largemouth bass, billfish, salmonids and tarpon.

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A Fish Control Workshop was sponsored by the Fisheries Staff of Idaho State University. The Workshop was held March 7-9 in Moscow, Idaho. Important aspects of chemical control of fish populations were discussed by over thirty field biologists employing fish control chemicals. No publication will result from the workshop.

Word from Seattle indicates that the Tavolek International Symposium on Diseases of Cultured Salmonids, held April 4-6, was a great success. Information about the Symposium is available from Dr. John Fryer, Dept. Microbiology, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331.

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Don't forget the upcoming National AFS Meeting in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 14-17. Preliminary word from the program committee is that the sessions will be the best ever.

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A Symposium on Remote Sensing of Natural Resources was held at Utah State University on April 21-22. The Bonneville AFS Chapter was one of the co-sponsors of the symposium which was designed to give natural resource managers an overview of innovations in the field of remote sensing. Papers of specific interest to fishery biologists dealt with kokanee stock assessment and remote sensing in watershed analysis. Copies of the symposium will be available from the Conference and Institute Division, USU, Logan, Utah 84321.

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c/o Utah Cooperative Fishery Research Unit  
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Logan, Utah 84322

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