

# The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division, American Fisheries Society

Volume 23, No. 1, February 1998

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER Pete Bisson

### Improving Credibility With The Public

In the December 1997 issue of Fisheries there is an excellent article by Courtland Smith, Jennifer Gilden, Joseph Cone, and Brent Steel, titled "Contrasting Views of Coastal Residents and Coastal Coho Restoration Planners". If you've haven't read it I highly recommend it. This article is of

interest even if you're not a salmon biologist in the Pacific Northwest because it points out a problem we all face a serious lack of credibility with the public. It's not that the public thinks we're bad people, rather they think we too often don't really know what we're doing. The credibility issue was further underscored in a recent poll conducted by the state's largest newspaper, the Oregonian, in which 60% of those polled felt improving salmon runs should be a higher priority than other commercial uses of the rivers, but 60% also felt that salmon restoration programs were ineffective. Many respondents were willing to pay more money to help the fish and were even willing to volunteer for salmon restoration projects, but didn't think that their money was being spent wisely. The article included quotes such as "I just don't know whom I can trust" and "All the information is biased".

You may not deal with salmon but I'll bet you can identify with many of the problems mentioned in Court's article. The public is most likely to trust word of mouth information from their friends and neighbors, and from TV and radio stories. They are skeptical of government agencies and scientists.

Reading through some of the public quotes in the article reveals the usual range of simplistic and often extreme statements, and for this reason it is easy for us to blow off the views of the unwashed and uneducated masses. But is that what we really want? Nope. One of our top priorities should be to help people understand that managing and conserving natural resources is a tough job, that there are no simple solutions, and that everyone gains when the best, most recent information is brought to bear on the problem at hand.

The first step is to descend from your academic/agency/highly-paid-consultant throne and talk to people. Not just your professional colleagues but concerned lay persons and (especially) school kids. There are a bunch of ways to do this; some of the more effective include participating in sporting organizations or conservation groups, helping a local watershed council, assisting a newspaper with a natural resource story, or giving a talk to a high school or community college class. You don't have to do it all, but if we all did just a little it would really help.

Step two is being humble. I think one of the things that really turns people off about scientists is arrogance. If you want good models for scientists that people trust and respect, look at Einstein or Stephen Hawking (uh-oh, I'm guilty of physics envy). Look at the effective popular science educators such as Carl Sagan, Jacques Cousteau, Stephen Jay Gould, or Bill Nye the Science Guy. They don't project arrogance. They may get excited about their subject and want you to be excited too, but they don't make you think they know everything and you know nothing. There's a lesson here.

Step three is listening. Many of the respondents in the Smith et al. article felt they weren't listened to. Granted, you may have to put up with some pretty outlandish stories but often you can use these as a springboard for providing "new information" that will help correct many misconceptions. In many cases it is better to let the public bring up a topic than the other way around. Then you can listen to their views and respond in a way that shows them you heard what they said.

Step four is being honest, especially about things you don't know. When was the last time you heard an expert bluff his/her way through a question for which they didn't have a clear answer? You may not have had their expertise but you knew BS when you heard it, and this made it harder to believe them when they said something they really did know. The public is counting on us for the straight story and it seems to me we shouldn't be afraid to admit we don't have all the answers. You'll enhance your credibility if you focus on what is known and keep the speculation down, or at least tell people when you're basing an answer on your best professional judgment rather than on direct evidence.

Finally, try to see the situation through their eyes. It's unrealistic to expect that we all share the same vision for the future. Short of deliberate lawlessness, people have legitimate needs that should be acknowledged in any negotiation. If you're unwilling to recognize their point of view, your chances of gaining their trust and respect are slim.

Credibility begins with individual actions. People base their opinions on real life experiences with individuals like you and me. Although your organization may think differently, I believe scientific credibility is not particularly enhanced by ad campaigns but rather by the courteous and professional conduct of individual employees. It's those one-on-ones that really count. Just ask a member of the legal profession

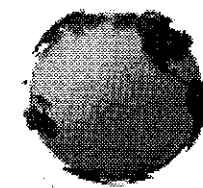
minority of members at every level of the Society. This is probably true with every human organization, including your office staff, your neighborhood social concerns committee, your fishing club, the department of highways, and the World Council of Fisheries Societies. Where are all the fishery worker bees? The rewards of prestige and honor that come with being chosen to represent your peers no longer shine bright enough to attract the above average fisheries professional. The stigma of "too much work, too little reward" has become affixed to the tour of duty on our executive committees, from Chapter to Division to Society. The standard excuse is "No thanks, I'm too busy." So, who isn't. Unless you are giving birth right now, or dealing with a life crisis or terminal disease, the "too busy" excuse carries little merit. On one hand, you may be an excellent judge of character and, after assessing your personality, determined you are not cut out to hold high office and make crucial decisions with the fate of aquatic resources hanging in the balance and scores of your peers anxiously

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1998 WESTERN DIVISION AFS MEETING IN ANCHORAGE

Call For Papers and Session Organizers



The 1998 Western Division AFS Meeting will be in Anchorage in conjunction with the 16th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium on September 30-October 3. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Alaska Chapter, North Pacific International Chapter, and Alaska Sea Grant. The Wakefield Symposium has been sponsored and coordinated annually since

1982 by the Alaska Sea Grant College Program. This symposium attracts an international audience of scientists, primarily from high-latitude countries. The theme of the combined meeting is "Ecosystem Considerations in Fisheries Management."

Abstracts for the Wakefield Symposium, both oral and poster, will be published soon after the symposium. Preparation for publishing the proceedings and the international audience necessitate establishing the program well in advance of the meeting. Therefore, all abstracts must be received before March 15, 1998. Those interested in developing a session should call Bob Bilby (253-924-6557).

Abstracts must include brief title in upper/lower case type; author(s) names, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address; abstract text not to exceed 300 words; and whether the presentation is oral or poster. Abstracts for the Wakefield session (which requires a manuscript) should be submitted by e-mail (as part of message, not as attachment) to FNBRB@uaf.edu, or if no e-mail, submit hard and electronic copies to Brenda Baxter, Coordinator, Alaska Sea Grant Program, UAF, P.O. Box 755040, Fairbanks 99775-5040 (Phone: 474-6701.) Abstracts intended for sessions other than the Wakefield Symposium should be e-mailed to bilbyb@wdni.com, or hard and electronic copies sent to Bob Bilby, Weyerhaeuser Co., WTC 1A5, Tacoma, WA 98477-0001.

The goal of this symposium is to gather worldwide expertise and discuss how to incorporate ecosystem considerations into practical fishery management advice, and to recommend a process for advancing fishery management beyond the single species model.

In the last 10 years, there has been a growing perception that it is not effective to base fisheries management policies solely on single-species considerations. Large decadal shifts in species composition, abundance, and productivity are common, and are not predictable from single-species models. Climate regime shifts and human activities (e.g., overfishing, pollution, habitat degradation) are implicated in these changes.

North American examples include (1) Georges Bank, where the bottomfish community, once dominated by commercially valuable species such as cod and haddock, shifted to lower-valued species such as skates and dogfish; and (2) Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, where declines of crabs and shrimps have given rise to increasing pollock and flatfish. Severe economic hardships are associated with such declines in commercial fisheries.

Beyond consumer preferences, society places high values on marine ecosystem components, such as marine mammals, seabirds, and turtles. Threatened or endangered species warrant special consideration. Population declines often lead to after-the-fact adjustments to fishing regulations without a good understanding of cause and effect. Is it therefore desirable to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fishery management advice?

It may be argued that objectives for optimal yields are best met by applying harvest rate specifications, while no useful objectives exist for incorporating ecosystem considerations in fishery management. It may also be argued that objectives for simultaneous optimal yields from all fisheries are simply impossible, and that fishery management objectives need to be restated with a more holistic view of ecosystem processes.

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### INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS!

1997 Annual Report

New Officers for 1997-98 Year

Graduate Student Scholarship

Western Division 1998

Chapter Meeting Schedule

The Tributary is distributed to 3,671 WDAFS members and exists as a forum to present fisheries-related information. The editor is Paul Evans. If you have information you would like to have included in The Tributary, please contact us at:

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Submissions for the next issue of The Tributary are due by April 30, 1998.

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# 1997 ANNUAL REPORT, WESTERN DIVISION OF AFS

## I. Division Officers

President	Tom Nesler
President-elect	Pete Bisson
Vice President	Bob Bilby
Secretary-Treasurer	Jean Baldrige
Past President	Dennis Lee

## II. Division Chapter Presidents

Alaska	Peggy Merritt
Arizona/New Mexico	Thomas R. McMahon
New Mexico State-Student	Jason Dix
Bonneville	Eric Larson
California/Nevada	Dennis McEwan
Colorado/Wyoming	William H. Bradshaw
University of Wyoming-Student	Doug Novinger
Colorado State University-Student	Stephen Flickinger
Hawaii	Robert A. Skillman
Humboldt	Bret C. Harvey
Idaho	Charles E. Corsi
Montana	Dan Carty
North Pacific International	Gino Lucchetti
Oregon	Thomas W. H. Backman
Greater Portland	Richard Turner

## III. Western Division Committees (Internal Affairs)

Archivist	Venice Beske
Arrangements	Ken Hashagen
Audit	Lou Carufel
Awards/Nominations	Dennis Lee
Equal Opportunity	Jerry Salazar
Membership	Robert Bilby
Newsletter Editor	Greg Kindschi
Policy Review	Dennis Tol
Program	Jennifer Neilsen

## IV. Western Division Committees (External Affairs)

Bull Trout Conservation	Karen Pratt
Endangered Species	Leo Lentsch
Environmental Concerns	Michael Ward
National Nominating Rep.	Robert White
Native Peoples Fisheries	Kelly Meyer
Riparian	Jill Silvey
AFS Resolutions	Dennis Tol
AFS Certification Appeals	Frank Pfeifer
Mining Reform	Steve Wolff

## V. Division Highlights (associated with 1997 AFS Work Plan Goals A through H)

- Chapter Presidents contacted January 15 by letter to update communication lines and solicit discussion of issues/concerns. (F)
- Division Officer conference call - January 3: update on AFS topics from Special Management Committee meeting (Dec. 9) in Omaha, and potential needs for Division or Chapter action. (F)
- completion of Goose Lake Native Fishes Poster by the Fremont National Forest (Oregon). (C)
- participation in Special Management Committee Meetings - December 9, Omaha NE; March 20, Bethesda; and mid-year Governing Board meeting, March 22. (F)
- preliminary discussion with NMFS on Division role as source of expertise and comment on NMFS listing assessment for Pacific salmon.(October 28) (C,D)
- participation in AFS Aquatic Habitat Inventory Standardization Project. (C)
- appointed Division issue steward and task group for 1872 Mining Law reform. (C,D)
- participation on nine AFS committees by Division Officers and 19 AFS committees by Western Division members. (A through H)
- participated on task force to redraft of Human Use of Fish and Other Living Aquatic organisms. (C,D)
- joined with Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics to develop a Range Stewardship Certification Program for western public lands. (C,D)
- produced three issues of Division Newsletter, The Tributary, June, February 1997 and October 1996. (F)
- participation in Organizational Audit of AFS. (A,B,E,F)
- solicitation for 1997 Graduate Student Scholarship Award. (E)
- financial assistance awards exceeding \$12,000 were provided to:
  - \* Alaska Chapter for travel stipends for women and minorities (E,G)
  - \* Fremont National Forest for native aquatic wildlife poster (C)
  - \* Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund (E,G)
  - \* AFS Youth Education Committee (G)
  - \* North Pacific International Chapter for AFS/Chapter promotional display (C)
  - \* AFS 2000 (B,C)
  - \* Two graduate student scholarship awards (E,G)
- nominated Ken Hashagen (Cal-Neva Chapter) as candidate for Vice-president; and David Drake (Cal-Neva Chapter) as candidate for Secretary-Treasurer for Western Division. (A,E)
- appointed a new Tributary editor from four volunteers. (E,F)
- financial grants were approved for:
  - \* AZ-NM Chapter Student Scholarship Travel Award (\$500)(E,G,H)
  - \* Travel assistance for three Riparian Management Session panelists (\$2600) (C)
  - \* Travel assistance for two Native Trout Management Session speakers (\$1000) (C)
  - \* Seed money/challenge grant for AFS journal subscriptions in

- conjunction with International Fisheries Section (with matching funds from Oregon and Alaska Chapters) for Russian fisheries science laboratories (\$1650) (A,C,G)
- \* Travel assistance for two Graduate Student Scholarship winners (E,G,H)
- \* Donation to AFS Monterey Meeting Grand Prize for round trip airfare in conjunction with Kenai Peninsula fishing and vacation trip (\$1200)(B)
- 18) provided letter of support for Oregon Chapter request to AFS Names of Fishes Committee for name change for northern squawfish. Expanded request to include four species in Genus Ptychocheilus in Western Division. (F)
- 19) provided comments/support for two environmental assessments for (a) eradication of northern pike from Lake Davis in California, and (b) restoration of westslope cutthroat trout and fluvial arctic grayling in Yellowstone National Park. (C,D)
- 20) participated in AFS Governing Board self-assessment survey.(A)
- 21) participated in development of questions for AFS Membership Survey.(A)
- 22) polled Western Division Excom on AFS Governance, fiscal management, and publishing.(A,B,D,F)
- 23) reviewed Pacific Rivers Council letter to National Marine Fisheries Service describing AFS positions relative to Oregon Coast coho salmon listing issues.(C,D)
- 24) provided rebuttal letter for FISHERIES on behalf of the Western Division concerning criticism of Governing Board decisions on AFS Biodiversity Position Statement.(F)
- 25) led AFS panel review process for EIS of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wild Salmonid Policy.(C,D)
- 26) participated on organizational meeting of 1998 AFS Outreach Symposium. (C,D,G,H)
- 27) participated in organizational meetings with Alaska and NPI Chapters proposal for joint 1998 annual meeting of Western Division with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska, September 29-October 3, 1998. (A,C,F,G)
- 28) assisted Cal-Neva Chapter in development of native trout management, riparian management, and contributed papers sessions for AFS 1997 annual meeting in Monterey. (A,C)
- 29) bestowed Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Award of Special Recognition, and Conservation Achievement Award to Western Division members. (H)

## VI. Chapter Highlights (associated with 1997 AFS Work Plan Goals A through H)

- Alaska-
  - \* position statement on logging impacts on fisheries and habitat.(C,D)
  - \* participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group. (D)
  - \* contribution to Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project. (C,D)
  - \* provided evaluation and review of draft proceedings of AFS-sponsored Sustainable Fisheries Conference. (C,D)
  - \* developed bid with NPIC to host 1998 Western Division annual meeting in Anchorage Alaska in partnership with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium-Ecosystem Considerations in Fishery Management. (A,C)
  - \* developed 1997 annual meeting in Juneau with "linked ecosystems" theme. (A)
  - \* commented on Tongass Land Management Plan (C,D)
  - \* evaluated Alaska's marine refuge/park system (C,D)
  - \* lead publication of AFS Symposium 19-proceedings of Fish Ecology in Arctic North America Symposium. (A,C)
  - \* presented Cultural Diversity travel awards. (G)
  - \* entered into negotiations with Alaska Department of Fish and Game for evaluation of Pacific salmon stocks statewide. (C,D)
  - \* expanded the Chapter's Web site and included a Directory of Fisheries and Aquatic Educators. (A)
  - \* provided continuing education courses in technical writing, natural resources communications, and SAS. (A)
  - \* conducted a workshop on "Impacts of Global Climate Change in the Western Arctic/Bering Sea Region". (C,D)
  - \* aquatic education projects include primary and intermediate-level versions of Canadian curriculum "Salmonids in the Classroom" for Alaska. (C)
  - \* provided financial donation as seed money for journal subscriptions for Russian-Far East fisheries science laboratories. (A,C,G)
- Arizona/New Mexico-
  - \* review of Environmental Assessment for renovation of Virgin River. (C)
  - \* review of Cienega Creek fish closure project. (C)
  - \* provided student travel scholarship to Monterey to present best paper. (E,G,H)
  - \* developed and provided technical papers for a joint annual meeting with The Wildlife Society in February 1997. The theme was "Preparing for the 21st Century: the need to become more effective wildlife professionals."
  - \* continued to update Executive Committee communications through quarterly conference calls.
  - \* produced four newsletters
  - \* reviewed proposed guidelines for reintroduction of federally-listed aquatic species from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
  - \* developed and presented a bid for the City of Phoenix and the Chapter to host the annual AFS meeting in 2001.
  - \* purchased and donated "Garfield" fishing posters to various groups for distribution of Free Fishing Day in June.
  - \* purchased and provided a native fish sculpture as a donation to the raffle at the AFS Monterey meeting.

- \* sponsored and participated in the "International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meetings in Scottsdale Arizona in September 1997.
- California/Nevada-
    - \* program and arrangements for 1997 AFS Meeting in Monterey, CA. (A,B,C,F)
    - \* participation on Human Use of Fishes task group. (C,D)
    - \* donated funding to complete a raffle prize package fishing trip to Loreto, Mexico. (B)
    - \* donated funding to provide hotel rooms for students to attend the annual meeting. (G)
    - \* cosponsored the Watershed Symposium with other professional societies and the California Resources Agency. Symposium dealt with watershed function, restoration, and guidance to public organizations. (C,D)
    - \* provided an AFS booth at the Pacific Rim Festival to inform about AFS and raise funds. (A,C,G)
    - \* created a new award for distinguished professional achievement. (H)
    - \* developing a joint policy with California Trout, Inc. on water quantity and streamflows to maintain fish populations. (C,D)
    - \* achieved non-profit, tax-exempt status in California to save sales tax payments. (B)
    - \* donated funds to AFS 2000. (B,C)
    - \* providing grant to fund illustrations for a new edition of "Inland Fishes of California". (C)
    - \* continued involvement in petition process with Sierra Club legal Defense Fund and California Trout, Inc. to federally list four southern California freshwater fish species. (C,D)
    - \* provided comments to Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on grazing allotments to define goals for aquatic and riparian conditions. (C,D)
    - \* provided comments to Tahoe National forest on a Wild and Scenic River Study and draft EIS to enlarge designation from 3 to 22 stream reaches. (C,D)
    - \* opposed state legislation to limit the anti-water pollution laws in coalition with environmental and scientific associations. (C,D)
    - \* facilitated an independent peer review of, and supported Cal. Dept. of Fish & Game proposal to eradicate northern pike by chemical means from Lake Davis to protect steelhead and chinook salmon populations in the Sacramento River system. (C,D)
    - \* reviewed draft EIS for City of Auburn wastewater treatment plant to protect steelhead and chinook salmon populations. (C,D)
    - \* conducted to membership recruitment drives (G)
    - \* sponsored training course in swift water safety and rescue techniques, and are developing others: rapid bioassessment techniques, nonparametric statistics, and Southern California fish identification. (A)
    - \* recognizing 23 Chapter members with awards for coordination and preparation of 1997 AFS annual meeting. (H)
    - \* published three newsletters. (F)
  - Colorado/Wyoming-
    - \* briefing statement on public lands divestiture issue and Land Transfer Bill. (C,D)
    - \* involved in reauthorization of ESA, Teaming with Wildlife, BLM grazing standards in Wyoming, transfer of Highway Trust Fund to Aquatic Resource Trust Fund, and Public Rangeland Management Act. (C,D)
    - \* participation in 1872 Mining Law reform (issue steward). (C,D)
    - \* annual meeting with special sessions on management of declining species, management problems associated with introduced fishes, and fisheries management at the basin level; and continuing education workshop on watershed scale analyses and stream restoration (free to Chapter members). (A,C,D)
    - \* involved in World Flyfishing Contest and Conservation Symposium. (C,G)
    - \* joined Colorado Riparian Association as life member. (C,G)
    - \* made financial contributions to Portland Fish Pathogens Symposium, Monterey meeting, National Fishing Week, and Colorado Riparian Association educational display. (B,C,G)
    - \* donated Big Horn River float trip/lodging to Monterey raffle. (B)
    - \* presented MAX Award of Merit and Leaky Boot Award. (H)
    - \* financial contribution to AFS 2000, student chapters. (B,C,G)
    - \* encouraged State Governors and Congressional delegations to support the National Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. (C,D)
  - Humboldt-
    - \* participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group. (C,D)
    - \* coordinated and participated in an expanded salmon giveaway program at Iron Gate Hatchery on the Klamath River to reduce the numbers of hatchery chinook salmon possibly competing or spawning with wild fish in natural habitats. (C)
    - \* offered a workshop on the Endangered Species Act attended by 105 people. (A,C)
    - \* expanded chapter FIN by > 500%. (D)
    - \* held annual spring conference entitled: Humboldt Bay Watersheds: Resources and Recovery. (A,C)
    - \* presented a chapter-record 11 seminars by fisheries professionals in addition to talks given at the spring conference. (A,C)
  - Montana-
    - \* participation on bull trout restoration team. (C,D)
    - \* held annual meeting jointly with Great Plains Fishery Workers Association. (A,C)
    - \* conducted continuing education seminar on technical writing. (A,C)

- \* provided funding assistance for arctic grayling restoration, westslope cutthroat trout genetics study, and a college student scholarship match grant. (C,E,G)
- \* presented awards for Montana Fishery Worker of the Year, Outdoor Writer/ Reporter, Landowner, Individual, and best student paper. (A,H)
- \* monitored 26 aquatics-related bills in the state legislature, and provided testimony on five bills. (C,D)
- \* published three newsletter issues and held 5 Excom meetings. (F)
- \* reprinted 20,000 posters on aquatic habitat in Montana for free distribution to schools. (C)
- \* tracked water quality and mining issues. (D)
- \* sent out four membership recruitment letters and created a non-AFS affiliate membership. (G)
- \* involved in summarizing status of 17 fish species of special concern in state, creating a related poster, and updating Montana Fishes Slide Program. (C)
- \* assisted in establishment and operation of Intermountain Journal of Sciences, a natural resource science publication. (C)
- \* participated on Montana westslope cutthroat trout steering committee. (C,D)
- \* involved in three timber sales with potential effects on native bull trout, redband trout, and westslope cutthroat trout, coordinated response with North Pacific International Chapter. (C,D)
- \* commented on proposal to reintroduce westslope cutthroat trout in Yellowstone National Park. (C,D)
- \* participated in Montana Grazing Best Management Practices technical group. (C,D)

- 7) Oregon-
- \* provided position statement on PACFISH guideline implementation issues. (C,D)
  - \* conducted annual meeting on Ecological and Social Complexity in Fisheries Science: Scales of Time and Space. (A,C,G)
  - \* provided undergraduate and graduate student scholarship awards. (E,G,H)
  - \* sponsored Inland Rainbow trout Workshop. (C)
  - \* provided peer review of Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative. (C,D)
  - \* commented on FWS Proposed Rule modifying category 1 and 2 candidate list. (C,D)
  - \* commented on multispecies habitat conservation plan for Willamette Timberlands and USFWS environmental assessment for incidental take. (C,D)
  - \* proposed to replace common name "northern squawfish" for tribal concern. (D)
  - \* commented on recommended versions of standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing management. (C,D)
  - \* commented on scoping proposal to revise BLM regulations governing mining operations. (C,D)
  - \* commented on NMFS proposed rule for guidelines to describe and identify essential fish habitat in fishery management plans. (C,D)
  - \* encouraged the Northwest Power Planning Council to adopt a regional framework to address fish and wildlife recovery in the Columbia River basin. (D)
  - \* provided testimony to Oregon Legislature on changes to current laws on fish passage requirements at obstructions. (C,D)
  - \* opposed legislation in Oregon restricting public access to rivers and streams. (D)
  - \* encouraged Oregon legislator support for National Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. (D)
  - \* led initiative to provide funding and supply AFS journals to Russian fisheries science laboratories. (A,C,G)
  - \* published proceedings of 1995 Searun Cutthroat Trout Symposium. (C)
  - \* participated and led organization of Western Division review of draft EIS for Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project. (C,D)
  - \* provided financial support for development of a GIS database for Oregon fish distribution in rivers and streams. (C)
  - \* upgraded/renovated salmonid and stream continuum displays and republished posters for distribution (C).
  - \* provided a continuing grant for Salmon Watch Program. (C).

- 8) North Pacific International-
- \* annual meeting on Achieving Biodiversity in Ecosystem Management. (A,C)
  - \* contribution to publication of Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project. (C)
  - \* review of British Columbia professional biologist certification issue. (D)
  - \* review of Riparian Protection on Agricultural Lands Initiative. (C,D)
  - \* cosponsored a habitat restoration field trip with Washington Trout, the Tulalip Tribes and Weyerhaeuser. (C)
  - \* established an Internet Home Page. (A,F)
  - \* contributed funds to the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation. (C)
  - \* presented awards for meritorious service, best paper, best student paper; Outstanding Volunteer, Worthy Coelacanth, and two special recognition awards. (H)
  - \* provided non-technical support for AFS technical review of Washington's wild salmonid policy. (D)
  - \* participated in technical review of the draft EIS of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan. (C,D)
  - \* supported the AFS Early Life History conference in Seattle, Washington. (A,C)
  - \* developed bid with Alaska Chapter to host 1998 Western Division annual meeting in Anchorage Alaska in partnership

- with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium-Ecosystem Considerations in Fishery Management. (A,C)
- 9) Greater Portland-
  - \* conducted luncheon meetings every other month to interact with other groups, including those related to regional land use and conservation. (C)
  - \* annual meeting on Living with Recovery: Cooperative Solutions in Your Backyard, and presented perspectives by government agencies, private corporations, and urban watershed groups. Topics included the coastal salmon restoration initiative, the Endangered Species Act, forest resource management, Seattle's habitat conservation plan for the Cedar River, the North Fraser Harbor Habitat Bank, the North Coast Stream Cooperative Project between the state and industrial forest landowners, fish and wildlife habitat restoration under the Water Resources Development Act, and several other area fish and watershed restoration projects. (A,C)
- 10) Hawaii-
  - \* annual meeting with emphasis on coastal fisheries in the Pacific Islands and management issues concerning increased fisheries exports, live reef fish trade. (A,C)
  - \* provided testimony to State Legislature concerning increased funding for fisheries management, ballast water introduction issues. (C,D)
  - \* participated in the 1997 Fisher's Forum topic planning with SeaGrant and the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources. (C)
- 11) Bonneville-
  - \* no report provided
- 12) Idaho-
  - \* no report provided.

## VII. Committee Reports

- 1) Bull Trout Conservation-(not complete)
- \* search for new chairperson
  - \* review of three conservation planning documents for Montana from Montana Science and Restoration teams. (C,D)

- \* Division comment on Montana restoration goals for bull trout anticipated. (C,D)
- \* anticipated participation in review and comment on Jarbridge River EA. (C,D)
- \* follow-up on Idaho conservation by watershed program. (C,D)
  - \* follow-up on Oregon restoration program. (C,D)
- 2) Riparian-
  - \* special session on riparian management at AFS Monterey meeting. (C)
  - \* conducted Riparian Challenge award program with USFS and BLM. (C,H)
  - \* provided history and guidelines for Riparian Challenge award program to serve as a model for a national award for agricultural landowners for fish and wildlife stewardship. (C,H)
- 3) Native Peoples Fisheries-(not complete)
  - \* investigated joint meeting proposal of Native Americans Fish and Wildlife Society with Arizona-New Mexico Chapter. (G)
  - \* formulating new goals and objectives; coordinating review with six AFS members active in Tribal issues. (G)
  - \* presented travel grant award to recipient for 1997 AFS Monterey meeting. (G)
- 4) Endangered Species- (not complete)
  - \* developed special session on native trout management at AFS Monterey meeting. (C)
- 5) 1872 Mining Law Reform-
  - \* continues to monitor reform bill introduced into Congress. (C,D)
  - \* monitoring release of draft EIS on review of hardrock mining rules (3809 regulations) for BLM. (C,D)
- 6) Environmental Concerns-
  - \* monitoring federal lands transfer legislation and issues with CO/WY Chapter President Bill Bradshaw. (C,D)
  - \* coordinating review of draft EIS with Oregon Chapter and all Western Division Chapters affected by Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan, and will synthesize into Division response. (C,D)

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas P. Nesler, Western Division Past President

## 1997-98 WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRS & OFFICERS

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### Western Division Committees (Internal Affairs)

Archivist .....	Venice Beske .....	(307) 777-7982/6289
Arrangements .....	Ken Hashagen .....	(907) 455-6709
Audit .....	Lou Carufel .....	(907) 452-6709
Awards/Nominations .....	Dennis Lee .....	(916) 654-1369
Equal Opportunity .....	Jerry Salazar .....	
Membership .....	Robert Bilby .....	(206) 924-6557/6970
Newsletter Editor .....	Paul Evans .....	(801) 378-3259
Policy Review .....	Dennis Tol .....	(907) 271-3348
Time and Place .....	Bob Bilby .....	(253) 924-6557

### Western Division Committees (External Affairs)

Bull Trout Conservation .....	Karen Pratt .....	(208) 389-9938
Endangered Species .....	Leo Lentsch .....	(801) 538-4756/4745
Environmental Concerns .....	Michael Ward .....	(360) 665-3084/3081
National Nominating Rep. ....	Robert White .....	(406) 994-3491/3190
Native Peoples Fisheries .....	Kelly Meyer .....	(520) 338-4385/1712
Riparian .....	Jill Silvey .....	(208) 384-3157/3083
AFS Resolutions .....	Dennis Tol .....	(907) 271-3348
AFS Certification Appeals .....	Frank Pfeifer .....	(970) 245-9319/9366
Mining Reform .....	Steve Wolff .....	
Habitat Inventory Procedures .....	Mike Young .....	(307) 742-6621/0397

Chapter	Date	Location	Contact	Phone	E-mail Address
Alaska/Northern Pacific Intl.	30 Sep 3 Oct	Anchorage, AK	Cindy Hartman	907/586-7585	Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov
Arizona-New Mexico	5 7 Feb	Sierra Vista, AZ	Colleen Caldwell	505/646-8126	ccaldwel@nmsu.edu
Bonneville/Colorado-Wyoming	2-5 Mar	Grand Junction, CO	Roger Schneidervin		
California-Nevada	23 25 Apr	Sacramento, CA	Pat Coulston	209/948-7800	pcoulsto@delta.dfg.ca.gov
Colorado-Wyoming/Bonneville	2 5 Mar	Grand Junction, CO	Pat Martinez	970/484-2836	Pat.Martinez@state.co.us
Dakota	2 4 Mar	Pierre, SD	Sharon Whitmore	605/224-8693	r6sfa_grp@fws.gov
Greater Portland	15 May	Portland, OR	Rollie Montagne	503/731-7518	
Hawaii	TBA	TBA	Robert Skillman	808/943-1257	
Humboldt	28 Mar	Arcata, CA	Kris Brenneman	707/826-3955	kjb2@axe.humboldt.edu
Idaho	26 28 Feb	Idaho Falls, ID	C. Deacon Williams	208/939-8697	cdwill@cyberhighway.net
Montana	4 6 Feb	Helena, M	Tom McMahon	406/994-2492	ubitm@msu-oscs-montana.edu
New Mexico State University	Apr	Las Cruces, NM	Paul Turner	505/646-1707	pturner@nmsu.edu
Oregon	11 13 Feb	Sunriver, OR	Tim Hardin	541/758-1758	hardint@peak.org
Univ WY Student	Monthly	TBA	Wayne Hubert	307/766-5415	

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** *Tom Nesler*

*The following is the President's Address on the State of the Western Division of AFS given on August 25, 1997 at the business meeting in Monterey.*

I can report to you that the Western Division - its Chapters, its officers, and its committees, are active and involved in fish and fisheries projects and issues at every level of AFS. In many of these activities, we are leading the way. I would submit the evidence for this can be found in the Division's annual report, wherein the number of accomplishments suggest we made something happen for fisheries and fish almost every other day through the year. We contributed to every goal in AFS President Coutant's Program of Work. Interfaces are where the action and productivity are. You will always find the Western Division at the interface.

As you will hear later, we remained financially secure despite the reduction in rebate income.

We are also a Division at the interface of change. We are wrestling with important issues of conservation of native, nongame aquatic species and restoring the ecological integrity of aquatic systems while also maintaining recreational and commercial fisheries in modified environments, often with introduced species or hatchery propagation. We are engaged in governance issues that may decide whether we continue to exist as one Division with voting equity proportional to our size, or split into 2 or more smaller Divisions. And finally, we are caught in a period of time in which the commitment to serve as AFS officers is sporadic enough to threaten the integrity of leadership if not the continuity. A wake-up call is being made. The pride, track record, and reputation of the Western Division depends on how we answer that call.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve on your behalf and represent the Western Division. I would like to thank my Executive Committee officers, Chapter Presidents, and Committee chairpersons for playing a large role in making the Western Division continue as a leader among AFS units. I strongly urge my fellow officers Pete (Bisson) and Bob (Bilby) to strive to do their very best. Thank you.

*"And Then There Were None" continued from page 1.* awaiting to cheer or jeer you. If so, you may be excused from reading further.

On the other hand, the truth is this job is easy. Distilled to its fundamentals, the Division President's task is to represent the members and Chapters at the Society level, communicate effectively, and lead the Division by channeling volunteerism in productive paths consistent with the Society's mission and objectives. It is not how much money you add to the treasury, or how many committees you appoint, or what agenda item you promote successfully. As President, you have the opportunity to make things happen, and you can take on as much, or as little, as you wish, as long as you remember the fundamentals. The office of president of any AFS units, but particularly the Western Division, should be considered the plum for any fishery professional. Rather than begging for candidates, I should only have to announce that the Nominations Committee is now accepting qualifications statements from those seeking to be elected to the WDAFS officer core as Vice-President. The selection process should start with screening from the pool of wannabes to determine a slate of two candidates for each position for the election. Instead, the search committee must seek out those few vulnerable souls who cannot say no.

Apparently current environmental conditions are selective against volunteer leaders in professional fisheries societies. If left to the forces of entropy, the process of conducting Western Division business and Society representation will be carried on by the remaining President and a staff of special interest "volunteers". Ken Hashagen is really interested in the outcome of this mystery because, depending on how things work out, he could end up as President for Life of the Western Division. And then there were none?

**WESTERN DIVISION GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

The Western Division is pleased to announce its fourth, graduate-level student scholarship(s). Applications are now being solicited. This scholarship was approved at the 1994 Annual Division Meeting along with an annual obligation of up to \$3,000. The Award Committee will consist of Wayne Hubert, Rich Carmichael, Chris Moffitt, Carl Schreck, and Brett Johnson. The Award's application criteria are presented below. Please make them available to any graduate students that you feel may qualify. The 1998 scholarship(s) will be awarded in Anchorage, AK, at the Division's annual meeting. The annual dollar amount will not exceed \$3,000 in total and the Committee may choose to divide this sum among closely ranked applicants.

**APPLICATION CRITERIA**

1. The deadline for applications is 15 March 1998.
2. Applicant must be a member of AFS or must have submitted AFS membership materials at the time of application.
3. Applicant must have completed successfully two quarters or one semester in residence in a current graduate degree program at an accredited institution of higher learning within the Western Division.
4. Applicant's major field of study must be related to fishery or aquatic resource science.
5. The application package must contain a letter to the Award Chair that specifies:
  - a. the applicant's career goals and reasons for applying (up to 200 words);
  - b. the relevancy of his/her work to the objectives of AFS (up to 200 words);
  - c. the anticipated degree and completion date of graduate study; and
  - d. the names and addresses of two faculty members (one must be the graduate student's advisor) familiar with the student's background and abilities. (The Award Chair will send a standardized recommendation form to each of these two references).
6. The application package must also include copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and a one-page abstract that outlines such items as the goals, objectives, design, methods, and expected products from his/her graduate work.

*The application package (student must send a total of five photocopies) should be sent, postmarked on or before March 15, to:*

Wayne A. Hubert, Chair  
 Western Division Scholarship Award Committee  
 Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 University of Wyoming  
 Box 3166, University Station  
 Laramie, WY 82071-3166

*"AFS - Anchorage" continued from page 1.*

Although well-established methods exist to apply stock assessments and biological reference points, further progress must be made if ecosystem considerations are to result in tangible fishery management advice.

Ecosystem processes also include the effects of nutrient additions from fish carcasses which have been identified in estuaries and in anadromous lakes and streams. Consideration of these effects of long-term ecosystem productivity may affect the harvest management of these species.

Given what we know about natural and human-induced changes in ecosystems around the world, what advice can we give fishery managers? The conveners hope to address these and other topics:

- Definitions of fishery management objectives that accommodate ecosystem-level concepts.
- How to manage fisheries on multiple species, each with differing levels of productivity (technical interactions).
- Incorporation of species interactions such as predator-prey relationships in fishery management (biological interactions).
- Whether fishing may result in "downstream" effects on other trophic levels through removals, discards, and habitat modification.
- Effects of harvesting that may alter productivity sufficiently to warrant modification of harvest strategies.
- Methods to incorporate natural, decadal-scale regime shifts affecting age and size structure, spatial variability and distribution, and community composition into fishery management models.

**A task force...**

has been created to review AFS governance and recommend ways to address issues and problems of equity in unit representation and voting on the national Governing Board.

Currently, the Western Division represents 35% of AFS membership at the National AFS Board; however, the Division has only one vote. Percentage membership of the other divisions are Southern 21%, Northcentral 18%, and Northeastern 11%. Sections also have one vote each. The four largest sections are Fisheries Management 10%, Fish Culture 6%, Computer Users 5%, and Fish Health 5%. Certain interests could possibly become members of sections and overwhelm the voice of the largest percentage of membership. Tom Nesler is in charge of the Task Force and would like to hear from Western Division members. Contact him directly at tom.nesler@state.co.us or 970-484-2836 ext 357.

Colorado State University is requesting donations of back issues of journals and books to replace the science collection destroyed by a flood at Morgan Library. Some 500,000 books were damaged. If you are interested in helping, contact Dean Camila Alire, Morgan Library, CSU, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

**AFS Professional Certification Program to Change July 1, 1998**

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Governing Board approved a revised program of professional certification at its midyear meeting in March 1997. That program will be implemented 1 July 1998. The main differences between the existing and revised plan are (1) a change in the certification titles, from associate fisheries scientist and certified fisheries scientist to associate fisheries professional and certified fisheries professional, (2) a change in education requirements, and (3) a requirement for certification renewal every five years. The experience requirements are more clearly described but in essence have not changed.

Changes in the certification program will affect current and future associate and certified fisheries professionals and colleges and universities that provide fisheries education. To give universities and students time to adapt to the new education requirements, those requirements will become effective 1 July 2002. All applicants for certification before that date must satisfy current education criteria, and certified professionals will not have to complete additional course work to remain certified after implementation of the new education criteria.

Certification renewal will be phased in throughout five years beginning 1 July 1998. Eventually, all certified fisheries professionals will need to apply for certification renewal every five years. However, during the phase-in period, one-third of the certified fisheries professionals must apply for renewal by three years, one-third by four years, and the final one-third by five years. Individuals in the three groups will be randomly selected and notified by AFS. Because certification renewal requires documentation of continuing education and professional activities, current associate and certified fisheries professionals should begin keeping logs of those activities by 1 July 1998. Details of the certification renewal requirements and qualifying activities are described at [http://www.esd.ornl.gov/societies/AFS/certify/certification\\_revised.htm](http://www.esd.ornl.gov/societies/AFS/certify/certification_revised.htm).

