

The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division, American Fisheries Society

Volume 24, No. 1, March 2000

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Only a brief message for this issue of The Tributary. First, an up-date on my goals. The Certification Challenge is alive and well. The requirement was that a minimum of three Western Division chapters had to participate before the Challenge was a "go". To date, three chapters (Alaska, Cal-Neva, and the Colorado-Wyoming) have agreed to participate in the Challenge. Others are still welcome.

My goal to increase/improve communication with the chapters is being met quite nicely, thank you. I have been holding conference calls every month or six weeks with the Executive Committee, which includes the officers of the Division and the chapter presidents, and we have been averaging about 15 folks for each call—about 4 or 5 officers and the remainder chapter presidents and an occasional committee chair. I attended the Alaska Chapter meeting, Eric Knudsen will be attending the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter

meeting, representing the Division. I will attend the Cal-Neva meeting in March, and will either attend the Oregon Chapter meeting in February or have another Division officer attend.

My goal of developing a strategic plan for the Division has met with abject failure. I have been unable to interest anyone at the Excom or Chapter level, so maybe the time is not right for this one.

Several chapters have taken me up on my goal of attempting to assist the Chapters. These requests for assistance have been in the form of grant requests, which will be addressed at our next conference call.

Increasing Student Membership and Retention—this goal is being addressed through an active program directed by Eric Knudsen. I know both California and Alaska chapters have active programs addressing this goal.

Additionally, Allen Bingham has done a great job of keeping our web page up to date, as Paul Evans has done with The Tributary. Mary Lou Keefe is the new chair of our EEO Committee and Shelley Spalding is making good progress with the Bull Trout Committee. Bob Wunderlich has agreed to chair the Environmental Concerns Committee and is actively putting together a review committee to review the Plum Creek EIR. The Division has also provided the names of three fisheries scientists to participate in a review of the Fish and Forests Plan in Washington. The annual Division meeting (Telluride, Colorado this year, July 16–19) is on schedule and moving forward smoothly through the efforts of Bill Bradshaw and Sherm Hebein.

Ken Hashagen

CALL FOR PAPERS

This, the first "official" call for papers, may turn out to be the last, so get your contributions in now! The previous "unofficial" solicitation for program ideas helped identify several broad recurring themes as well as more specific symposia and workshops proposals. The success of the first call is helping shape the framework for the Y2K program agenda and will guide prioritization of potential program contributions. Consequently, contributions relating to native game and non-game species conservation, and sport fisheries management issues, are being solicited.

Local and regional focus on the following topics is encouraged under this beach-sized umbrella: species status, case histories, and distributions; defining recovery goals under the ESA; incorporating habitat assessment into recovery efforts; extinction risk assessment; maximizing conservation effectiveness; use, application, evaluation, and effectiveness of cold-water fishing regulations; managing introduced species; whirling disease and fish stocking; and human dimensions of fishing. Contributed papers of a more general nature that relay current research and management efforts relevant to Division members are also solicited and welcome, as are poster presentations.

Symposia

Proposals for symposia from individuals or groups should be related to concepts discussed above or otherwise of particular interest to Division members. Symposium organizers are responsible for recruiting speakers, soliciting their abstracts, and submitting speaker abstracts as one packet. To be considered, proposals must be submitted by April 4 and comply with the format described below. The Program Committee will review all symposium proposals and notify organizers of acceptance or refusal by April 17. If accepted, organizers must submit a list of all confirmed speakers and

titles by May 15. Abstracts (in the same format as contributed papers) are due by May 15.

Symposium proposals must include the following:

A brief but descriptive title.

Name, addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and e-mail addresses for all organizers. Primary contact person responsible for organization must be clearly identified.

A brief (300 words or less) description of topic and objective of the symposium.

Proposed format description; e.g. full-day session with 15 speakers followed by a 2-hr panel discussion, a 2-hr session with 5 speakers.

An identified session moderator.

A list of anticipated audiovisual requirements and other facility requirements (special seating arrangements, panelist accommodations).

Contributed Paper and Symposia Presentation Formats

Contributed papers and symposia presentations should be prepared as MS Word or WordPerfect files in 12 point, Times New Roman font, be left justified only, and include all of the following:

A brief but descriptive title.

A list of all authors, their addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and e-mail addresses. Presenters must be clearly identified.

An abstract of 200 words or less.

Clear indication of preference for either an oral or poster presentation. For an oral presentation, indicate the presentation type—either 2×2 slides or computer presentation using an LCD projector (Note: Authors are responsible for bringing their own laptop computers).

Abstract Example (Please follow this format for abstract submissions)

Title: Quest for a fish friendly world

Authors: W.H. Bradshaw—Presenter, WGFD, P.O. Box 6249, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-672-7418 (W), 307-672-0594 (F), Bbrads@missc.state.wy.us; K.A. Hashagen, California Fish and Game Department, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814, 916-327-0712 (W), 916-324-0475 (F), [khashage@hq.dfg.ca.gov](http://hq.dfg.ca.gov).

Abstract: This statement will be used to evaluate and prioritize selections for inclusion in the 2000 program. Problem statement, issue significance, objectives, findings, and conclusions should be relayed in 200 words or less.

Preference: Oral presentation preferred with slides/poster session acceptable.

Submitting Contributions

All program contributions must be submitted electronically in either of two ways:

• E-mail to bbrads@missc.state.wy.us with proposal attached as an MS Word or WordPerfect file.

• Submit on a 3.5-in diskette formatted in either MS Word or WordPerfect to Program Committee Chair, Bill Bradshaw, WGFD, P.O. Box 6249, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-672-7418, Bbrads@missc.state.wy.us. Contact Bill Bradshaw for more information.

Please note the Western Division does not waive registration fees for those contributing to symposia, workshop, poster, or contributed paper sessions.

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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WESTERN DIVISION, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

c/o PAUL EVANS, Tributary Editor
571 WIDB, Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

Submissions for the next issue of The Tributary are due by May 15, 2000.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

2000 Annual Western Division Meeting
Telluride Convention Center
Telluride, Colorado
July 16–20

Accommodations

The groundwork is finished and affordable rooms are available to accommodate meeting attendees. So, whether you'll be staying alone, bringing your family, or rooming with a bunch of your close friends, there are plenty of rooms and options available. Plan ahead, book early, and enjoy the great accommodations Telluride has to offer.

To ensure your lodging needs are met, room blocks have been reserved through two property management agencies, Telluride Mountain Lodging and Telluride Resort Accommodations.

Telluride Mountain Lodging

(<http://www.telluridemtnlodging.com/>)

Rooms range from \$80–90 and are reserved at the Mountainside Inn in downtown Telluride. This is within easy

walking distance of the **free** gondola that provides transportation between Telluride and the Mountain Village and Telluride Conference Center.

For reservations call 1-888-728-1950 toll free, and **be sure to mention you are with the WDAFS meeting to guarantee the negotiated price break.** A deposit equal to one night's rate is required when booking, there is a \$20 fee for cancellations 30 days or more before arrival date (no deposit refund if cancelled less than 30 days before arrival), and the Western Division reservation ends June 16. Rates are based on single/double occupancy, additional occupants are \$20, and children under 12 stay free with their parents.

Telluride Resort Accommodations

(<http://www.toski.com/tra/index.html>)

Rooms are reserved at several facilities in the Mountain Village near the Telluride Conference Center, and in downtown Telluride. This block consists of a variety of units ranging from hotel rooms to condominiums and prices vary accordingly.

Reservations can be made at the Blue Mesa Lodge and Condominiums in Mountain Village, at the Cimarron and Tomboy Lodges, in Telluride, and at various individual condominiums in Telluride. Prices range from about \$75–\$95 for

single or double occupancy Lodge accommodations, and from about \$150–170 for a two bedroom condominium that sleeps 4–6 people comfortably.

Larger condominiums are somewhat more expensive but also accommodate correspondingly more people. For example, a large 4-bedroom condominium with room for 8–10 people ranges from \$220–235 (about \$20–30/person/night). Housing accommodations can also be arranged outside the blocked room group.

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-538-7754 and referring to **reservation #206897 to receive the 15% discount for stays of 4 nights or more.** A deposit equal to the first night's rate is required and there is a \$20 fee for cancellations 10 days or more before arrival date (no deposit refund if cancelled less than 10 days before arrival). Blocked rooms will be reserved through May 31.

Telluride Conference Center

Visit the website at www.tellurideconference.com/ for a preview of the conference center that will host the meeting. This website is also a good jumping off place for other information useful for planning your trip to the Western Division meeting. For even more local information visit the Telluride Visitors Guide at <http://telluride.org/index.html>.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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February 14, 2000

via conference call

1. Participants included: Ken Hashagen, President, Bill Bradshaw, President-Elect, Eric Knudsen, Vice-President, Mike Meinz, Cal-Neva Chapter President, Allen Bingham, Web Master, Bob Wunderlich, Chair, Environmental Concerns Committee, Ed Cheslak, Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Bechtol, Alaska Chapter President, Rollie Montagne, Greater Portland Chapter President, and Bob Bilby, Past President.

2. A quorum was **not** present.

3. President's Report—Ken Hashagen reported that an invitation had been sent to President Moffitt, inviting her or other officers to the Telluride meeting. Chapter of the year paperwork is due to Bob Bilby by April 1, 2000. Although the Division had been invited to the Oregon Chapter meeting, none of the officers had been able to free up their work scheduled to attend. Hashagen and Bradshaw will be attending the mid-year meeting in Bethesda in mid-March.

4. Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Ed Cheslak reported a balance of \$85,453 in the Division's joint savings/checking account. While some funds are in CDs, about \$12K is liquid and could be shifted to checking if the need arises. We have received \$2,058 in interest to date this year. We still have a major problem with about \$7100 of credit card charges to the Moscow meeting. Ed Cheslak and Cindy Deacon Williams, the Arrangements Chair for the Moscow meeting, continue to work to resolve this issue. Some records were lost in the mail and we are hoping that the Bethesda Office can provide us with duplicate information. Ed will request our dues rebate from the Society.

5. President-Elect's Report—Bill Bradshaw reported that the arrangements for the meeting are moving along smoothly. Dirk Miller will handle solicitation of vendors; we have a raffle chair and the first call for papers is at the printer and on the web page.

6. Vice-President's Report—Eric Knudsen attended the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter meeting and a meeting of the Committee for the 2001 Annual Meeting. He has arranged for a luncheon/business meeting to be held for Division members and arranged for the Division logo to be prominently displayed on meeting information and materials. The Division will stand out much more at this meeting than we did when it was held in Monterey CA.

7. Past President's Report—Bob Bilby has a list of names to contact to identify candidates for Vice President, and will start making contacts next week. We need to identify a Nominating Committee representative, but our Secretary-Treasurer serves a 2-year term and still has a year to go. Bob is also looking for nominations for our awards. To date, no one has given him any input. Allen Bingham pointed out that the information on the web page relating to the awards is incomplete. Bob and Allen will work to fill in the gaps.

8. Newsletter/Web Page Reports—Paul Evans was unable to participate in the conference call but did give a report to Ken Hashagen. The printer we have been using for the Tributary has decided not print in the newsprint format and no longer wants small jobs like ours. Paul was looking for a new printer but had to leave for a 2-week stint in Egypt digging up mummies for DNA samples (If that isn't the truth, at least it is a very inventive excuse for not making the conference call!). Allen Bingham puts material up on the web page practically before he receives it. There is material on the Telluride meeting and the call for papers.

9. Committee Reports—Bob Wunderlich said the Plum Creek EIR Review Committee was hard at work and should have a product for Excom review and approval in March.

10. Old Business—The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), charged with coordinating a review of the Washington Forests and Fish Report, asked the Division to provide them with the names of three qualified fisheries biologists to participate in the review. Ken Hashagen, with the help of others, provided the names. The Review Committee prepared a draft report, but inaccurately portrayed the Division's role. Ken is working to get the report changed. They have also put the information on their web page. Ken has told them the web page must be pulled until it accurately reflects the Division's role on the Review Committee and a disclaimer inserted that indicates that although Division members participated in the review, the review doesn't reflect the position of the Division on the Forests and Fish Report. Ken has prepared a statement for our web page, which Allen has posted, and has contacted Gus Rassam, AFS Executive Director, for advice and counsel. SER has not responded to Ken's emails. SER's web page can be accessed at http://www.halcyon.com/sernw/for_fish/for_fish.htm.

11. New Business—The Executive Committee had planned to evaluate accumulated grant requests, but ran out of time. Another conference call will be held can also be arranged outside the blocked room group on 2-23-00 at 10:00 Pacific time to discuss only the grants.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2000

via conference call

1. Participants included: Ken Hashagen, President, Bill Bradshaw, President-Elect, Eric Knudsen, Vice President, Ed Cheslak, Treasurer, Bob Bilby, Past President, Paul Evans, Newsletter Editor, Bill Bechtol, Alaska Chapter President, Rollie Montagne, Greater Portland Chapter President, Chris Keleher, Bonneville Chapter President, and Mary Lou Keefe, Chair, Equal Opportunity Committee.

2. A quorum was **not** present; these draft minutes will be sent out to the entire Executive Committee electronically. The information on proposed awards for grant requests are presented as recommendations until sufficient members of the Excom have voted on the recommendations. To pass these recommendations the affirmative votes of two additional chapter presidents must be received.

3. Up-date on the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)—As reported at the last conference call, there appeared to be some reluctance from SER to change the information on their web page. It was not reluctance, but rather some mis-sent email and phone messages not checked. I feel SER will do the right thing but the folks that have agreed to the changes must get the web master to make the changes. I will continue to monitor their web page and, once the changes have been made, I will ask Allen Bingham to delete the "Clarification" statement on our web page.

4. Paul Evans reported that a new printer has been located for the Tributary. March 9 will be the publication/ mailing date. Paul is still accepting information until the end of week. Ken Hashagen has resent his President's Message. Eric Knudsen indicated that bulk mail to Canada and Alaska often take a month or more, with the result that members

from those areas would not be able to meet the deadlines for the first call for papers. Paul will send all Canadian and Alaskan members their issues via a first class mailing. Next Tributary deadline is the end of May.

5. The main purpose of this call was to address the grant request we had on hand. Before addressing the grants, there was a lengthy discussion of our current budget and expenditures to date. Without going into lengthy detail, I will attempt to summarize the main points:

a. It is not likely that we will be able to recover all the credit card charges from the Moscow meeting, thus anticipated income will be lower than projected and, if expenditures continue at their current rate, the budget will be over-expended by the end of the fiscal year. We discussed eliminating any further grants for this year in order to balance the budget but agreed that grants were the one area that we could help chapters and others in the resource field do good things for fisheries resources. With an approved vote, the Executive Committee has the ability to move funds from savings to checking to cover shortfalls such as this without going to the membership for approval. Those participating in the call decided to continue to fund grant requests and make a budget adjustment towards the end of the year to cover over expenditures. We have over \$85,000 in our accounts and felt a one-time fund transfer to cover the shortfall was appropriate. We anticipate a profit from the Telluride meeting because it will be much better planned and organized than the Moscow meeting was. (I know, I was in charge of planning and organizing the Moscow meeting—KEN).

b. The following decisions were made on grant requests:

i. Wood in Streams (\$5,000)—this was obligated in the 1999 fiscal year and will be paid out of that year. Ed will pay this one and adjust the 1999 actual expenditures.

ii. Henry's Fork Journal Issue (\$1,500)—xxxx will call and find out if this is going to happen. If it is still a viable project, it will be taken out of this year's money, as it was approved at the Moscow Excom Meeting.

iii. Dam Removal Conference (\$400)—approved previously; check sent.

iv. Groundfish Conference (\$1200)—previously approved; check sent.

v. Alaska Stock Status Report (\$5,000)—with the approval of the Alaska Chapter, we have deferred payment of this grant until next year's budget. It is contingent on the Chapter generating additional funds. If the funds are not forthcoming, the funds will be returned.

vi. EEO Section request (\$500)—this is an annual, recurring request that the Committee is willing to support on a yearly basis. We decided to make it a line item under the Awards budget category and to fund it this year and future years from the funds in that line item.

vii. Cutthroat Trout Symposium (\$500)—grant is contingent on the remainder of the funds that are needed being collected by the start of the Symposium. If the funds are not found, the \$500 would be returned.

viii. Transactions Backlog (\$2,000)—after approval, Ed will send a check to Bethesda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

ix. Humboldt Chapter Education Grant (\$1,000)—after approval, Ed will send a check.

x. Weigel/Diversity Symposium at the Telluride meeting (\$3,500)—deferred. Mary Lou Keefe will work with Bill Bradshaw to include a plenary speaker to talk about diversity at the Telluride meeting and work with Eric Knudsen to put together a workshop at the 2001 meeting. The Excom felt that this is not a topic that is usually well attended and it would be an excessive expenditure for the few folks that would probably attend. Everyone felt the topic was one we should support, but it would be better to build toward a workshop at Phoenix (2001), where the audience would be larger.

xi. Gumboot Creek Signage—Eric will contact Gretchen Sausen to determine how much money has been donated by other proposed partners. If it looks like it will be a viable project, Western Division will donate \$500. If the funds are not used by July 1, 2000, they will be returned.

xii. Fishes of California/Peter Moyle (\$1,500)—Dr. Moyle needs \$13,200 to put a color insert in his revised edition of Fishes of California. The Division will donate \$1,500 to this effort, contingent upon Dr. Moyle securing the remaining funds necessary by June 2000.

xiii. World Fisheries Congress (\$400)—after approval by the full Excom, Ed will send a check.

Ken will work with Ed to prepare the notification letters. So many of the grant requests received by the Division are looking to the Division for only partial funding—other partners are also solicited. Ed and Ken will craft some wording indicating that our donation (now and in future years) is contingent on the full amount being solicited for the project being obligated by other partners/ sponsors. If the funding goal is not reached by a certain date, our funds must be returned.

WESTERN DIVISION PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE FORESTS AND FISH REPORT

There has been a lot of confusion recently about the Division's participation in the Forests and Fish Report. This document will clarify that confusion.

Several months ago, I was contacted by a representative of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and asked if the Division could provide the names of three fisheries scientists with expertise in forest practices that would be willing to participate in a review team put together by SER. With the assistance of others from the Division, I identified three people and sent their names to SER. The names of all the reviewers were to be kept confidential and, to my knowledge, that confidentiality still exists. Only two of the three fisheries scientists actually participated in the review. SER had money to pay the reviewers. The committee reviewed the report and made individual comments. The committee then met and prepared a document which incorporated all their comments. This draft was sent to me and others and is/was published on the SER web page. The comments of the reviewers were their own. They did not and were never intended to represent the views of the Division.

Immediately upon receipt of the document, I noticed following the title was the sub-title "Review prepared at the request of the American Fisheries Society and the Society for Ecological Restoration." Also on the first page, in a section headed "Outline of Review" was the sentence "... the American Fisheries Society and the Society for Ecological Restoration jointly convened a technical review committee to evaluate the ..."

I felt this information was incorrect and misleading and immediately emailed my contact at SER and told them this. This draft report has now been placed on the SER web page. No corrections have been made, as I requested. Today (2-10-00), I again emailed SER and asked them to remove the draft report from their web page until they have corrected the references to AFS's participation. I also asked them to also print a clarifying statement on the web page explaining the actual participation of AFS in the review.

If SER had asked the Division to conduct a peer review of the Forests and Fish Report, I would have asked the Chair

of our Ecological Concerns Committee (ECC) to convene a review committee, make comments or prepare a report, and present it to the Division Executive Committee. After review and revision of the comments/report, the Excom would have voted to accept or reject the material prepared by the ECC. If accepted, it would become the official position of the Division. The Division Excom is composed of the Division officers and the Presidents of the Chapters in the Division.

I hope this will straighten out the confusion about our participation in the Forests and Fish Report review. If anyone still has questions, I would be happy to answer them. Please direct them to me at 916-327-0712 or email at khashage@dfg.ca.gov. I will continue to work with SER to make sure AFS's participation in the review is accurately stated in the final document.

KEN HASHAGEN, President
Western Division, AFS

A NEW WESTERN DIVISION LOGO

The Western Division is looking for a new logo. To the best of anyone's knowledge, there has never been a certified, official logo. Venice Beske, the Division's Archivist/Historian, researched the archives and found two: one of a grayling used on the newsletter from 1982 to 1983, and, following that, from 1983 to 1990, the newsletter featured a pair of spawning salmon. That logo disappeared about the time the Tributary went to a newsprint format, in 1991. Our official letterhead shows the Society's logo with a box to the right with the words "American Fisheries Society, Western Division." Simple, clean, and functional.

The Western Division will be co-sponsoring the Society's annual meeting in Phoenix in 2001. There will be many opportunities to showcase this sponsorship—on posters,

bags, stationery, etc. The organizers of the meeting have asked for a copy of our logo (which is how we found out we don't have one) so they can start using it on pre-meeting publicity.

The Executive Committee is proposing a contest to design a new logo. The Rules of the Contest:

1. A design may be entered by an individual, a chapter, or a group. The entry does not have to be a member of the Society, the Division, or a Chapter (i.e., an artist or a graphic artist unconnected to the Society may enter).

2. Entries must be 8"X12" or larger. Name(s) of the person/group must be clearly written on the back.

3. They must be submitted to Program Chair Bill Bradshaw, c/o WGFD, P.O. Box 6249, Sheridan, WY no later than July 10th.

4. The submitted entries will be displayed at the annual meeting in Telluride and voted on by the members.

5. The winning entry will be announced at the end of the meeting, at the time the Best Paper awards are announced. The winning entry will become the sole property of the Western Division. The winner will receive a cash award of \$500, along with an article in the Tributary.

Soooooo. Tell your artistic friends, talk to the graphic artist in your agency, or give it a shot yourself. Enter as a chapter and win \$500 for your chapter treasury.

WESTERN GROUND FISH CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Bill Bechtol

Student recipients have been announced for grants to defer costs associated with travel and participation in the Western Groundfish Conference in Sitka, Alaska on April 24–28, 2000. Grant funding is provided by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and includes a 1-year membership in the American Fisheries Society. Erica J. Burton, with the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, will receive full travel funding including airfare and lodging. Ms. Burton will give an oral presentation titled "Age and growth of the giant grenadier (Family Macouridae: *Albatrossia pectoralis*) with age estimate validation using ²¹⁰Pb:²²⁶Ra disequilibria in otolith cores." In addition, partial funding is being made available to Rebecca F. Reuter. Ms. Reuter, also of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, is the lead author of a poster by herself and Nancy Roberson titled "Spatial analysis of size composition, age, and growth of dusky rockfish, *Sebastes ciliatus*, in the Gulf of Alaska." Ms. Reuter also co-authored an oral presentation being given Sandra Lowe titled "Larval and juvenile Atka mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*) distribution in Alaskan waters: A retrospective study." Presentation abstracts are shown below.

The Western Groundfish Conference is a biennial meeting uniquely focused on groundfish issues facing researchers and managers along the West Coast of North America. The

conference is not affiliated with any specific organization, but is supported by the efforts of individuals from a variety of government, academic, industry, and public sector organizations. Additional information on the April 2000 conference in Sitka is available at the following website: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/announce/grndfish/11wgfcon.htm>.

Age and growth of the giant grenadier (Family Macouridae: *Albatrossia pectoralis*) with age estimate validation using ²¹⁰Pb:²²⁶Ra disequilibria in otolith cores.

Oral presentation by Erica J. Burton

Abstract

Age estimates determined from growth increments in sagittal otolith transverse sections indicated *Albatrossia pectoralis* is slow growing and long-lived; up to 56 years. Growth increments found in otolith sections, however, were difficult to interpret. The von Bertalanffy growth function for *A. pectoralis* otolith section age estimates did not fit data well. To validate age and longevity estimates, ages were determined using the radioactive disequilibria of ²¹⁰Pb:²²⁶Ra in otolith cores from adult *A. pectoralis*. Radiometric and growth increment ages agreed for 6 of the 12 pooled otolith age groups. Radiometric age determination confirmed age estimates from 22 to 32 years. Additional age and longevity

estimates are still necessary to develop an informed fishery management plan for *A. pectoralis*.

Spatial Analysis of Size Composition, Age and Growth of Dusky Rockfish, *Sebastes ciliatus*, in the Gulf of Alaska.

Poster presentation by **Rebecca F. Reuter** and Nancy E. Roberson

Abstract

Differences in size, age composition and growth based on geographic region, depth and sex were defined for the light variety of dusky rockfish (*Sebastes ciliatus*). Statistical analyses indicate that several habitats were utilized by this species throughout their life cycle. Similar to other rockfish species, larger and older *S. ciliatus* were found in deeper water than the smaller and younger individuals. The maximum length of female (46.3 cm) *S. ciliatus* was found to be significantly larger ($P < 0.001$) than males (45.3 cm), but the length-weight relationships of female and male were not significantly different. Although the von Bertalanffy growth parameters of *S. ciliatus* were significantly different between

WESTERN GROUND FISH CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

three regions in the Gulf of Alaska, they may not exhibit sexual dimorphism.

Larval and Juvenile Atka Mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*) Distribution in Alaskan Waters: A Retrospective Study.

Oral presentation by Sandra A. Lowe and Rebecca F. Reuter

Abstract

Atka mackerel are an important forage fish for groundfish, seabirds and marine mammals, including the endangered Steller sea lion. They are an important commercial fishery in Alaska, and comprise the largest groundfish biomass in the Aleutian Islands. Knowledge of their early life history from egg-larval stages to the juvenile stage is very limited. This study utilizes incidental catch data of Atka mackerel from four historical surveys in areas ranging from Kodiak Island to the western Aleutian Islands to describe the distribution and abundance of juvenile and larval Atka mackerel caught over a thirty year period. Spawn dates back-calculated from larvae lengths suggest that spawning in the Gulf of Alaska occurs during the late summer-early fall. Similar findings were found for the Eastern Bering Sea. Increase in the variance of lengths per haul during the spring and winter months in the Gulf of Alaska suggest that optimal spawning conditions can span several months. Juveniles were found in the epipelagic areas of Bower's and Bering sea Basins during the summer of 1987, this is the first documentation of this behavior in U.S. waters. Juveniles were also found near adult non-spawning habitat in the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. Increased knowledge of the larval to pre-recruit life history of this species will provide valuable information necessary for the assessment and management of Atka mackerel.

GRANT PROPOSALS

Each year, the Western Division Executive Committee includes money in the Western Division budget to fund various proposals it receives during the year or to allow the Division to participate in cooperative proposals. Some activities the Division has funded in recent years include: \$300 to Washington Trout to support a workshop entitled "Uncertainty in Salmon Harvest Management", \$1650 to the AFS International Fisheries Section to provide society journals to Russian far east laboratories, and \$1000 to the AFS Equal Opportunities Section to help recruit students from under-represented groups to AFS, division workshops, communication and public education workshops, committee projects, and special symposia at the annual meeting.

This year a total of \$10,000 is available. Most proposals are for relatively small amounts of money (<\$2,500). Because the Division is receiving more requests each year, the Executive Committee has decided to develop a process which will enable them to consider all proposals at one time and fund the highest priority ones. In the past, the Committee has considered them as they come in and funded them with no knowledge of what opportunities might arise later in the year. Sometimes, proposals are received after all the money is gone for the year.

Effective immediately, the Executive Committee will consider proposal twice a year, in July and December. Proposals should be submitted to the current Division President. Proposals should be brief and should include the following:

- Title
- Amount requested
- Name of requesting organization
- Name, address, phone, email, and fax of contact person(s)
- Date funds are needed
- Products that will be produced (what will the requested funds be used for?)
- Names of other funding sources and amounts
- How will the Western Division's contribution be acknowledged?
- Indicate how unused funds (if any) will be handled

Submit all proposals to the current Division President by December 1 or July 1. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

USEPA WESTERN STREAM & RIVER SURVEY

The research and regional offices of the USEPA in collaboration with state water quality or fishery agencies or both are initiating a survey of streams and rivers in 12 conterminous western states beginning this summer. Over 1000 sites will be selected through use of a randomized systematic sampling design, and these will be surveyed from 2000 to 2003 to evaluate their ecological integrity.

Indicators for doing so will include quantitative samples of fish, benthos and periphyton assemblages; physical habitat structure; water quality; riparian condition; and catchment land use and land cover. States currently included in the survey are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The objective of the survey is to make statistically valid assessments of all streams in each state, as well as in the major basins and ecoregions comprising the survey area. For further information, please contact John Stoddard (stoddard@mail.cor.epa.gov or 541 754 4441).

Atlantic Salmon Watch Program

Andy Thomson (email: ASWP@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca), a scientist at Nanaimo, British Columbia, has been coordinating the Atlantic Salmon Watch program to compile data on catches and sightings of escaped Atlantic salmon throughout the Pacific Northwest. Although the threat of Atlantic salmon to Pacific salmon stocks has yet to be determined, spawning populations were discovered at two North Vancouver Islands last year.

If you find an Atlantic salmon, you are asked to keep the fish and report the capture by calling the ASWP toll-free at 1-800-811-6010. You will be asked where and when you caught the fish and if you wish to donate the fish for research purposes. Donation, while not mandatory, provides valuable samples for scientific study. For donation, the whole fish, including entrails, should be frozen or kept on ice.

More information on this program is available at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aqua/pages/atlsalm.htm>

AFS NEWS

New AFS Job Announcements Policy

The categories for job announcements charges are the following:

Official Members, Associate Members, Sustaining Members: no charges

Individual Members who place ads for their personal needs, i.e., for assistants or student help: no charges

All others: according to fee schedule, with student ads at 50% of the full published fees.

EMPLOYERS: E-mail a description of the position to jmachado@fisheries.org (150 words or less) using the headings: position title, agency/location, responsibilities, qualifications, closing date, & contact; See an announcement below for an example. If no closing date is listed, job will be posted for 1 month only. Please contact Jackie Machado at (301) 897-8616 ext. 200 for more information.

JOB SEEKERS: Please let us know if you found employment through the AFS Jobs Bulletin. Contact Beth Tyler, 301/897-8616, ext. 220; btyler@fisheries.org

EDUCATION SECTION:

John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former Chapter and Western Division American Fisheries Society president. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the AFS Annual Meeting. Any student who is active in fisheries and related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Recipients are chosen by the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on

academic qualifications, professional services and promise, and reasons for wanting to attend the meeting. Travel support not to exceed \$500 per award will be made available to successful applicants. Contact the Committee Chair, Christopher Guy, for an application or download the form in Adobe Acrobat (<http://www.fisheries.org/2000SkinnerApplicationForm.PDF>) The application is also available in Word (<http://www.fisheries.org/2000SkinnerApplicationForm.doc>) or WordPerfect (<http://www.fisheries.org/2000SkinnerAwardApplication.wpd>).

The deadline to apply for this funding is 15 May.

Contact: Christopher Guy, Chair
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