



The Tributary



A Newsletter of the Western Division, American Fisheries Society

Volume 28, No. 3, October 2004

Creating a Fisheries Mosaic: Connections Across Jurisdictions, Disciplines, and Cultures 135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society September 11 - 15, 2005 Anchorage, AK

Make plans now to come to the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, co-convening with the annual meetings of the Western Division AFS and the Alaska Chapter AFS along with the 23rd Lowell Wakefield Symposium on Pacific Rockfishes! The meeting is at the Egan Convention Center and Performing Arts Center in Anchorage, 11-15 September 2005. The meeting's theme will be "Creating A Fisheries Mosaic: Connections Across Jurisdictions, Disciplines, and Cultures." A "mosaic" represents a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. We expect you will find the collection of events, symposia, and contributed papers in Anchorage to be a stimulating mosaic of fishery and aquatic science, culture, and adventure. Anchorage will be an outstanding venue to advance your professional networking and to keep current on emerging ideas in fisheries science and management, with the added bonus of an opportunity to experience some of Alaska's scenery, wilderness, and recreational adventures. The meeting theme reflects President Barbara Knuth's Program of Work for her year in office, emphasizing the notion of "connections." World-renowned fisheries artist Ray Troll has designed a stunning and inspiring meeting poster in keeping with this theme,

and will speak about the convergence of his art and fisheries science as one of the meeting's plenary session speakers. Other plenary speakers will address the relationship of indigenous knowledge with western science and fisheries management (Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission), and emerging partnerships between business and non-profits for promoting sustainable commercial fisheries and educating consumers about the importance of making appropriate seafood choices (Heather Tausig, New England Aquarium). We encourage symposia that build on these themes, and other themes of connections across jurisdictions, disciplines, and cultures.



First Call for Symposia and Papers

Aquatic resource professionals are invited to submit symposia proposals and abstracts for papers in a range of topics and disciplines. Participation by scientists at all levels and backgrounds, especially students, is encouraged.

The scientific program includes the following types of sessions: Symposia (oral sessions organized to focus on a single topic; see format below), Contributed Papers (oral presentations on any relevant topic), and Posters.

Oral presentations are limited to 20 minutes: a 15-minute presentation with 5 minutes for speaker introduction and questions. In some symposia, two time slots (for a total of 40 minutes) may be used for a keynote speaker or panel discussion.

All oral presenters are expected to deliver computer presentations. Presenters must bring their PowerPoint presentation to the meeting on CD or USB flash memory stick, and have their presentation loaded onto the session computer by 7 PM the evening before their presentation.

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The Tributary is distributed to 3,742 WDAFS members and exists as a forum to present fisheries-related information. The editor is Mark Brouder. 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 in mid-January, 2005.

WDAFS on the web: <http://www.wdafs.org>

President's Message

This promises to be a "hang on to the seat of your pants" type of year. I just became President in mid-August and the year is already off to a busy start.

The Western Division Officers, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairs met in Albuquerque, New Mexico for their Midyear Executive meeting. The agenda was full and there were a number of new issues discussed.

As I write this report, I have contacted about half of the standing and ad hoc committee chairs to thank them for all of their hard work over the past year and to determine their interest in returning to another year of service for the Western Division. I anticipate a couple of opportunities if any of you would like to serve on a committee this year. Please contact me at Lynn_Starnes@fws.gov if you have the time and interest in serving. I would really like to appoint some NEW folks to some of our committees! Let's keep the Western Division revitalized with new energy, ideas and issues.

In May 2004, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided the Western Native Fishes Committee \$50,000 on the condition that these funds would be matched by \$110,000 in additional non-federal funds raised by the Western Division. Since the \$50,000 and \$110,000 would basically fund the Distribution Analysis as the Committee envisioned this was a major first step. On October 6, 2004, the Committee received notification that it was awarded \$50,000 in 2005 and \$30,000 in 2006 from the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. After overhead is taken out, we still have fund raising to do, however, this project can now make major strides toward a final, usable product.

NOAA Fisheries has recently issued a Draft Revised Biological Opinion which by all reports differs markedly from the 2000 Biological Opinion in approach and content. The Western Division has been asked by a variety of organizations in the Pacific Northwest to perform an outside, independent, scientific review of that report. The North Pacific International Chapter has taken the lead in bringing the issue to the Western Division. Due to political sensitivity, it will take a while to contact prospective reviewers and actually conduct this review. This was one of the topics at the Albuquerque Mid-year meeting.

Issues of local or regional significance (and fre-

quently political controversy) will arise from time-to-time. Increasingly agencies are turning to organizations like the American Fisheries Society and the Western Division of AFS to take the second look at the science/biology that is being presented and analyzed. When your subunit is asked to play such a role or you want the Division to play such a role, contact one of us officers. We will alert the Environmental Concerns Committee and will elevate the issue for discussion at one of the monthly conference calls. The Western Division has been able to provide this review on several issues and I think this is a very satisfying role for our members.

I look forward to a productive year handling the issues that you members find important.

Lynn Starnes - President

Federal Court Rules U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Operations on San Joaquin River Illegal - Can River Restoration Be Far Behind?

Most people know that the San Joaquin River is California's second largest river and the mainstem of the San Joaquin basin watershed that drains into San Francisco Bay. But few realize that, upstream the Merced River, its first major tributary, the San Joaquin River is dry, virtually all of its runoff diverted at or immediately downstream of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's Friant Dam.

On August 27, 2004, U. S. District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, ruled the Bureau's operation of Friant Dam violated California state law. The ruling has broad implications for the balance between fishery protection and California water management and may well set in motion a program to restore this once magnificent river.

Until the late 1940s, when full-scale diversion operations at Friant Dam began, the San Joaquin River supported large runs of Chinook salmon, steelhead, and numerous other native anadromous and resident fishes. Closure of the dam and diversion of the river's water extirpated anadromous species from the river, including the basin's largest spring run of Chinook salmon, and largely restricted native resident fishes to a short reach of the river immediately below the dam. Loss of the river's flow also

aggravated environmental, water quality, irrigation and water project operational problems downstream in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Sixteen years ago, a coalition of 14 environmental and fishing groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, sued the Bureau and the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) over its operation of the dam and renewal of water supply contracts. At issue was California Fish and Game code section 5937, which states that "the owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam." For fisheries biologists this issue may seem simple and obvious, but the case is one of California's longest running water disputes.

In the late 1990s, the case was temporarily stayed when the environmental coalition and FWUA entered into settlement negotiations, seeking to craft a plan to restore the river and develop water supplies for use and restoration. During a four-year period, representatives of the two sides worked with consultants to complete a background report describing historical and existing conditions in the river and a water supply study that outlined dozens of strategies for developing and managing water supplies to support river restoration and irrigation. A study a river restoration strategies was completed to draft form. However, in 2003, after months of negotiations with a federal mediator, FWUA rejected a compromise settlement proposal and the case returned to court.

With the August ruling, liability for violating the California law has been assigned and, pending further appeals, the case now moves to the remedy phase. While the Cal-Neva Chapter itself has not been directly involved the case, a number of AFS members have provided expert testimony and/or worked with the litigants and consultants during the settlement period. In the months to come, I encourage members to be on the lookout for further developments in the case and for opportunities to provide their expertise, research and analysis for this historic river and fish restoration effort.

Contact: Tina Swanson, President, California-Nevada Chapter and Senior Scientist, The Bay Institute, 530-756-9021.

2005 Annual Meeting First Call for Papers (continued)

Laptop computers will be provided, as will LCD computer projectors, and technicians will be available to help.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

The Program Committee invites proposals for symposia from individuals or groups. Symposia may be presented as oral presentations, posters, or both. Topics should be related to the meeting theme (these will receive priority) or be of general interest to AFS members. Symposia organizers are responsible for recruiting speakers, soliciting their abstracts, and directing them to submit their abstracts through the AFS online abstract submission form. Each symposium should last at least a half-day (about 10 oral presentations) and may span a maximum of two days (about 40 oral presentations). There is no limitation for the number of posters submitted for symposia.

Symposium proposals must be submitted by 14 January 2005 via e-mail to Eric Knudsen (ericknudsen@gcinet) with the proposal attached in the correct format in MS Word or WordPerfect; please contact Eric (address and phone below) if you do not receive confirmation. The Program Committee will review all symposium proposals and notify organizers of acceptance or refusal by 4 February 2005. If accepted, organizers must submit a complete list of all confirmed speakers and titles by 25 February 2005. Symposium abstracts (in the same format as contributed abstracts; see below) are due by 4 March 2005.

Format for symposium proposals:

1. **SYMPOSIUM TITLE:** Brief but descriptive
2. **ORGANIZER(S):** Provide names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses for all organizers. Indicate by an asterisk the name of the main contact person.
3. **DESCRIPTION:** In 300 words or less, describe the topic addressed by the proposed symposium, the objective of the symposium, and the value of the symposium to AFS members and participants.
4. **FORMAT:** Indicate format and length of the proposed symposium (for example: a full-day session with 20 speakers, a full-day session with 15 speakers followed by a 2-hour panel discussion, half-day session with 10 speakers; in general, allow 10 time slots per half-day session).
5. **MODERATOR:** Identify who will moderate the symposium.

6. **AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS:** A standard laptop computer and LCD projectors will be available in every room. Other audiovisual equipment needed for the symposium will be considered, but computer projection is strongly encouraged.

7. **SPECIAL SEATING REQUESTS:** Standard rooms will be arranged theatre-style. Please indicate special seating requests (for example, "after the break, a panel discussion with seating for 10 panel members will be needed").

8. **SPEAKERS AND TOPICS:** Provide each speaker's name, tentative title of presentation, and the speaker's confirmation status in the following format:

Speaker Title/Topic Confirmed (yes/no)

- 1.
- 2.

9. **SPONSORS:** If applicable, indicate sponsorship. A sponsor is not required.

CONTRIBUTED ORAL AND POSTER ABSTRACTS

The Program Committee for the 135 th AFS Annual Meeting invites abstracts for contributed oral presentations and posters. Poster submissions are strongly encouraged because of the limited space available in the program for oral presentations. The meeting schedule will include a special poster session to encourage discussion between poster authors and attendees.

Both contributed oral presentation abstracts and contributed poster abstracts must be received by 11 February 2005. All submissions must be made by using the AFS online abstract submission form, which will be available on the AFS website (www.fisheries.org) in November 2004.

Only one oral presentation (symposium or contributed) will be accepted for each senior author; additional posters are allowed.

Abstracts must be formatted using the description and example below.

Title: An example abstract for the AFS 2005 Annual Meeting

Authors: Margraf, F. Joseph*. US Geological Survey, Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020 (907) 474-6044 joe.margraf@uaf.edu

Knudsen, E. Eric. Consulting Fisheries Scientist, 13033 Sunrise Dr., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 856-5482 ericknudsen@gci.net
Carol Kerkvliet, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer, AK. 99603-8027 (907) 235-8191, carol_kerkvliet@fishgame.state.ak.us

Abstract: Abstracts are used by the Program Committee to evaluate and select papers for inclusion in the scientific and technical sessions of the 2004 AFS Annual Meeting. An informative abstract contains a statement of the problem and its significance, study objectives, principal findings and application, and it conforms to the prescribed format.

First Topic Choice for Contributed Session: Education

Second Topic Choice for Contributed Session : Human Dimensions

Preference: Oral presentation preferred, but poster presentation acceptable

Special Needs (LCD projectors will be provided to all rooms): None

Student Presenter (Work being reported was completed while a student): Yes

All abstracts for symposia presentations, contributed oral presentations, and posters must be submitted using the format indicated. Submitting via the AFS website is required, and formatting is automatically done for you. Use a brief but descriptive title. List all authors, their addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses; indicate the speaker with an asterisk after the entire name. Abstracts are restricted to 200 words. On the "Session Topic" line of the abstract form, please indicate which two general topics best fit the concept in your abstract. This will assist the Program Committee in organizing contributed sessions and preventing conflict with concurrent talks. All presenters will be notified of acceptance and the designated time and place of their presentation.

General topics for contributed papers and posters include: Bioengineering, Human Dimensions, Policy, Education, Fish Health, Physiology, Fish Culture, Habitat and Water Quality, Freshwater Fisheries Management, Marine Fisheries Management, Communities and Ecosystems, Population Dynamics, Statistics and Modeling, Marine Fish Ecology,

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2005 Annual Meeting First Call for Papers (continued)

Freshwater Fish Ecology, Native Fishes, Fish Conservation, Contaminants and Toxicology, Genetics, Species Specific (specify), and Other (specify).

Indicate your preference for the presentation format using one of the following:

- Oral presentation only
- Poster presentation only
- Oral presentation preferred, but poster presentation acceptable.

Late submissions will not be accepted. Please note that AFS does not waive registration fees for symposium, workshop, or contributed session participants. All presenters and meeting attendees must pay registration fees. Registration forms will be available at on the AFS website (www.fisheries.org) in April 2005; register early for cost savings!

Questions regarding symposia should be addressed to:

Eric Knudsen
Consulting Fisheries Scientist
13033 Sunrise Dr.
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
(360)856-5482
ericknudsen@gci.net

Questions regarding contributed paper sessions should be addressed to:

Joe Margraf
Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife
Research Unit
P.O. Box 757020
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020
Phone: (907) 474-6044
joe.margraf@uaf.edu

Questions regarding the poster session should be addressed to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Division of Sport Fish
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK. 99603-8027
(907) 235-8191
carol_kerkvliet@fishgame.state.ak.us

Answer to the Fish Quiz

As you may recall, in the last issue of *The Tributary*, Gregg Lomnicky submitted a "quiz" to the membership. Gregg informed us that the USEPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) has evaluated the first three years of its probability survey of streams and rivers in the 12 conterminous western USA states (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY). From the 542 randomly-selected sites with fish, EMAP can infer the proportion of stream length occupied by each fish species. The challenge Gregg had for us was which five native fish species are the most commonly occurring across those states? And what are the three most commonly occurring nonnative fish species in the same region?.

Answers

The 5 most common native species are: rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, speckled dace, long-nose dace, and mountain whitefish.

The 3 most common nonnative fish are rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout.

Winner

Congratulations to Mike Banach, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission!

Thank you to Gregg Lomnicky for the submission and to all who

AFS Needs Your Help

AFS is seeking back issues of its journal *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* for inclusion in the AFS Fisheries InfoBase. Currently, Fisheries InfoBase contains all AFS journal articles back to 1970. They are planning on expanding InfoBase by scanning and digitizing all remaining journal articles back to the first issue of *Transactions* in 1872. Completion of this final phase of Fisheries InfoBase will allow researchers to electronically access every AFS journal article ever written. AFS needs the following years of *Transactions*: 1938, 1935, 1934, 1933, 1932, 1930, 1929, 1928, and 1923 - 1872. Because the journals will be cut to facilitate scanning, AFS cannot return any journals. Donators of journals will receive an itemized valuation from AFS for tax deduction purposes. Contact AFS Publications Manager Aaron Lerner (alerner@fisheries.org).

An Unlikely Aid to National Security

New Book Reveals How Former Biologist Assisted U.S. Government

TUCSON, AZ - In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Americans coped with the fact that terrorist attacks are a grim possibility. A similar fear permeated the nation in the days of the Cold War. In *A Fish Biologist's Impact on National Security* (now available through AuthorHouse), Howard A. Schuck reveals how he channeled his scientific knowledge into an investigation that increased America's defense against nuclear disaster.

The first part of the book describes the unlikely chain of events that led up to Schuck's appointment as an analyst to the Department of Defense. He begins with his childhood, his love for the solitude of the wilderness and the revelation that convinced him of his calling as a fish biologist. The book details Schuck's important contributions to the field and conveys his deep passion for his work. However, at the heart of his career another destiny surfaced, consuming Schuck with its urgency.

In the second part of *A Fish Biologist's Impact on National Security*, Schuck takes readers from remote waterways to the Pentagon, where in 1952 he began his new career with the U.S. Air Force. Guided by mentor Charles Mottley, Schuck utilized his scientific methodologies to research the threat posed by the Soviet Union. The result was a threat assessment that the United States was vulnerable to a surprise atomic attack. This revelation motivated the government to take drastic action, which escalated an arms race that eventually bankrupted the Soviet Union and ended the Cold War.

An inspiring book for historians, defense analysts and anyone else who loves a great story, *A Fish Biologist's Impact on National Security* is an exciting account of how an everyday American used his talents to serve his country.

Schuck left his beloved field of fishery biology at age 33 to begin his new career as systems analyst, operations analyst, defense analyst and threat appraiser. He has written 200 scientific and governmental publications. *A Fish Biologist's Impact on National Security* is his first book published he retired. He currently lives in Arizona.

Bull Trout Committee Endorses Telemetry Synthesis Project

At their 2003 annual meeting, the WDAFS Bull Trout Committee endorsed an on-going project whose goal was to synthesize existing data collection on bull trout using radio telemetry. Matt Dare, principal researcher, recently completed the project report for the metadata database for the telemetry synthesis project.

The metadata database includes information on 66 studies that have used radio telemetry to document bull trout movement and habitat use. These studies have been conducted in the United States and Canada and nearly one-third of these projects are on going. This database contains information on over 98 percent of the projects that have used radio telemetry to study bull trout.

The database contains information on a myriad of aspects of these studies including location, objectives, cooperating agencies, sample size, tracking methodology, mortality sources, and reporting. Dr. Dare will be continuing the synthesis project and will use location data from a subset of studies in order to test hypotheses on environmental correlates to bull trout movement across their current range.

For further information contact Matt Dare at mdare@boisestate.edu.



Hydroacoustic Technology Offers Courses

Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish

January 27-28, 2005
9:00A - 5:00P

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on operation of Model 290/291 Systems, and a variety of applications are covered. Cost is \$300 per person.

Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment

February 3-4, 2005
9:00A - 5:00P

This short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustics theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, and typical results. Split-beam, dual-beam, single-beam, and multi-frequency techniques are discussed in detail. Cost is \$300 per person.

Both classes are subject to space availability. For further information regarding these classes, contact Caroline Mercado of Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc. at (206) 633-3383 or cmercado@htisonar.com.

2005 Western Division Nominations Committee

The mission of the Western Division's Nominations Committee is to recommend a slate of candidates for offices within the Division. In 2005, the Division will need to nominate and elect new members for three offices: Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and AFS Nominating Representative. The Chair for the 2005 Nominations Committee is Immediate Past President Tom McMahon and he is looking for nominations for all three offices. The elected candidates will become new officers immediately following the Annual Meeting in Anchorage.

These offices are very important to the future operation and visibility of the Western Division. Please read the office descriptions below and forward to Tom the names of people he can research further. More information about all of our officers and the WDAFS Bylaws can be found on our WDAFS website.

Vice-President (2005-2006) – Coordinate activities of the Division standing and technical committees and serve as liaison between the committees and Executive Committee; serve as Chair of the Membership Committee and as a member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee; oversee activities of Policy Review Committee and Environmental Concerns Committee; and (most importantly) follow through line of officers at Annual Meeting, becoming WDAFS President-Elect in 2006-2007 and WDAFS President in 2007-2008.

Secretary-Treasurer (2005-2007) – Keep official records (monetary and meeting notes) of the Division; disburse funds and submit various financial reports to the Executive Committee and Division membership; and submit minutes of Annual Meeting to the Society's and Division's Executive Committees. This is a two-year term and shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum of two consecutive terms (4 years max).

Nominating Representative (2005-2006) – The Division's representative to the AFS's Nominating Committee shall search the Western Division membership for potential candidates to Parent Society officerships (i.e, AFS 2nd Vice-President) and aid in their nomination.

Please forward these names to Tom by January 28, 2005 for the elections next summer. Tom can be reached at (602)789-3268 or (602)568-1406 or tmcmahon@gf.state.az.us.

Second International Burbot Symposium

The Second International Burbot Symposium has been planned for September of 2005. It will be a contributed symposium with the joint Annual Western Division American Fisheries Society and the Annual American Fisheries Society meetings in Anchorage, Alaska September 11-15, 2005. Categories will be similar to the First International Burbot Symposium: Life History, Physiology, Genetics, Ecology, and Fisheries Management.

For more information contact

Vaughn L. Paragamian
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
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Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83815
Phone (208) 769-1414
vparagam@idfg.state.id.us

Introduction

In 1999, the AFS Governing Board adopted the **Strategic Plan of the American Fisheries Society (SP-AFS)**. The strategic plan was intended to guide the Society's activities over the period from 1999 thru 2004. Although the strategic plan was developed for the American Fisheries Society as a whole, all AFS units are encouraged to adapt the strategic plan to meet their needs, particularly emphasizing those sub-goals and strategies that are consistent with unit priorities. In addition, all units are encouraged to provide reports to the Governing Board that refer to progress on one or more elements of the strategic plan. With this in mind, the following Program of Work focused on three major goals that were articulated in the SP-AFS, including:

- Promote Aquatic Stewardship and Increase Public Perception of our Science;
- Provide Excellent Member Services, and;
- Provide Leadership in Information Transfer and Outreach.

These strategies and activities addressed the interests and needs of the WDAFS members and are described in the following three elements of the Program of Work.

Aquatic Stewardship

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals AS 1 and AS 2 - Efforts highlighted the importance of biodiversity, watershed management, habitat conservation and educating the public/lawmakers about fisheries sustainability and sound stewardship of aquatic ecosystems.

Indicators of Success:

- Standing and Ad Hoc Committees have been created to address key aquatic stewardship issues in western North America, including the Environmental Concerns, Fisheries Sustainability, Riparian and Watersheds, WDAFS ExCom Policy Review, Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Workgroup, Non-Native Fish Introductions Workgroup (Pike), Cutthroat Trout Documentary (in progress), and Western Native Fishes Committee.

- A Symposium on "The Use of Science in Public Policy" was convened in conjunction with the 2004 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- The status of native fishes in western North America is being evaluated by collating, reviewing and evaluating published data and information. Symposia on this was presented at our 2004 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Continued support of our now annual Fall ExCom Retreat that identified emerging issues and develop common strategies for addressing them, and.

- Support appropriate projects that advance aquatic stewardship in western North America through the WDAFS Grants Funding Program.

Member Services

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals MS 1, MS 2, MS 3, and MS 4: Meeting (Division and Chapter) efforts revolved around professional development opportunities and continuing education classes. The WDAFS provided primary scientific and technical information on fisheries and aquatic resource topics from our wide array of fisheries professionals in western North America and Mexico. Continue to enhance electronic services and communications to all AFS members.

Indicators of Success:

- Student access to WDAFS and Parent Society Meetings continue to be enhanced by providing funding through the Western Division's Eugene Maughan Scholarship Fund, Sustainable Fisheries Foundation's William Trachtenburg Scholarship Fund and abundant opportunities were provided for student volunteer participation and monetary compensation at the 2004 WDAFS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

- Communications with the Chapters (and Committee Chairs) has been maintained and enhanced by convening monthly teleconference calls.

- WDAFS Officers made every attempt to attend the Annual Meetings of each Chapter (or meet with Chapter officers at other times) and communicate information on WDAFS activities. WDAFS Officers were able to attend Annual Meetings for these Chapters: Arizona/New Mexico, Alaska, Bonneville, California-Nevada, Colorado-Wyoming, Idaho, North Pacific Intl., and Oregon.

- Broader involvement in WDAFS committees has been solicited through direct communications with members and other means.

- Marine scientists are being actively recruited for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Anchorage.

- Registration fees at WDAFS Annual Meetings have been established at levels that encourage non-members to join the Society.

- Mexican scientists have been actively recruited by facilitating their participation in Annual Meetings and formation of a Mexico Chapter.

- Members were provided with abundant opportunities to share information and refine their communication skills by presenting papers and posters at the 2004 Annual Meeting;

- Timely access of information relevant to WDAFS members has been provided through delivery of the Tributary, the WDAFS Web Site, and Presidential application of the WDAFS List Server.

- Six continuing education classes were offered at the 2004 WDAFS Annual Meeting.

Information Transfer and Outreach

Strategy from SP-AFS Subgoals ITO 1 and ITO 2 – Continue to enable our membership to be viewed as aquatic resource professionals by employers and the public. Improve visibility and AFS image as a scientific organization and information source.

Indicators of Success:

- WDAFS visibility as a scientific organization and information source has been further improved through Committees and member involvement in on-the-ground expertise.

- The WDAFS Web Site has been further developed to provide timely access to science-based fisheries and aquatic resource management information.

- The Hutton Program (especially in the West) continues to be actively supported and further developed in providing opportunities to disadvantaged high school students in their participation in fisheries and aquatic ecosystem programs.

- WDAFS has participated actively in the development of public policy on key issues affecting fish, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems in North America, such as pallid sturgeon and lamprey issues.

SYMPOSIUM ON FISHERY SCIENCES IN MEXICO

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

May 2-4, 2005

In order to: 1) gather Mexican and international fishery scientists to promote communication and share their experiences and common interest in Mexico's fisheries, 2) contribute to the knowledge on biology and ecology of exploited resources, involving fishermen and managers, and 3) contribute scientific knowledge to sustainable development of Mexican fisheries, the Interdisciplinary Center of Marine Sciences - National Polytechnic Institute (CICIMAR-IPN), with the collaboration of the Center of Scientific Research and Graduate Education of Ensenada (CICESE), the Northwest Center for Biological Research (CIBNOR), the Mexico National Fishing Institute (INP), the World Wildlife Fund Gulf of California Program (WWF) and the American Fisheries Society, Western Division (AFS), organize the **Symposium on Fishery Sciences in Mexico**.

The themes to be discussed during the Symposium are:

1. Assessment and dynamics of fishing resources
 - a. Fisheries and exploited resources dynamics and status
 - b. Research and resource assessment methods.
 - c. New advances in methods on population dynamics and models.
2. Fishing efficiency
 - a. Ecologic and economic efficiency
 - b. Fisheries interactions
 - c. Fishing techniques, methods and strategies
 - d. Processing systems.
3. Potential resources
 - a. Stocks, availability, technologies, markets, and promotions
4. Abundance, oceanography, and climate change
 - a. Environmental forcing and resources availability: climate, oceanography, pollution, erosion, etc.
5. Fisheries in the ecosystem context
 - a. Fisheries impacts on the ecosystem
 - b. Fisheries and conservation
 - c. Resource management in the ecosystem context
 - d. Methods of study and simulation models
6. Fisheries management
 - a. Scientific bases for sustainable fisheries
 - b. Fishing and environmental law for the management and conservation of living resources
 - c. Integral management strategies: co-management, active participation, committees, historical rights, coastal management.
 - d. Alternatives for sustainable fisheries programs: The Gulf of California, the Gulf of Tehuantepec, the Gulf of Mexico.
7. Public education on the importance of fisheries conservation.
8. Organization of Mexican fishery scientists

Abstracts for oral presentations or poster sessions should be submitted by January 15, 2005 by e-mail to: sympesq@ipn.mx.

Participants can send more than one abstract and indicate your preference for oral or poster presentation. Abstracts, in English and Spanish, should not exceed 300 words. Please include the full name of all authors and addresses.

A limited number of papers will be selected for publication after a peer review process. If you wish your paper to be considered, it should be sent by email before June 6, 2005, following American Fisheries Society journal guidelines for authors (www.fisheries.org).

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SYMPOSIUM ON FISHERY SCIENCES IN MEXICO (continued)

Symposium registration fees, in US dollars*:

Before January 15, 2005, \$100

After January 15, 2005, \$150

On site, \$200

* *Students will be entitled to a 30% discount*

The meeting hotel will be Los Arcos, at La Paz, where a special conference rate of US\$65 (single or double) is available at reservations@losarcos.com).

For more information, please visit www.cicimar.ipn.mx or www.wdafs.org, or write to sympesq@ipn.mx, or call Dr. Mauricio Ramirez-Rodriguez at +(52) 612-1234658 or 1225344. FAX 612-1225322.

2004-2005 Western Division Awards Nominations Announcement

It's that time of year, again...nominating and honoring individuals or groups who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the American Fisheries Society, to our profession, and to fisheries research, conservation and management. This is your opportunity to nominate and honor someone you have professionally admired and ensure that your peers receive the recognition they deserve. Please take a moment and think about people you know that meet the Division's award criteria and should be recognized for their significant contributions and accomplishments. You can check out past and present award recipients on the WDAFS website – www.wdafs.org/committees/awards/award_winners

The WDAFS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for awards that will be presented at our 2005 Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Please submit nomination statements and all pertinent supporting documents to Tom McMahon, WDAFS Immediate Past President, 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona USA 85023 (602-789-3268 or FAX 602-789-3265 or tmcmahon@gf.state.az.us) by February 25, 2005.

The Division has five prestigious awards for individual and group achievements, some of which are given to non-AFS members. Please consider a nomination within the following categories:

Award of Excellence – This is the most prestigious award offered by the Western Division and it is intended to recognize sustained professional excellence. It is given annually to an AFS member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and exceptional competence

in fishery resource applications through monumental works, new methodologies, or multiple successful contributions that benefit our resources and profession. Successful nominees have usually excelled in research or management programs at the regional, national, or international level. Other examples include fresh, innovative approaches to improving our understanding of aquatic resources, and imaginative and successful programs in education at any level of teaching.

Award of Merit – This award is given to an AFS member(s) who has made a regionally significant and worthy contribution to our Division, our profession, or our fishery resource.

Award of Special Recognition – This award is given to an individual or entity (AFS member or non-member) making a significant contribution to the development and success of the Western Division.

Robert Borovich Conservation Achievement Award – This award is given annually to an individual (AFS member or non-member) who has significantly contributed to fishery conservation within the Division.

Conservation Achievement Award – This award is given to an entity (such as an agency, tribe, or organization) that has demonstrated a significant contribution to the conservation of fishery resource within the Division.

In addition to the awards described above, the Division also awards the **WDAFS Outstanding Chapter Award** and the **WDAFS Riparian Challenge Awards**....check out our WDAFS website for more details.