



The Tributary

A Newsletter of the Western Division, American Fisheries Society

2006 Western Division Annual Meeting: Natives and Newcomers Bozeman, Montana, May 15-19, 2006



The 2006 Western Division meeting will be held in Bozeman, Montana in the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Our Theme is “Natives and Newcomers” and we hope to explore some of the ramifications of the ever encroaching development in the West on fisheries and related resources. Please plan to attend and enjoy the hospitality of your Rocky Mountain colleagues. The meeting will convene on the campus of Montana State University. Continue to visit this website for the latest meeting information.

For meeting information contact: Leanne Roulson at lhroulson@garcianandassociates.com for general information, Bob Hughes at hughes.bob@epa.gov for special symposia, Chris Guy at cguy@montana.edu for contributed papers, and Mike Meeuwig at mmeeuwig@montana.edu for posters. Additional information can be found on the Annual Meeting website at <http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana/2006AFSWesternDivisionAnnualMeeting.htm>.

Registration for the meeting is now available at <https://www2.montana.edu/confservices/afs/>. Early registration (and reduced fees) ends March 31, 2006.

Fish Passage Press Release

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society provided the following recommendations to Bonneville Power Authority for their consideration when deciding on the new entity to replace the Fish Passage Center. The American Fisheries Society is a scientific organization with nearly ten thousand members from throughout North America. The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The Western Division represents those members in the western part of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

At its Executive Session in January 2006, the Division unanimously voted to recommend the following seven points for consideration:

- 1) Ensure that the transfer of responsibilities moves from the Fish Passage Center to the new entity seamlessly while continuing to meet the data analysis requirements of the Columbia Basin stakeholders and agencies.
- 2) The new entity must continue to meet data collection and analysis functions specified in the current scope of work to ensure regional stakeholders and agencies may remain fully engaged in the region’s on-going salmon recovery efforts.
- 3) All of the current responsibilities and functions of the FPC should be transferred to a single independent entity, not divided (continued on page 9)

Bozeman, Montana: Located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Bozeman is truly a remarkable community. The Bozeman area at large encompasses over 50,000 people with backgrounds and cultures as diverse as the Montana landscape. While retaining a small town feel, Bozeman prides itself on offering community activities and programs typically available only in larger metropolitan areas. Bozeman is also a center of outdoor recreational activities with fishing, hiking, National Forests and Yellowstone National Park just a short distance away.

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President's Message



Welcome all to the 2005-06 version of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. We kicked off the year by co-meeting with the Parent Society and the Alaska Chapter at the hugely successful annual meeting in Anchorage in mid-September. It was great to see so many Western Division colleagues in attendance. At this writing the final tally is not yet complete, but one thing is very clear—this meeting was by far the largest ever for AFS, with somewhere around 2700 registrants. The old record largest meeting was in Portland in 1993 with 1930 registrants. The 2005 meeting featured over 1800 paper and poster presentations, including 50 special symposia, packed into four full days of 16-18 concurrent paper sessions and two 2-day poster sessions. By all accounts everyone appeared to fully enjoy not only the technical sessions but the allure of Alaska both before and after the meeting. The Division owes a big debt of gratitude to those many AFS members who worked diligently on the Annual Meeting, Local Arrangements, and Program committees. There is no resting, however, for the Division's 2006 Annual Meeting Committee. Please mark your calendars for May 15-19, 2006 in Bozeman, Montana for the meeting. Watch for further announcements and call for papers. If you have any questions, contact President-elect Bob Hughes or visit the Division website.

As President for a year, running the Division is a lot like being suddenly handed the helm of giant cruise ship. It appears to be a daunting task with its complicated instrumentation, complex infrastructure, and immense inertia. However, you soon realize that you really run very little yourself; there are in place a large number of very dedicated and knowledgeable folks who actually do all of the work and they really don't need much from you by way of direction. And just as importantly, the former captain, the Past President, stands right behind you whispering reminders, hints, and if need be, warnings to help keep you out of danger. So as I embark on my year of captaining this ship, the Western Division will continue on its course of aquatic stewardship, information transfer and outreach, and member services. We will follow the lead of AFS President Chris Kohler's Annual Plan of Work for the Society.

Some specific things we'll do in the coming year include active participation in the AFS North American Agenda for Aquatic Resources and the larger National Fish Habitat Initiative. We will move to providing our newsletter, *The Tributary*, in electronic format. This will save trees and, just as importantly, money that can be used for other very important projects. To get students more involved in Division activities and hopefully to encourage them to remain active in AFS, I will appoint at least one student to every Division committee (when permitted in the Bylaws). I encourage the chapters to do likewise. The Parent Society has recently reduced student dues to a very low \$19 per year to encourage membership, but I think it's just as important that we give students an active role in Society business if we are going to keep their interest and participation. Anyone, student or otherwise, interested in serving on or chairing a committee, please contact me (email: joe.margraf@uaf.edu).

Last, but certainly not least, I want to recognize Tom McMahon, our outgoing Past President for his four years of dedicated service as an officer of the Division. The officer train includes 2 years of preparing to lead (Vice President and President-elect), a year as President, and then a final year as immediate Past President helping keep the new President out of harms way. As you may also remember, Tom just ran as a candidate for Society Second Vice President, which would have started a 5-year commitment. Look for Tom's name on the Society ballot in the future. Also finishing a 4-year stint as Division Secretary-Treasurer is Monica Hiner. Monica's stellar work kept us in the know and in the black over two 2-year terms in the office. Join me in wishing Tom and Monica well in their future endeavors, both in and outside of AFS. Also, welcome to Eric Wagner, incoming Vice President, and Dave Ward, our new Secretary-Treasurer. And, lest I forget, welcome to our newest chapter, the Mexico Chapter, approved by AFS at the Anchorage meeting.

Yikes! Is that an iceberg up a head?! More to come. . . .

Joe Margraf – President



Yellowstone National Park

Continuing Education Courses, WDAFS 2006

Monday, May 15, Student Union

You can sign up for these courses when you register for the meeting, or you can register for continuing education courses without signing up for the meeting

Current knowledge of *Didymosphenia geminata*: developing a research and management response

The diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* is emerging as a thriving alga in streams of North America, Europe, and New Zealand. This species is expanding its geographic range at a rate such that nuisance blooms are increasingly reported by the public and local media, yet little scientific investigation of the phenomenon in North America has been instigated in response. The session will consist of invited and contributed talks (Monday May 15) and a field trip to the East Boulder River (Tuesday May 16). The objective of this session is for researchers, managers, and anglers to share the most current information, identify crucial data, and strategize for an appropriate research and management response.

Cost: \$30

Contact: Bob Wiltshire (operations@fedflyfishers.org)
Sarah Spaulding (spaulding.sarah@epa.gov)
David Schmetterling (dschmetterling@mt.gov)

Hydroacoustic Tools for Fish & Habitat Assessment

This course will provide a background in hydroacoustic theory (as it applies to fisheries and aquatic habitat applications), an introduction to current state-of-the-art applications for distribution and abundance of fish and aquatic plants, sediment classification and fish behavior monitoring. Following morning classroom instruction, we will have a ½ day field demonstration on Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Cost: \$40

Maximum class size: 30

Contact: David Schmetterling (dschmetterling@mt.gov)

Study Design and Applied Statistics for Fisheries Biologists

This course will explore experimental study design, appropriate statistical tests and data analysis. The class will focus on practical applications to fisheries science and ecological studies.

Cost: \$30

Contact: David Schmetterling (dschmetterling@mt.gov)

Trade Show Vendor Information

The Western Division Annual Meeting Is soliciting trade Show Vendors for the May 15-18, 2006 Meeting!

We have 17 spaces available – booths will be set up in the break room to allow an anticipated 500 fisheries professionals to stroll during morning, lunch and afternoon breaks.

Cost - \$700 per booth.

Please RSVP to Kate Walker, kpwalker@fs.fed.us, 406-329-3287 if you would like to reserve a spot. Please see the meeting web site for booth registration form and other information - <http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana/2006AFSWesternDivisionAnnualMeeting.htm>

Local tours available during the meeting - through Montana Travel (<http://www.mttravel.com/conventiondetail.php?id=34>)

- * Yellowstone National Park
- * Gallatin River Whitewater Float Trip
- * Lewis and Clark Caverns

Symposia at the Bozeman Meeting

- Warmwater Prairie Streams
- Sturgeon
- Interactions Between Alien and Native Fish Species
- Chinook Culture
- Bull Trout
- Aquatic Bioassessment

Graduate-level Student Scholarships now being solicited

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce that applications for the 2006 graduate-level student scholarships are now being solicited. This scholarship program provides up to \$3,000 annually in scholarships to master's or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science with one to three awards to individual students. Beginning in 2002, the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation established the William Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund, which augments the Western Division scholarship program. This fund provides an additional \$600 annually to a graduate-level student conducting studies on fisheries sustainability. Please pass the information below on to potential applicants (note that the application deadline is March 15, 2006).

WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY EUGENE MAUGHAN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

2006 Application Procedures

The Western Division is pleased to announce that applications for its graduate-level student scholarships are now being solicited. This scholarship program provides up to \$3,000 annually in scholarships to masters or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science with one to three awards to individual students. Beginning in 2002, the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation established the William Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund, which augments the Western Division scholarship program. This fund provides up to \$600 annually to a graduate-level student conducting studies on fisheries sustainability. Applications for the Western Division scholarship program will automatically be considered for the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation scholarship program as well. An award committee of five fisheries scientists from the Western Division will make the decision regarding the award of scholarships from both programs. Selection criteria include demonstration of:

1. Excellent scholarship as evidenced by grades in rigorous course work during the last 60 hours as an undergraduate and during graduate studies.
2. Potential for future contributions to the fisheries profession through management, research, or teaching.
3. Significant progress toward attaining a graduate degree in fisheries science with a defined thesis or dissertation project.

The 2006 scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting of the Western Division in Bozeman, Montana, May 15-19, 2006.

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

1. Applicants must be a member of the American Fisheries Society or have submitted 2005 membership materials by the time of application. AFS Member number should be placed on application.
2. Applicants must have completed one semester or two quarters in a graduate degree program at a university within the geographic boundaries of the Western Division.
3. Applicants must have a major field of study that is related to fisheries or aquatic science.
4. Applicants must submit an application package that contains **five (5)** copies of each of the following:

A. A letter to the award committee that includes (three separate items):

1. A brief description of the student's degree program and the anticipated date of completion.
2. A statement of the applicant's career goals and reasons for applying for the scholarship (up to 200 words).
3. A statement of the academic and professional activities and contributions to AFS and the fisheries science profession (up to 200 words).

B. Copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and GRE scores;

C. A one-page abstract outlining the goals, objectives, design, methods and expected outcome from the thesis or dissertation project.

D. Letters of reference from two faculty members (one must be the graduate students advisor) familiar with the student's background and abilities. Letters may be sent separately by individual providing the reference.

The application package should be sent (postmarked) no later than March 15, 2006 to:

Bob Gresswell
Western Division Scholarship Award Committee
USGS-NRMSC
1648 S. 7th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59717
406-994-7085
bgresswell@usgs.gov





Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee

The Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee is proud to announce the upcoming

4th International Reservoir Symposium June 6-9, 2007 Atlanta, Georgia

The theme of this symposium is “Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems” and will consist of invited and contributed papers from individuals all across the country. Speakers will present on a broad range of issues, from case studies to new technologies to changes in management philosophy. Proposed topics include:

- Balancing Fisheries Issues with Basin-wide Water Uses
- Aquatic Habitat
- Human Dimensions
- Catch and Release and Use of Regulations
- Stocking Issues
- Assessment and Analysis

If you have other topics or specific projects that you would like to present, please contact Mike Colvin at Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov. More details will be available soon. Stay tuned...



Job Posting

Department of Forest Science
321 Richardson Hall, Corvallis,
Oregon 97331-5752
Telephone 541-737-2244
Fax 541-737-1393



Position: 002-1049

Rank: Faculty Research Assistant

Location: Corvallis, Oregon

Starting Date: April 1, 2006

Application Closing Date: March 3, 2006 for full consideration

General Description: The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) advises the State of Oregon on scientific and technical matters related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (<http://www.oregon-plan.org/>). Members of the IMST are jointly appointed by the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker. The IMST consists of up to seven scientists with recognized expertise in fisheries/fish biology, hatcheries, stream/aquatic ecology, forestry, rangeland management, agriculture, and watershed management. As a formal body of the State, the IMST holds regular public meetings. The IMST provides guidance to the State in the form of requested technical reviews, independent projects and reports, and technical workshops. Reports and current projects of the IMST can be found at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst>.

The administrative home for the IMST is the Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. This position works with a diverse group of individuals that are geographically separated and typically serve four-year terms on staggered appointments. The work of the IMST is variable and the support staff must be able to provide assistance within and outside their own area of expertise. This position assists with the preparation of technical reports. Reports typically include aspects of salmonid biology, aquatic ecology, and watershed function, and may include one or more land use practices (e.g. urbanization, forestry, agriculture) as well as water quality. This position is directly supervised by the Principal Assistant to the IMST Chair and will receive work assignments from any and all team members, subcommittees, and supervisor. The position may involve travel to Salem, Oregon and, occasionally, overnight travel to other parts of the state for IMST meetings or workshops.

OSU is one of only two US universities to hold the Land Grant, Sea Grant, Sun Grant, and Space Grant designation and is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive university. OSU is located in Corvallis, a community of 53,000 people situated in the Willamette Valley between Portland and Eugene. Ocean

(continued on page 6)

Job Posting (continued)

beaches, lakes, rivers, forests, high desert, the rugged Cascade and Coast Ranges, and the urban amenities of the Portland metropolitan area are all within a 100-mile drive of Corvallis. Approximately 15,700 undergraduate and 3,400 graduate students are enrolled at OSU, including 2,600 U.S. students of color and 950 international students.

The university has an institution-wide commitment to diversity, multiculturalism, and community. We actively engage in recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and student body that includes members of historically underrepresented groups. We strive to build and sustain a welcoming and supportive campus environment. OSU provides outstanding leadership opportunities for people interested in promoting and enhancing diversity, nurturing creativity, and building community.

Position Responsibilities:

1. Search for, screen, obtain, and archive scientific literature and technical reports relevant to the work of the IMST.
2. Keep self and members of the IMST up to date on recently issued research results and publications relevant to the work of the IMST.
3. Evaluate, synthesize, and summarize information from scientific and technical sources.
4. Assist IMST members in preparing technical reports by summarizing IMST discussions, providing additional technical material such as tables and graphics, confirming accuracy of statements, data, and information sources used, and serve as a technical editor for IMST subcommittees.
5. Interact with university researchers, agency personnel, and other resource professionals to gather information, data, and to follow up on requests from IMST members.
6. Maintain the IMST's electronic literature database and library which includes hard and electronic copies of literature.
7. Assist in regular operations of the IMST including:
 - Audio taping and recording minutes at monthly public meetings
 - Coordinating subcommittee meetings and workloads

Required Qualifications:

1. M.S. degree in a natural resource science such as fisheries, aquatic ecology, watershed management, hydrology, geomorphology, forestry, agriculture, rangeland management, or a closely related field.
2. Knowledge about a wide range of natural resource sciences and willingness to learn new information.
3. Outstanding oral and written communication skills and demonstrated ability to work well with a diverse group of scientists.
4. Outstanding scientific writing and editing skills, particularly organizing scientific information and relaying information in a professional manner for target audiences of agency personnel and policy makers.
5. Demonstrated ability to search for, obtain, and screen

scientific and technical information. This will require on-line searches, library work, and contacting appropriate university scientists, agency personnel, or other professionals.

6. Demonstrated ability to work independently, be a motivated self-starter, determine priorities and manage multiple tasks, be well-organized, and work with colleagues separated geographically.
7. Computer literate in standard office and scientific software.

Desired Qualifications:

1. Experience with electronic bibliographic systems (e.g., ProCite or Endnote)
2. Experience with photographic editing and graphic software
3. Experience in publishing literature summaries
4. Pacific Northwest experience and perspective
5. Demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity

Employment Conditions:

This is a twelve-month, fixed-term, part- to full-time position (0.75–1.00 FTE). Re-appointment is at the discretion of the Dean of the College of Forestry. Full-time annual salary rate of \$30,000–35,000 depending on qualifications, education, and experience. Benefits include state retirement, group health, dental, life, and disability insurances, reduced tuition rates for employee or dependent at Oregon University System schools (restrictions apply), annual leave and sick leave.

For Additional Information: Contact Kathy Maas-Hebner, Principle Assistant to the IMST Chair, Department of Forest Science, 321 Richardson Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5752. E-mail: Kathleen.MaasHebner@oregon-state.edu

Application Procedure:

For full consideration, all materials must be received by March 3, 2006. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A complete file consists of:

1. Letter summarizing how your experiences meet position qualifications
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Copies (unofficial okay) of all college/university transcripts
4. Names and contact information for at least three references

Finalists will be asked to submit writing examples prior to interview. Applications should be sent to Ryan Hink, Department of Forest Science, 321 Richardson Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5752.

Oregon State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and has a policy of being responsive to the needs of dual-career couples.

The 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium: Status, Management, Biology, and Conservation

Sponsored By:

Oregon Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Pacific International Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Humboldt Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

<http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/cctsym.html>

Post-Symposium Summary

The 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium was held on September 29 through October 1, at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, Washington. The objectives of the 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium were: 1) update coastal cutthroat trout information presented during the 1995 Sea-run Cutthroat Trout Symposium, in Reedsport, Oregon, 2) enhance knowledge on all facets of life history and ecology, 3) provide current assessment of the status of populations coast-wide, and 4) encourage development of a coordinated, range-wide conservation plan. Technical sessions included Status, Trends, and Management; Biology; and Conservation Planning. Other Symposium highlights included an angling seminar by two noted coastal cutthroat trout angling guides, an evening poster/mixer session, and a Banquet Keynote presentation by Dr. Bob Behnke. In brief summary, 10 years after the first Symposium, we still lack information about the status and trends of coastal cutthroat trout. However, significant progress has been made in the areas of coastal cutthroat trout genetics, habitat use, movement and migrations, and life history strategies. Significant opportunity remains to collaborate on range-wide conservation efforts.

A total of 110 people attended the Symposium, representing California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Coastal cutthroat trout aficionados trekked from as far away as Maine and Massachusetts to attend the Symposium. Participants reflected the broad array of interests associated with this fascinating fish and included anglers, environmentalists, scientists, managers, academics, media, and tribes.

Thirty-five technical papers and 10 posters were presented. Most presenters submitted extended abstracts or full papers prior to the Symposium, and the



Symposium's Publications Committee is planning on publishing the Symposium Proceedings in the near future. After the Proceedings are printed, copies will be available for purchase through the Oregon Chapter, American Fisheries Society.

Significant financial assistance for planning and hosting the Symposium was provided by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Symposium leadership, organization, financial assistance, and personnel support was provided by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. Loretta Brenner, the Oregon Chapter AFS' Administrative Assistant, provided excellent services as the Registration Coordinator. In addition, several fishing organizations provided financial and personnel assistance towards the 2005 Symposium, and several individuals donated fine art and books for the auction and raffle. Almost \$20,000 in donations was raised prior to the Symposium. All these financial contributions allowed for inexpensive Symposium registration fees, as well as significant travel, food, and lodging subsidies to students. A total of nine students attended the Symposium with full travel, food, and lodging costs provided. In addition, \$4,500 in travel, lodging and food awards were provided to participants lacking travel support.

Symposium "profits" will fund a one-time, \$5,000 coastal cutthroat trout graduate student research scholarship, to be advertised via Western Division, American Fisheries Society's Scholarship Committee. In addition, approximately \$5,000 in "seed money" from the Symposium's revenues will be provided for a 2006 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Research, monitoring, and Evaluation Workshop. The multi-state/provincial workshop will review coastal cutthroat trout status

Cutthroat Symposium (continued)

information, discuss and agree on key uncertainties, information needs, and research issues, review monitoring activities underway in each state and province, and search for consistent approaches to undertake key monitoring activities. Additional workshop support has already been offered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to fund, organize, and host this workshop.

In summary, the 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium was a great success. Excellent technical presentations and posters have improved our knowledge of coastal cutthroat trout. A large audience of broadly-divergent interests participated and enhanced dialog during the Symposium. Significant contributions helped defray travel, lodging, food, and registration costs, especially for students. The Symposium will use its proceeds to fund a coastal cutthroat trout graduate student research scholarship as well as a multi-state/provincial research and monitoring workshop. We hope the follow-up Coastal Cutthroat Trout Workshop will generate interest in range-wide research and monitoring agreements, and efforts to gather more information on this fascinating and important fish species. We also hope the Symposium and the follow-up workshop yield broad-scale collaborative efforts that lead to better-informed fishery management and conservation efforts. Finally, we hope that another Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium will be hosted in approximately five years. While no single entity has volunteered to host the next Symposium, it seems appropriate that the next Symposium be held in British Columbia. We hope to see you at the next Symposium, to review the newly generated information resulting from the 2005 Symposium's Graduate Student Research Scholarship, as well as information, activities, and plans generated from the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Workshop.

Doug Young, Tim Cummings, and Joe Jauquet
"The Original Three Symposium Planners"



Seeking Entries for the 2006 Riparian Challenge

The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee is seeking entries for the Western Division's 2006 Riparian Challenge Award. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other conservation agencies or private industries in the states encompassed by the Western Division are invited to participate

in the Riparian Challenge. Winners will receive the Western Division's Award of Excellence in Riparian Management. The purpose of the award is to:

- Encourage the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other conservation agencies or private industry to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management,
- Encourage agencies to progress in on the ground accomplishments which when added together throughout the West, will significantly improve riparian systems,
- Recognize managers and resource specialists for their efforts in maintaining, restoring, and improving riparian and watershed ecosystems.

We hope to receive a number of quality nominations from USFS, BLM and other conservation agencies or industry this year representing their efforts in riparian management. If you are aware of a project that should be considered, please ask the appropriate USFS, BLM, conservation agency or industry to submit an entry form. Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions received):

BLM

- Best Resource Area or Field Office

Forest Service

- Best Ranger District


Other (conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry)

- Best Riparian Project

More information, along with a description of the entry format and the criteria for evaluating entries can be found on the Western Division AFS web site http://www.wdafs.org/committees/Riparian_Watersheds_Habitat/Riparian_Watersheds_Habitat_comm.htm. Entries must be received no later than April 1, 2006. The 2006 Awards of Excellence in Riparian Management will be presented at the Western Division's meeting in Bozeman, Montana in May. The date and location will be announced later.

Completed entries should be submitted to the Riparian Challenge Committee Chair at the address listed below and must be received by APRIL 1, 2006. Contact Hilda Sexauer for more information (307-367-2147 ext. 231).

Hilda Sexauer
Riparian Challenge Subcommittee Chair
PO Box 850
Pinedale, WY 82941
Hilda.Sexauer@wgf.state.wy.us
(307) 367-2147 ext. 231



Awards from the 135th AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, September 11-15, 2005

The best papers and posters from the Alaska meeting are listed below.

Each year two Best Paper Awards are given (one-AFS, one-Sea Grant). The best papers were determined by a series of five “cuts” or winnowing procedures.

- (1) Judge indicated the paper was a serious candidate for an award
- (2) Individual scores 84 and below were dropped (average score for all presentations was 78)
- (2) Evaluations without comments from the judges were removed
- (3) Presentations receiving negative comments were removed
- (4) Presentations without redundancy were removed (there were still at least two judges indicating the presentation was excellent)
- (5) Scores of the remaining four presentations were used to determine the two best and the two honorable mentions

Best Paper:

Beth Gardner, J. Patrick Sullivan, Stephen J. Morreale, and Sheryan P. Epperly
CO-07-26 Spatio-temporal analyses of loggerhead seaturtle interactions with pelagic fisheries

Best Paper:

Brandon J. Puckett, David H. Secor, and Se-Jong Ju
SO-26-13 Growth and recruitment rates of juvenile blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay

Best Paper Honorable Mention

Katie Bertrand and Keith Gido
SO-31-11 Interactive effects of flood frequency and fishes on ecosystem structure and function

Best Paper Honorable Mention

Brian Bellgraph, Christopher Guy, and Stephen Leathe
CO-11-24 Resource overlap between sauger and walleye in the Missouri River, Montana: Implications for declining sauger populations

Best Poster was determined by three “cuts”

- (1) First, the 20 posters with the highest mean/median scores were determined (I emailed students asking for a PDF of their poster)
- (2) There was considerable variation in the quality of

these posters, the scores were correlated with the number of evaluations received. The number of evaluations of the individual posters ranged from one to six. Each poster receiving the highest score relative to other posters having the same number of evaluations, underwent further evaluation. A single poster having six evaluations received several negative comments and was dropped from the subset.

- (3) The two posters ranked as best by further evaluation (the same four judges had evaluated each of the posters in the final subset) were selected as best poster and honorable mention.

Best Poster:

Cari-Ann Hayer, and Elise R. Irwin
CP-1-EEX-220 Effects of gravel mining on detection probabilities for selected Mobile River Basin fishes

Poster Honorable Mention:

Donald Ratcliff, Wayne A. Wurtsbaugh, and Joseph Zustak
CP-1-EEX-070 Does grass bed planting stimulate the food web and juvenile bass abundance in a drawdown reservoir?



Fish Passage Press Release (continued)

among several existing entities. Not only will this help create the seamless transition called for in the report language, it is also the only way to provide for maximum efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and accountability to fishery managers using the services. Further, given the dozens of functions currently performed by the FPC, its successor must be housed within a single entity if these functions are to be preserved as specified by the report language.

- 4) Ensure that the new entity maintains scientific integrity, rigor, and independence. Peer review is an important means of assuring scientific integrity.
- 5) An oversight board for this new entity, representing the broad spectrum of regional interest, should help ensure that operations are conducted with impartiality towards external entities, negotiate regionally acceptable annual scopes of work, and maintain operations consistent with meeting obligations of executed contracts.
- 6) The data and analyses generated and developed by this new entity must be readily available to the public. The public should have the ability to review and obtain the information created by this entity at no cost.
- 7) BPA should provide funding support for the new entity in a manner that results in no loss or interruption of responsibilities, functions, or services.

2005-2006 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 2006 Annual Meeting in Bozeman, Montana. Please submit nomination statements and all pertinent supporting documents to Lynn Starnes, WDAFS Immediate Past President, P. O. Box 308, Albuquerque, NM 87103 or via e-mail at L.Starnes@Comcast.Net by March 22, 2006.

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 Borovicha 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 (<http://www.wdafs.org>) for more details.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS **Excellence in Fisheries Education** **Award, Education Section, AFS**

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the Education Section and is presented to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nominees must be AFS members, have been actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years, and have had at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education. Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one nominator must be an AFS member. Letters and supporting material documenting the contributions of the nominee to fisheries education (e.g., awards, descriptions of exemplary service, innovations, students taught and advised, post graduate achievements of former students) should be sent to Michael Quist (mcquist@iastate.edu) and a second copy to Donna Parrish (Donna.Parrish@uvm.edu) in digital form. Please send a hard copy of nomination materials to Michael Quist.

Nomination deadline is May 31, 2006. Additional information can be obtained from:

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136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Lake Placid, New York September 10-14, 2006

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation invite you to experience the beauty of New York's famous Adirondack Park as the American Fisheries Society (AFS) convenes its 136th Annual Meeting in the legendary Olympic Village of Lake Placid, NY, 10-14 September 2006. Our meeting theme "Fish in the Balance" will explore the interrelation between fish, aquatic habitats and man; highlight challenges facing aquatic resource professionals and the methods that have been employed to resolve conflicts between those that use or have an interest in our aquatic resources. As fragile as it is beautiful, the Adirondack Region is the perfect location to explore this theme. Bordered by Mirror Lake and its namesake, Lake Placid, the Village of Lake Placid has small town charm, but all of the conveniences that a big city would provide.

Whether its reliving the magic of the 1980 hockey team's "Miracle on Ice" at the Lake Placid Olympic Center; getting a panoramic view of the Adirondack high peaks from the top of the 90 meter ski jumps; fishing or kayaking in adjacent Mirror Lake, hiking a mountain trail; or enjoying a quiet dinner or shopping excursion in the various shops and restaurants that line Main Street, Lake Placid has something for everyone.

For more information see their website at: <http://www.afslakeplacid.org/>

