

The Annual Meeting of the Southern Division will be held at the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas on October 14-17, 1973. Thirty-five to 40 papers will be presented at the technical sessions. The program will be initiated with a session entitled "Where have we been with fisheries management and where are we going?" Please attend to see if you agree with us.

Report of the Western Division
RALPH W. LARSON, *President*

The Western Division attempted to involve the Chapters in its functions during the past year. Chapters were requested to appoint members to the various committees that cause the Division to function. The Division merely indicated to the Chapters the committee assignments for which they were responsible. The response was excellent. Nominations for new officers also came from the Chapters to the Nominating Committee who then selected the candidates. Brief resumes of the candidates' background and activities in the American Fisheries Society were included for each candidate. These resumes were used by the committee in selecting the nominees for office and also at the business meeting to inform the members of candidate's qualifications. Comments from various members indicated a favorable attitude toward this procedure.

The Chapters, as indicated in the AFS *Newsletter*, held some excellent symposia and annual meetings, all of which were well attended. The quality of the papers presented and the interest at the Chapter level are further indications that the strength of the Division and the Society lies at the Chapter level—where the action is.

Because of travel restrictions and a heavier than normal work assignment, the Division President could not participate extensively in attending Chapter meetings to further solidify the relationship between the Chapters and the Division. This was unfortunate and probably has deterred more effective understanding of mutual problems.

The Division had one active special working committee operating during the year.

committee is updating the bibliography on "Trout Management in the Southeast." Committee members are also working on a tailwaters fishery management bibliography. The Membership Committee canvassed delinquent members in the Division in order to find out why they have failed to continue as members. These data will be compiled and presented at our annual meeting. All delinquent members were provided a copy of the editorial "\$20 Dues—What's In It for Me?" from the *Newsletter*, Volume 17, Number 81.

An ad hoc Resource Planners Committee with representatives from the Southern Division and the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society was formed during the year. The purpose of this committee is to describe the need for and objectives of an organized resource planners "group." Subject to approval of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, this group would receive full program status and meet concurrently with the wildlife and fisheries sessions at the annual meetings. It is hoped that this group also will attract resource managers who are not affiliated with the Fisheries and Wildlife Societies. Forty-one representatives from the Southeastern States met as a special interest group at the annual meeting in 1972.

An ad hoc committee comprised of members of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society and our Division was also appointed to plan a symposium on threatened species and their habitat in the southern states. Tentatively, this workshop symposium will be held during the summer of 1974.

The Southern Division is continuing its effort to improve the annual meetings and the papers as published in the *Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners*. Completed papers are being reviewed prior to acceptance for presentation at our meetings. Authors are being supplied "Instructions for Manuscript Preparation." These instructions also are being used by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society. The mutual use by both Societies should improve the quality and appearance of the *Proceedings* and reduce printing costs.

The Committee to Standardize Stream Survey Methods held several meetings culminating in a work session at the annual meeting. The results have been excellent and it is hoped that final agreement on standard methods can be reached during the coming year.

The annual meeting of the Division was held at Salt Lake City, Utah, from July 10-13, 1973. The technical sessions were well attended and informative. The business session had the highest attendance I can remember, with 62 people present. For some reason business sessions have usually been avoided like the plague. An excellent panel opened the meeting with a discussion on "How Western Chapters' role can be more meaningful in Division functions." Some good ideas that should assist the new president came from the panel. The meeting also provided mandates from the membership relating to a continuation of the program to standardize stream survey methods and to develop a symposium on optimum stream flows for fish.

It is apparent that activities of the Western Division are accelerating and that 1973-74 will be a busy and productive year.

Fish Health Section

JOHN L. FRYER, *President*

FISH DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMS

1. The landmark disease control plan developed by the Colorado River Wildlife Council has now been ratified and put into effect by all member agencies in the Colorado River basin system.

2. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, at their annual meeting in Ottawa in June, established a Standing Committee on Fish Disease Control. This committee is to: (1) conduct an inventory of disease problems; (2) determine the degree of surveillance required; (3) review regulations; and (4) review expertise and propose measures for the eradication and control of dangerous fish diseases.

3. Legislation authorizing the Federal government to develop fish disease control programs languished in Congress. A number

of bills are being considered. The regulations which might be promulgated under such authority are the subject of much heated discussion. For effective disease control a balanced program of research, field services, and sound regulations is needed. Such programs must be compatible with the objectives of both industry and resource management.

4. Canadian workers have prepared "Considerations and Recommendations for the Control of Fish Diseases in Canada." This publication was distributed to the membership of the Fish Health Section through the courtesy of the authors. It is a thorough compilation of information from many diverse sources.

CURRENT STATUS OF MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The January 1973 article in the *Progressive Fish-Culturist* on the national survey of fish health did much to point up the continuing problems in infectious fish diseases. The diseases discussed below ranked high in that survey.

1. *Viral diseases*—Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis (IHN) and Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) continue to cause serious problems. IPN outbreaks drastically curtailed trout stocking in Oregon's high mountain lakes and impacted a major steelhead program in Idaho. New outbreaks of IHN were reported in West Virginia and Colorado in rainbow trout and in British Columbia and Japan in sockeye salmon. The first case of IHN in chinook salmon, outside of California, occurred in a Columbia River tributary in Washington. Iodophor disinfection of salmonid eggs does not unequivocally eliminate viral disease agents; however, such disinfection is viewed as important in minimizing the spread of diseases with contaminated eggs. In the South Central States, channel catfish virus appears to be ubiquitous in catfish production areas. Definitive tests are needed to confirm this speculation.

2. *Bacterial diseases*—Bacterial gill disease is one of the most troublesome and least understood diseases of fish. The precise environmental stresses contributing to outbreaks have not been defined.