

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

1975-1976

RONALD W. GOEDE

The 1975-1976 year was a very big one for the Western Division. It was a year of new initiatives, confrontations, vigorous dialogue and change. It was a year which witnessed colation of divergent views and "channelization" of the considerable energies extant in the Division into constructive action. The Division now has a positive stance and a plan.

#### I.F.N. CONFERENCE

The Western Division, this year, sponsored its first symposium in concert with the Power Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Instream Flow Needs conference was held in May in Boise, Idaho. The conference contributors comprised many disciplines from many agencies and the private and academic sectors. Robert Kendall reported the meeting very favorably and accurately in the latest issue of FISHERIES. It was attended by approximately 400 professionals from the legal engineering and biology disciplines. The Proceedings will be available at \$12.00 per copy and handled through the parent organization office.

#### JOINT MEETING CONTROVERSY

The major controversy during the year involved the joint meeting of the Western Division AFS and the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners. It is a matter of record that President Goede contacted President Greenley of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners and initiated considerable controversy over our relative roles in the joint meeting. A positive and aggressive posture was assumed by the Western Division AFS and we were "off and running." Many subsequent discussions and written communique resulted in compromises by both sides in the interests of the annual meeting program but there was no mutual understanding of respective problems.

It was decided that actual dialogue was necessary if any real solutions were to be forthcoming. A meeting of the two executive committees was suggested in order to provide opportunity for actual dialogue. This was to eliminate heresay and ill founded accusations or distorted reports.

The two organizations agreed to a joint executive committee meeting at Sun Valley, Idaho. Considerable discussion resulted in the appointment of a sub-committee composed of members from each executive committee. This committee agreed to work out guidelines under which future joint efforts would operate.

The major points discussed were varied and many were unexpected. The Western Association was under the impression that if we were in control of the fisheries aspects only members could participate. They were assured that this was not the case.

The Western Division AFS took issue with the time of year of the meeting. It was pointed out that their meeting had to be held while legislatures were in recess.

It was agreed by both groups that interaction between the technical people and the resource managers was desirable. The AFS pointed out that merely meeting at the same time and place did not assure interaction. It was then decided that the two should officially interact through joint executive meetings and various ad hoc and standing committees.

Bearing these facts in mind a set of mutually agreeable guidelines were set forth.

This done it was submitted to each executive committee and then to each general business meeting. The guidelines passed each organization with very minor changes.

The guidelines as developed were as follows:

1. Parity in all printed programs.
2. Listing of officers of both organizations in the printed programs.
3. AFS assumes responsibility for all aspects of fisheries technical sessions.
4. The AFS is to have a seat on all relevant committees, i.e. program committees, arrangement committees and ad hoc or standing committees involving the fisheries aspect.

5. Joint executive committee meetings are to be held each year.
6. The AFS is to commit as early as possible a sum of money to the joint meeting and this is to be used ultimately toward the AFS share of the cost of printing of programs and proceedings.

These guidelines passed and the Western Division now has a heavy responsibility to see that follow through is achieved.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

A very good annual meeting was held at Sun Valley, Idaho. There were approximately 150 registered for the AFS meeting.

An attempt was made to maintain a very high profile during the meeting. This was achieved through the joint executive meeting; through a very successful poster display room with approximately 30 technical displays and by providing bright fluorescent AFS ribbons for all AFS registrants to wear.

The business portion of the meeting was productive and positive. Two resolutions were passed. One of them created a standing Stream Preservation committee and the other was in support of the Colorado River Squawfish recovery team and endangered species programs.

These resolutions are appended to this report.

The executive committee through early sessions had agreed that the current bylaws of the Western Division were such that they supported only annual meetings. They did not constitute a plan for action. A motion was made and carried at the general business meeting that a task force be appointed to rewrite the bylaws in time to present it to the parent organization and make them effective for the '77-'78 year.

The guidelines for joint meetings having been accepted it was decided to continue as in the past. The 1977 meeting is to be held in Tucson, Arizona and the 1978 meeting in San Diego, California.

The newly elected officers of the Western Division are as follows:

President .....	Gerald Bouck
President Elect .....	Kirk Beiningen
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Del Skeesick
Western Nominations Rep. .	Ron Goede

Fred Eiserman was appointed chairman of the Stream Preservation standing committee and Kirk Beiningen heads the task force for a rewrite of the bylaws.

All in all it was a productive year and pointed out once again what can be done when people talk to each other and work for common goals. The joint meeting guidelines demonstrated what can be done when we talk amongst ourselves and then to other groups as well.