



American Fisheries Society
Western Division

ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
SASKATCHEWAN
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
YUKON

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OREGON
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WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS
AND TRUST TERRITORIES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
WESTERN DIVISION
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 20, 1980
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

At the Anchorage meeting (1979) several charges for the Division were discussed. Those charges were:

- 1) Initiate and coordinate development of regional symposia or workshops with appropriate proceedings
- 2) Resolve how best to deal with the varied interests in the Division
- 3) Research and provide input into the Society's publication process
- 4) Continue to search for the keystone of member involvement
- 5) Develop and provide timely, objective and professional response to resource issues - in short an involved and responsive organization
- 6) Continue effort begun in working with marine fisheries interests

Progress has been made on these goals although amount accomplished has varied. There is much interest in a Rocky Mountain Stream Habitat Workshop and plans are in the works. The workshop may well be delayed until 1982 from the original target-date of 1981.

The varied interests within the Division remain and a good method of dealing with concerns is important. The size of the Division compounds the problem of communication and coordinating interests. This year people had the opportunity to express opinion relative to size of the Division and whether formation of two new smaller divisions (Northwest, Southwest) is a solution. The members mandated the Division remain as is.

For many years comment indicated that the Western Division should divide and meet on its own - without WAFWA. Putting it all together, I believe the relationship has been mutually beneficial and that the Western Division should remain as structured. Working with WAFWA this year has presented few problems and nothing insoluble.

Western Division members Beiningen and Wiley served on the Society sessional committee on publications. That committee has recommended that a fishery management publication be initiated. Members will have the opportunity to respond to this issue through a questionnaire to be included in Fisheries. The Publications Committee within the Division will prepare an article for Fisheries illustrating thinking on the publication issue.

The keystone of member involvement seems to be an active organization. Input this year was received and issues addressed in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and on the Columbia River system. Virtually the entire western U.S. was involved in the riparian habitat issue; the input and work peaked in Kalipsell with two sessions devoted to the issue and a position paper in preparation. So, members have been involved and issues addressed. As I see it this is what the Division should be doing and it can be done effectively if people are involved.

The Western Division has been much involved in the Marine Fisheries issue and in developing a Marine Fisheries Section. In ensuing years the Division may wish to consider a standing committee to work with the growing Marine Fisheries Section as well as committees to work with other sections. In so doing, the network of fishery interests might be strengthened and the Division may be able to assist the sections.

The problem of travel surfaced again this year and attendance at Chapter meetings was limited to only the Colorado - Wyoming meeting. For the lack of in-person contact I apologize but, somehow, I believe Division money is better spent in addressing issues, preparing position papers and so on rather than occasional personal contact.

I humbly thank everyone for their support and confidence through the year; its been a pleasing and rewarding experience to serve the Society, resource, and most of all, the people in the Western Division. The year has been pleasant and I hope future officers in the Division can have as fine a time as I did. The Division, I think, has a bright future.