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TO: AFS Executive Committee

FROM: Al Mills, WDAFS President

SUBJECT: 1987-1988 Mid Year Report

DATE: February 16, 1988

The Western Division Presidency has committed with firm resolve to personally visit and be directly involved in the Annual Meetings of nearly all it's active Chapters. As this report is assembled we are in the middle of communicating and carrying on a rather hectic but immensely satisfying schedule of travel to and from a variety of very busy and successful annual Chapter meetings to accomplish this end. As it turns out nearly all WDAFS Chapters meet within a two or three month span to avoid conflict with field seasons and this is the time of the year it is "happening". The reader may perhaps find us more dedicated to involvement with the Chapters than producing a lengthy and in-depth mid-year report. We feel our priorities however are appropriately assigned and would ask your tolerance.

WESTERN DIVISION RETREATS & ANNUAL MEETINGS: By now you have all heard about and have probably felt some of the impacts of our very successful series of Division/Chapter Retreats held in conjunction with our annual Division Meetings. We use the full day and evening long process very successfully, along with our visits to Chapter meetings, to bring us much closer together and develop a team atmosphere with the Chapters we serve. In fact as you read this you may be planning to attend or be participating in a Parent Society Excom. Retreat organized by Immediate WDAFS Past President Martin and patterned after the WDAFS example. Since our retreats are held in July prior to the annual AFS September meetings, we will have interacted, developed, and introduced our major mutual concerns at that earlier September session. Thus our mid-year agenda for the Excom. will usually be short or primarily informational in nature.

THE WDAFS/WAFWA JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE is planned for Albuquerque, New Mexico July 10-13, 1988. Program Chair and President Elect Nancy MacHugh working closely with WAFWA and some very cooperative Arizona-New Mexico Chapter and State of New Mexico personnel has planned a very unique program. Developed around the theme "Challenge-The Future" it will highlight a participatory workshop presented by the The Naisbitt Group, a consulting firm headed by John Naisbitt, author of the book Megatrends. About half of the conference

period will be occupied by the jointly attended working session entitled "Strategic Skills for the New Economy". It is designed to focus on setting new directions and developing a vision for the future. It is based on examination of emerging trends, their impacts on various institutions and development of positive action as opposed to continual and always threatening reaction. You are all invited to come and join us in Albuquerque at the brand new Holiday Inn-Journal Center, often called "The Pyramid".

COMMITTEES: Appended is a list of the current Committees and Chairpersons of WDAFS. Most Committee Chairs have remained active and without change in leadership but there have been some pleasant changes and additions. Our Threatened and Endangered Fishes Committee Chairperson Dr. Jack Williams has been promoted by President Moberly to The Chair of the National Endangered Species Committee and we are once again proud to see WDAFS folks be of service at the national level. Jack has been only recently replaced by Don Sada out of the University of Nevada, Reno. Don will continue in the same fine and assertive tradition of the committee. The Western Division has added some Committees and new charges to existing Committees to reflect changing times and resource needs. We have created a Native American Fisheries Committee under the very capable leadership of Frank L. Halfmoon of the Portland Office of the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Fisheries. A Marine Fisheries Committee has been established under the lead of Alaska Chapter Immediate Past President Lou Carufel. Among other expectations Lou has been charged to represent the WDAFS Excom. in assisting the coastal Chapters with the effort of setting up a schedule of hosting the Chinook & Coho Salmon Workshop on a biennial rotational schedule between coastal Chapters. Glenn R. Phillips of the Montana Chapter is our new Audit Committee Chair. The Bylaws Committee has been reactivated under the capable lead of Tom Powell of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter. Tom has gained valuable training and insight under the tutelage of Rich Gregory as assistant Constitutional Consultant for AFS. There has been the routine change of some Standing Committee Chairs with the changing of the guard in the Presidency and Virgil Moore of the Idaho Chapter has been asked to explore the possibility of WDAFS, his Fisheries Economics Committee and the Idaho Chapter hosting a major "Fisheries Economics For The Working Biologist" Workshop in 1989 or 1990. Committees are where it's happening!

SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER CHINOOK LAWSUIT: Once again the WDAFS is pioneering new territory in it's support and encouragement of the California-Nevada Chapter's lawsuit to compel the National Marine Fisheries Service to live up to it's responsibility and list the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon as a threatened species. The salmon is fighting tremendous odds and an "upstream" battle to survive against tremendous developmental and political pressures. By

enlisting the direct legal leadership and support of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc. the Cal-Neva Chapter and all of AFS is trying to assist the winter-run chinook in it's battle for survival. On February 3 the suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California and we are awaiting the results of the legal effort. As of this writing the latest word is that there have been some compromises proposed and discussion of agreement to list has been taking place. You will be hearing more from Cal-Neva personnel who have been invited by WDAFS to present the latest information to the AFS Excom. (in case you are really interested). This sets some very significant precedents and already the Idaho Chapter is taking another look at the status of Columbia and Snake River stocks which have also undergone substantial reductions in numbers and appear to be struggling for survival.

IDAHO CHAPTER CHINOOK SALMON BIBLIOGRAPHY: At the request of the Idaho Chapter, member Sharon Wallace Kiefer has compiled "An Annotated Bibliography On Recent Information Concerning Chinook Salmon In Idaho". The work has been bound and published by the Chapter and copies are available at cost upon request from the Idaho Chapter. We feel bad the Chapter didn't even need our help to accomplish this commendable effort. Sharon and the Chapter deserve our respect and recognition for this fine piece of work. It may well be the fore-runner of an effort by the Idaho Chapter similar to the Cal-Neva experience. (What a bunch of trouble makers we have in the WDAFS, eh!) One might think our fisheries resources can't fend for themselves in the face of modern man's fine works, as many of our developers would like us to believe.

CHINOOK & COHO SALMON WORKSHOP: The North Pacific International Chapter is hosting the first of what promises to be a biennial workshop on Northeast Pacific Chinook and Coho Stocks. The workshop is scheduled for October 3-4, 1988 at Nendels Inn, Bellingham, Washington. Non concurrent sessions are currently planned on the topics of: Present and Future Status of Stocks; Freshwater Factors; Enhancement Strategies; Management Techniques; Management Politics and Policies; Estuarine/Marine Ecology and Migration; Case Histories; Spring Chinook-On the Verge of Extinction?; and International and Economic Forces. Other topic sessions will be considered with the agenda to be finalized by the end of June. Attendance will be limited to 150 participants on a first-come-first-served basis. Phone or write: Bruce Shepherd, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5G3 (604) 666-0115 (W) or (604) 931-3121 (H) for further information. The WDAFS under the lead of newly appointed Marine Fisheries Committee Chair Lou Carufel and the NFI Chapter are working together to organize a biennial Chapter rotational schedule for hosting future events.

RIPARIAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP: The Montana Chapter, WDAFS, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service and the Society for Range Management are working together and have assembled a dynamite agenda of speakers and topics. The workshop will stress "Practical Approaches" and is scheduled for May 9-12, 1989 in Billings Montana and precedes a major meeting of the Society for Range management. Program Chair is: Chris Hunter, DEA Research, Box 1209, Helena, MT 59624. The announcement and call for papers and posters is already out.

EXCELLENCE IN RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT COMPETITION: Formerly known as "The Riparian Challenge" this effort started out as a gesture of competition between individuals in two major public land management agencies with the high stakes of a jug of fine whiskey. It has turned into a major WDAFS competition with a Committee of judges to award recognition at the July 1988 WDAFS meeting in Albuquerque for submitted examples of good public riparian management. The effort is coordinated by immediate WDAFS Past President Don Martin. Ironically the individual who hurled the first challenge across the agency line has now converted to that other agency. We won't mention that it was the current WDAFS Riparian Committee Chair" however to protect the name of the "innocent".

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY CHALLENGE TO NATIONAL FOREST PLAN: The California-Nevada Chapter has intervened in a legal challenge of the Toiyabe National Forest (California & Nevada) Plan by the livestock industry. The forest plan had indicated improved riparian protection which livestock interests opposed. WDAFS also has gone to the support of the forest plan and asked that the appeal be decided on the merit of the resource issue rather than through political pressure by the powerful livestock interests. Early indications from letters to WDAFS from the Chief of the USDA Forest Service and from sources close to the issue are that the plan will be upheld.

CUTTHROAT PUBLICATION: The WDAFS Editorial Committee under the leadership of Bob Gresswell, (MT Chapter) is working to publish "The Status and Management of Inland Cutthroat Trout". Funds have been solicited from various benefitting agencies to assist with the costs of the publication. It will be published in the AFS Symposia series.

CLEAN WATER ACT/SECTION 319/NON POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: The WDAFS is in the process of assembling an ad hoc committee to encourage and coordinate professional fisheries input and involvement as states prepare to implement the recent Federal Clean Water Act. The implementation of Section 319 of the Act dealing with Non Point Sources (NPS), establishment of Best Management Practices (BMP's) and the development of state guidelines and plans for the effort have major fisheries implications. The fisheries stakes and the dollars involved are large and yet the process is happening in most cases with

little if any fisheries input. Where are we in this process??
** The WDAFS has invited Roger Dean, the EPA Non Point Source Coordinator out of the Denver office to participate at some point in the Seattle Excom. Meeting to help us as fisheries professionals understand why this is so important to the resources we manage and work with.

WDAFS-WAFWA RELATIONSHIP: WDAFS enjoys an excellent 'working relationship with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. It is easy for these busy directors and agency leaders to get preoccupied with the press of business and forget us folks in the trenches. In most cases it's up to us and in our best interest to continue to be closely involved with them. They are busy but the door is open. Let's keep it open.

WDAFS PERMANENT SEC./TREAS. CONCEPT: We approached WAFWA leaders at their recent mid-year excom. meeting in Tucson and asked for their support as WDAFS strives to duplicate the continuity of program they enjoy with a (semi) permanent Secretary/Treasurer. We asked if we were to appoint/elect such an officer for WDAFS would they as administrators support the time it may require of one of their employees. We received a favorable reaction and now need to approach our members and explore the option further. Our program in the Western States has already exceeded the capability of a few elected officers passing rapidly through the chairs to realistically stay in front of. Especially if we also expect to simultaneously satisfy employers and career needs to say nothing of personal lives and families. It's time to consider ways to improve our efficiency, maintain some continuity and spend more time serving our very active and progressive Western Division Chapters who are more and more embroiled in pressing resource issues. The WAFWA Sec./Treas. serves almost as an executive secretary and full partner to the incoming presidency each year. Would such an approach help us do a better job in WDAFS?

MYSID/FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM: The WDAFS in partnership with the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter and the Fish Management Section is sponsoring a one day symposium to address the relationship between fisheries management and the ecological role of Mysidaceae. The special session will be held within the AFS annual meeting at Toronto, Ontario, September 12-15, 1988. The program coordinators are Tom Nessler of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Dr. Eric Bergersen of the Colorado Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit.

** WDAFS/COASTAL CHAPTERS OCS OIL CONCERNS: The WDAFS and a number of Chapters continue to be concerned with the potential fisheries implications of Outer Continental Shelf Oil Development. Of particular concern are efforts (or lack of) by the Parent Society Environmental Concerns Committee and their follow through with West Coast Chapter representation in matters dealing with AFS policy and positions relating to OCS development.

ANNUAL DUES REBATE TO CHAPTERS: Chapters in WDAFS have inquired frequently about the previously introduced action items at the Winston-Salem meeting by WDAFS. They are particularly interested in the item regarding annual dues rebates to Chapters based on the number of AFS members in the Chapter. The item was tabled for further discussion and better definition. We would like to again open the discussion on this item and pursue it's resolution with the hope of being able to carry a positive report back to WDAFS Chapters. This one item would put us leaps and bounds ahead in the continual membership efforts at the Chapter level. It could almost single handedly lay to rest the continuing embarrassment and hard feelings created by the "non-member member" issue. This latter concern is particularly prevalent in the Chapters in larger western states where travel distances are great and interaction between officers and other members is much less frequent.

Enclosures: WDAFS Officers
 WDAFS Committees & Chairs

cc: WDAFS Officers
 WDAFS Chapter Presidents
 WDAFS Committee Chairman