

## 1994-95 ANNUAL REPORT

### Carl V. Burger, Immediate Past-President

First, I want to express my sincere thanks for the tremendous support I received this year from the EXCOM and membership -- in my opinion this was one of the Division's most successful years ever. There were numerous individual, committee, and subunit accomplishments, as summarized below. We were honored to have several Society representatives attend our Park City Meeting this year: Executive Director Brouha, President Redmond, President-Elect Wingate, Pam McClelland and Dale Burkett. They were favorably impressed with our successes in the areas of public outreach and education, legislative activities, and stocks-at-risk-type endeavors. (They were also quite impressed with the quality of the program and with the accommodations provided by the host Bonneville Chapter at our recent Annual Meeting!) When I was asked by Jack Wingate in Park City to provide him with complete copies of your Chapter and Committee reports, the message I got was that **we remain the example for our Society's other subunits to follow**. Your joint efforts are the reason that we achieved so much and I know we'll keep this momentum right through Dennis Lee's Presidency. It was a pleasure to have worked with all of you.

In looking back, our Western Division team effort can also count some notable accomplishments as well as several "firsts". Over and above the usual high level of involvement by our subunits in Society affairs, our achievements at the Division level include:

1. a mechanism for the Division's first-ever graduate student scholarship(s);
2. a travel stipend for undergraduate Native American/First Nation students to attend Division meetings;
3. teleconferencing to improve our communications;
4. some suggestions to improve the structure and functioning of our Committees;
5. a mechanism for an annual "Chapter Exchange"; and
6. an Archivist (Ms. Venice Beske of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter ) to record it all!

I'll be chairing the Division's Awards and Nominations Committees during the coming year. Please contact me with your thoughts on appropriate candidates for office and with names of individuals deserving of Division recognition.

#### **Division Highlights:**

The Western Division's Annual Meeting was held in Park City, Utah, from July 16-19, 1995. The theme of the meeting was "Practical Applications of Ecosystem Management".

President-Elect Dennis Lee and our Arrangements (Leo Lentsch) and Program (Kevin Christopherson) chairs from the host Bonneville Chapter organized several outstanding technical sessions and some exceptional entertainment that occurred at the Olympia Park Hotel in Park City. A leadership retreat was held on July 15, followed by an EXCOM pre-business meeting on the 16th. The Annual Meeting opened on July 17 with an address from President Redmond, followed by a lively plenary session (organized by Dennis Lee) featuring Phil Pister's perspectives on ecosystem management. Other speakers at the Plenary Session included Dennis Fenn, Harv Forsgren, Pat Marley and Cindy Deacon Williams. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Jim Martin, a stimulating Point/Counterpoint Debate addressed the question: "Is it appropriate to jeopardize ecosystem integrity to achieve fishery management?" At the business meeting, the Division voted to hold its 1997 Annual Meeting in conjunction with that of our Parent Society to be held during August of that year in Monterey, California. Also approved was a budget that contained provisions for financial assistance for outreach projects by two chapters (see below).

A "Chapter Exchange" was conducted as a separate evening session at the Park City Annual Meeting. This approach was a first for the Division and it provided a relaxed forum for chapter presidents to give their subunit's report, as well as an opportunity for exchange of ideas and information. Several of the chapter representatives accentuated their presentations with slides depicting specific resource problems and major Chapter accomplishments. Originally suggested by Gordon Sloane (CO/WY Chapter President), exchange sessions with slide presentations appear to be a great way for consensus building among chapters.

A series of teleconferences was conducted by Division President Carl Burger with chapter presidents and committee chairs throughout the year, to increase communications among Division subunits. The response from the subunit leaders was extremely positive -- participants felt that the conferences accomplished the goal of bringing us together as a cohesive unit.

The Division approved requests for funding from two chapters for outreach projects. The Humboldt Chapter was provided with \$1,300 for a Chapter education program targeting elementary students. The Montana Chapter was provided with \$2,000 to produce a symposium designed to improve our public outreach skills with media representatives and with elementary students. The symposium is subtitled "How do we make fish as popular as dinosaurs?" **Scheduled for June 26-29 (1996) in Bozeman, the Montana Chapter's public outreach symposium is national in scope and will provide training for educators and professionals throughout our Society's subunits.** Contact: John Fraley-(406) 752-5501.

The cost of AFS membership is of concern to some Division subunits, particularly in regards to "entry-level" members in some of the western states. An "Associate Member" category (half-price dues) was a point of discussion at our EXCOM Meeting in Park City. President Redmond indicated his willingness to relay the concerns of some of the Western Division chapters to the Society's Membership Concerns Committee in Tampa. These concerns were also identified in the report by our Membership Committee Chair, Tom Nesler.

Through the hard work and assistance of Dennis Tol (Resolutions Chair), the Division reviewed its present committee structure. Dennis polled all Division subunit leaders to determine the effectiveness and need of each Division committee. At our EXCOM Meeting in Park City, consensus was reached to accept Chairman Tol's recommendations, one of which is to have the Division's Vice President serve as the coordinator and steward for all of our committees. This and other changes will be addressed in an upcoming bylaws revision that is being initiated by Dennis Tol.

The Division's Environmental Concerns Chair (Mike Ward) is considering several alternatives in developing a water quantity position statement based on that originally developed by the Idaho Chapter.

The Division agreed to support, in principle, a proposed "Sustainable Fisheries Strategy" for Pacific salmon and steelhead populations. The symposium and strategy development is scheduled for late April, 1996 in Victoria, BC. The symposium's Steering Committee is in place and is finalizing plans for the meeting. The project's goal is to bring various agency decisionmakers (from Canada, the U.S., and states) together with scientists and user groups in an effort to develop a strategy to reverse resource declines. Contact: Don MacDonald (604) 722-3631.

With the help of AFS staff, information was sent to all subunits urging members to contact their legislators regarding Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and a grazing bill proposed by Senator Dominici that would threaten western fishery resources.

The 1996 Annual Meeting of the Western Division will occur in Eugene, Oregon, during July. The Oregon Chapter has graciously agreed to host the meeting.

### Chapter Reports

#### **Alaska (Kate Wedemeyer, President; Dana Schmidt as of 11/95):**

Carl Burger attended the 21st Alaska Chapter Meeting held in Sitka from November 14-17, 1994. The theme of the meeting was "Coming of Age, 1973-1994: A Blend of Science and Advocacy." The value of fishery enhancement programs was the topic of keynote addresses provided by Ray Hilborn (University of Washington) and Ted Parry (Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans). Hilborn also conducted a continuing education class at the meeting. Technical sessions were held on salmonid wildstock management, Southeast Alaska fisheries allocation, aquaculture, and international fisheries. A panel discussion was convened on advocacy and the Chapter recently drafted its new advocacy procedures. **The stocks at risk undertaking is now limited to those occurring in Southeast Alaska. Work continues on an 1100-page key to the fishes of Alaska.** Publication of three symposia (Arctic Fish Ecology, Oilspill, and Habitat Restoration) are in various stages of completion. The Chapter's next Annual Meeting is set for Wasilla during mid-November.

**Arizona/New Mexico (Past President, Tom Cain; Ernie Jaquez, President):**

The Arizona/New Mexico Chapter held their Annual Meeting in Gallup, New Mexico, from February 9-11. Division President Carl Burger attended and addressed the group on behalf of Executive Director Brouha and AFS President Redmond. The theme of the meeting was "Monitoring Resource Management Actions: Design and Effectiveness." Jack Kelly and Jerry Burton organized a one-day workshop on fish tagging techniques that, as usual, proved exceptionally popular among the attendees. **This Chapter has tripled its membership over the last couple of years and has been very active in the legislative arena.** The Chapter's EXCOM commented on an EIS for Glen Canyon Dam and was involved in commenting on the relicensing of a hydroelectric project in Arizona. The Chapter passed two resolutions, one concerning Game and Fish Commission statutes and another regarding the distribution of State Heritage Funds that are dedicated to threatened and endangered species. **The Chapter was commended for hosting last year's Western Division Annual Meeting.**

**Bonneville (Past President, Leo Lentsch; Kevin Christopherson, President):**

**The Chapter postponed its Annual Meeting this year in order to devote full attention to hosting the Western Division Annual Meeting in Park City, Utah, July 16-19.** Chapter President Leo Lentsch served as Arrangements Chair for the Division Meeting while Bonneville Chapter President-Elect Kevin Christopherson was Program Chair. The Division is indebted to the Bonneville Chapter members for the top-notch meeting they hosted in Park City. Numerous attendees commented on the superb facilities and on the quality of the program and activities.

**California/Nevada (Past President, Susan Ellis; Ed Bianchi, President):**

The California/Nevada Chapter held its Annual Conference and Business Meeting February 3-4 in Napa where the theme was "Consensus Building in Resource Management." Dennis Lee represented the Division. Also, Executive Director Brouha addressed the membership. A panel discussion introduced the attendees to various perspectives on consensus building and the technical sessions (interactive workshops on the ESA, key watersheds, and Delta issues) introduced case studies of consensus-building efforts from projects in marine, estuarine, and freshwater environments. Pam McClelland, Dale Burkett, and Ken Hashagen helped convene a workshop to highlight member interests and to develop an action agenda. Just prior to the meeting a watershed symposium focused on the Russian River. **The Chapter was a competitor for listing of three Southern California fishes and was active in corresponding with legislators regarding changes in State Code sections affecting non-point discharges.** The Chapter and its Sacramento/Davis Subunit are working in partnership to sponsor activities to attract new members. **Eight continuing education courses were conducted. This Chapter will be hosting the 127th Annual Meeting of AFS in Monterey during August, 1997.**

**Colorado/Wyoming (Past President, Bob McDowell; Gordon Sloane, President):**

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter was held March 14-16 in Casper, Wyoming. The meeting's theme was "Back to Basics-Practical Applications of Fish Culture, Research and Management." The papers and excellent posters displayed at this meeting addressed basic fisheries tools and techniques relevant to the challenges of the

profession. In addition, a continuing education workshop was held on GIS technology, supported largely via Chapter funds and at only minimal cost (\$10 per person) to members as an incentive for membership. The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter has been involved in a review of the Yellowstone cutthroat plan and in Idaho's request for assistance with its water quantity position statement. **The Chapter voted to provide \$1,000 of financial assistance to support development of a technique for the detection of whirling disease from riverine samples.**

**Hawaii (Past President, Kimberly Lowe; Ken Leber, President):**

The Hawaii Chapter meets quarterly. **One of this Chapter's most notable accomplishments was their sponsorship of a legislative workshop that highlighted how to access legislative information and how to draft and present testimony.** The Hawaii Chapter was also successful in influencing the Hawaii Legislature in passing more effective regulations on inshore gillnetting. The Chapter plans to remain active in long-term gillnet management and in the area of exotic animal introductions. New legislative initiatives include measures to regulate introduced aquatic organisms and a recommendation for a new minimum size in the moi fishery. The Chapter plans to initiate projects on habitat conservation, sponsorship of a student symposium, and continuing education courses. **The Chapter is tentatively planning to co-host a "Fishermen's Forum" to involve various resource users in conservation issues similar to the Stream Restoration Symposium they sponsored last fall.**

**Humboldt (Past President, Mike McCain; Roger Barnhart, President):**

The Humboldt Chapter held its Annual Meeting at Humboldt State on April 22, 1995. The theme of the meeting was "Endangered Species Management with an Ecosystem Perspective." Dennis Lee represented the Division. The Chapter sponsored a "Smith River Fisheries Research and Management" colloquium last fall that disseminated current fishery information and allowed interagency and public involvement on research and management topics. A "Trinity River Restoration Program" was also held during March. A panel of specialists addressed past and planned instream, watershed, and hatchery projects under the Trinity Restoration Project, with responses intended to serve as input into development of an EIS. **The Chapter is seeking support to upgrade its numerous education programs and outreach projects such as those centering on salmon adaptations and life cycles shown via slides at Humboldt County schools.** The Humboldt Chapter underwrote grant proposals to the California Wildlife Conservation Board and two federal agencies in conjunction with fisheries education materials in local schools. **The Chapter remains very active in the legislative arena, particularly in regards to non-point source pollution and in the area of steelhead status reviews.** A video (shown in Park City) was recently completed that highlights the declines of Pacific salmonids and will be used in various outreach endeavors.

**Idaho (Past President, Wayne Paradis; Dave Cross, President):**

The Idaho Chapter held its Annual Meeting March 16-18 in Boise where the theme was "Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management: Can It Work?" Chris Moffitt attended as Division Representative. Just prior to the Annual Meeting, the Chapter sponsored a Status Review Workshop that addressed the lists used by several fish and wildlife agencies to recognize

certain fish species for special management consideration. The workshop proceedings are now available. **As an action item, the Chapter has requested formation of a Division work group to draft a WDAFS Position Statement on water quantity in the western states.** This request was addressed by the Division's EXCOM at the Park City Meeting. The Chapter has been active in issues such as potential listing of the redband trout, a conservation strategy for bull trout, an EA for interim anadromous fish strategies, and a draft conservation strategy for Bonneville cutthroat. The Chapter also reviewed "IDAFISH": the Intermountain Forest Industry Association's alternative (Idaho-specific) to the agency-developed PACFISH approach, however, the Chapter could not support IDAFISH as presently proposed. The Chapter coordinated with the Montana and Oregon chapters in a peer review of a document on the historical trends of bull trout in western states. Finally, **the Idaho Chapter completed an outreach project by developing a comprehensive and artistic poster on the rare, native fishes of Idaho and they completed a pamphlet on "Idaho's Bull Trout, A Species in Peril."**

**Montana (Past President, Jim Darling; Brad Shepard, President):**

The Montana Chapter held its Annual Meeting February 6-10 in Chico Hot Springs where the theme centered on policy, theory, and management strategies for conserving native fishes. The Chapter's Environmental Concerns Committee has recommended adjustments to the COE's Missouri River Master Water Control Manual to improve fisheries. **The Chapter is compiling a list of streams in Montana that have fishes of special concern.** Their Land Management Committee has commented on grazing allotments, timber sales, energy leases, national forest land trades, and channel reclamation projects. Their Species of Special Concern Committee is tracking a FERC review of Kerr Dam for effects on cutthroat and bull trout, as well as various listing petitions. **Art Whitney (a Past AFS President) helped the Chapter track and influence four legislative issues, all having successful outcomes: fish transport regulations, private pond considerations, water leasing rights, and habitat restoration.** An "aquatic box" was developed by the Chapter for use by teachers in Montana classrooms as a fisheries educational tool. The Chapter's Extension Education Committee is producing a poster on warmwater stream ecosystems for classroom use and **they are preparing a national outreach symposium (June 26-29, 1996, in Bozeman) entitled "How Do We Make Fish as Popular as Dinosaurs?"**

**New Mexico State Student (Past President, Kevin Case; Shawn Denny, President):**

This subunit meets monthly on campus under the guidance of faculty members Colleen Caldwell and Paul Turner. The Chapter has been working closely with BLM to monitor a stream (Bonito Creek) near Lincoln, NM, and they have set up an Educational Committee to visit New Mexico schools to educate students about local fishes. Additionally, **the Chapter is involved in managing an on-campus pond as an educational tool and they have helped a flyfishing association conduct clinics for grade school students.**

**North Pacific International (Past President, Bob Bilby; Bryan Hebden, President):**

The North Pacific International Chapter held its Annual Meeting April 5-7 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme was "Public Participation in Fisheries Management: Plague or

Panacea?" Carl Burger represented the Division. The Chapter's activities center on completing their "stocks at risk" endeavor. A database on over 8,000 salmonid populations was sent to numerous scientists and managers soliciting comments on database quality. Stock assessment will be completed in early spring with a preliminary report at the upcoming Chapter Meeting. **A paper summarizing the Chapter's stocks at risk findings will be published in Fisheries later this year.** The Chapter will likely play a major role in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy for Pacific salmon and steelhead to be held this spring.

**Oregon (Past President, Bob Hughes; Kirk Schroeder, President):**

**The Oregon Chapter won the Division and Society "Chapter of the Year" awards during 1994 and they repeated this feat again in 1995!** This Chapter held its Annual Meeting February 15-17 in Ashland under the theme "Characterizing, Conserving, and Restoring Aquatic Biological Diversity." Dennis Lee attended on behalf of the Division. Also, Executive Director Brouha addressed the membership. In the legislative arena, the Oregon Chapter reviewed a document on riparian zone management as it regards the status and future of Oregon salmon (request from the Oregon Senate). Also, the Chapter testified at the Savage Rapids Dam hearings -- the Oregon Water Resources Commission subsequently voted for dam removal. **The Oregon Chapter has sponsored numerous symposia and outreach projects.** These include the Northwest Pacific Chinook and Coho Salmon Workshop (November 1994), a session at the Northwest Fish Culturists Conference (December 1994), a symposium on sustaining rangeland ecosystems, and an upcoming sea-run cutthroat trout symposium (October). **The Oregon Chapter has submitted considerable testimony for ESA Reauthorization and they passed a resolution that allows their EXCOM to use litigation to pursue listing of Klamath Basin bull trout.** The Chapter just dedicated up to \$2,000 annually for student scholarships and they printed over 2,500 "Stream Continuum" posters for distribution to schools.

**Portland (Past President, Bob Ellis; Vic Kazinski, President):**

Historically, the Portland Chapter has hosted monthly luncheon meetings with invited presentations on a wide variety of fishery topics. Currently, bi-monthly meetings are being held to provide longer discussions and more opportunities for member input with abstracts published in the Chapter's newsletter. This year a day-long conference also was held (June 1) on topics ranging from endangered species to urban fishery issues, followed by an evening banquet. The Chapter is currently reviewing its bylaws. **A new committee is addressing the general topic of professionalism in AFS.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Bull Trout:**

This Committee will be conducting a review at the request of the State of Montana to evaluate Montana's proposed strategy for bull trout restoration. The Committee will likely also participate in requests from chapters for peer review of bull trout listing correspondence. Karen Pratt (Idaho) has agreed to become the new chair of this committee.

### Environmental Concerns and Native Salmon Stocks:

These two committees (Environmental Concerns Chair, Mike Ward; Native Salmon Stocks Chair, Pat Higgins) have teamed up to track current and upcoming fishery legislation and to develop a system to electronically link Division chapters and committees for fishery data and information updates. This project will strengthen AFS communication. Also, the Environmental Concerns Committee is attempting to determine the need for a Division water quantity position statement.

### Historian:

Chair Venice Beske is attempting to locate materials that are important for archiving the Division's history. Her plan is to have an institutional history available for the Division's 50th Anniversary in 1998. Please contact her if you have any archival information on the Division. The Western Division appreciates Venice's willingness to fill this new position.

### Native Peoples Fisheries and Equal Opportunity:

These two committees (NPFC Chair, Kelly Meyer; EO Chair, Ken Hashagen) have also joined forces this year. They successfully developed a travel grant for Native American / First Nation students to attend Division meetings. The first award recipient (Josh Parker / Arizona) attended the Division's Annual Meeting at Park City.

Should read "Native American / First Nation"

### Old Growth Forests:

Chair David Fuller and the Old Growth Forests Committee just reviewed a draft EIS on the California Spotted Owl Management Plan and is preparing to review the Eastside Ecosystem Management Plan. The Committee will be tracking new legislation and gathering information for protection of the "Headwaters Forest", an area in northwestern California that provides old growth redwoods and important coho salmon habitat.

### Resolutions:

Chair Dennis Tol circulated a questionnaire to all Division officers and subunit leaders in an effort to re-evaluate the structure, function, and need for our Division's committees. The Division is proceeding based on the report's findings, as highlighted above. Dennis was commended by the EXCOM and by the membership at the Park City Meeting for the long hours and extra effort he went to in developing his extensive report with very meaningful implications for the future of the Division.

### Riparian:

This Committee finalized Parent Society comments on the Draft Rangeland Reform EIS that were subsequently sent to BLM and provided input for the Executive Director who attended a forum on grazing fee incentives. The Riparian Committee Chair (Mark Gorges) presented the Division's Riparian Challenge awards (~~see above~~) in Park City and he assisted with a letter writing campaign on the Dominici bill. Chairman Gorges received an Award of Special Recognition for his years of dedicated service. Jill Silvey (BLM) has graciously

Delete



agreed to chair our Riparian Committee for 1995-96.

**Secretary-Treasurer:**

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Christine Moffit, reported that the Western Division remains financially solid. Chris was given a Division Award of Merit for her tireless and dedicated work over the past three years. She also received a very prestigious award at the Tampa AFS Meeting, the Society's Meritorious Service Award. Chris has been a major factor in the success of the Western Division.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:**

Chair Jerry Burton was instrumental in working with WDAFS chapter presidents concerning ESA Reauthorization and in offering to provide workshops at ~~upcoming~~ Western Division chapter meetings. Jerry conducted an ESA workshop at the Montana Chapter Meeting. Jerry recently retired from his federal position. Leo Lentsch (Bonneville Chapter) has offered to chair this committee for the coming year.

Delete