



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

To: Charles C. Coutant, AFS President
From: Thomas P. Nesler, Western Division President
Subject: 1997 End-of-year Report to the Governing Board
Copies: Western Division EXCOM

I. Action Requested: Governing Board approval of an AFS challenge grant program to provide AFS journals at cost to fisheries science laboratories in the Russian-Far east.

The Western Division is a cosponsor of a motion forwarded by the International Fisheries Section concerning a challenge grant program to subsidize journal subscriptions to six Russian-Far-east fisheries science laboratories. Please refer to the IFS report for motion details.

Recommended motion: see International Fisheries Section 1997 annual report.

Background: see International Fisheries Section 1997 annual report.

II. Action Requested: Governing Board approval/direction to create an AFS Task Force to review AFS governance and make recommendations to address issues/ problems of equity in unit representation based on membership and necessary revisions to AFS bylaws.

Recommended motion:

- 1) Move that the Governing Board charge an AFS task force to review and recommend revised Society bylaws to address problems in equity in unit representation and voting on the Governing Board.
- 2) The task force will specifically address the scope of representation by Divisions and Sections with respect to membership services and fees, equity in AFS unit voting strength on the Governing Board based on membership representation, and parity

among voting AFS units.

- 3) The task force will provide the Governing Board a motion detailing specific changes recommended in AFS governance structure, associated revisions to Society bylaws, and a proposed implementation schedule at the 1998 midyear meeting of the Governing Board.
- 4) The task force will be composed of an AFS Officer as liaison, and representatives from all four Divisions (percentage of membership: Western-35 %, Southern-21 %, North-central-18 %, Northeastern-11 %) and from the four AFS Sections with the largest memberships in 1997 (Fisheries Management-10.5 %, Fish Culture-6 %, Computer User-5.6 %, and Fish Health-5 %).

Background:

An organizational audit of the American Fisheries Society was conducted in 1996 and the results provided in a December 1996 report by Associated Marketing and Management Resources. Within this audit, recommendations were offered concerning strategic and governance operations. The governance structure of AFS was characterized as "large and unwieldy". An finding considered important was the imbalance in representation at the Governing Board level, especially with respect to the Western Division and the percentage of its constituency. Existing governance structure allows each AFS unit with a minimum of 200 members a voting seat on the Governing Board. An AFS member may thus be "represented" multiple times, including the Division in which he/she resides, and by every AFS Section with 200 members or more to which the member chooses to belong. The vote of an AFS Division with 2,000-4,000 members may be effectively cancelled by a Section with 200 members.

Recommendations for change included restructuring the Board "to provide divisional representation and selected or rotating representation for sections"; creation of Section Council with 2-3 seat representation on the Board; creation of three divisions from the Western Division to create parity in governance; and remove the divisional layer of governance altogether. Another proposal that has been advanced by both the Fish Management Section and Western Division is the modification of voting by AFS units to equal that of the size of their membership. For example, a division or section would be granted one vote for every 200 members. The challenge to AFS in meeting this recommendation by the organizational audit is to achieve parity in representation by the Divisions and incorporate the specialized interests of the Sections.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN DIVISION OF AFS

I. Division Officers

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| President | Tom Nesler |
| President-elect | Pete Bisson |
| Vice President | Bob Bilby |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Jean Baldrige |
| Past President | Dennis Lee |

II. Division Chapter Presidents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alaska | Peggy Merritt |
| Arizona/New Mexico | Thomas R. McMahon |
| New Mexico State-Student | Jason Dix |
| Bonneville | Eric Larson |
| California/Nevada | Dennis McEwan |
| Colorado/Wyoming | William H. Bradshaw |
| University of Wyoming-Student | Doug Novinger |
| Colorado State University-Student | Stephen Flickinger |
| Hawai'i | Robert A. Skillman |
| Humboldt | Bret C. Harvey |
| Idaho | Charles E. Corsi |
| Montana | Dan Carty |
| North Pacific International | Gino Lucchetti |
| Oregon | Thomas W. H. Backman |
| Greater Portland | Richard Turner |

III. Western Division Committees (Internal Affairs)

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Archivist | Venice Beske |
| Arrangements | Ken Hashagen |
| Audit | Lou Carufel |
| Awards/Nominations | Dennis Lee |
| Equal Opportunity | Jerry Salazar |
| Membership | Robert Bilby |
| Newsletter Editor | Greg Kindschi |
| Policy Review | Dennis Tol |
| Program | Jennifer Neilsen |

IV. Western Division Committees (External Affairs)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Bull Trout Conservation | Karen Pratt |
| Endangered Species | Leo Lentsch |
| Environmental Concerns | Michael Ward |
| National Nominating Rep. | Robert White |

IV. Western Division Committees (External Affairs)(continued)

Native Peoples Fisheries
Riparian
AFS Resolutions
AFS Certification Appeals
Mining Reform

Kelly Meyer
Jill Silvey
Dennis Tol
Frank Pfeifer
Steve Wolff

V. Division Highlights (associated with 1997 AFS Work Plan Goals A through H)

- 1) Chapter Presidents contacted January 15 by letter to update communication lines and solicit discussion of issues/concerns. (F)
- 2) Division Officer conference call - January 3: update on AFS topics from Special Management Committee meeting (Dec. 9) in Omaha, and potential needs for Division or Chapter action. (F)
- 3) completion of Goose Lake Native Fishes Poster by the Fremont National Forest (Oregon). (C)
- 4) participation in Special Management Committee Meetings - December 9, Omaha NE; March 20, Bethesda; and mid-year Governing Board meeting, March 22. (F)
- 5) preliminary discussion with NMFS on Division role as source of expertise and comment on NMFS listing assessment for Pacific salmon.(October 28) (C,D)
- 6) participation in AFS Aquatic Habitat Inventory Standardization Project. (C)
- 7) appointed Division issue steward and task group for 1872 Mining Law reform. (C,D)
- 8) participation on nine AFS committees by Division Officers and 19 AFS committees by Western Division members. (A through H)
- 9) participated on task force to redraft of Human Use of Fish and Other Living Aquatic organisms. (C,D)
- 10) joined with Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics to develop a Range Stewardship Certification Program for western public lands. (C,D)
- 11) produced three issues of Division Newsletter, The Tributary, June, February 1997 and October 1996. (F)
- 12) participation in Organizational Audit of AFS. (A,B,E,F)
- 13) solicitation for 1997 Graduate Student Scholarship Award. (E)
- 14) financial assistance awards exceeding \$12,000 were provided to:
 - * Alaska Chapter for travel stipends for women and minorities (E,G)
 - * Fremont National Forest for native aquatic wildlife poster (C)
 - * Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund (E,G)
 - * AFS Youth Education Committee (G)
 - * North Pacific International Chapter for AFS/Chapter promotional display (C)
 - * AFS 2000 (B,C)
 - * Two graduate student scholarship awards (E,G)

V. Division Highlights (continued)

- 15) nominated Ken Hashagen (Cal-Neva Chapter) as candidate for Vice-president; and David Drake (Cal-Neva Chapter) as candidate for Secretary-Treasurer for Western Division. (A,E)
- 16) appointed a new Tributary editor from four volunteers. (E,F)
- 17) financial grants were approved for:
 - * AZ-NM Chapter Student Scholarship Travel Award (\$500)(E,G,H)
 - * Travel assistance for three Riparian Management Session panelists (\$2600) (C)
 - * Travel assistance for two Native Trout Management Session speakers (\$1000) (C)
 - * Seed money/challenge grant for AFS journal subscriptions in conjunction with International Fisheries Section (with matching funds from Oregon and Alaska Chapters) for Russian fisheries science laboratories (\$1650)(A,C,G)
 - * Travel assistance for two Graduate Student Scholarship winners (E,G,H)
 - * Donation to AFS Monterey Meeting Grand Prize for round trip airfare in conjunction with Kenai Peninsula fishing and vacation trip (\$1200)(B)
- 18) provided letter of support for Oregon Chapter request to AFS Names of Fishes Committee for name change for northern squawfish. Expanded request to include four species in Genus Ptychocheilus in Western Division. (F)
- 19) provided comments/support for two environmental assessments for (a) eradication of northern pike from Lake Davis in California, and (b) restoration of westslope cutthroat trout and fluvial arctic grayling in Yellowstone National Park. (C,D)
- 20) participated in AFS Governing Board self-assessment survey.(A)
- 21) participated in development of questions for AFS Membership Survey.(A)
- 22) polled Western Division Excom on AFS Governance, fiscal management, and publishing. (A,B,D,F)
- 23) reviewed Pacific Rivers Council letter to National Marine Fisheries Service describing AFS positions relative to Oregon Coast coho salmon listing issues.(C,D)
- 24) provided rebuttal letter for FISHERIES on behalf of the Western Division concerning criticism of Governing Board decisions on AFS Biodiversity Position Statement. (F)
- 25) led AFS panel review process for EIS of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wild Salmonid Policy.(C,D)
- 26) participated on organizational meeting of 1998 AFS Outreach Symposium. (C,D,G,H)
- 27) participated in organizational meetings with Alaska and NPI Chapters proposal for joint 1998 annual meeting of Western Division with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska, September 29-October 3, 1998. (A,C,F,G)

V. Division Highlights (continued)

- 28) assisted Cal-Neva Chapter in development of native trout management, riparian management, and contributed papers sessions for AFS 1997 annual meeting in Monterey. (A,C)
- 29) bestowed Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Award of Special Recognition, and Conservation Achievement Award to Western Division members. (H)

VI. Chapter Highlights (associated with 1997 AFS Work Plan Goals A through H)

- 1) *Alaska-*
 - * position statement on logging impacts on fisheries and habitat. (C,D)
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group. (D)
 - * contribution to Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project. (C,D)
 - * provided evaluation and review of draft proceedings of AFS-sponsored Sustainable Fisheries Conference. (C,D)
 - * developed bid with NPIC to host 1998 Western Division annual meeting in Anchorage Alaska in partnership with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium-Ecosystem Considerations in Fishery Management. (A,C)
 - * developed 1997 annual meeting in Juneau with "linked ecosystems" theme. (A)
 - * commented on Tongass Land Management Plan (C,D)
 - * evaluated Alaska's marine refuge/park system (C,D)
 - * lead publication of AFS Symposium 19-proceedings of Fish Ecology in Arctic North America Symposium. (A,C)
 - * presented Cultural Diversity travel awards. (G)
 - * entered into negotiations with Alaska Department of Fish and Game for evaluation of Pacific salmon stocks statewide. (C,D)
 - * expanded the Chapter's Web site and included a Directory of Fisheries and Aquatic Educators. (A)
 - * provided continuing education courses in technical writing, natural resources communications, and SAS. (A)
 - * conducted a workshop on "Impacts of Global Climate Change in the Western Arctic/Bering Sea Region". (C,D)
 - * aquatic education projects include primary and intermediate-level versions of Canadian curriculum "Salmonids in the Classroom" for Alaska. (C)
 - * provided financial donation as seed money for journal subscriptions for Russian-Far-east fisheries science laboratories. (A,C,G)
- 2) *Arizona/New Mexico-* (not complete)
 - * review of Environmental Assessment for renovation of Virgin River. (C)
 - * review of Cieniga Creek fish closure project. (C)
 - * provided student travel scholarship to Monterey to present best paper. (E,G,H)

- 3) *California/Nevada-*
- * program and arrangements for 1997 AFS Meeting in Monterey, CA. (A,B,C,F)
 - * participation on Human Use of Fishes task group. (C,D)
 - * donated funding to complete a raffle prize package fishing trip to Loreto, Mexico. (B)
 - * donated funding to provide hotel rooms for students to attend the annual meeting. (G)
 - * cosponsored the Watershed Symposium with other professional societies and the California Resources Agency. Symposium dealt with watershed function, restoration, and guidance to public organizations. (C,D)
 - * provided an AFS booth at the Pacific Rim Festival to inform about AFS and raise funds. (A,C,G)
 - * created a new award for distinguished professional achievement. (H)
 - * developing a joint policy with California Trout, Inc. on water quantity and streamflows to maintain fish populations. (C,D)
 - * achieved non-profit, tax-exempt status in California to save sales tax payments. (B)
 - * donated funds to AFS 2000. (B,C)
 - * providing grant to fund illustrations for a new edition of "Inland Fishes of California". (C)
 - * continued involvement in petition process with Sierra Club legal Defense Fund and California Trout, Inc. to federally list four southern California freshwater fish species. (C,D)
 - * provided comments to Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on grazing allotments to define goals for aquatic and riparian conditions. (C,D)
 - * provided comments to Tahoe National forest on a Wild and Scenic River Study and draft EIS to enlarge designation from 3 to 22 stream reaches. (C,D)
 - * opposed state legislation to limit the anti-water pollution laws in coalition with environmental and scientific associations. (C,D)
 - * facilitated an independent peer review of, and supported Cal. Dept. of Fish & Game proposal to eradicate northern pike by chemical means from Lake Davis to protect steelhead and chinook salmon populations in the Sacramento River system. (C,D)
 - * reviewed draft EIS for City of Auburn wastewater treatment plant to protect steelhead and chinook salmon populations. (C,D)
 - * conducted membership recruitment drives (G)
 - * sponsored training course in swift water safety and rescue techniques, and are developing others: rapid bioassessment techniques, nonparametric statistics, and southern California fish identification. (A)
 - * recognizing 23 Chapter members with awards for coordination and preparation of 1997 AFS annual meeting. (H)
 - * published three newsletters. (F)

- 4) *Colorado/Wyoming-*
- * briefing statement on public lands divestiture issue and Land Transfer Bill. (C,D)
 - * involved in reauthorization of ESA, Teaming with Wildlife, BLM grazing standards in Wyoming, transfer of Highway Trust Fund to Aquatic Resource Trust Fund, and Public Rangeland Management Act. (C,D)
 - * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform (issue steward). (C,D)
 - * annual meeting with special sessions on management of declining species, management problems associated with introduced fishes, and fisheries management at the basin level; and continuing education workshop on watershed scale analyses and stream restoration (free to Chapter members). (A,C,D)
 - * involved in World Flyfishing Contest and Conservation Symposium. (C,G)
 - * joined Colorado Riparian Association as life member. (C,G)
 - * made financial contributions to Portland Fish Pathogens Symposium, Monterey meeting, National Fishing Week, and Colorado Riparian Association educational display. (B,C,G)
 - * donated Big Horn River float trip/lodging to Monterey raffle. (B)
 - * presented MAX Award of Merit and Leaky Boot Award. (H)
 - * financial contribution to AFS 2000, student chapters. (B,C,G)
 - * encouraged State Governors and Congressional delegations to support the National Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. (C,D)
- 5) *Humboldt-*
- * participation in 1872 Mining Law reform task group. (C,D)
 - * coordinated and participated in an expanded salmon giveaway program at Iron Gate Hatchery on the Klamath River to reduce the numbers of hatchery chinook salmon possibly competing or spawning with wild fish in natural habitats. (C)
 - * offered a workshop on the Endangered Species Act attended by 105 people. (A,C)
 - * expanded chapter FIN by > 500%. (D)
 - * held annual spring conference entitled: Humboldt Bay Watersheds: Resources and Recovery. (A,C)
 - * presented a chapter-record 11 seminars by fisheries professionals in addition to talks given at the spring conference. (A,C)
- 6) *Montana-*
- * participation on bull trout restoration team. (C,D)
 - * held annual meeting jointly with Great Plains Fishery Workers Association. (A,C)
 - * conducted continuing education seminar on technical writing. (A,C)
 - * provided funding assistance for arctic grayling restoration, westslope cutthroat trout genetics study, and a college student scholarship match grant. ((C,E,G)
 - * presented awards for Montana Fishery Worker of the Year, Outdoor Writer/Reporter, Landowner, Individual, and best student paper. (A,H)
 - * monitored 26 aquatics-related bills in the state legislature, and provided testimony on five bills. (C,D)
 - * published three newsletter issues and held 5 Excom meetings. (F)

- 6) *Montana*-(continued)
- * reprinted 20,000 posters on aquatic habitat in Montana for free distribution to schools. (C)
 - * tracked water quality and mining issues. (D)
 - * sent out four membership recruitment letters and created a non-AFS affiliate membership. (G)
 - * involved in summarizing status of 17 fish species of special concern in state, creating a related poster, and updating Montana Fishes Slide Program. (C)
 - * assisted in establishment and operation of Intermountain Journal of Sciences, a natural resource science publication. (C)
 - * participated on Montana westslope cutthroat trout steering committee. (C,D)
 - * involved in three timber sales with potential effects on native bull trout, redband trout, and westslope cutthroat trout, coordinated response with North Pacific International Chapter. (C,D)
 - * commented on proposal to reintroduce westslope cutthroat trout in Yellowstone National Park. (C,D)
 - * participated in Montana Grazing Best Management Practices technical group. (C,D)
- 7) *Oregon*-
- * provided position statement on PACFISH guideline implementation issues. (C,D)
 - * conducted annual meeting on Ecological and Social Complexity in Fisheries Science: Scales of Time and Space. (A,C,G)
 - * provided undergraduate and graduate student scholarship awards. (E,G,H)
 - * sponsored Inland Rainbow trout Workshop. (C)
 - * provided peer review of Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative. (C,D)
 - * commented on FWS Proposed Rule modifying category 1 and 2 candidate list. (C,D)
 - * commented on multispecies habitat conservation plan for Willamette Timberlands and USFWS environmental assessment for incidental take. (C,D)
 - * proposed to replace common name "northern squawfish" for tribal concern. (D)
 - * commented on recommended versions of standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing management. (C,D)
 - * commented on scoping proposal to revise BLM regulations governing mining operations. (C,D)
 - * commented on NMFS proposed rule for guidelines to describe and identify essential fish habitat in fishery management plans. (C,D)
 - * encouraged the Northwest Power Planning Council to adopt a regional framework to address fish and wildlife recovery in the Columbia River basin. (D)
 - * provided testimony to Oregon Legislature on changes to current laws on fish passage requirements at obstructions. (C,D)
 - * opposed legislation in Oregon restricting public access to rivers and streams. (D)
 - * encouraged Oregon legislator support for National Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. (D)

- 7) *Oregon-(continued)*
- * led initiative to provide funding and supply AFS journals to Russian fisheries science laboratories. (A,C,G)
 - * published proceedings of 1995 Searun Cutthroat Trout Symposium. (C)
 - * participated and led organization of Western Division review of draft EIS for Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project. (C,D)
 - * provided financial support for development of a GIS database for Oregon fish distribution in rivers and streams. (C).
 - * upgraded/renovated salmonid and stream continuum displays and republished posters for distribution (C).
 - * provided a continuing grant for Salmon Watch Program. (C).
- 8) *North Pacific International-*
- * annual meeting on Achieving Biodiversity in Ecosystem Management. (A,C)
 - * contribution to publication of Pacific salmon stocks at risk assessment project. (C)
 - * review of British Columbia professional biologist certification issue. (D)
 - * review of Riparian Protection on Agricultural Lands Initiative. (C,D)
 - * cosponsored a habitat restoration field trip with Washington Trout, the Tulalip Tribes and Weyerhaeuser. (C)
 - * established an Internet Home Page. (A,F)
 - * contributed funds to the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation. (C)
 - * presented awards for meritorious service, best paper, best student paper; Outstanding Volunteer, Worthy Coelacanth, and two special recognition awards. (H)
 - * provided non-technical support for AFS technical review of Washington's wild salmonid policy. (D)
 - * participated in technical review of the draft EIS of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan. (C,D)
 - * supported the AFS Early Life History conference in Seattle, Washington. (A,C)
 - * developed bid with Alaska Chapter to host 1998 Western Division annual meeting in Anchorage Alaska in partnership with Alaska Sea Grant's Lowell Wakefield Symposium-Ecosystem Considerations in Fishery Management. (A,C)
- 9) *Greater Portland-*
- * conducted luncheon meetings every other month to interact with other groups, including those related to regional land use and conservation. (C)
 - * annual meeting on Living with Recovery: Cooperative Solutions in Your Backyard, and presented perspectives by government agencies, private corporations, and urban watershed groups. Topics included the coastal salmon restoration initiative, the Endangered Species Act, forest resource management, Seattle's habitat conservation plan for the Cedar River, the North Fraser Harbor Habitat Bank, the North Coast Stream Cooperative Project between the state and industrial forest landowners, fish and wildlife habitat restoration under the Water Resources Development Act, and several other area fish and watershed restoration projects. (A,C)

- 10) **Hawai'i-**
 - * annual meeting with emphasis on coastal fisheries in the Pacific Islands and management issues concerning increased fisheries exports, live reef fish trade. (A,C)
 - * provided testimony to State Legislature concerning increased funding for fisheries management, ballast water introduction issues. (C,D)
 - * participated in the 1997 Fisher's Forum topic planning with SeaGrant and the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources. (C)
- 11) **Bonneville-**
 - * no report provided
- 12) **Idaho-**
 - * no report provided.

VII. Committee Reports

- 1) **Bull Trout Conservation**-(not complete)
 - * search for new chairperson
 - * review of three conservation planning documents for Montana from Montana Science and Restoration teams. (C,D)
 - * Division comment on Montana restoration goals for bull trout anticipated. (C,D)
 - * anticipated participation in review and comment on Jarbridge River EA. (C,D)
 - * follow-up on Idaho conservation by watershed program. (C,D)
 - * follow-up on Oregon restoration program. (C,D)
- 2) **Riparian-**
 - * special session on riparian management at AFS Monterey meeting. (C)
 - * conducted Riparian Challenge award program with USFS and BLM. (C,H)
 - * provided history and guidelines for Riparian Challenge award program to serve as a model for a national award for agricultural landowners for fish and wildlife stewardship. (C,H)
- 3) **Native Peoples Fisheries**-(not complete)
 - * investigated joint meeting proposal of Native Americans Fish and Wildlife Society with Arizona-New Mexico Chapter. (G)
 - * formulating new goals and objectives; coordinating review with six AFS members active in Tribal issues. (G)
 - * presented travel grant award to recipient for 1997 AFS Monterey meeting. (G)
- 4) **Endangered Species**- (not complete)
 - * developed special session on native trout management at AFS Monterey meeting. (C)
- 5) **1872 Mining Law Reform-**
 - * continues to monitor reform bill introduced into Congress. (C,D)
 - * monitoring release of draft EIS on review of hardrock mining rules (3809 regulations) for BLM. (C,D)

6) *Environmental Concerns-*

- * monitoring federal lands transfer legislation and issues with CO/WY Chapter President Bill Bradshaw. (C,D)
- * coordinating review of draft EIS with Oregon Chapter and all Western Division Chapters affected by Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan, and will synthesize into Division response. (C,D)

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas P. Nesler
Western Division President