



**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**  
ORGANIZED 1870  
IDAHO CHAPTER



## GILL RAKER GAZETTE

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Fred Partridge, Editor

**Inside: Call for Papers**

**1999 Annual Meeting March**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Cindy Deacon Williams

The holidays are upon us once again. And, if you're like other fisheries and aquatic biologists I know, holidays mean more than stuffed turkeys, mulled wine, spiked eggnog and festive feelings. They also mean you are buried in the desk work that built up during the past field season, or you are buried in the desk work necessary to prepare for next year's field season, or you're just buried in desk work. Regardless of the proximate cause, there is a seemingly insurmountable mound of paper between you and the season. Ain't life grand!

I'd like to suggest that at some point between now and New Year's every member of the Idaho Chapter, rear their heads out of the paper pile and give some thought to what you saw during the past year. Was there a private landowner or public lands manager that went out of their way to maintain or restore a riparian zone, or degrade it? Is some population of fish or amphibian facing a new threat, or finally secure? What exactly is the broader meaning of the myriad isolated things you observed? Make a list. Check it twice. Then, do something about it!! Prepare a draft resolution applauding those that were good, condemning those that were bad, or suggesting some action be taken. Make sure the ExCom gets it as soon as you can so that it can be reviewed and brought up at our annual meeting for chapter action.

I recently was at a conference where all biologists were asked to identify the source of their greatest frustration. For me, that task was easy—spending a career documenting the decline and extinction of aquatic species. The paper work never will go away, but it need not be entirely a source of frustration. Buried in that paper are important facts, with important meanings. Facts that should be made broadly known. Give yourself a holiday present and take half an hour to make sure the important developments buried in your paperwork are known. I guarantee you'll enjoy the holidays more! And, Gaia certainly will appreciate it.

## 1999 ANNUAL MEETING FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Ted Koch, President-Elect

1999 Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries  
Society Annual Meeting  
and Call For Papers  
Snake River Anadromous Fish Recovery  
and the Role of Dams  
March 4-6, 1999  
Grove Hotel, Downtown Boise

The Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting will be held from March 4-6, 1999, at the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise. The theme of this year's meeting will be **Snake River Anadromous Fish Recovery and the Role of Dams**. The meeting will be held concurrently with The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, including a joint social event on Friday evening, March 5. It will start at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 4, and continue through noon on Saturday, March 6. A more detailed agenda will be distributed in the January newsletter.

This notice serves as the call for papers for days two and three. Abstracts for papers must be submitted by January 15 to me, Ted Koch, at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709, or [ted\\_koch@mail.fws.gov](mailto:ted_koch@mail.fws.gov) Whichever your preferred technique, please submit abstracts electronically either as plain text or WordPerfect format attachments to an e-mail, or on disk by mail. You can call me at (208) 378-5293 with any questions.

I want to focus this year's meeting on Reasons why I feel that now is a good time for us to explore these and other questions are that, first, most stocks of Snake River basin anadromous fish are extinct and the remainder are in extremely bad shape. For example, a science panel at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

anadromous fish recovery and dams because I - and I believe others - are frustrated with a lack of a reasonably clear understanding of the facts surrounding the role of dams in recovery of anadromous fish in the Snake River basin. And this is true despite the fact that I am now the president-elect of the chapter of the oldest professional fisheries organization that is most directly affected by the issue; theoretically I should be more well-informed than 99% of the public!

Some important, basic questions I have, include: Are dams the single biggest threat factor to anadromous fish in the Snake River basin? If we fully address all the other issues, including harvest, hatcheries, and habitat, yet don't remove the dams, is it really still possible to save salmon and steelhead? Is it possible to "tweak" the existing hydro-system and still expect anadromous fish recovery? Is much of the ongoing research even relevant to saving salmon and steelhead from extinction? Should we as fisheries scientists be acting with a greater sense of urgency to figure out how to save these fish? What is "recovery?" And, can we prioritize stock recovery - writing off some stocks while putting limited resources into trying to save others?

Some of you may be thinking right now that, "it's just not that simple." Or my personal favorite, "This is a very complex issue." Although I admit there is always a basis for such claims, I refuse to allow the debate on such critical issues to stop there. Therefore, I decided, with the support of ExCom, to exercise the prerogative of my current position as program chair for the 1999 meeting to try to cast more light on this issue.

Service Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Review last February estimated that, at the current pace, most natural populations of spring and summer chinook in Idaho could be extinct within the next 25 years! Dam operation on the lower Snake River is at least partly responsible

for this. Second, the National Marine Fisheries Service -the agency with the most management authority over these fish stocks -is scheduled to make a critical decision regarding lower Snake River dam operations and anadromous fish late this year. Third, the Army Corps of Engineers is also scheduled to make a key decision regarding whether or not to recommend removal of lower Snake River dams.

When I first thought of this as the topic for the annual meeting this year, I, of course, wondered why I might want to drag the Chapter down this old, familiar road again. We've debated this issue many times before, sometimes acrimoniously. In fact, past ExCom member Chip Corsi's first response to my idea was that the definition of stupidity was to do the same thing over and over while expecting a different outcome!

That is why I seek to make the 1999 annual meeting a little different. We will devote the first day entirely to invited papers on the main theme: the role of dams in anadromous fish recovery in the Snake River basin. The morning sessions will address the general biological, social, and political issues surrounding anadromous fish recovery in Idaho. The afternoon sessions will focus specifically on the role of dams in recovery.

At the end of sessions, we will then ask Chapter members to express their opinions on key questions posed in an effort to form a group opinion on the main theme. The goal is not to form an "expert" opinion on the questions. In fact, I believe much of my confusion stems from the fact that there are too many "expert" opinions and panels out there right now. Instead, our goal is to provide a **common sense perspective** -or opinion -of trained fish biologists on questions relating to the theme of the meeting. The idea is to invite the various experts to present their  
The ExCom met on October 13, 1998 in McCall. Along with the discussion about the main topic (see above) of the annual meeting next March in

ideas, and then reduce that information into a few, clearly worded summary statements. We may end up being wrong, but at this point I urge all of us to participate in trying our best to get it right. If we don't pull together and try again, who will?

On the Wednesday previous to the annual meeting, we are considering joining with The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for a **Workshop on the Status and Management Classification of Idaho Native Fauna**. The Wildlife Society will review the status of native wildlife species, while we would review the status and management classification of native fishes. We need help organizing this session if it's going to happen, so if anyone is interested, please contact me. The format for the day might include inviting individuals to lead discussions on the status and management classification of native fishes for other fish biologists to contribute to. We would make evaluations relative to potentially as many as six different classification systems, including the following: State of Idaho; Federal Endangered Species Act; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; The Nature Conservancy; and the World Conservation Union Red Book.

### **Lodging**

Room reservations for the meeting can be made by calling the Grove Hotel at 208-333-8000.

**This needs to be done by February 14, 1999 to receive the conference rate of \$68/night. If you delay the cost per room goes to \$139/night!!!!**

The January 1999 newsletter will contain a pre-registration form for early sign up for the meeting along with additional details.

### **EXCOM MEETING**

Boise were items involved with the joint meeting with The Wildlife Society. Agreements need to be made prior to the meeting regarding joint

sessions, pre meeting session (sensitive species) social, auction and raffle fund raising.

A ID Chapter AFS graduate scholarship has been established at the University of Idaho. An additional \$500 under graduate scholarship was approved for 1999 along with discussion about including other schools in the program.

Since the Chapter is financially solvent, the ExCom is currently soliciting requests from Chapter members for projects needing funding. Contact any ExCom member if you have any ideas.

The ExCom is meeting again on December 11.

**NOMINATIONS....**

Steve Elle

Nominations are open for the positions of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Nominating Committee Chair. Secretary/Treasurer and Nominating Chair are one year positions. The Vice President position is progressive through President Elect and President. All positions are voting members of ExCom. This is your opportunity to help guide YOUR chapter in the coming year. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, or know someone who is, please contact Steve. Elections will be held at the annual meeting in March. See ICAFS ExCom box for Steve's address.

**ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

Tim Cochnauer

This is the first (and perhaps last) call for award nominations. If you know of a chapter member who has gone beyond normal expectations, write a brief accounting and submit same to Tim Cochnauer before January 1, 1999.

Awards can recognize a one time contribution, or

long-standing record of contributions. They may go to someone for outstanding research, management actions, service to the Chapter, leadership, etc. If you know of someone who has made a significant contribution during the past year, or deserves recognition for their longstanding commitment and contributions to the profession and the resource, I strongly encourage you to forward your nominations to Tim. If you have any questions, give Tim a call.

**ICAFS EXCOM**

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Secretary / Treasurer Fred Partridge	PHONE: (W) 324-4350 (H) 324-3808 FAX: 324-1160 E-mail: fpartrid@idfg.state.id.us
Nominations Chair Steve Elle	Phone: (W) 465-8404 (H) 467-9652 Fax: 465-8434 E-mail: selle@idfg.state.id.us
Past President Tim Cochnauer	Phone: (W) 799-5010 Fax: 799-5012 E-mail: tcochnau@idfg.state.us

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees are all busy implementing action plans for 1999. Please contact your committee chair to find out how you can be involved.

### FUNDING

Rick Wilkison

Thanks again to everyone who donated items and/or their time to the 1998 fund raising raffle and auction. Raffle and auction items are being solicited from businesses and individuals for the 1999 fund-raiser. Start tying your favorite patterns for the perennial "fish-o-flies". Anyone wishing to donate items or help out at the raffle/auction please contact:

Rick Wilkison`

Idaho Power Company

P.O. Box 70

Boise, Idaho 83707

(208) 388-2963

(208) 388-6902 (FAX)

E-mail: raw1234@idahopower.com

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Chris Downs, Jim Fredericks

The public education committee has been busy facilitating AFS slide presentations for local school groups. In addition, we are looking into the creation of an Internet Web page for the Idaho Chapter. A Web page would allow IDCAFS to provide public education to a broader base of interested people. We have been receiving many requests from local schools for presentations and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find "volunteers" to go the schools. Finally, we had a little money remaining in our operational pot for the abstracts. Committee members have approved that we use those funds to help develop and produce a detailed annotated bibliography on riparian topics. I had hoped that this product would be available in time for our

and provide the presentations. It would be possible to provide electronic presentations such as the "Fishes of Idaho". Current issues of concern such as salmon recovery could also be posted on the page. The Web is a very powerful educational tool and we would be remiss not to take full advantage of it.

We are also planning to compile a list of e-mail addresses of folks who have requested/utilized IDCAFS presentations in the past. This will allow us to contact potentially interested folks regarding new presentations without the expense and time required for mailings.

### Intermountain Fisheries Abstracts

Allan Thomas

The Abstracts Committee dissolved last year due to lack of interest by members (Idaho, Montana, and Bonneville chapters) as compared to the considerable work load and cost involved in developing the Intermountain Fisheries Abstracts. Although many members stated that they wanted us to go to an electronic format, very few members were interested in actually acquiring the abstracts on a disk. Our thoughts were that (a) members were finding literature references through other sources, (b) they no longer believe that knowing about the literature we covered was important to their jobs, or (most likely) (c) they are suffering from information overload and work burnout. We hope that fisheries science benefitted from seven or so years we produced the abstracts. If you think so, please pass the word on to Mike Rowe, the driving force behind the Intermountain Fisheries Abstracts.

annual meeting, but it more likely will be ready later in 1999. We expect the report to contain about 1,800 references when finalized and be divided into sections such as riparian habits, grazing impacts, geomorphic effects, and restoration techniques. While most of the

development and funding of the report will come from BLM, we hope to offer it in three formats: a hard copy FS General Technical Report, an electronic format of the hard copy, and an Internet format for electronic sorting. The AFS chapters will receive credit for supporting the project and all members will be offered copies at no charge.

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## **STREAM HYDRAULICS**

Nick Gerhardt

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The Stream Hydraulics Committee identified several potential action items when we last met in Idaho Falls. One item was to contact Dr. Peter Goodwin of the Eco-hydraulics Research Group at the University of Idaho to see about a possible presentation at the 1999 Idaho Chapter Meeting. Dr. Goodwin is interested in making a presentation, so I will work through the program chair to see if that would fit into the agenda.

Another item was to follow up with the Idaho Department of Water Resources on a stream channel handbook for Idaho landowners, similar to one developed in Montana. No action has been taken on that to date. If a handbook is compiled, we discussed the possibility of a slide program for use as a tool for training and awareness. Finally, the committee is still looking for one or more members from southeastern Idaho to represent that part of the State.

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## **RIPARIAN**

Dale Allen

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The only significant activity by the committee has been the completion of a brochure expressing the Chapter's Riparian Grazing Statement. We used the grazing allotment management changes that have taken place in Bear Valley since ESA salmon listing as a background to present our information. The committee teamed up with the Ted Trueblood Chapter Trout Unlimited to pay for the layout and publishing of the brochure. I think we ended up with a nice product. Thanks

to the committee members who helped. Next year the brochures will be available at the Lowman Ranger District Office USFS and at a display board near the Junction of the Landmark Road and Dagger Falls Road in Bear Valley.

The brochures will also be available at the Annual Meeting or by contacting Dale Allen 208-465-8465.

Editor's note to Committee Chairs. Thank you for your prompt responses for information for the newsletter. If you sent material which did not show up in the newsletter, my apologize. Unfortunately our office server was down shortly after I sent out the request.

This is also a notice for materials for the January newsletter. If anyone has information for this newsletter, I will need no later than January 8, 1999. Thanks Fred Partridge

All ICAFS Committees will be meeting during the Annual Meeting this year in February. Committee meetings will be on Thursday at 12:00 with box lunches. Here is another way you can become involved in the Idaho Chapter. Plan on attending one of these committee meetings of your interest. For more information on a particular committee - do not hesitate to call the committee chairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

		Home	Work	Fax
<b>Water Quality/Quantity Anadromous Fishes</b>	Brett Roper	208-765-7488	208-765-7223	
	Dan Herring		208-378-5321	
	Greg Mauser		208-334-3791	
<b>Native Fishes</b>	Ed Lider	208-765-6157	208-664-2318	208-769-3062
	Mike Owen	208-245-5885	208-245-2531	208-245-6052
<b>Riparian Public Education</b>	Dale Allen		208-465-8441	
	Jim Fredericks		208-769-1414	208-769-1418
<b>Stream Hydraulics Funding</b>	Chris Downs		208-769-1414	208-769-1418
	Nick Gerhardt	208-983-4099	208-983-1950	
<b>Membership Palouse Unit</b>	Rick Wilkison		208-388-2963	208-388-2974
	Jill Silvey		208-384-3157	
	Co-Presidents:	Jodi Neil, Lance Clarke	208-885-6434	
	Vice President:	Tami Reishel		
	Secretary	Joe Kozofkay		
	Treasurer:	Mary Kraemer		
	Undergraduate Rep.:	Molly Puchlerz		
	Graduate Rep:	Monica Hiner		

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