

The History of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



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Since its inception in 1963 the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has grown from an association dominated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the University of Idaho to a diverse organization that is now described as inspiring and professionally invigorating. Although individual leadership has at times forced the chapter to take the next step, the list of members key to the chapter's growth is extensive. The result is a strong organization that has withstood minor growing pains and is able to significantly contribute to the field of fisheries science and helps sustain important Idaho resources.

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is a professional organization of fisheries scientists. Started in 1870, AFS is the oldest and largest organization representing the fisheries field. The leadership of AFS has varied from dedicated conservationists like Robert Roosevelt in 1874 – uncle and mentor to President Theodore Roosevelt – to noted scientists and professors like Idaho's own Christine Moffitt, president 1999-2000.¹

On January 25, 1963, thirty-five fisheries workers from Southwestern Idaho held an organizational meeting to form the Treasure Valley Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The new chapter began as part of a pilot program of the larger organization to widen the membership of the Society by bringing access closer to the average fishery worker. In the news release announcing the new chapter, Forest R. Hauck stated:

It has long been my opinion that the average fishery worker was without representation in the American Fisheries Society because he could not attend the regional or national meetings where society business is transacted. We are indeed fortunate to have had this area selected as one of nine in the nation for the formation of a local chapter.²

Wendell Smith of the Idaho Power Company served as the first president of the newly formed chapter. The early association consisted of sixteen current members and six new

members with the remaining non-members given applications and encouragement to join. The new chapter held bi-monthly meetings that alternated between Boise and Weiser.

Smith sent a letter to Don Andriano, the Western Division President, inviting him to the charter meeting held at the Valencia Club in downtown Boise on February 19, 1963. In the letter, Smith quickly established the levity that would become one of the hallmarks of the chapter meetings. In the letter he invited Andriano to attend but excused him from having to speak except for the, “usual after-dinner introduction balderdash,” he stated further that they were not expecting someone from Division to come at every invitation but, “We will keep the Division informed and will continue our invitations until you show up.”³

Don Orcutt from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries served as acting secretary and also sent a letter to Dr. Craig McPhee of the University of Idaho. His letter announced the formation of the chapter and invited the university faculty and students to the meeting. Orcutt also announced the first speaker hosted by the Treasure Valley Chapter. Robert Raleigh, also from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, spoke on the topic of “Fish Passage Program at Brownlee Reservoir.”⁴

Forty-three workers attended the first official meeting during which five illustrated presentations were given and discussions held. They also announced the next meeting scheduled on April 1, 1963, in Weiser.⁵

In May 1963, the chapter received an invitation to the Western Division Meeting in Tucson, Arizona to be held in August. The invitation demonstrated the dominant gender of the membership as well as the quaint thinking of the time period. The invitation recommended tropical weave suits and light jackets for those attending the meeting and, “For mama, cottons are just what the doctor ordered, plus playsuits, and anything that she might have that will allow her to have fun in the sun while you are in meetings.”⁶

In October 1963, the chapter started having discussions about holding an annual meeting rather than bi-monthly meetings. The October meeting had a low attendance and the leadership sent out a memo with three options. They recognized that the fall was a busy time in the field so the first option offered to limit the meetings to November-May. The second option allowed for just an annual meeting in McCall and provided lodging rates at the Shore Lodge. The final option discussed dissolving the chapter. The leadership recommended option two and stated, “An overnight type meeting will bring us together in a manner which will enhance fellowship. It will provide a much better opportunity to obtain top-grade outside researchers and speakers, which we intend to do.”⁷

In a letter to the AFS, Wendell Smith explained the success of the First Annual Meeting. Twenty-nine of thirty-nine chapter members attended, including the director and assistant director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He reported, “The support of the Idaho Fish and Game Department to chapter activity has been outstandingly gratifying.” He also announced the new officers: Paul Cuplin, President; Don Orcutt, Vice President; Ted Bjornn, Secretary.⁸

In addition they changed the name to the Idaho Chapter in order to better include, “all Idaho citizenry in the field of fisheries and better allow for the academic staff at the University of Idaho to attend.” Smith continued to explain that a winter annual meeting would work best when, “field activity in fisheries is at its lowest ebb.” The newly named chapter had established its tradition of a winter meeting in McCall and the order of events for years to come. In his closing remarks, Smith stated, “Friday night was devoted to the whims of the group and resulted in discussions among a few, poker, and pre-season snake bite remedy imbibement. We had a dandy time.”⁹

Later members described the meetings through the end of the 1960s and throughout the 1970s in much the same way. Bill Horton characterized the early meetings as a group of Fish

and Game people playing poker on the way up to McCall and professors parading their star pupils in front of the Fish and Game personnel once in McCall. Though few were available from that time period those that had some experience with the Idaho Chapter in the 1970s reflected similar sentiments.

Stacy Gebhards served as president of the chapter in 1969. He communicated one of the professional achievements of the Idaho Chapter in the early 1970s. During the growing environmental movement in the early '70s a number of Idaho citizens became concerned about the pollution in Idaho's waters. In both his capacity as a biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and as a private citizen Gebhards documented the pollution present in Idaho's streams and rivers.

Acting as a private citizen Gebhards performed several songs during a meeting of the Wildlife Federation in Sun Valley in 1970. The most popular song was a parody of *Cool Water* that featured a slide show of pictures he had taken that showed the state of Idaho's waterways. The song and pictures countered what Governor Don Samuelson stated in the gubernatorial campaign regarding the cleanliness of Idaho water.

Gebhards' performance went over so well that he was invited to play again at Lewiston before a political trip in Hells Canyon that included Berl Ives and Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel. Governor Samuelson attended, though uninvited, and claimed again that there were no pollution problems. When Gebhards and his group performed, the dirty pictures embarrassed the Governor. Despite his actions as a private citizen, the Governor threatened Gebhards' job with the state if he performed the song again. Gebhards subsequently cancelled a performance for the League of Women Voters. Gebhards quickly received calls from reporters and the issue became more political.

Governor Samuelson lost the election to Cecil Andrus. Gebhards acknowledged his small part in the election that contradicted Governor Samuelson's statements on the status of the environment in Idaho. Although his activities were not undertaken specifically as part of the AFS, Gebhards said that his actions, along with the support of the Idaho Chapter and other environmentally conscious groups, helped pass the Stream Protection Act. He stated further that his success in maintaining his position despite crossing the Governor helped embolden other Idaho Chapter members to act as members of the AFS despite their professional standing.¹⁰

Despite its long participation in the Idaho Chapter, members from the University of Idaho did not become and officially recognized as the Palouse Subunit until April 11, 1978. Dudley Reiser served as the first president with Dan Wade as vice president and Molly Ahlgren as secretary-treasurer. They reported twenty-three members. The Palouse Subunit named its early goals: the implementation of a statewide newsletter, presentation of best paper awards at the annual meeting and to aid in the formation of other subunits in Eastern and Southern Idaho. They eventually reached their goals, although it took nearly twenty years to achieve the formation of the Portneuf Subunit.¹¹

The Palouse Subunit provided the chapter a yearly report on its activities. This report listed the number of members and the activities of the unit, including their annual Wild Game and Fish Potluck. The group also hosted biologists from other universities to speak at their monthly meetings. In addition, the unit took positions in support of expansion of the Dingell-Johnson Act¹² and against the shipment of caustic soda to the Port of Lewiston.¹³

The Palouse Subunit grew quickly in members and ability. The "Second Annual Report" claimed thirty-eight members, of which thirty-one were students. In 1983 the unit sponsored and organized a three-hour genetics workshop at the annual meeting held in Boise. The workshop included frequent guest speakers, Gary Thorgaard from Washington State University, Fred

Allendorf from the University of Montana and the University of Idaho's own Richard Wallace. Since then, the unit has continued to send a strong contingent to the annual meeting and host the first night's social event for all of the members of the Idaho Chapter. This event is called the Student Mixer and is held in order to allow the students to interact with the professionals from across the state in an informal environment. Steve Elle acknowledged the appreciation the chapter has for all of the work the students put into the occasion.¹⁴

Al Espinosa's presidency in 1979 changed the direction of the chapter in a significant manner. Though he worked in concert with the other members of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), Bill Horton credited Espinosa specifically for changing the chapter into a truly professional organization.

In order to reach more members and more effectively to achieve the goals of the chapter committee membership became the focus of chapter activities. Espinosa formed four standing committees: Newsletter Committee, chaired by Bob White; Policy and Resolutions Committee chaired by Don Martin; Fisheries Conservation Committee chaired by Bill Platts; and Anadromous Fisheries Committee chaired by Steve Pettit. He gave the committees assignments and suggested target dates for the completion of their goals. In response to the question of the chapter's new active role Espinosa quoted President-Elect Rudy Ringe, "I'd rather have a dead carp on my piano than an apathetic chapter on my harpsichord."¹⁵

Under Al Espinosa's leadership the chapter also began its newsletter, with two editions printed in 1979, edited by past president Bob White. As noted above, the first newsletter served as a call to action from Espinosa to increase membership in the chapter at the state and national levels. In addition, he called for a more active role of the members to "influence some decisions in favor of Idaho's fish resources and take our place among the State's most effective environmental groups!"¹⁶

Despite his work to increase the professionalism of the chapter, Espinosa was not without the humor that is always present in the chapter. According to David Burns, Espinosa had nicknames for several of the members. For example, Espinosa called Burns Dr. Dimento and Rick Stowell was known as Dr. Optimo.¹⁷

The first newsletter also put forward a number of proposals for the chapter members to vote on. These proposals included an award for best paper presented at the annual meeting, a time and place for the 1980 Annual Meeting and the creation of an Outstanding Fishery Worker Award. The proposals all passed with a nearly 3 to 1 vote and McCall was chosen, once again to host the annual meeting in January.¹⁸

In early 1980 Susan Martin assumed the editor role after Bob White announced that he was moving to Montana State University, “For fear of being called ‘Mr. Squawfish’”, in reference to a new research study granted to the University of Idaho – announced on the prior page of the newsletter.¹⁹

The newsletter provided semiannual updates of projects undertaken by graduate students, state and federal policy issues, as well as career news in the many agencies represented in the chapter. Additionally, the newsletter provided news of anomalous events outside of fisheries science that had effects on the field. Two such events in 1980 were the spike of gold prices to all-time highs in January and the Mount St. Helens eruption in May. The July 1982 issue even made a backhanded reference to the Falklands War between Argentina and Great Britain, not about its affect on fish in Idaho but as a testament to Bert Bowler’s tenacity and leadership.

The newsletter proved its efficacy early. In one case, the May 1981 issue made a call to support continued funding for the Idaho Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at the University of Idaho. The next issue thanked everyone for their support and that the interest given to the issue helped gain the votes of Idaho’s Congressional Delegation. The July 1982 newsletter also

credited chapter members in specifically gaining Representative Larry Craig's vote for the expansion of the Dingell-Johnson Act.²⁰

In 1982 Susan Martin stepped down as editor of the newsletter. In recognition of her work the chapter awarded Susan the first Chapter Award of Special Recognition for her work on the newsletter. Bruce Rieman and Charlie Petrosky took over where she left off and infused the newsletter with the special brand of humor inherent to the chapter. Their first newsletter listed them officially as, "Editor in charge of cut-up, paste-up, send-up and news: Charlie Petrosky" and "Editor in charge of Charlie: Bruce Rieman. The two sent out a letter, much the same as Susan had, asking for input from previous contributors and committee chairs to fill out the newsletter. They hoped to create a vehicle to share opinions as well as news. They noted that, "It seems as though we got started on a few hot topics at the annual meeting but we didn't have time to explore them."²¹

In December 1982, the newsletter received its name. The new editor Travis Garske – also the head of the complaint department in Poland – and copy boys Rieman and Petrosky officially named the newsletter the *Gill Raker Gazette*. Unfortunately the first *Gill Raker* was also Mr. Garske's last as an editor.

During this period of time the choice of the location of the annual meeting came up often. Traditionally the meeting had been held at the Shore Lodge in McCall. However, the growth of the chapter coupled with a perceived loss of customer service began to raise the question of whether McCall could continue to handle the meeting. As mentioned previously, a vote taken in the first newsletter chose McCall three to one over another location but that changed in 1982. For the first time since it began holding annual meetings the chapter held its meeting in Boise. The meetings were scheduled to start a rotating cycle that would feature Boise every other year.

In the years the meeting was not held in Boise it was to alternate between Northern and Eastern Idaho.

According to Steve Elle and Bill Horton, the decision to alternate the meetings had obvious benefits. First, in the age of agency budgets cuts, it allowed more people from Boise to attend the meetings on a regular basis. Sectional differences aside, most of the agencies were located in Boise and that location allowed the most opportunity for participation.²² Horton also attributed it to the increase in professionalism instigated by Al Espinosa. As the annual meetings moved away from an Idaho Fish and Game/University of Idaho dominated organization, the party atmosphere of the meeting in McCall declined. The alternating locations to the north and east also acknowledged the membership in those parts of the states. In addition, the meeting was still a chance for everyone to get away from work every couple of years; even though the party atmosphere had declined it did not die.²³

The goal of alternating meetings did not become a reality for a few years. In 1984 the meeting was held in Moscow and the *Gill Raker* noted the low attendance and poor student participation.²⁴ The next meeting was planned for Southeast Idaho; however, from 1985 to 1991 the meeting remained in Boise. Once again, McCall hosted meetings from 1992-1994 before the rotation schedule was enacted. Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Moscow and Pocatello have all hosted meetings and Post Falls is scheduled for 2008.²⁵

The meeting formats have not always been constant either. In 1985 and 1990 the chapter held their meeting concurrently with the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, their peers in the biology of land dwelling animals. The 1990 meeting also discussed subjects of a topical nature to the State of Idaho's Centennial Celebration. In 1987, the meeting in Boise deviated from the norm to provide a different type of information to the membership. Speakers of a less scientific nature offered discussions on interviewing skills, court testimony, and relations to policy makers,

the media and the public. The final non-scientific topic offered advice on “How to talk good from slides.”²⁶

The Idaho Chapter has also held concurrent sessions with other chapters of the AFS. The North Pacific International Chapter joined the Idaho Chapter for its annual meeting in Coeur d’Alene in 2000. This provided both chapters a chance to learn how each conducted a meeting as well as giving the membership an opportunity to gain knowledge of fisheries studies outside of their home states. Two years later the Bonneville Chapter visited Pocatello for another joint annual meeting.²⁷

In addition to changing the meeting venues, the Idaho Chapter dealt with other issues in the 1980s. The chapter’s fundraising efforts started to become more successful. Herb Pollard received recognition at the March 1985 meeting for organizing the auction that raised \$1,800 for the chapter. The meeting also spawned discussion about forming another subunit of the chapter. Ned Horner led the efforts to create a Fish Culture Unit after a successful concurrent session on fish culture and health subjects.²⁸

Even with the success of the fish culture committee and the discussion on forming a new unit, President Susan Martin called for increased participation in the chapter. In the December 1986 *Gill Raker* she announced a recruiting drive to increase the chapter’s “Warm Body Units (WBUs)”. She asked all members of EXCOM and challenged the rest of the membership to recruit at least one new active member. In order to provide the existing membership with more benefits from the chapter the 1987 Annual Meeting featured a special session to improve communication skills, “to become a more effective biologist in this highly political field we work in.”²⁹

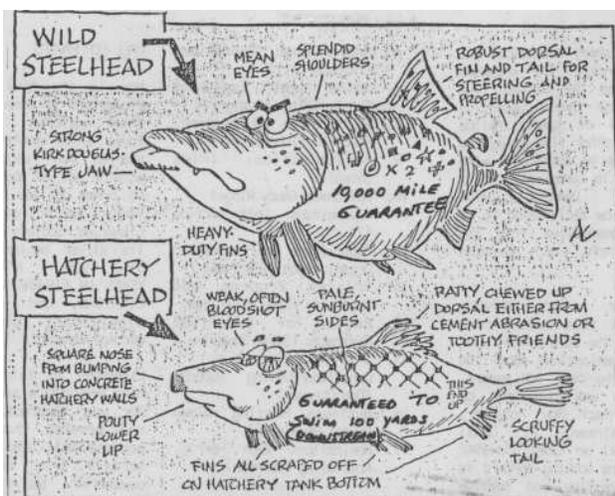
Regardless of the lull in participation and membership, the Idaho Chapter continued to compile accomplishments during the 1980s. Donald Martin served as the Western Division

President in 1986-1987 and at the completion of his term was recognized by the division with the “Going the Extra Mile Award.” Additionally, the Idaho Chapter received the Western Division’s Chapter of the Year award in 1982-1983 and 1987-1988.³⁰

Western Division President Al Mills cited the chapter’s development of the *Annotated Bibliography on Chinook Salmon* as a key component to the Chapter of the Year award in 1988. The February 1988 *Gill Raker Gazette* credited Sharon Kiefer for completing the bibliography. In response to Susan Martin’s challenge, the chapter also added over twenty new members to help it win the award for the second time in eight years.³¹

During this time the chapter also founded its second subunit. At the March 1987 Annual Meeting, the Idaho Chapter officially recognized the Aquaculture Unit. The unit held fundraisers and solicited papers for future annual meetings.

Despite the early enthusiasm about the Aquaculture Unit, it soon faced challenges. A rift



had grown between fish culturists and researchers and managers. Bob Esselman felt there had been an atmosphere of “hatchery bashing.”³² His opinion is supported in the graphic at left, which was printed in the November 1987 issue of the *Gill Raker*.

Between December 1986 and

September 1989 the *Gill Raker Gazette* held no updates on the progress or accomplishments of the unit. At the 1989 Annual Meeting a motion came to disband the Aquaculture Unit due to low participation. The issue did not come to a vote and the chapter sought to put more time and effort into saving the unit. Terry Huddleston outlined the need for participation and the challenges faced by the unit.³³

The challenge to participation for the Aquaculture Subunit had its foundation in separate interests. Managers and fish culturists began to feel that they had their own agendas and need not attend the Annual Meeting that had a diversity of topics. Esselman and many other aqua culturists left the organization for a time. They felt their time would be spent more productively attending trade specific aquaculture conferences and trade shows. The chapter dissolved the Aquaculture Subunit at the March 1990 meeting and the Aquaculture Committee continued its functions.³⁴

It took several years and the dedicated work of several chapter members to bring the aqua culturists back to the chapter. Esselman remembered that Chip Corsi acted as a strong proponent of diversity and cross training and was key to his return in the late 1990s. Steve Elle also made it a point of his presidency of the chapter in 2002-2003 to include all “three legs” of fisheries science and bring the aqua culturists back into the chapter. Elle cited the successful concurrent professional workshops in the current decade as a sign of success at bridging the gap caused by the alienation. Esselman stated that the “old school still remember but the new guys have no problems.”³⁵

In 1990 the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society left its mark on Idaho History. That year the chapter helped create Senate Bill 1410 that named the cutthroat trout as the Idaho State Fish. The chapter opposed proposals in 1980 and 1981 to make the rainbow trout the state fish. They felt the cutthroat made a better candidate because, “it was the first salmon or trout in the state, it was a major resource for early settlers, and it is sensitive to environmental change and therefore a good indicator of environmental quality and a symbol of Idaho’s quality of life.”³⁶

Virgil Moore explained that the chapter became involved with the bill at the request of a 4th grade class in Kuna. As part of their Idaho History instruction, the class wanted to make the

rainbow trout the state fish but lacked the knowledge and experience to achieve their goal. Through discussion between chapter members and the students the species was changed to the cutthroat due to the educational value of the fish, “as an icon of functioning habitat.”³⁷ Bruce Rieman, Bill Horton, Vigil Moore, Russ Thurow, Dan Schill and Bert Bowler all worked on the bill and created a color brochure that was made available to the legislature by the AFS. The governor signed the bill on April 5, 1990 that added the cutthroat trout to Idaho’s other symbols: the syringa, the Appaloosa and the mountain bluebird.³⁸

The project did not end with Governor Andrus’ signature. The Margaret Reed Foundation donated \$5,000 to fund educational materials on the cutthroat. In cooperation with Project Wild, the Idaho Chapter developed a two-sided poster for distribution to Idaho schools.³⁹ The chapter completed the poster and it became available for distribution in January 1992.⁴⁰

The naming of the cutthroat as the Idaho State Fish and subsequent poster contributed to the Idaho Chapter being named Chapter of the Year for the Western Division for the third time in 1992. President Karen Pratt also listed two regional workshops – Salmon ’92 and the Chinook Smolt Survival Workshop – hosted by the chapter and the participation in Intermountain Abstracts as achievements that helped the chapter win the award.⁴¹

During the 1990s the Idaho Chapter started a long process that led to the biggest controversy it had faced. The chapter presidents had a common calling in the “President’s Message” on the front page of the *Gill Raker*. They all called for more action and participation in the chapter and in issues affecting natural resources. In 1992, the chapter took an official position on the “Livestock Grazing Effects on Riparian and Stream Ecosystems.” The position stated, “It is the position of the Idaho Chapter, AFS that there is an urgent need for landowners, land managers, and livestock operators to begin to cooperate with the fisheries profession and recognize the potential adverse impacts of their grazing activities on fish.”⁴²

The chapter followed suit in 1994 with a position statement on water quantity. This stated, “It is the position of the IAFS to promote equitable consideration of fisheries resource values in the operation and management of irrigation projects and the administration of State Water Law.” The proposal also listed a number of recommended actions and references. Between these two position statements came a cautionary letter from three professors at the University of Idaho.⁴³

The *Gill Raker* printed a letter from James Congleton, David Bennett and Christine Moffitt in the May 1993 issue. The letter did not deal with either of the two issues mentioned above but one much more contentious. The early 1990s saw a rise in awareness over the declining salmon runs in Idaho. Biologists, dam operators, politicians and sportsman differed in their approaches to saving the runs. One suggestion in the early ‘90s called for seasonal drawdowns to help flush the migrating smolts downriver. The letter from the three professors called for, “Candor in communicating uncertainties about proposed remedial measures to the public is the best policy; anything less will be counterproductive over the long term and restoration of Idaho salmon runs is a long-term challenge.” They also feared that “The fisheries profession will lose credibility, but more importantly the public may balk at attempting other, even more expensive remedial actions when our proclaimed ‘best shot’ has failed.”⁴⁴

The question of advocacy rose nationally during this period. *The Oregonian* printed an editorial in 1991, questioning whether or not, “Scientists should take a position on public issues on about which they have expertise? Or should they maintain a posture of strict neutrality so as not to compromise their credibility.”⁴⁵ AFS stated its position on advocacy in the *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* in June 1993. An article in that publication, written by AFS Executive Director Paul Brouha, outlined AFS’s position, “the Society must put scientific facts into a context of environmental ethics and shared community values to effectively and

clearly communicate the fishery consequences of decisions on the management of land and water resources.”⁴⁶

Endangered Species Act listings of Idaho’s native salmon prompted more action. The debate reached its highpoint in 1999 with the Idaho Chapter’s “Resolution On the Role of Dams and Snake River Salmon and Steelhead Recovery.” The 1999 Annual Meeting covered the topic and the first day’s special session shared the name with the resolution that followed. Ted Koch pushed the issue as President-Elect and program chair of the 1999 meeting.

He stated in the *Gill Raker* just prior to the meeting that he felt he did not have enough information, “surrounding the role of dams in recovery of the anadromous fish in the Snake River basin.” He further said that as, “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!”⁴⁷

Koch wanted to create an open forum for discussion. He did not want to tread down paths previously taken that sometimes became “acrimonious.” He planned for a full presentation of scientific papers during the special session, including, “general biological, social and political issues surrounding anadromous fish recovery in Idaho.” Koch’s goal was not to stop at the easy answers of, “It’s just not that simple.” Or “This is a very complex issue.” He then wanted a group discussion at the end of the session to provide a “common sense perspective.”⁴⁸

Those in attendance characterized the debates as boisterous but always professional.⁴⁹ The issue centered more on the role of advocacy rather than the dams themselves. The opposition came mostly from the academic base of the chapter and the discussions were described as the “Old Guard vs. the Prodigies.”⁵⁰

The debate centered on two individuals. David Burns represented those in support of the resolution. Ted Koch, true to his word of wanting an open dialogue, spoke for the opposition

even though it was not necessarily his position. Koch did this due to the low number in opposition and their discomfort at arguing against the majority of the chapter. Burns used the metaphor of the AMA and their statement that “smoking is hazardous to your health” and stated “dams are hazardous to salmon”. Koch argued that the process could have been conducted better and conceded a change of wording in one of the statements in the proclamation.⁵¹

The resolution passed an advisory vote with 92 percent in favor of adopting the resolution. Some minor corrections were made and the resolution was represented to the chapter for another 30-day review.

The issue had a life outside of the chapter in early 1999 as well. Nearly two months before the 1999 Annual Meeting, the *Idaho Statesman* reported that the Director of the Department of Fish and Game Steve Mealey told his fisheries staff not to discuss the salmon issue publicly.⁵² The Fish and Game Commission fired Mealey on March 5, during the Idaho Chapter’s 1999 Annual Meeting. The Legislature supported Mealey and hours after the dismissal it killed the agency’s proposed license-fee increase.⁵³

In April 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service announced that though it did not support the position of dam breaching despite the fact that the agency felt that breaching would be the most likely action to succeed in restoring salmon runs in Idaho.⁵⁴ On June 25, 1999, the Idaho Chapter released the results of the vote and once again 92 percent of the membership voted in favor of the resolution. The proclamation did not advocate for dam breaching but stated many of the recognized problems salmon face and resolved, “Based on the best scientific information available, it is the position of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society that the four lower Snake River dams are a significant threat to the continued existence of remaining Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks.”⁵⁵

The Oregon Chapter and the Western Division both passed identical resolutions. The Idaho Chapter found itself in a unique position. Christine Moffitt voted against the resolution at the chapter level. She also served as the national president-elect of the American Fisheries Society and spoke out against the resolution at that level as well. She felt that continued study of all of the options was necessary.⁵⁶

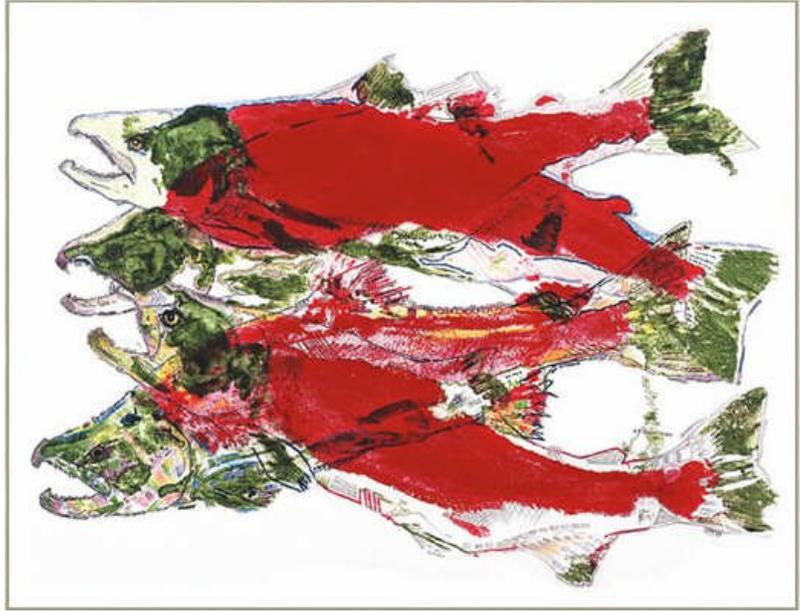
The Idaho Chapter adjusted its leadership in between the 1992 and 1993 terms of office. Wayne Paradis served the last cycle that began with Secretary-Treasurer and ended at Past President. The next election voted in three new members of EXCOM. The Secretary-Treasurer served a single term, as did the Nominating Chair. The newly elected Vice-President would proceed to President-Elect, President and Past President. This system lasted until 2004-2005.

That year the Secretary-Treasurer position split into a two-year term, the first year served as Secretary and the following as Treasurer. The chapter elected Liz Mamer under the previous system but kept her on the second year to serve as Treasurer and provide a mentor to the new Secretary, Tammy Salow and reduce the learning curve for the position. The final change in the leadership structure in 2006 changed the date of the assumption of office from September to immediately following the annual meeting.⁵⁷

The 1990s also saw continued success in the area of fundraising. Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs Jody Brostrom and Steve Elle reported \$3,000 income from the raffles and auction at the 1991 Annual Meeting and \$3,250 from the 1993 Annual Meeting. For their efforts, the chapter presented Brostrom and Elle with Awards of Special Recognition. The increased fundraising provided the chapter with more money than was needed just to cover yearly expenses.⁵⁸

The Four Sockeye Group also contribute to the success of the chapter's fundraising. The three fisheries workers took their name from the four sockeye that returned to Redfish Lake in

1991. Rick Alsager, Dan Baker, and Don Young made their first print (shown at right) from one of those fish after it had been taken to the hatchery for spawning. Their form of art is based on a Japanese style called Gyotaku in which the dead fish – except in the case of the sturgeon print – are painted and



pressed to paper. Artwork is later added to provide a more precise presentation of the fish. The Four Sockeye Group has made five prints of native and threatened or endangered Idaho fish. They donate five percent of their sales to the Idaho Nongame Wildlife Fund and ten percent of sales at Idaho Chapter meetings back to the chapter.⁵⁹

The work of all of those that have served on the Fundraising Committee has greatly expanded the actions of the Idaho Chapter. The proceeds of the auction, raffles and T-shirt sales became seed money that allowed committee actions. The July 2006 issue of the *Gill Raker* listed the current activities funded through the efforts of the Fundraising Committee. They included five total scholarships and a student grant; a new reference book, *Native Fishes of Idaho*, due out in 2007; the annual workshop hosted by the Native Fish Committee; anadromous fish brochures; Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Days in Boise; *Rising from the Shadows: The Return of the Cutthroat Trout*, a video available for download on the chapter's website, which was also made possible by the successful fundraising.⁶⁰

The Idaho Chapter endowed its first scholarship in 1999. The chapter immediately set a new goal to fully fund two scholarships of \$500 to be awarded yearly to one graduate student

and one undergraduate student. Until both scholarships were fully endowed the chapter provided money out of its annual operating budget to provide two awards annually. Jodi Neil received a \$500 scholarship in 1998 and Andy Dux and Kathy McGrath of the University of Idaho were the first recipients of the scholarship under the endowment in 1999.⁶¹

The chapter presented five scholarships at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The three new scholarships were presented to a high school student, an undergraduate student and a graduate student. The chapter renamed the original scholarships the Ted Bjornn Memorial Scholarships in honor of Dr. Ted Bjornn, chapter founding member, 1975 Chapter President, and University of Idaho professor.

Dr. Richard Wallace, another legendary chapter member, started the *Native Fishes of Idaho* book that the fundraising efforts made possible. AFS will publish the book for the chapter. The book, co-authored by Don Zaroban, will update distributions and provide better identification of lesser-known species. The book will act as a field guide and possibly as a textbook on the native fish species of Idaho. Dr. Wallace died in 2003 and Zaroban hopes the book will be a legacy to Dr. Wallace's career in Idaho.⁶²

Drs. Bjornn and Wallace were each personally recognized prior to their deaths with the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001 and 2002, respectively.⁶³

The turn of the century brought a resurgence of energy and activity to the Native Fish Committee. In 2004, Committee Chair James Capurso proposed, and the committee approved, two key annual activities that have continued to celebrate and emphasize the value of native fish in Idaho. In 2004, the committee organized and hosted the first annual Non-Game Native Fish Workshop. The committee decided to host the workshop within the range of the species featured that particular year. The workshop would generally be one day, with half of the day spent on

presentations by species experts and half of the day spent in the field sampling and studying the species. The first workshop featured leatherside chub in a tributary of the Bear River, 2005 spotlighted Lost River whitefish, and 2006 studied suckers of the Snake River.⁶⁴

The Native Fish Committee also instituted an annual award to recognize individuals that are outstanding in the field of native fish conservation in Idaho. In 2004, they established the R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award to be presented at each annual meeting. The committee members agreed to name the award in honor of the late University of Idaho professor that dedicated much of his career to increasing our understanding and the conservation of native fish. In addition to the honor the award brings to the recipient, it is particularly coveted because it is a fish hand-carved by Mike Jones (Fish Specialties, St. Anthony) specifically for the recipient. The species selected reflects what the recipient is most noted for conserving. To date, the Idaho Chapter has presented this award to four members: Jim



Bruce Rieman, Forest Service Biologist from the Rocky Mountain Research Station, addresses the 2006 Business Luncheon after receiving the R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award for his work with bull trout and other native fish conservation throughout Idaho.

Fredericks, 2004; Vaughn Paragamian, 2005; Bruce Rieman (see photo at left), 2006; and Virgil Moore in 2007, despite his move to head the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The chapter elected Capurso as the Vice President in 2005. Dan Garren replaced him as the new Native Fish Committee Chair, continuing the annual workshops and award.

The Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has continued to grow in the 21st century. In 2007 it officially recognized its second student subunit at Idaho State University. Like its cohort at the University of Idaho, the Portneuf Unit had a long history of participation in the chapter but took some time to become fully integrated into the chapter. Michael Lance, the unit's first president, once attended the University of Idaho and participated in the Palouse Unit. After his transfer to Idaho State he saw the need for a unit in Pocatello. Lance borrowed from the Palouse Unit and with the help of Chapter President James Capurso, finally realized the older unit's final goal from 1978 and organized the state's second student unit.⁶⁵

The addition of a student unit at Idaho State University required the chapter executive committee to amend the chapter bylaws. Upon inspection of the existing bylaws, executive committee members recognized the need for a major overhaul to address inconsistencies and confusion found in much of the bylaws. In addition to the adoption of a new student unit, changes in the bylaws included allowing chapter members to e-vote on particular issues, better defining executive committee position roles and responsibilities, and changing the date which the newly elected officers start their duties. The chapter unanimously approved the changes to the bylaws.

While editing the old bylaws, the executive committee cut a couple paragraphs recounting the early history of the chapter. Although they recognized its importance, they also knew it didn't belong in the bylaws. Capurso suggested a stand-alone paper that documented chapter history would do well to foster a sense of heritage among chapter members while recording the achievements of the chapter. The executive committee solicited the recommendation of Boise State History Professor Errol Jones for a student to create the document. Professor Jones, the department's Internship Coordinator, suggested Josh Bernard, a graduate student in Idaho History, for the assignment.

Vice President Mary Faurot described her early experience in the chapter as a male dominated “rod and gun club”.⁶⁶ Since 1963 the Idaho Chapter has grown to include women fully. It has also expanded its membership to include a more diverse representation of fisheries workers from many agencies and areas of the state. 64 members attended the First Annual Meeting in 1964. Of those in attendance 33 were from Idaho Fish and Game and another 12 were from the University of Idaho, with only three from the Forest Service and one from the Bureau of Land Management.⁶⁷

All areas of the chapter have seen growth. There are two student subunits. The committees have grown and changed over time from the four that Al Espinosa chartered to nine sitting committees. The chapter now provides five scholarships and a grant to students and encourages AFS membership with free admission to the annual meetings for students. The students reciprocate by hosting the Student Mixer as the first social event at the meetings.

The chapter has had a few trying times but a high sense of professionalism has tempered the difficulties and served to correct the problems and keep its active membership. The members responded unanimously that they looked forward every year to seeing their peers, expanding their knowledge on fisheries issues and the social events. Even with 250 members in attendance the chapter meetings still contain the original sense of levity instilled by those first sixteen members.

¹ http://www.fisheries.org/afs/aboutus_pastpres.html.

² Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society, January 25, 1963 News Release.

³ Wendell Smith, Boise, Idaho to Don Andriano, Western Division, Idaho Chapter collection, Nampa Research center.

⁴ Don Orcutt, Boise, Idaho, to Dr. Craig McPhee, University of Idaho, Moscow, 5 February 1963, Idaho Chapter Collection, Nampa Research Center.

⁵ Press Release, 19 February 1963, Idaho Chapter Collection, Nampa Research Center.

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- ⁶ Western Division AFS, “1963 Annual Meeting Announcement”, 8 May, 1963, Idaho Chapter Collection, Nampa Research Center.
- ⁷ Meeting Minutes, Treasure Valley Chapter, 8 October 1963, Idaho Chapter Collection, Nampa Research Center.
- ⁸ Wendell Smith, Boise, Idaho to Al Lopinot, American Fisheries Society, 9 April 1964, Idaho Chapter Collection, Nampa Research Center.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Stacy Gebhards, telephone interview with author, April 10, 2007.
- ¹¹ “First Annual Report of the Palouse Unit of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society”, 1978.
- ¹² Officially called the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. The law collected revenues from the manufacturers of fishing equipment in the form of an excise tax. Each state receives money as reimbursement for approved projects at a rate of 75% the remaining 25% is provided by the state from non-federal sources. The amount available is based on a formula of licensed anglers and land and water area. The expansion described above passed in 1984 as the Wallop-Breaux Amendment. <http://federalaid.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html>.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ Chris Herr, *Gill Raker Gazette*, December 1982.
- ¹⁵ Al Espinosa, *Chapter Newsletter*, September 1979, 1.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ David Burns, email to author, 16 April 2007.
- ¹⁸ *Chapter Newsletter*, December 1979, 5.
- ¹⁹ *Chapter Newsletter*, May 1980, 9.
- ²⁰ *Chapter Newsletter*, July 1982, Vol. 3, No. 1.
- ²¹ Charlie Petrosky, Memorandum, April 20, 1982; *Chapter Newsletter*, July 1982, Vol. 3 No. 1.
- ²² Steve Elle, personal interview with author, February 11, 2007.
- ²³ Bill Horton, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007.
- ²⁴ *Gill Raker Gazette*, October 1984, Vol. 5, No. 1.
- ²⁵ <http://www.idahoafs.org/meetingspast.php>.
- ²⁶ Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, “1987 Annual Meeting Agenda”.
- ²⁷ <http://www.idahoafs.org/meetingspast.php>.
- ²⁸ *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 1985, Vol. 5, No. 1.
- ²⁹ Susan Martin, *Gill Raker Gazette*, December 1986, Vol. 6, No. 1. The special session was titled, “Is Anybody Out There Listening?” The topics of the session are outlined above.
- ³⁰ <http://www.wdafs.org/>. Donald Martin is not the only member of the Idaho Chapter to serve as Western Division President. Paul Cuplin, 1970-1971; William Platts, 1974-1975; Bob White, 1981-1982; and David Burns, 1990-1991 also served in that capacity.
- ³¹ *Gill Raker Gazette*, July 1988, Vol. 8, No. 2.
- ³² Bob Esselman, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007.
- ³³ Terry Huddleston, *Gill Raker Gazette*, September 1989, Vol. 9, No. 2.
- ³⁴ Huddleston, and *Gill Raker Gazette*, May 1990, Vol. 10, No. 2.
- ³⁵ Esselman and Elle, and *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 2002, Vol. 22, No. 3.
- ³⁶ *Gill Raker Gazette*, February 1990, Vol. 1, No. 1.
- ³⁷ Virgil Moore, personal interview with author February 22, 2007.
- ³⁸ *Gill Raker Gazette*, May 1990, Vol. 10, No. 2, and Bruce Rieman, email interview with author, April 12, 2007.
- ³⁹ *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 1990, Vol. 10, No. 3.
- ⁴⁰ *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 1991, Vol. 11, No. 3.
- ⁴¹ Karen Pratt, “President’s Message”, *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 1992, Vol. 12, No. 3.
- ⁴² “Draft Position Statement: Livestock Grazing Effects on Riparian and Stream Ecosystems”, *Gill Raker Gazette*, January 1993, Vol. 13, No. 1, 3.
- ⁴³ “Water Quantity Position Statement”, *Gill Raker Gazette*, January 1994, Vol. 14, No. 1.
- ⁴⁴ James Congleton, David Bennett, and Christine Moffitt, “Crisis Ethics and Fishery Biologists”, *Gill Raker Gazette*, May 1993, Vol. 13, No. 2.
- ⁴⁵ *The Oregonian*, February 28, 1991, sec. E.
- ⁴⁶ Paul Brouha, “The Emerging Science-Based Advocacy Role of the American Fisheries Society”, *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* 12, no. 2 (1993):215-218.
- ⁴⁷ Ted Koch, “1999 Annual Meeting First Call for Paper”, *Gill Raker*, December 1998, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., 3.

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- ⁴⁹ Steve Elle, Bill Horton, Don Martin, Virgil Moore and Don Zaroban.
- ⁵⁰ Don Martin.
- ⁵¹ Fred Partridge, “Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Resolution”, *Gill Raker Gazette*, May 1999, Vol. 19, no. 3.
- ⁵² Rocky Barker, “F&G chief issues gag order on experts”, *The Idaho Statesman*, January 19, 1999, sec. B.
- ⁵³ Barker, “F&G Commission fires Mealey”, *The Idaho Statesman*, March 6, 1999, sec. A.
- ⁵⁴ Barker, “Breaching dams is salmon’s best hope, agency report finds”, *The Idaho Statesman*, April 15, 1999, sec. A.
- ⁵⁵ <http://www.idahoafs.org/statements.php>, and Barker, “Scientists say dams must go to save salmon”, *The Idaho Statesman*, June 26, 1999, sec. A.
- ⁵⁶ Barker, “Scientists say dams must go to save salmon”, *The Idaho Statesman*, June 26, 1999, sec. A.
- ⁵⁷ Liz Mamer, personal interview with author, March 8, 2007.
- ⁵⁸ *Gill Raker Gazette*, November 1992, Vol., 12 No. 3, and May 1993, Vol. 13, No. 2.
- ⁵⁹ Rick Alsager, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007, and <http://www.foursockeye.com/About.htm>.
- ⁶⁰ *Gill Raker Gazette*, July 2006, Vol. 24, No. 2.
- ⁶¹ *Gill Raker Gazette*, December 1999, Vol. 19, No. 3.
- ⁶² Don Zaroban, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007.
- ⁶³ <http://www.idahoafs.org/awards.php>, and Dan Garren, personal interview with author, February 23, 2007.
- ⁶⁴ Jim Capurso.
- ⁶⁵ Michael Lance, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007.
- ⁶⁶ Mary Faurot, personal interview with author, February 22, 2007.
- ⁶⁷ *Newsletter*, 1964.

Appendix A. Chapter Officers.

		Secretary/Treasurer	Vice President	President Elect	President	Past President
1963 1964		Don Orcutt	Paul Cuplin		Wendell Smith	
1964 1965		Ted Bjornn	Don Orcutt		Paul Cuplin	Wendell Smith
1965 1966	Liven A Petersen Jr.			Monte Richards	Terry Durkin	Paul Cuplin
1966 1967	Stacy Gebhards			Liven a Petersen, Jr.	Monte Richards	Terry Durkin
1967 1968	Jerry Mallet			Stacy Gebhards	Liven A Petersen, Jr.	Monte Richards
1968 1969	Craig MacPhee			Jerry Mallet	Stacy Gebhards	Liven A Petersen, Jr.
1969 1970	William Platts			Craig MacPhee	Jerry Mallet	Stacy Gebhards
1970 1971	Osborne Casey			William Platts	Craig MacPhee	Jerry Mallet
1971 1972	Don Corley			Osborne Casey	William Platts	Craig MacPhee
1972 1973	Ted Bjornn			Don Corley	Robert Bell	William Platts
1973 1974	John Heimer			Ted Bjornn	Don Corley	Robert Bell
1974 1975	Greg Munther			John Heimer	Ted Bjornn	Don Corley
1975 1976	Bob White			Greg Munther	John Heimer	Ted Bjornn
1976 1977	Mel Reingold			Bob White	Bob White (note 1)	John Heimer
1977 1978	Al Espinosa			Mel Reingold	Bob White	Bob White
1978 1979	Rudy Ringe			Al Espinosa	Mel Reingold	Bob White
1979 1980	Jack Griffith			Rudy Ringe	Al Espinosa	Mel Reingold
1980 1981	Bruce Reiman		Russ Thurow	Jack Griffith	Jack Griffith (note 2)	Al Espinosa
1981 1982	Don Martin		Russ Thurow		Jack Griffith	Jack Griffith
1982 1983	Virgil Moore		Don Martin		Russ Thurow	Jack Griffith
1983 1984	Ned Horner		Virgil Moore		Don Martin	Russ Thurow
1984 1985	Dave Burns		Susan Martin	Ned Horner	Ned Horner (note 3)	Don Martin
1985 1986	Roy Heberger		Dave Burns	Susan Martin	Ned Horner	Ned Horner
1986 1987	Bert Bowler		Roy Heberger	Dave Burns	Susan Martin	Ned Horner
1987 1988	Al Van Vooren		Bert Bowler	Roy Heberger	Dave Burns	Susan Martin
1988 1989	Steve Bauer		Al VanVooren	Bert Bowler	Roy Heberger	Dave Burns
1989 1990	Karen Pratt		Steve Bauer	Al VanVooren	Bert Bowler	Roy Heberger
1990 1991	Dick Scully		Karen Pratt	Steve Bauer	Al VanVooren	Bert Bowler
1991 1992	Wayne Paradis		Dick Scully	Karen Pratt	Steve Bauer	Al VanVooren
1992 1993	Tim Cochnauer (note 5)		Wayne Paradis	Dick Scully	Karen Pratt	Steve Bauer
1993 1994	Dan Herrig		Dave Cross	Wayne Paradis	Dick Scully	Karen Pratt
1994 1995	Ed Lider		Chip Corsi	Dave Cross	Wayne Paradis	Dick Scully
1995 1996	Pete Hassemer		Tim Cochnauer	Chip Corsi	Dave Cross	Wayne Paradis
1996 1997	Jim Chandler		Cindy Deacon-Williams	Tim Cochnauer	Chip Corsi	Dave Cross
1997 1998	Tim Burton		Ted Koch	Cindy Deacon-Williams	Tim Cochnauer	Chip Corsi
1998 1999	Fred Partridge		Brett Roper	Ted Koch	Cindy Deacon-Williams	Tim Cochnauer
1999 2000	Jeff Dillon		Mark Gamblin	Brett Roper	Ted Koch	Cindy Deacon-Williams
2000 2001	Kim Apperson		Steve Elle	Mark Gamblin	Brett Roper	Ted Koch
2001 2002	Mary Faurot		Vaughn Paragamian	Steve Elle	Brett Roper (note 4)	Brett Roper
2002 2003	Rob Van Kirk		Matt Powell	Vaughn Paragamian	Steve Elle	Brett Roper
2003 2004	Kristine Vollmer	Treasurer	Russ Kiefer	Matt Powell	Vaughn Paragamian	Steve Elle
2004 2005	Liz Mamer		Jim Capurso	Russ Kiefer	Matt Powell	Vaughn Paragamian
2005 2006	Tammy Salow (note 6)	Liz Mamer	Bart Gamett	Jim Capurso	Russ Kiefer	Matt Powell
2006 2007	Brian Kennedy	Tammy Salow	Mary Faurot	Bart Gamett	Jim Capurso	Russ Kiefer
2007 2008	Matt Davis	Brian Kennedy	Jim Fredericks	Mary Faurot	Bart Gamett	Jim Capurso

Notes

- 1) Assumed from Greg Munther.
- 2) Assumed from Rudy Ringe.
- 3) Assumed from Virgil Moore.
- 4) Assumed from Mark Gamblin.
- 5) Changed to one year combined Secretary/Treasurer Position.
- 6) Changed to election as Secretary proceeds to second year as Treasurer.

Compiled from <http://www.idahoafs.org/pastofficers.xls> and The *Gill Raker Gazette*.

 Appendix B. Chapter Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

1999	Jack Griffith Jerry Mallet
2001	Ted Bjornn
2002	Dick Wallace
2003	Dave Bennett
2004	Tim Cochnauer
2007	David Burns

R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award

2004	Jim Fredericks
2005	Vaughn Paragamian
2006	Bruce Rieman
2007	Virgil Moore

Award of Special Recognition

1982	Susan Martin	Newsletter	
1984	Bob Bell	Many years of work on fisheries work in Idaho.	
1985	Herb Pollard	Fundraising	
	Jack Griffith	Nonpoint water quality task force	
1990	Ned Horner	Forest Practices Review Task Force	
	Cleve Steward	Participation on the Chinook Committee	
1993	Alan Byrne	Rob Dillinger	Chinook Committee 1992 Chinook and Coho Workshc
	Dave Cannamela	Pete Hassemer	
	Jim Chandler	Sharon Kiefer	
	Kerry Overton	Joe Krakker	
	Peggy Hammell		
	Jody Brostrom	Fundraising	
	Steve Elle		
	Tom MacArthur	Annual Meeting Support	
1995	Sharon Kiefer	Chinook Workshop	
	Karen Pratt		
1996	Jim Chandler	Fundraising	
	Ed Liter	Secretary-Treasurer	
1999	Tim Burton	Secretary-Treasurer	
2007	Rick Alsager	Four Sockeye Group fundraising contribution.	
	Dan Baker		
	Doug Young		

Award of Merit

1994	Susan Adams	Idaho Rare Fish Poster
	Rob Spangler	
	Craig Johnson	Riparian Position Statement
	Tim Burton	

1995	Dan Herrig	Secretary-Treasurer
	Dave Statler	Water Quantity Position Statement
1996	Kim Apperson	Chapter Support and work on Bull Trout Issues
	Jody Brostrom	
1998	Judy Hall-Griswold	Donation of time and Artwork.
1999	Tim Burton	Riparian Management and Bull Trout in the Boise River
2002	Dana Weigel	Cutthroat Trout Introgression Symposium
	and James Capurso	
2003	Liz Mamer	Personal Contribution
	James Capurso	Native Fish Committee Chair
	Lance Hebdon	Fundraising Chair
	Rob VanKirk	Secretary/Treasurer
	Brett Roper	2001-2002 President
	Steve Elle	2002-2003 President
	Vaughn Paragamian	2003-2004 President
2005	Brian Leth	Fundraising
	Kristine Vollmer	Secretary-Treasurer
	Matt Powell	President
2006	Liz Mamer	Secretary-Treasurer
	Russ Kiefer	President
2007	Tammy Salow	Secretary-Treasurer
	Jim Capurso	President

Award of Excellence

1994	Stacy Gebhards	Public Education/ Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act
	Ted Bjornn	Excellence in Research and Education
1995	Dave Bennett	Long-term work with the Palouse Chapter

Chapter President's Award

1993	Karen Pratt
1996	Dave Cross

Distinguished Service Award

1996	Bill Horton	Active Participation in Chapter Activities
2006	Judy Hall-Griswold	Donation of time and Artwork.

Outstanding Mentor Award

2007	Steve Elle
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American Fisheries Society Awards

Western Division Chapter of the Year

1982-1983
 1987-1988
 1991-1992

Award of Excellence

1991-1992	Ted Bjornn
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Award of Merit

1985-1986	David Cross
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1986-1987	Donald Martin	"Going the Extra Mile Award"
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1989-1990	Bruce Rieman and Bert Bower
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1993-1994	Steve Bauer
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1994-1995	Christine Moffitt
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Award of Special Recognition

1998-1999	Christine Moffitt and Cindy Deacon-Williams
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