



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ORGANIZED 1870
IDAHO CHAPTER



GILL RAKER GAZETTE

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Fred Partridge, Editor

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SALMON AND STEELHEAD RECOVERY RESOLUTION, BYLAWS UPDATE

The EXCOM has prepared a draft resolution (attached to newsletter) addressing recovery efforts for Idaho salmon and steelhead. The process for finalizing the resolution will be two-fold. AFS members are being supplied a copy of the draft so that a formalized discussion of contents can be held at the annual meeting. A block of time during the first day has been designated for this issue alone. During that time members will have the opportunity to thoroughly discuss the resolution. Secondly, at the business meeting on Friday (March 5), the EXCOM will be seeking an advisory vote from the membership as to whether or not they should finalized the resolution as a chapter position. Because of the magnitude of the issue, the EXCOM will only proceed with the resolution on a super-majority support (2/3 vote) of the membership at the business luncheon. Please bring your questions and comments to the discussion period on March 4, 1999.

Also in the newsletter is a copy of the Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society Bylaws with a number of changes which have been previously approved of by the EXCOM or at prior annual meetings. However, they have never been officially approved by a ballot vote. Items to be deleted from the bylaws are shown in **strikeout**, items to be added are in **bold**. An official vote to make these changes in the bylaws will take place at the business meeting on March 5, 1999.

Agenda
Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 1999 Annual Meeting
The Role of the Four Lower Snake River Dams in Salmon and Steelhead Recovery
March 4-6, 1999
The Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho

Thursday, March 4:
Invited Presentations

- 8:00 Welcome and Introduction - Cindy Deacon Williams, ICAFS President
- 8:20 Title Session - Introduction
- 8:35 Economic, Social, and Political Dimensions of Dams and Salmon and Steelhead
- 10:30 *Break*
- 11:00 Scientific Dimensions of Dams and Salmon and Steelhead
- 12:00 *Lunch Break* - Grab a bag lunch and go to committee meetings
- 1:30 Scientific Dimensions of Dams and Salmon and Steelhead, continued
- 3:30 *Break*
- 3:45 Open Discussion on the Draft Resolution and Issues Involved
- 5:00 *Session Ends*

Evening Function - *Paluse Unit hosts a pizza feed*

Friday, March 5:
Contributed Papers

- 8:00-12:00 Contributed Papers
- 12:15 Business Meeting Luncheon in the Bank of America Center
- 2:30-5:00 Contributed Papers

Evening Social - *Hoer d'ouvres and no-host bar at Grove Hotel, auction, raffle, music and more*

Saturday, March 6:
Contributed Papers

- 8:00-12:00 Contributed Papers
- 12:00 *Meeting Adjourns*
- 12:15 EXCOM Meeting

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!!!!** Parking

near the Grove Hotel is difficult except for the City Parking Lot under the Grove Hotel. Cost of parking in this lot is \$1/night for guest of the hotel. Daily fees for non registered guests is \$4.50 or \$.50 an hour.

**Proposed Resolution of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
On the Role of the Four Lower Snake River Dams and
Snake River Salmon and Steelhead Recovery**

January 15, 1999

Whereas:

Many, and perhaps most, stocks of Snake River salmon and steelhead now are extinct;

Whereas:

The remaining stocks of Snake River salmon and steelhead populations have declined to perilously low levels from historical levels, and all currently are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act;

Whereas:

Snake River salmon and steelhead extinction and declines resulted from the occurrence of a variety of physical, chemical, and biological factors, including effects from the "four H's" - Hatcheries, Harvest, Habitat, and Hydropower facilities;

Whereas:

Dramatic action must be taken soon to prevent some, or perhaps even most remaining Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks from extinction because recent incremental adjustments have not led to any apparent significant increases in stock abundances;

Whereas:

The lower four Snake River dams and their reservoirs, including: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor, have recently been identified in other scientific reviews, including the Independent Scientific Group and Plan for Analyzing and Testing Hypotheses, as presenting the most significant limiting factor in Snake River salmon and steelhead population viability;

Whereas:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office charged with compensating for the loss and mitigating the effects of the dams on salmon and steelhead believes it cannot meet its obligations or even save many of the remaining wild stocks from extinction;

Whereas:

The first objective in the constitution of the American Fisheries Society is to promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries, and the AFS further commits to promote enlightened management of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment, by the public;

Whereas:

Past management of Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks and their environment has resulted in a failure to conserve and use wisely the fisheries, or to provide for optimum use and enjoyment by the public, and:

Whereas:

At least two important decision points will be reached by federal agencies soon regarding managing the lower four Snake River dams and recovering Snake River salmon and steelhead: one by the Army Corps of Engineers for managing dams, and one by the National Marine Fisheries Service on whether the operation of the dams jeopardizes the continued existence of Snake River salmon and steelhead;

IDAHO SALMON AND STEELHEAD AND LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS FACT SHEET

A number of salmon and steelhead stocks from Idaho are extinct¹, including:

- spring/summer chinook from the Weiser, Powder, Clearwater, Payette, Boise and Bruneau rivers;
- fall chinook from the Clearwater River and from above Hells Canyon Dam
- coho from the Clearwater and Snake rivers;
- sockeye from the Payette River and from a number of Salmon Basin lakes; and
- steelhead from the Bruneau, Weiser, Boise and Payette rivers

The remaining salmon and steelhead stocks from Idaho are listed as threatened (T) or endangered (E) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act², including:

- Snake River sockeye (E), listed in Nov 1991;
- Snake River fall chinook (T), listed in Apr 1992;
- Snake River spring/summer chinook (T), listed in Apr 1992; and
- Snake River steelhead (T), listed in Aug 1997

No salmon and steelhead stocks from Idaho are considered "healthy" or "secure," although 99 stocks from Washington, Oregon and California (primarily from the Puget Sound or coastal watersheds of Oregon or Washington) have been so identified.³

There are eight dams on the Columbia and lower Snake rivers that affect Idaho salmon and steelhead survival, including on the Columbia River:

- Bonneville Dam (constructed in 1938);
- The Dalles Dam (1957);
- John Day Dam (1968); and
- McNary Dam (1953).

On the lower Snake River:

- Ice Harbor Dam (1962);
- Lower Monumental Dam (1969);
- Little Goose Dam (1970); and
- Lower Granite dam (1975).

¹Nehlsen, W., J.E. Williams and J.A. Lichatowich. 1991. Pacific salmon at the crossroads: stocks at risk from California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. *Fisheries*. 16(2):4-21.

²National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Species/ESU Status fact sheet. August 5, 1998 update.

³Huntinton, C., W. Nehlsen and J. Bowers. 1996. A survey of healthy native stocks of anadromous salmonids in the Pacific Northwest and California. *Fisheries*. 21(3):6-14

The Lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan (LSRCP) was authorized following completion of the lower Snake River dams (in 1976) to mitigate and compensate for fish and wildlife losses resulting from construction of the four dams.⁴ A major hatchery program has been implemented pursuant to this authorization, including:

- ten major hatcheries built by the Corps of Engineers between 1981 and 1991; and
- sixteen satellite facilities for adult trapping and juvenile acclimation built between 1980 and 1998.

A 1998 program review concluded that the LSRCP was incapable of meeting its mitigation and compensation obligations. The science panel concluded:

- hatcheries cannot solve the Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery problem on their own;
- optimistic conclusions force acknowledgment that, for many remaining Snake River salmon and steelhead populations, extinction will take place by about 2025; and
- a large magnitude of improvement is necessary outside the hatchery system [a 5- to 10-fold increase in the smolt-adult returns (SARs)] to avoid extinction and bring about recovery.

The 1995 Federal Hydropower Biological Opinion, developed pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, specified a number of “reasonable and prudent alternatives” to avoid jeopardy to listed salmon, including:

- flow augmentations using upstream storage reservoirs;
- flood control rule curves that require reservoirs to be at target levels by April of each year;
- spill requirements attempting to ensure that 80% of the in-river smolt migrants pass the lower Snake River dams via a non-turbine route; and
- studies of options to draw-down or breach dams on the lower Snake River to be completed in time to allow for implementation during 2000 if the decision is made to do so.

A number of recent studies have concluded that breaching the four lower Snake River dams is the best ecological solution:

- State and tribal analyses conclude that breaching has a 16-70% probability of restoring salmon populations to 1960 levels in 13 years, and an 80-100% probability of success in 24 years;
- PATH analyses concluded that breaching has a 79% probability of recovery in 48 years, while continuing current efforts and increasing fish barging and flow augmentations both have a 35-40% probability of recovery.
- The Independent Scientific Group concluded that salmon recovery is dependant on restoration of “normative ecosystem conditions⁵.”

⁴U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Proceedings of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan status review symposium. USFWS, LSRCP Office, Boise, ID.

⁵ISG. 1996. Return to the river: restoration of salmonid fishes in the Columbia River Ecosystem. Report to the Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, OR.

BY-LAWS OF THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Section 1 – Name and Objective

The name of this organization shall be the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

The objectives of the Chapter shall be those of the **parent** American Fisheries Society as set forth in Article I of the Constitution, and to encourage the exchange of information by members of the Society residing with the states of Idaho, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and northern Utah.

Section 2 – Membership

The membership of the Chapter shall be composed of those American Fisheries Society members in good standing who reside in the states of Idaho, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and northern Utah.

Section 3 – Meetings

The Chapter shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee (**EXCOM**), and additional meetings also may be scheduled. The program of the annual meeting shall be the responsibility of **the president-elect and the program committee**.

Section 4 – Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, president-elect, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Unit President(s), and Immediate **Past President Chairperson(s) of the Idaho Chapter**. ~~The Unit President(s) shall be voting member of the EXCOM.~~

The election of Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and Nominating Chairperson shall be made from the general membership at the annual meeting. ~~The Secretary-Treasurer shall succeed to the office of Vice President upon completion of the term as Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer position shall be for a one-year commitment only; there is no line of succession for this position.~~ The Vice-President succeeds to the President-Elect; President-Elect to President, and President to Past-President. In the case of a vacated position, the officers will advance one level to fill the position. If the Secretary-Treasurer's position is vacated, the EXCOM shall appoint a qualified replacement to complete the term. In the event the Nominating Committee Chairperson is unable to act, the President will appoint a chairperson from the Nominating Committee for the remainder of the term. The time frame of all position shall coincide with that of the officers of the Parent Society.

If an annual meeting is canceled, the officers and members of committees shall continue to serve until the next schedule meeting.

Section 5 – Duties of Officers

A. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meeting of the chapter,
2. Serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Chapter,
3. Appoint committee chairpersons; sign all Chapter correspondence to non-Chapter entities; and, perform functions as authorized by the Chapter,
4. Present a report of the Chapter's activities at Idaho Chapter, Western Division, and International Society meetings, when requested to do so, and,
5. **Serve on University of Idaho scholarship selection committee.**

B. The President-Elect shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to act,
2. Serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee,
3. Serve on the Chapter Executive Committee, and
4. Perform other duties delegated by the President.

C. The Vice-President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President-Elect if that officer is absent or unable to act,
2. Serve as Chairperson of the Policy and Resolutions Committee,
3. Serve on the Chapter Executive Committee,

4. Perform other duties delegated by the President-Elect,
5. **Service** Serve as Chairperson of the Time and Place Committee,
6. **Serve as Editor of the Chapter's newsletter, and**
7. **Serve as FIN committee chairperson.**

D. The Secretary Treasurer shall:

1. Assume the duties of the Vice-President if the Vice-President is absent or unable to act,
2. Keep the official records of the Chapter, including minutes of Chapter and Executive Committee meetings,
3. Collect and disperse funds of the Chapter and be custodian for such funds,
4. Present an annual summary of collections and payments to the Chapter,
5. ~~Serve as editor of the Chapter's newsletter,~~
5. Serve on the Chapter Executive Committee, and
6. Perform other duties delegated by the Vice-President.

E. The immediate Past-President shall:

1. Serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) member on the Chapter Executive Committee,
2. Serve as Chairperson of the Awards Committee, and
3. Serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee in the event that the elected Chairperson is absent or unable to act.

Section 6 – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, Unit President (s), ~~and~~ the immediate Past-President **and committee chairpersons**. It is authorized to act for the Chapter between meetings to perform appropriate duties and functions.

Section 7 – Chapter Committees

The President is authorized to appoint from members of the Chapter in good standing such committees as may be necessary to conduct the business of the Chapter. Standing committees shall include:

- a. Program Committee to which shall be appointed not less than three (3) members. The program Committee shall be responsible for arrangements of the program for the annual meeting.
- b. Nominating Committee of not less than four (4) members at large plus one representative from each unit.
- c. Policy and Resolutions Committee of five (5) **members** who shall draft and recommend to the Chapter and/or the Executive Committee such resolutions considered prudent and necessary in the furtherance of the purposes and objective of the Chapter.
 - (i) The members of the Policy and Resolutions Committee should, insofar as is practical, represent a cross-section of Chapter members.
 - (ii) All resolutions and statements approved by the Executive Committee must be reported to the Chapter membership by correspondence within 30 days of approval. Resolution and statements without unanimous approval of the Policy and Resolutions Committee may contain a minority report prepared by those committee members opposing the transmittal. Resolutions of urgency may be unanimously approved by the Executive Committee and released without vote by the full membership. Resolutions may also be prepared and voted upon at the annual meeting or by mail.
 - (iii) The Executive Committee may, if it deems prudent, defer action of any resolution or statement, until the annual meeting of the Chapter for membership action; provided that such resolutions or statements be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
 - (iv) The Chairperson or a committee representative shall report all resolutions and statements considered by the Policy and Resolution Committee during the year at the annual meeting.

- d. A Newsletter Committee of not less than five (5) **members** shall prepare at least a semi-annual Newsletter that will be mailed to all members of the Chapter. The members of the Newsletter Committee should, insofar as is practical, represent a cross-section of Chapter members. The Chairperson of the Newsletter Committee will be the Newsletter Editor (**Vice-President**).
- e. A Membership Committee of not less than three (3) **members** shall recruit individuals for Chapter membership. The membership of this committee should, insofar as is practical, represent a cross-section of the Chapter members.
- f. A Time and Place Committee of not less than three (3) **members** will recommend to the President the time and place for the annual meeting. The membership of this committee should, insofar as is practical, represent a cross-section of the Chapter members.
- g. The President may appoint ad hoc committees necessary to carry out the work of the Chapter also.

Section 8 – Voting and Quorum

Members in good standing of the American Fisheries Society and the Idaho Chapter are eligible to vote on any decisions of the Idaho Chapter. Decisions at meetings of the Chapter shall be by a majority of those members voting, except as noted in Section 11.

Section 9 – Dues and Registration Fees

- a. The Executive Committee may assess each registrant attending meetings of the Chapter a registration fee to cover the cost of the meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make collections.
- b. Annual dues of the Chapter ~~will~~ **may** be levied on members and a special assessment on participants that are not Chapter members.
- c. Other collections may be requested for specific programs to fulfill the objectives of the Chapter. Such programs will be approved at the annual meeting or by mail ballot from the voting membership following a 30-day notice. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for these special collections.

Section 10 – Geographical Units

Due to geographical distances within the area served by the Chapter, local units may be established by petition from ten (10) Idaho Chapter members. Chapter approval of a newly formed Unit (s) rules of Procedure is required. Units must submit an annual written report of activities at the Idaho Chapter's annual meeting.

Resolutions generated by the Units must secure prior approval from the Chapter Executive Committee before public release.

Section 11 – Amendments to the Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Chapter may be amended by a 2/3-majority approval of those members voting by mail ballot or at the annual meeting, provided that notice of at least 30 days be given to the membership describing the proposed change(s). Said change(s) must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Society before taking effect.