The Joint 2013 Meeting of the Idaho Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

By Tom Curet

The Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society marked its 50th anniversary by hosting the 2013 Western Division Annual Meeting, which was held April 15-18 at the Idaho Centre in Boise. The meeting was a tremendous success with 710 registrants from 27 states and 4 foreign countries! Attendees consisted of 611 fisheries professionals representing 149 organizations and 99 students from 10 different states representing at least 17 schools. Many chapter members and the two Idaho Chapter student subunits worked to help make the meeting a great event. The Idaho Centre venue and able planning by the many committee members ensured that the meeting was well organized, very informative, and very profitable.

The meeting started on April 15 with five continuing education workshops that were attended by 152 registrants. The general meeting began on April 16 with opening remarks made by Christina Swanson (President of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society), Dmitri Vidergar (President of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society) and John Boreman (President of the American Fisheries Society). The opening remarks were followed by the plenary session, which was organized by Idaho Chapter President Elect – Joe DuPont. The plenary session which was titled “Fisheries: Learning from the past looking towards the future”, focused on the 50 year history of the Idaho Chapter. To commemorate the 50th anniversary, Bill Horton arranged to have 29 of the past 45 Idaho Chapter presidents attend the meeting, each of whom sat on a stage. A past president from each decade gave a short presentation discussing how the chapter has evolved over the years, challenges and successes they faced, and recommendations they have for us as we move forward. The speakers discussed how the Chapter’s annual meetings have grown from just a few biologists meeting around a kitchen table to the current gatherings with over 300 participants. It was also highlighted how the annual meetings have grown from primarily University of Idaho professors parading their star pupils in front of mainly Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel, to a now diverse group including state, tribal, federal, university, corporate, and private entities who are all engaged in the future of Idaho’s valuable and unique aquatic ecosystems. It was also highlighted how the Chapter membership has changed over the years from mostly white males to a very diverse group. Some of the challenges these past presidents discussed included the movement to a more professional setting, the roles of activism or advocacy, political intervention in fisheries management, involvement in developing legislation, the controversy over dams and dam removal, and the ebb and flow of aquaculture workers participating in the Chapter. After the presentations, the audience presented questions to the past presidents. All who attended learned from the Idaho Chapter history and the advice of our past leaders. It was truly a remarkable tribute to the past 50 years of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The plenary session was followed with numerous technical sessions and a poster session. During the course of the meeting, over 300 technical presentations were given in 22 symposia in up to 8 concurrent sessions. Symposia subjects included parental based genetic tagging, the science of science communication, climate effects on aquatic resources, and the interactions of fish and hydropower operations in the west. The poster session was outstanding with over 60 posters covering many topics.

Other activities during the course of the week included a welcome social the night prior to the meeting; a fantastic tradeshow that was well received by both vendors and attendees; a mentoring social and student mixer at the historical Basque Center in downtown Boise; the Idaho Chapter’s 5th annual “Spawning Run” which drew only 30 participants due to a very brisk, sub-freezing morning the day of the run; the Idaho Chapter committee meetings; and an amazing banquet that resulted in an extraordinary fundraising effort. Thanks to the fundraising committee and the generous
support of those in attendance, the banquet broke previous fundraising records and yielded a considerable amount of money which will support the Chapter’s many projects.

The meeting also featured the Western Division and Idaho Chapter business luncheons. The Idaho Chapter business luncheon included elections and the presentation of the Chapter awards and scholarships. Those elected to Chapter offices were:

- Vice President – Jim Chandler
- Secretary/Treasurer – Jessica Buelow
- Nominations Chair – John Cassinelli

Those receiving Chapter Awards were:

- Lifetime Achievement Award - Don Martin and Vaughn Paragamian
- Annual Merit Award – Bill Horton and Dmitri Vidergar
- Distinguished Service Award – Steve Elle, Bryan Grant, Patrick Kennedy, Doug Munson, Chris Sullivan, and Donald Zaroban
- Outstanding Professional Award – Jim Chandler
- R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award – Joe DuPont
- Outstanding Mentor Award – Tom Curet

Those receiving Chapter Scholarships were:

- ICAFS Graduate Scholarship – John Walrath
- ICAFS Undergraduate Scholarship – Kate Wilcox
- ICAFS High School Scholarship – Selena Gregory
- ICAFS Student Training Opportunity and Project (TOP) Grant – Leah Sherwood
- Susan B. Martin Scholarship – Kaleb Heinrich

![Figure 1. John Boreman, President of the American Fisheries Society, addresses the meeting during the plenary session.](image1)

![Figure 2. Jerry Mallet, who served as President of the Idaho Chapter in 1969, addresses the meeting during the plenary session.](image2)
Figure 3. Twenty-nine of the 45 past presidents of the Idaho Chapter were in attendance during the plenary session to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Idaho Chapter.

Figure 4. Heidi McRoberts presents a paper during one of the many technical sessions.

Figure 5. A participant views a poster during the poster session.
Figure 6. Attendees mingle during the student mixer sponsored by the Palouse and Portneuf student subunits and the Idaho Chapter Mentoring Committee.

Figure 7. One of the Chapter committee break-out sessions.

Figure 8. Pat Kennedy (left) and Chris Sullivan (right), Idaho Chapter Fundraising Committee co-chairs, drumming up business.

Figure 9. Joe DuPont, Idaho Chapter President Elect, speaking during the Idaho Chapter business luncheon.
Figure 10. Jason Vogel, Idaho Chapter Past President, presents Don Martin with the Idaho Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award.

Figure 11. Jason Vogel, Idaho Chapter Past President, presents Vaughn Paragamian with the Idaho Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award.

Figure 12. Jason Vogel, Idaho Chapter Past President, presents Don Zaroban with an Idaho Chapter Distinguished Service Award.

Figure 13. Jason Vogel, Idaho Chapter Past President, presents Jim Chandler with the Idaho Chapter Outstanding Professional Award.
Figure 14. Chip Corsi presents Joe DuPont with the Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award. This award is one of several awards sponsored and presented by the Idaho Chapter committees.

Figure 15. Steve Elle, Idaho Chapter Mentoring Committee Chair, presents Tom Curet with the Outstanding Mentor Award.

Figure 16. Presentation of the 2013 Suan B. Martin Scholarship. From left to right: Lauri Monnot, Idaho Chapter Public Education Committee Chair; Aaron Martin, Susan’s son; Don Martin, Susan’s husband; Kaleb Heinrich, a student at Idaho State University and the scholarship recipient; and Jamie Martin, Susan’s daughter.

Figure 17. Lauri Monnot, Idaho Chapter Public Education Committee Chair, presents Selena Gregory with the 2013 ICAFS High School Student Scholarship. This scholarship is one of several scholarships sponsored by the Idaho Chapter.