



# PISCES

**Volume 38, Number 3, Fall 2009**

## **President's Message: Our Members, Officers, and Committees make the Chapter!**



Michelle Workman, Chapter President

I thought I would take the opportunity in my first "President's Message" to identify the composition of our membership, and discuss our Chapter's objectives as laid out in the Bylaws. I have been a member of CalNeva, AFS since 1993. Being a member of AFS has provided me a means of staying connected to regional fisheries issues, opportunities to present and publish scientific information, and an avenue to benefit from the presentations/publications of others. In the infancy of my membership, I knew very little about the diversity of our membership, the hard work of our Executive Committee, the dedication of our standing committee chairs and their committees, and Chapter business that occurs between

annual meetings. I would like to end 2009, providing you, our membership, with a closer look at some of the information you may not know, may find interesting, and which may inspire you to become more involved in Chapter activities, or become a Chapter Officer.

Our Parent Society, the American Fisheries Society, was established in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional fishery organization in North America. In 2010, the California/Nevada Chapter, will host its 44th annual conference. Our membership includes biologists, aquaculturists, academics, consultants, and others committed ..to science-based fisheries management and conservation, to the tune of 426 members in 2009. These members primarily represent California (380) and Nevada (20), but we also have 8 members in Oregon, 5 in Washington, 4 in Hawaii, 3 in Utah, and one each from these other states: Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Virginia. From a geographic perspective, our Chapter officially represents California, Nevada and Hawaii, but the presence of our

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members in other states is a testament to the value of Chapter membership. We have 3 registered student subunits: Davis/Sacramento subunit, Humboldt subunit, and Hawaii subunit. The membership of these subunits represent our future fishery scientists and we are hopeful that in 2010 we will continue to engage these subunits, and inspire more student activity through our Membership Committee.

The leadership of the Chapter consists, not only of the Executive Committee, but also several Standing Committees that are always looking for interested participants. Existing committees you can become involved in are: Membership, Continuing Education, Finance, Bylaws and Nominations, Conservation, Policy and Resolution, Awards, Communication, International, and Merchandise. All of these committees have chairs that can be contacted through the chapter website. We are also looking for a Chapter Historian/Archivist. If you are interested in becoming more active in the life of the Chapter, I encourage you to visit our website (which will be updated soon) and contact the chair of the committee you are interested in! The Chapter could always use new input and insight.



Our Chapter has four objectives in our bylaws. I have listed these below and provided examples of how we have addressed these in the past year, and how we plan to meet these objectives in the year to come.

*(a) To promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries.* Our Conservation Committee, led by Chuck Knutson, is pivotal in addressing this objective. The Executive Committee relies on Chuck and his committee members to bring conservation issues to our attention and educate us on the specifics so that the Chapter can provide input and comment on these issues. In 2009, Chuck kept us informed in the Delta Vision and Bay Delta Conservation Planning efforts, and the Chapter signed a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger opposed to the Southern Nevada Water Authorities plans for out of basin groundwater pumping from Nevada and Utah to the Las Vegas area. Due to interconnection of aquifers, these plans may have implications for California and through our Conservation Committee we were able to voice our concerns to our Governor, and our state Senators

In the coming year, we will need to focus efforts on the water legislation passed in November. The Chapter will have to grapple with issues of water conveyance, groundwater recharge, invasive species, population growth and climate change in order to provide informed comment and input on these complex issues.

*(b) To promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice,*

In 2009, Brad Cavallo was instrumental in writing a policy statement on Total Marking of California's hatchery produced Chinook salmon. This action critically addresses the need to better manage California's salmonid fisheries.

*(c) To gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public, scientific, technical, and other information about fisheries science and practice through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication;*

This is accomplished annually through a number of avenues. Our PISCES editor and Communications Chair, Tim Heyne, does an excellent job of soliciting articles for PISCES and making sure officers submit their pieces in a timely manner.

The highlight of our year is our annual meeting. Our 2009 Chapter meeting in Santa Rosa was a success on many levels and brought over 220 in attendance. In 2010, we will be hosting a joint meeting with the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) scheduled for March 10-13, in Redding. Mark Gard is currently working on the planning committee with SRF and this meeting will bring our membership and co-hosts together for what will surely be a huge success. For details of the program and registration, please go to [www.afs-calneva.org](http://www.afs-calneva.org).



*(d) To encourage the teaching of fisheries science and practice in college and universities and the continuing professional development of fisheries workers.*

Again in 2009, Brad Cavallo, did an excellent job of outreach to our student subunits. Our new membership chair, Shannon Brewer, is also highly motivated to engage our students, as well as our Southern California members, as we look to hosting our annual meeting down south in 2011.

What is ahead for 2010? On this front, I am particularly excited. One of my goals as President is to work with our student subunits, young professionals, and experienced professionals to develop a mentoring program. The program planning is in the conceptual stages, but I envision a “Match.com (or eharmony) for fisheries scientists” approach developed through detailed questionnaires for students/young professionals to complete and another for seasoned professionals

(potential mentors). From these questionnaires we will develop a database to make finding the right resource easier, and facilitate communication. Not only will this provide mentor opportunities, but also a database of expertise for the Chapter to access when expert opinions or knowledge is needed.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2010 as President, and passing the torch on to Mark Gard. We will see you all in Redding in March.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**44th Annual Cal-Neva Conference in Redding, California, March 10-13, 2010.**

**Klamath Basin Science Conference in Medford, Oregon, February 1-5, 2010.**

**Species Introductions & Re-introductions in Starkville, Mississippi, April 8-9, 2010.**

**2010 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, April 19 – 24**

**American Fisheries Society 2010 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh PA, September 12-16, 2010  
Theme: Merging Our Deeper Currents**

### **Call for Candidates for President-elect and Secretary**

#### **Tom Lambert, Chair, Bylaws and Nominations Committee**

The California-Nevada Chapter is seeking candidates to run for President-elect and Secretary for the March 2010 election. This is a great opportunity to develop your planning and leadership skills and provides a valuable service to your AFS Chapter. The President-elect's primary responsibility will be to organize the program for the Chapter's annual meeting in the spring of 2011. Following the annual meeting, the President-elect will then serve one year as President, presiding at Chapter meetings and representing the Chapter at the Western Division and Parent Society levels. Following completion of the Presidential term, the outgoing President provides advice and guidance by continuing to serve on the Executive Committee for one year as Past-President.

The Secretary keeps the Chapter records and provides minutes from Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary serves as a Chapter officer for two years.

Members interested in running for either office please contact Bylaws and Nominations Committee Chair, Tom Lambert at (707) 829-7882 or e-mail at [lambert5@pacbell.net](mailto:lambert5@pacbell.net).

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference**  
 and the  
**44<sup>th</sup> Annual American Fisheries Society Cal-Neva Conference**

***Fisheries Restoration and Science in a Changing Climate***

**March 10-13, 2010, Redding Convention Center**

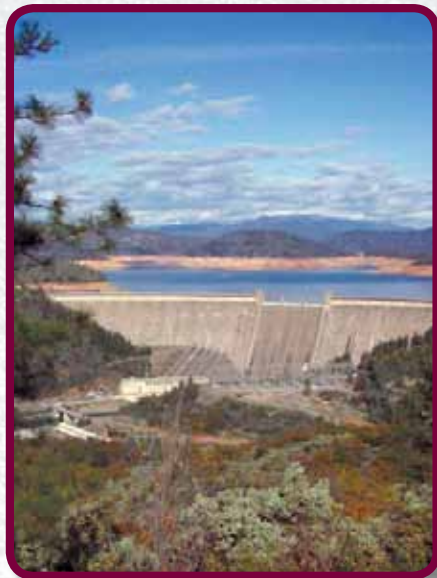


**Workshops**

- 🌐 Floodplain Restoration
- 🌐 Water Quality and TMDL Planning
- 🌐 Stormwater Pollution Runoff
- 🌐 Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Symposia

**Field Tours**

- 🌐 Clear Creek Restoration
- 🌐 Battle Creek Restoration
- 🌐 Upper Trinity River
- 🌐 Shasta River
- 🌐 Sacramento River: Dam to Dam
- 🌐 Redding Urban Streams



**Sessions**

- 🌐 State of California Salmonids
- 🌐 Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring
  - 🌐 Stream Channel Restoration
- 🌐 Central Valley Salmonid Recovery Planning
- 🌐 Marine and Estuarine Fisheries Research: Conservation and Management in a Changing Climate
- 🌐 Status, Ecology, and Management of Inland Fishes
  - 🌐 Climate Change and Salmonid Recovery
  - 🌐 Status, Ecology and Management of Anadromous / Migratory Fishes
- 🌐 FERC Relicensing and Restoration Opportunities
- 🌐 The New Hatchery Management Dynamic
  - 🌐 Effects of Groundwater Withdrawals
  - 🌐 Instream Flows for Salmonids
- 🌐 Water Diversions and Fish Impediments
  - 🌐 Planning, Documenting, and Evaluating Fish Restoration Activities

**March 10**  
**Film Screening**  
*River of Renewal*



**March 11**  
**AFS Reception**  
 at Turtle Bay



**March 12**  
**Poster Session**  
 & Job Fair



**March 13**  
**Banquet, Awards,**  
 & Absynth Quintet



**For more information, please visit [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org) or [www.afs-calneva.org](http://www.afs-calneva.org)**

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## New Officer Officially Joins Executive Committee



**Mark Gard** [Mark\\_Gard@fws.gov](mailto:Mark_Gard@fws.gov)  
**President-Elect**

Mark holds a PhD in ecology from University of California, Davis. After receiving his doctorate, he became a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conducting instream flow studies for anadromous salmonids in Central Valley streams. His recent work has also included using two-dimensional hydraulic and habitat models to assess the success of restoration projects in creating anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat. He has been an active member in the California-Nevada chapter of the American Fisheries Society for over fourteen years, attending most of the Cal-Neva conferences since 1992. He also served as treasurer of the California-Nevada Chapter from 2005 to 2007, and budget chair for the 2007 national American Fisheries Society meeting.

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## **Conservation Committee Report**

by Chuck Knutson, Conservation Committee Chair

**Delta Vision Strategic Plan** - the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force completed and released their final Strategic Plan in October, 2008. Using the Task Force's 12 Vision recommendations as a foundation, the Strategic Plan is premised on accomplishing seven broad goals:


1. Legally acknowledge the co-equal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and creating a more reliable water supply for California.
2. Recognize and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place, an action critical to achieving the co-equal goals.
3. Restore the Delta ecosystem as the heart of a healthy estuary.
4. Promote statewide water conservation, efficiency, and sustainable use.
5. Build facilities to improve the existing water conveyance system and expand statewide storage, and operate both to achieve the co-equal goals.
6. Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and strategic levee investments.
7. Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, science support, and secure funding to achieve these goals.

A total of 22 strategies, 73 actions, and 10 short-term actions are proposed to achieve the seven goals, which can be seen at: [http://deltavision.ca.gov/StrategicPlanningProcess/StaffDraft/Delta\\_Vision\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_standard\\_resolution.pdf](http://deltavision.ca.gov/StrategicPlanningProcess/StaffDraft/Delta_Vision_Strategic_Plan_standard_resolution.pdf)


Although the Cal-Neva Chapter did not comment on the Strategic Plan like we did on the Delta Vision document, the strategic plan implementation process needs continual monitoring to ensure that the Delta ecosystem is restored, protected, and treated co-equally with water development in the future, which may require direct Chapter participation. A major action is a dual conveyance water transfer facility proposed along with increased water storage. Decisions on new storage

and conveyance facility size, location and a long-term action plan are to be completed by the end of 2010 and construction completed by 2030.

A Delta Vision Committee Discussion Document was released on 11/25/08, which identifies possible recommendations to the Governor from Agency secretaries for actions over the next two years. I attended the Delta Vision Committee (chaired by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman) meeting on December 16, 2008 and submitted and read into the record a comment letter signed by Cal-Neva Chapter President Brad Cavallo as follows:



**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**  
**California-Nevada Chapter**



December 15, 2008

The Honorable Mike Chrisman and Members of the  
Delta Vision Committee  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Comments on the Delta Vision Committee Discussion Document**

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Committee Members:

The California-Nevada Chapter (Chapter) of the American Fisheries Society represents over 500 professional scientists in California and Nevada involved in fisheries research, management, and policy. The mission of the Chapter and our parent society is to apply and promote the use of science to improve conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources and the aquatic ecosystems upon which they depend. Since its establishment, the Chapter has provided technical analysis, interpretation, and policy recommendations on many regional fishery issues, including endangered species protection, invasive species control, and water resource management. In 1990, the Chapter filed the petition to list delta smelt as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Many of our members are actively engaged in aquatic habitat restoration, working in ecosystems throughout California and Nevada to enhance, protect, and conserve fish populations.

Delta Vision has a unique opportunity to set a new course for California resource management, one that provides for true balance between ecosystem and human water needs. The Chapter's members are ready to facilitate development and implementation of such a vision.

Building a new water conveyance system (whether it be an isolated or dual conveyance facility) has the potential to benefit the ecosystem as well as provide a more flexible and therefore more reliable water supply, but its success will depend upon how these facilities are operated. It is critical to recognize that, by itself, an "isolated diversion facility" is not a conservation measure; it must be part of a management strategy that truly considers ecosystem and water supply goals to be equal. Ecosystem recovery and sustainability goals must be established before a facility is funded, built, or operated. Therefore, facility operational details such as conveyance capacity, total allowable diversions and minimum bypass flows needed for a healthy Delta must be determined as part of a robust and objective evaluation of its impacts. Following a rigorous, science-based process will

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ensure that ecosystem functions will be restored and the sustainability of ecosystems and water supplies are met.

After reviewing Delta Vision documents, we are troubled by the current lack of specificity regarding future water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin basin. We wonder, will Delta Vision specifically recognize our finite water supply and recommend necessary actions for ecosystem restoration and water supply? Will Delta Vision have the courage to formally recognize that meaningful and lasting Delta ecosystem restoration (and species recovery) is fundamentally incompatible with ever-increasing demand for and removal of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin? The answer to each of these questions, so far, is unclear.

Delta Vision must recognize and embrace the challenge of finite water supply directly and forcefully to win the support of the Chapter. We recognize the Delta can never again be the pristine system that it was before large-scale human settlement. With proper balancing however, it can be managed to sustain both human and natural communities.

Thank you for your efforts to improve Delta management and fully considering our comments. Please contact me if you have any questions or if we can provide any additional data or information on California's aquatic resources.

Sincerely,

/original signed by/  
Bradley J. Cavallo  
President, Cal-Neva Chapter  
American Fisheries Society  
(530) 888-1443  
bcavallo@sbcglobal.net

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Afterwards, a letter was sent to the editor of the Sacramento Bee newspaper and published as follows:

The 12/17/08 Bee editorial, "Accept reality of limits in Delta" is on target. California has a unique opportunity to set a new course for California resource management, one that provides for true balance between ecosystem and human water needs.

Building a new water conveyance system has the potential to benefit the ecosystem as well as provide a more reliable water supply, but its success will depend upon how these facilities are operated. Ecosystem recovery and sustainability goals must be established before a facility is funded, built, or operated. Facility operational details, such as conveyance capacity, total allowable diversions, and minimum bypass flows needed for a healthy Delta must be determined prior to project approval.

The current lack of specificity regarding future water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin basin is troubling. Water managers and the public must recognize that our water supply is finite. Meaningful and lasting Delta ecosystem restoration and species recovery is fundamentally incompatible with ever-increasing demand for and removal of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin.

The Delta can never again be the pristine system that it was before large-scale human settlement. However, with proper balancing, it can be managed to sustain both human and natural communities.

Chuck Knutson

American Fisheries Society

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The former Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force has now formed a Delta Vision Foundation to monitor the State's progress on their recommendations. So far, the Foundation has said that the Governor is moving too slow on solving the State's water problems and efforts so far are inadequate. For more information, see: <http://www.deltavisionfoundation.org/>

**Bay-Delta Conservation Plan** - I attended a public meeting in Clarksburg on March 26, 2009 and observed that the local people in the north Delta are not supportive of a peripheral canal and any increase in water diversions from the Delta to areas south of the Delta. They basically want to be left alone. The Chapter needs to get more involved in the BDCP process in the future.

**Silver King Creek Paiute Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project (Project)** - I received a letter from CDFG on September 16, 2008, which included an EIR/EIS Notice of Preparation for the Project. I attended the scoping meeting in Markleeville on 10/07/08. The Chapter supported the project when it was attempted several years ago and likely will support it again.

The USFWS completed a Revised Recovery Plan for the Paiute Cutthroat Trout in 2004, a 5-Year Review of Paiute Cutthroat Trout in 2007, and a Silver King Creek Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Plan (2007-2015). A 2007 study of "An Analysis of the Effects of Rotenone on Aquatic Invertebrate Assemblages in the Silver King Creek Basis, California," by Mark R. Vinson and Deanna K. Vinson, USFS, analyzed data from 1984 to 2006. Results are complicated by a lack of baseline pre-treatment data, changes in sampling stations and methodology, and differences in recovery rates for various invertebrate species.

**Hatchery EIR** – I attended a public scoping meeting in Sacramento on September 8, 2008 conducted jointly by CDFG and USFWS regarding the preparation of a joint EIR/EIS to evaluate the potential effects that the CDFG Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program has on the aquatic resources and the environment. Any questions or comments can be emailed to Jim Starr, CDFG, at [dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov)

Subsequent to the above, in response to a lawsuit filed against CDFG by the Pacific Rivers Council, Center for Biological Diversity, and represented by Stanford Law Students, for delays in completing the EIR/EIS, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Patrick Marlette ordered that stocking of nonnative fish cease in approximately 200 inland waters (effective 11/24/2008 through 1/1/2010), where surveys have demonstrated the presence of 25 specified amphibian or fish species or where a survey for those species has not yet been done. Updated lists of waters stocked and not stocked can be found at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/stocking/>

**Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout in California: Status of an Emblematic Fauna Report** - by Peter B. Moyle, Joshua A. Israel, and Sabra E. Purdy, Center for Watershed Sciences, UC Davis, commissioned by California Trout, Inc., was released in November, 2008, which describes the status and status certainty of 31 living salmonid taxa in California. Of the 22 anadromous taxa, 13 are in danger of extinction within the next century and seven of nine living inland taxa are in danger of extinction. Reasons for declines basically boil down to a combination of human competition for use of the high quality water salmonids require, alteration of the landscapes through which salmonid waters flow, overfishing, and introductions of alien species as predators or competitors. Essential steps for recovery of California's salmonids are described, as well future threats, such as climate change and increasing human populations. The entire document can be read at [www.caltrout.org](http://www.caltrout.org)

**Suction Dredging Moratorium** – The WDAFS was requested by California State Senator staff to support a bill (SB 670) declaring a moratorium on suction dredging in all streams, lakes and rivers of the State until CDFG completes an updated EIR and new regulations on suction dredging. The WDAFS asked the Cal-Neva Chapter for a recommendation, but the Chapter decided to be neutral on the bill because research results on the impacts of suction dredging have been "mixed". However, the WDAFS decided to send a letter in support of the bill as follows:



## American Fisheries Society Western Division

President Scott Bonar, President-elect Leanne Roulson, Vice-president Lori Martin, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Ward, Past-president Eric Wagner

Senator Fran Pavley, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 670 by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society**

Dear Senator Pavley:

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society strongly supports SB 670, which would suspend instream suction dredge mining until a rigorous scientific assessment of the practice's cumulative impacts on fish is prepared and new regulations are written based on that assessment.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has acknowledged in court that this mining practice may be harming the spawning success of several fish species, including coho and chinook salmon, which are federally listed as endangered. Current law only authorizes CDFG to issue suction dredge permits after it has determined the practice will NOT be deleterious to fish. Yet the CDFG has NOT limited this recreational activity while it reviews the effects of the practice. At a minimum, it will take the Department two more years of study before its review is completed and rules can be updated to protect fish. That is two more years of increased risk for already endangered salmon populations.

Admittedly, quantifying the environmental impacts of suction dredging is difficult to accomplish and the research results to date have been inconclusive (e.g., Harvey 1986; Harvey and Lisle 1998). However, Harvey and Lisle (1999) more recently documented a negative effect of dredging on salmon spawning success. Fish mortality may result from direct destruction of eggs or fry from the mining, or from the indirect effects of fish spawning in unstable habitats created or altered by dredging. Although the

effects of suction dredging may be minor in some settings compared with the direct effects of fishing, the potential cumulative effects of dredging on listed fish populations are significant. For example, current regulations do not provide a means to regulate the number of suction dredge operation in a particular river reach. Such cumulative effects may increase as the numbers of unemployed miners continue to increase in the current recession.

Last year, all salmon fishing was banned along the Pacific coast of California and southern Oregon. The ban is expected again this year. These bans and the greatly reduced salmon populations that preceded them are negatively affecting the livelihoods of thousands of commercial fishermen, fish processors, and charter boat operators. In addition, scientific fish collecting permits are highly restricted to protect listed salmon. It seems irrational to restrict scientific research, jeopardize an entire fishery, ban commercial fishing, and increase risk to listed fish while allowing a recreational hobby.

This is a classic case of why CDFG would be wise to use the precautionary principle to guide decisions. That is, to err on the side of the fish before they are forever extirpated.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Wagner, Past-President

### References

Harvey, B. C. 1986. Effects of suction gold dredging on fish and invertebrates in two California streams. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 6:401-409.

Harvey, B. C., and T. E. Lisle. 1998. Effects of suction dredging on streams: a review and an evaluation strategy. *Fisheries* 23(8):8-17.

Harvey, B. C., and T. E. Lisle. 1999. Scour of Chinook salmon redds on suction dredge tailings. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 19:613-617.

SB 670 subsequently passed the Senate and is now in the State Assembly.

**Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Groundwater Pumping Proposal** – A draft letter was prepared by Phil Pister and me for consideration by the Chapter President and EXCOMM to the California governor and senators opposing a proposal by the SNWA to pump groundwater from the desert aquifer surrounding Las Vegas. Major impacts to surface and groundwater resources will likely occur in the rural areas of Nevada and Utah, as well as Death Valley and the Amargosa River basin. An opposition letter has already been sent by a long list of scientists to the governors and senators of Nevada and Utah.

**Other Activities** - The WDAFS has requested that the Cal-Neva Chapter support efforts to ensure the passage of the Fish Habitat Restoration Act of 2009 and the Pacific Salmon Stronghold Partnership Act of 2009 during the next Federal legislative session. Also, another attempt will be made to reform the General Mining Law of 1872, which the Chapter should also support to help alleviate damage to aquatic ecosystems by hardrock mining activities.

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## Notes from the Field

*We want to hear from you! Send your stories, photos, essays, and opinions.*

**Guidelines:** Contributions for "Notes from the Field" should be submitted to Tim Heyne, Newsletter Editor ([theyne@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:theyne@dfg.ca.gov)), in the body of an email or as an attachment in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Portable Document Format (PDF). There is no length limit to contribution, but files should be 6 MB or smaller.

*Submissions for the next issue of Pisces are due by Feb. 16, 2010.*

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## ***News Releases and Announcements***

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### **DFG News Release Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Repealed**

**Nov. 9, 2009**



**Contact:**

Terry Foreman, DFG Fisheries Program Manager, (916) 445-3777

Harry Morse, DFG Office of Communications, (916) 322-8962

California anglers will no longer need to purchase a Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp as of Jan. 1, 2010.

On October 11, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed AB 1052, an amendment to the Fish and Game Code concerning the Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp. This legislation repealed the requirement for anglers to have the stamp on a license or as a validation, and the collection of related fees, beginning in 2010.

The Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Program was established in 2004 to benefit Bay-Delta sport fisheries. The law currently in effect requires anglers to obtain a Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp before sport fishing in the tidal waters of the San Francisco Bay Delta and the mainstem of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, including major tributaries, below the most downstream dam. The stamp requirement is still in effect for the remainder of 2009.

The cost of the stamp changes annually (it cost \$6.30 this year) and fees received by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) are deposited into a separate account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The funds currently in the account will still be spent on appropriate projects in the Bay Delta.

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### **Reclamation Awards Contract for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project**

**Media Contacts:**

Reclamation: Pete Lucero, 916-978-5100

Pacific Gas & Electric Company: Paul Moreno, 530-896-4290

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Jim Smith, 530-527-3043 & Erica Szlosek, 916-978-6159

CA Department of Fish & Game: Jordan Traverso, 916-212-7352, & Angela Howe, 916-653-7563

National Marine Fisheries Service: Jim Milbury, 562-980-4006

The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded the second construction contract for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Restoration Project). This contract is for placement of fish ladders and screens on North Battle Creek Feeder and Eagle Canyon Diversion Dams on the North Fork of Battle Creek. The area is located within 5 miles of Manton, California, in Shasta and Tehama Counties. The contract was awarded on October 28, 2009, to Syblon Reid in the amount of \$10,813,000.00. Construction is planned to begin in February 2010.

This CALFED Bay-Delta Program Restoration Project will enable naturally produced salmonids to safely access high-quality spawning grounds, thereby contributing to their population growth and recovery. The species that will benefit include threatened and endangered Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout.

At the same time, the Restoration Project will minimize the loss of renewable energy produced by the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The Restoration Project will be accomplished



### Eagle Canyon Spring Flows

The springs are vitally important to fishery restoration efforts. They provide cold water to the creek even in drought conditions, making Battle Creek unique in its ability to provide refuge for anadromous fish during droughts.



### Eagle Canyon Canal Diversion Dam

the Restoration Project has been developed in collaboration with various resource agencies, including the California Wildlife Conservation Board, and in conjunction with valuable participation from the public, stakeholders and landowners, including the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group and the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy (<http://battle-creek.net/index.htm>).

The public, stakeholders and landowners have received frequent updates and communication regarding this project throughout its development; as a result, they have been actively involved since the start. Please visit the Restoration Project's website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/battlecreek/index.html> for additional information

through the modification of PG&E's Hydroelectric Project facilities and operations, including instream flow releases. On August 25, 2009, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) amended PG&E's hydroelectric license approving the facilities and operational changes.

In 1999, Reclamation received \$28 million in Federal funds from CALFED for the Restoration Project. PG&E is contributing to the Restoration Project in the form of forgone energy generation, voluntarily pursuing an amendment to the Hydroelectric Project's FERC license, and transferring certain water rights to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Despite the reduction in renewable electricity resulting from the restoration effort, PG&E fully supports this habitat restoration project and the changes to its operations that are required to ensure the success of the Restoration Project. The Packard Foundation, via The Nature Conservancy, is contributing \$3 million to the overall Restoration Project for adaptive management. Specific to this construction contract, Federal funds are being provided by the Iron Mountain Mine Trustee Council; State funds are being provided by DFG and the California Department of Transportation.

Battle Creek offers an extraordinary restoration opportunity because of its geology, hydrology, and habitat suitability for several anadromous species. The overall Restoration Project will be among the largest cold-water anadromous fish restoration efforts in North America, restoring approximately 42 miles of habitat in Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles of habitat in tributaries of Battle Creek.

Via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in June 1999, Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DFG, and PG&E initiated work on the Restoration Project. In addition to the MOU partners,



## **NOAA Encourages Use of Catch Shares to End Overfishing, Rebuild Fisheries and Fishing Communities**

**December 10, 2009**

Contact: Monica Allen  
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NOAA released today for public comment a draft national policy encouraging the use of catch shares, a fishery management tool that aims to end overfishing and rebuild and sustain fishing jobs and fishing communities. In doing so, NOAA recognized that catch shares are not a panacea or one-size-fits-all solution, but are a proven way to promote sustainable fishing when designed properly at the fishing community level.

“We have made great progress in rebuilding many fisheries, but more than 20 percent of our fish stocks have not been rebuilt, and an even larger proportion of our fisheries are not meeting their full economic potential for the nation,” Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke said. “Catch shares are a tool that can help us realize the full economic and biological benefits of rebuilt fisheries.”

Catch share programs, which include Limited Access Privilege programs and individual fishing quotas, have been used in the U.S. since 1990 and are now used in 13 different commercial fisheries. Four new programs will begin over the next year. NOAA estimates that rebuilding U.S. fish stocks would increase annual commercial dockside values by an estimated \$2.2 billion, a 54-percent increase over current dockside values of \$4.1 billion, and help support jobs in the seafood industry and across the broader economy.

“From Florida to Alaska, catch share programs help fishing communities provide good jobs while rebuilding and sustaining healthy fisheries and ocean ecosystems,” said Dr. Jane Lubchenco, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “Although this is a national policy, our emphasis is on local consideration and design of catch shares that take into consideration commercial and recreational fishing interests.”

A catch share program differs from traditional fishery management by dividing up the total allowable catch in a fishery into shares. These shares are typically allocated based on historical participation in the fishery. They may be assigned to individuals, cooperatives, communities or other entities, who would be allowed to fish up to their assigned limit. Catch share participants also agree to stop fishing when they have caught as much as they are allowed.

Under traditional management programs, fishermen compete for a total allowable catch. This has led to fishermen racing each other to catch as many fish as they can before the total catch limit is reached. This results in more boats and gear than necessary, quotas being exceeded, increasingly shorter fishing seasons, unsafe fishing and high levels of bycatch. It also may result in too many fish brought to market at once, reducing their market value to fishermen and coastal communities.

“Catch shares allow fishermen to plan their businesses better and be more selective about when and how they catch their allotment, because they know their share of the fishery is secure,” said Dr. Jim Balsiger, acting administrator of NOAA’s Fisheries Service. “They can plan their fishing schedules in response to weather, market, and individual business conditions. Catch share programs help eliminate the race to fish, reduce overcapacity and bycatch, enhance the safety of fishermen and their vessels, and improve economic efficiency. They also help ensure fishermen adhere to annual catch limits because the value of their share is directly linked to the overall health of the fish stock and its habitat.”

While catch shares are not always universally embraced when they are first introduced, their benefits have been well proven. “We fought against the program right up until the time it passed,” said Alaska fisherman Rob Wurm, referring to the halibut and sablefish catch share program, which began in 1995. “But to my surprise, it really has worked well. It has created a lot of stability, stopped the race for fish and changed the fishing environment in ways that have made it safer and allowed us to avoid bycatch.”

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Halibut fishermen had been reduced to a fishing season of less than a week just before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council introduced an individual fishing quota program. Under this catch share program, fishermen have a quota they can catch over a season that now runs from March to November. The program has dramatically reduced fishing accidents, extended the sale of fresh halibut for a premium price, given fishermen time to avoid bycatch of undersized halibut and other bycatch and promoted sustainable management of the fishery. The program has reduced the number of people holding fishing permits while providing those in the industry with more stable and sustainable jobs. Members of NOAA's Catch Shares Policy Task Force, which includes participants from each of the eight councils as well as NOAA experts, provided significant input on the draft policy.

Among the policy's components:

- Development of a catch share program is voluntary. NOAA will not mandate the use of catch shares in any commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishery.
- The individual fishery management councils will consult fishing communities to evaluate the data, effects, and enforceability of any potential catch share program before moving forward. In some cases, councils may find catch shares not to be the most appropriate management option.
- NOAA will provide leadership and resources and work in partnership with fishery management councils, states and members of the public to help with the implementation of catch shares. This includes assisting fishing communities as they make the transition, and conducting regional workshops, online seminars, and other educational and outreach programs.
- Well thought-out and developed catch share programs will promote sustainable fishing communities by supporting good jobs, and promoting preservation of wharfs, processing facilities, and fuel and ice suppliers.
- Catch share programs can be designed to set aside shares to allow new participants into the fishery, including new generations of fishermen, small businesses, or others.

NOAA encourages those councils adopting catch shares to consider a royalty system to support science, research and management as fisheries become more profitable under the program. NOAA will also seek appropriated funds to supplement what may be collected through cost recovery and royalties to assist in the design, transition period and operation of catch share programs.

“I commend NOAA and its National Marine Fisheries Service on the inclusive makeup of the Catch Share Task Force and its willingness to openly address the concerns of task force members,” said George Geiger, a recreational fisherman from Florida who served on NOAA's Catch Share Task Force. “From my personal perspective, I do not see catch shares as the secret for ending overfishing, especially in the reef fishery in the South Atlantic. But certainly it is a tool which could be considered for controlling fishing effort. I also encourage the public to take a look at the draft policy and make comments to help improve this national policy.”

To read and comment on the draft policy, go to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares>. The public may submit written comments until April 10. After reviewing and considering comments, NOAA will issue the final policy.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

# Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting

## June 2-4, 2010

### Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho



**You are invited to attend the 2010 Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting!**

**Please join us for a stimulating meeting with all of your top colleagues.**

#### **Important Information:**

- Located at Grove Hotel in rockin' downtown Boise! (reservation info to come)
- Proceedings planned to be published in special issue of Transactions of the American Fisheries Society (more info to come)
- Student travel scholarship to be provided by AFS Genetics Section (more info to come)
- Mug at registration entitles holder to free beer at Banquet!
- Finish with a rafting trip on the Payette River!

#### **Tentative Agenda:**

Tuesday, June 1:

Evening - Ice-Breaker Social

Wednesday, June 2:

Morning - Plenary session: Genetic adaptation of salmonids

Afternoon – Plenary and general session

Evening – Poster Session

Thursday, June 3:

Morning - General session

Afternoon – Fluidigm Exhibit and Breakout Meetings

Evening – Social & Banquet

Friday, June 4:

Morning – General Session

Afternoon – Rafting trip

Artwork by Danielle Dorsch

The Fluidigm logo, featuring the word "Fluidigm" in a blue sans-serif font and a blue square icon with a white grid pattern.



Contacts: Shawn Narum ([nars@critfc.org](mailto:nars@critfc.org)) or Chris Kozfkay ([christine.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:christine.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov))

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## 2010 River Restoration Short Courses Announcement



Learn the scientific basis for stream restoration activities in a collaborative, hands-on environment at the 2010 Stream Restoration Short Courses. In this course, experienced restoration researchers and practitioners work with participants in the classroom and at multiple field sites.

The five-day introductory course provides an overview of the scientific basis for stream restoration activities (Part I) and an overview of the application of principles of hydraulics, sediment transport, and geomorphology to channel design (Part II).

The course integrates the perspectives of leading academic researchers as well as practitioners in river restoration. Across that spectrum, the course draws on a range of approaches including application of state-of-the-art hydraulics and sediment transport, historical geomorphic-ecological process analysis, integration with urban infrastructure constraints, as well as resource-focused approaches. In addition to field techniques, the course uses spreadsheet models to calculate sediment transport and channel design based on this analysis, map and aerial photo analysis, and sequential problem solving in approaching restoration of fluvial processes.

If you are interested in getting more information or taking the courses, visit one of the websites below.

### Part I Courses:

-May 24-28, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland, <http://www.palmerlab.umd.edu/> (This webpage will be updated in future months with detailed information about the shortcourse)

-July 12-16, 2010 in Logan, Utah [www.cnr.usu.edu/streamrestoration](http://www.cnr.usu.edu/streamrestoration)

-August 16-20, 2010 in Sagehen Creek Field Station near Lake Tahoe, California, <http://sagehen.ucnrs.org/courses/geomorph.htm>

### Part II Course:

-August 9-12, 2010 in Logan, Utah [www.cnr.usu.edu/streamrestoration](http://www.cnr.usu.edu/streamrestoration)

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## 2008–2009 Cal-Neva Chapter Executive Committee

### Chapter Officers

President	Michelle Workman	<a href="mailto:mworkman@fws.gov">mworkman@fws.gov</a>	(209) 365-1486
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