



# *Pisces*

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4, FALL 1999

## Continuing an AFS Tradition

**Mike Mienz, President**

In 1972, I started my first professional job as a fisheries biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game in Stockton. John E. Skinner was my project supervisor and the person who hired me. John, who was memorialized by the American Fisheries Society after his untimely death in a house fire, was the quintessential mentor. Even though he was the father of five, active in his church and community, and accomplished on his job, he still found the time to be president of the California-Nevada Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Realizing the importance the Society could play in my ongoing education and professional development, John frequently encourage me to get involved in Chapter activities. He realized that the traditional way ongoing professional development occurred was through participation in the annual meeting.

Although I have been peripherally involved in Cal-Neva affairs over the years, it wasn't until last year that I finally took John's advice and agreed to get more involved by running for President. I was honored by my election and after one year on the job, I realize that John Skinner was right on. Getting involved is professionally enriching. Coordinating the production of our annual meeting and assuring the continuation of our 34-year tradition gave me a great sense of accomplishment. At times it was tense but over 100 volunteers stepped forward to help. The end result was a professionally enriching experience for me and for all those attending or participating.

Next year our tradition will continue in Ventura (See the Call For Papers in this Issue of *Pisces*) and John Skinner's 1972 advice to "get involved" is still valid. Elise Holland is our new President-elect and coordinator of our 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting [(415) 896-5900 or eholland@esassoc.com]. I encourage all of you to become a part of the Cal-Neva tradition, volunteer, and to feel the sense of enrichment that comes from getting involved. Elise will be looking for individuals to chair or coordinate the Marine or Inland Fisheries Symposium, Marine or Inland Fisheries Technical Sessions, Session Speakers, the Poster Session, Commercial Exhibits, Local Arrangements, Student Volunteers, Program Art, Registration, and the Raffle. Don't be shy, contact Elise and volunteer.

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## **AFS Meets With DFG Director Hight**

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*Ken Hashagen, President, Western Division of AFS*

On October 5, Mike Meinz, representing the Cal-Neva Chapter, and I, representing the Western Division, met with Department of Fish and Game Director Robert Hight and his Administrative Assistant, Diana Jacobs. Director Hight, previously Executive Director of the State Lands Commission, had little knowledge of AFS, but Ms. Jacobs has been a member of the Society since 1992. For 45 minutes, we explained what AFS is, its history, the Chapter and Division alignment, annual meetings, the need for research, the need for professionalism, continuing education, and publishing in peer reviewed journals. We pointed out the need for support by the Department for attendance at both in-state and out-of-state meeting and the need for continuing education and professional development opportunities of a technical nature. After pointing out the Chapter's history of a strong continuing education program and past continuing education interactions with the Department, Director Hight invited us to work with the Department's Training Officer to develop training that would be available to the Department's employees. The Chapter has developed training courses for the Department in the past. We identify an instructor, find a classroom, advertise, and handle registration, thus saving the Department a lot of work in advertising and contracting with instructors. For our effort, the Chapter gets a small amount of the registration fee, which is directed toward future Chapter activities. Director Hight also was supportive of Department of Fish and Game employees attending Chapter meetings as well as Division meetings, if funding is available. We went away from the meeting feeling that a positive first step had been made towards a continuing positive and professional relationship with the Department.

## **Holland and Low Elected to Leadership Posts in the Chapter Executive Committee**

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*Mike Mienz, President*

The Executive Committee of the Chapter consists of five elected officers and the Chairs of our various Chapter committees. The five elected officer posts are the current President, President-elect, and Past-President, plus the Treasurer and Secretary. Each year the Chapter membership elects a new person to begin a three-year "presidency cycle." The successful candidate serves their first year as President Elect, their second as President, and their third as Past President. Elections for Treasurer and Secretary are held separately in alternate years, and successful candidates serve two years in these posts. In 1999 we held our election for the post of Treasurer. The Chapter's 1999 election was conducted by mail ballot in early summer.

This year the membership elected Elise Holland to the office of President-elect and Alice Low to the office of Treasurer. Both are very talented and experienced fishery professionals who have served the Chapter well in previous roles on the Executive Committee. Elise just finished serving a two-year term as Chapter Treasurer. Alice previously served three years as chair of the Awards Committee. Elise and Alice join President Mike Meinz, Past-President Pat Coulston, and Secretary Scott Wilcox as the Chapter's elected officers for 1999-2000.

Congratulations to Elise and Alice, and thanks to them for their willingness to serve the Chapter. In addition, the Chapter gratefully acknowledges Mike Thabault for running for President-elect.

## Call for Papers for AFS Conference 2000

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*Elise Holland, President-elect*

Theme: From Mountain to Marine: Managing Fisheries in the New Millenium

Date: March 30-31, and April 1, 2000

Place: The Holiday Inn in Ventura

Preparations for the 2000 annual meeting have just started. We are looking for session chairs and papers in the following subject areas:

- Climate Change and Ocean Production
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Steelhead Restoration, Critical Habitat
- Habitat Conservation Plans
- Exotic Species
- FERC Relicensing - Fish Passage and other issues
- Marine Sanctuaries and Biological Preserves
- Steelhead Critical Habitat, Restoration Successes
- Geomorphic Process Restoration
- Squid Management
- Salmon Genetics

For room reservations please call (800) 842-0800 or (805) 648-7731. Don't forget to mention that you are part of the AFS Conference!

## Call for Cal-Neva Chapter Award Nominations

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*Alice Low, Treasurer*

The Cal-Neva Chapter is seeking nominations for Chapter awards to be presented at the March 2000 meeting. The Chapter awards include Award of Excellence, Distinguished Professional Achievement, Conservation Achievement, and Special Contribution Awards. For further information on the awards or to submit nominations, please contact Alice Low. Award nominations should be submitted no later than December 1.

### **A Continuing Tradition. . .**

**From Page 1**

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Cal-Neva Executive Committee for volunteering and being part the Cal-Neva tradition. Pat Coulston, Elise Holland, Scott Wilcox, Jeff Hagar, Sharon Shiba, Wayne Lifton, Ted Frink, Ramona Swenson, Kathy Hieb, Dave Lentz, Juan Cervantes, Lauren Buffaloe, Cindy Chadwick Darling, Ken Hashagen, and Heather McIntire. I owe you all debt of gratitude for your time and leadership.

## Conservation Committee Issues: Act Now!

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*Ted Frink, Conservation Committee Chair*

### **NOAA Supports the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1999**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has urged members of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans to approve H.R. 1775, legislation offered by Rep. Gilchrest (R-MD) that would significantly improve efforts to protect estuarine habitats that provide shelter and food for the nation's fish and shellfish supply. H.R. 1775 is designed to complement existing habitat restoration programs by improving freshwater habitat features that support anadromous fish and rebuilding native coastal wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation. The intent of H.R. 1775 is to seek out and involve coastal states, estuary and coastal managers, local governments, and constituents in a collaborative program that protects and restores estuarine habitat. Full text of the bill may be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:h.r.1775>. For the complete press release, visit <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases99/sep99/noaa99r153.html>.

### **South Yuba Wild and Scenic River Bill Passes Legislature: Letters Needed to Urge Governor Davis' Signature**

In the last hours of its legislative session, the California State Assembly voted 42-33 to add a 39-mile segment of the South Yuba River in Nevada County to the California Wild & Scenic Rivers System. S.B. 496 now goes to Governor Gray Davis for his signature. If signed by Davis, the bill ensures the first addition to the state Wild & Scenic system in a decade. The bill was sponsored by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and introduced by Senator Byron Sher (D-Stanford).

The South Yuba is among the region's most popular recreation rivers, generating more than \$25 million in tourism and recreation revenues every year for the local economy. Nevada County residents, river friendly organizations, and many others have been fighting to protect the South Yuba from dam proposals for more than 20 years. Wild & Scenic designation of the South Yuba will stop two Yuba County dam proposals that would have drowned a state park, thousands of acres of public recreation land, and hundreds of acres of private property.

Please write a letter today to Governor Gray Davis urging him to sign S.B. 496, designating the South Yuba as a California Wild & Scenic River. Be sure to mention the following points in your letter:

S.B. 496 will not conflict with needed flood control measures for Yuba County. Congress recently approved a \$17 million levee improvement project for Yuba County that will provide a higher level of flood protection than Sacramento currently enjoys.

S.B. 496 is consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Plan, the State Water Plan, the Nevada County General Plan, existing state and federal management of public lands along the river, and the views of a large majority of riverside private landowners.

S.B. 496 is needed to prohibit new dams proposed by Yuba County that threatened to drown the Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport, thousands of acres of federally managed public recreation lands, the longest wheelchair-accessible wilderness trail in the nation, numerous Native American cultural and historic Gold Rush sites, and hundreds of acres of private land.

Mail or fax your letter to: Governor Gray Davis, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, fax number, (916) 442-4633. For more information, visit <http://www.amrivers.org/yuba-action.html> or contact Traci Sheehan at Friends of the River, (916) 442-3155 or [tsheehan@friendsoftheriver.org](mailto:tsheehan@friendsoftheriver.org).

## Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for a Petition to List White Abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) as Endangered

**Agency:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**Action:** Notice of petition finding; request for information and comments.

**Summary:** NMFS has received a petition to list white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) as an endangered species on an emergency basis and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NMFS finds that the petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information indicating that the request for listing may be warranted. Therefore, NMFS is conducting a status review to determine whether the petitioned action is warranted. To assure that the review is comprehensive, NMFS is soliciting information and data regarding this species and potential critical habitat from any interested party. We will use information received during the comment period, and other information, in our review of the status of white abalone. The petition does not present substantial evidence to warrant the listing of white abalone on an emergency basis at this time.

**Dates:** Comments and information must be received by November 23, 1999.

**Addresses:** Requests for copies of the petition and comments regarding white abalone should be submitted to Irma Lagomarsino, Division Manager for Protected Resources, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA, 90802-4213. The petition and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, Monday through Friday at the address above. To ensure that the white abalone status review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial data, NMFS is soliciting information and comments on whether the white abalone is endangered or threatened based on the above listing criteria. Specifically, NMFS is soliciting information in the following areas: historical and current abundance of white abalone, current spatial distribution, trends in abundance, historic harvest levels, and possible threats to genetic integrity or demography due to reduced numbers of white abalone individuals. NMFS is also soliciting information regarding factors that have contributed to the decline of white abalone and any efforts being made to protect the species. This information should address white abalone throughout its range, from Point Conception, California, U.S.A., to between Punta Tortugas and Punta Abreojos, Baja California, Mexico.

**Critical Habitat:** NMFS is also requesting information on areas that may qualify as critical habitat for white abalone in California. Areas that include the physical and biological features essential to the recovery of the species should be identified. Areas outside the present range should also be identified if such areas are essential to the recovery of the species. For areas potentially qualifying as critical habitat, NMFS is requesting the following information describing: (1) The activities that affect the area or could be affected by the designation and (2) the economic costs and benefits of additional requirements of management measures likely to result from the designation.

## FIN Activities Focus on Tidewater Goby Delisting

**Ramona Swenson, FIN Manager**

The Fisheries Information Network and the Conservation Committee, in addition to several chapter members expert in this species, commented unfavorably on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's proposal to delist the tidewater goby. This small fish is restricted to coastal lagoons and estuaries in California and lives only one year. Declines in the number of populations led to its listing in 1994 as an endangered species. In recent high flow years, gobies have been found in additional areas in Southern California, presumably transported from nearby upshore populations, although these may not be stable populations. This year, the USFWS proposed delisting for all populations north of San Diego and Orange Counties because it felt that the threats are less severe than previously believed and that the species can recolonize habitats from which it is temporarily absent. The proposal to eliminate protection for the northern tidewater goby populations, however, is premature and ill-advised. The USFWS assessment of threats is inconsistent; many of the threats the USFWS cites for southern California are relevant throughout the range. The opportunities for recolonization among isolated coastal streams are overestimated, the metapopulation analysis used to split off the southern populations was based on preliminary genetic data, and the listing ignores the certainty of a drought recurring. We are concerned that if the tidewater goby is delisted because populations are doing well at this time, then there will be little buffer for the species when drought conditions return, especially in light of continuing coastal development.

## American Fisheries Society Holds Student Writing Contest

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**Laura Hutchcroft, AFS National Headquarters**

The American Fisheries Society is holding its annual writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job communicating the value of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (in other words, journalistic style).

Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. Most important is that students write their articles in a manner that the general public can understand so people can appreciate why the research is relevant and how it could help society and the fisheries resource.

The top three winners will be invited to the AFS annual meeting (at winner's expense), where their articles will be prominently displayed at the poster session; they also will be given a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winning articles will be published in *FISHERIES*.

Deadline for articles is January 15, 2000. Please mail five copies of the articles to Laura Hutchcroft, AFS; 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110; Bethesda, MD 20814. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Hutchcroft at (301) 897-8616, extension 201.

## Membership Drive 1999 — “Recruit Just One More!”

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**Jeff Hagar, Membership Chair**

As an AFS member, you are well aware that the Society is an active and vital organization, but we need the continued support of our members to remain so. This year, you have an opportunity to contribute to the Society's growth.

How hard would it be to find one more person who would benefit professionally from membership in AFS? Each of us interacts with other fisheries professionals on a daily basis. Do they all enjoy the benefits of membership in AFS? Here is your chance to find out and to contribute to AFS in return. During the year, we will be asking each member to find one individual who may be interested in joining AFS and invite them to join.

Just have the prospective member use the regular application (*FISHERIES*, January 1999, 24(1):43), and enter your name in the space where it asks if the applicant was recruited by an AFS member. For every referral you will receive a hat from AFS. As a special incentive, we will hold a drawing of all referrals and send the winner to the 2000 Cal-Neva Chapter Annual Meeting for **FREE!** This includes the meeting registration fee and lodging. Although we are only asking each current member to recruit just one more member, the more referrals you have, the better your chances of winning.

So please help improve the vitality of your Society. Don't forget that AFS offers many benefits to fisheries professionals: opportunities to interact and share information with our peers at workshops and conferences; publications such as *FISHERIES* and several technical journals; and special discounts on AFS publications, including numerous standard reference books and conference proceedings.

As an AFS member, you also have the opportunity to join different sections and chapters within AFS. By selecting membership in the California-Nevada Chapter, you support Chapter activities and have the opportunity to become more involved in fisheries issues at the local level. Thank you for your efforts!

# National Symposium on Catch and Release in Marine Recreational Fisheries

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**Laura Hutchcroft**

Dates: December 5-8, 1999

Palace: Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center

## Objective and Format

The meeting provides a forum for discussing a variety of research, education, and fisheries management catch-release (and tag-release) issues in coastal and offshore recreational fisheries. Presentations, roundtable discussions, a poster session, and educational displays will enhance information exchange. Professional conference facilitators will lead consensus-building sessions to define future research and education-outreach needs. A proceedings is planned through the American Fisheries Society.

## Major Issues

The symposium will highlight research on impacts of circle hooks on survival of released fish, including striped bass, summer flounder, billfish, tuna, chinook salmon, and Pacific halibut. Work will be presented on bait-lure and single-treble hook effects on release mortality, venting fish swim bladders, pop-up satellite tag tracking of tournament released billfish, and blood chemistry changes in fish brought to the boat for release. Discussions will also focus on the increasingly important role of catch and release in marine fisheries management for striped bass, billfish, and other species. Anglers' attitudes and approaches to catch and release fishing will be examined. Roundtable discussions will address the effects of education, including media and tackle industry promotion, on marine anglers' catch-release fishing practices. The latter discussions will include Rip Cunningham and Doug Olander (editors-in chief, respectively, for *Salt Water Sportsman* and *Sport Fishing*), George Reiger, conservation editor for *Salt Water Sportsman* and contributing editor for *Field & Stream*, and Pete Barrett, associate publisher of *The Fisherman*.

Registration information is available on VIMS Web page ([www.vims.edu](http://www.vims.edu)) under Catch and Release Symposium. The early registration deadline is November 17, 1999. Daily registration is available. For more information contact: Jon Lucy, Symposium Chair, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, phone, (804) 684-7166; fax, (804) 684-7161; e-mail, [lucy@vims.edu](mailto:lucy@vims.edu).

# International Congress on the Biology of Fish: Meeting Announcement

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**Don D. MacKinlay**  
**Habitat & Enhancement Branch**  
**Fisheries & Oceans Canada**

The next International Congress on the Biology of Fish will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland, July 23-26, 2000. Information on this meeting is available at the following website: <http://www.fishbiologycongress.org>. The complete proceedings of the 1998 Congress are also available at the website, free for downloading by anyone (in Adobe Acrobat format). Information on how to get printed copies of previous proceedings is also provided. Planning for the individual Symposia for the Aberdeen Fish Biology Congress are just starting. If you have suggestions, or would like to be involved in organizing a session, please contact: Don MacKinlay, Habitat & Enhancement Branch, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC V6B 5G3 Canada, phone (604) 666-3520, fax (604) 666-6894, and e-mail, [makinlayd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:makinlayd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

# 1998-1999 Cal-Neva Chapter Executive Committee

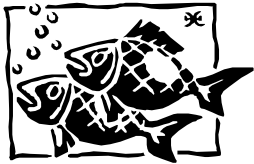
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## Chapter Officers

President	Mike Meinz	mmein@waterights.swrcb.ca.gov	(916) 657-2048
President-Elect	Elise Holland	pcbiker@ix.netcom.com	(415) 383-8055
Past President	Pat Coulston	pcoulsto@hq.dfg.ca.gov	(408) 649-2882
Treasurer	Alice Low	alow@waterights.swrcb.ca.gov	(916) 657-1985
Secretary	Scott Wilcox	sdw@eaest.com	(916)924-7450

## Committee Chairs

Membership	(vacant)		
Finance	Wayne Lifton	wlifton@entrix.com	(510) 935-9920
Bylaws and Nominations	(vacant)		
Conservation	Ted Frink	tfrink@water.ca.gov	(916) 227-0177
Fisheries Information Network	Ramona Swenson	rswenson@entrix.com	(510) 935-9920
Continuing Education	Kathy Hieb	khieb@delta.dfg.ca.gov	(209) 942-6078
Awards	(vacant)		
Policy and Resolutions	Dave Lentz	savagetrout@compuserve.com	(916) 358-2831
Sacramento-Davis Subunit	Juan Cervantes	jmcervantes@ucdavis.edu	(530) 750-0534
Newsletter Editor	Lauren Buffaloe	buffaloe@water.ca.gov	(916) 227-1375



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