

**Outstanding Chapter Award Application
Greater Than 100 Members
March 15, 2009 – March 15, 2010**

1. BACKGROUND & CHAPTER STRUCTURE

1a. **Chapter Name:** WASHINGTON – BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER



1b. **AFS Division:** Western Division



1c. **Chapter President:** Jim Shannon

1d. **Address:**
AFS WA-BC Chapter
415 118th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-586-9798
www.wabc-afs.org

1e. **Structure of Chapter^a:**

Officers:

President	Jim Shannon
President-Elect	Mark Pedersen
Vice President	Mark Celedonia
Past President	Larry Dominguez
Secretary- Treasurer	Erin Lowery
Newsletter Editor	Geraldine Vander Haegen
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Orlay Johnson

Committee Structure:

Standing Committees^b:

Forestry/Fisheries	Larry Dominguez
Continuing Education	Mark Celedonia
Environmental Affairs	Brian Missildine
Marine Fisheries	Bill Mavros
Student Affairs	Tad Schwager

a As a result of recent by-law revisions, a student representative will be added to the Executive Committee in September 2010. See Section "Other Activities" for details regarding by-laws revision. Structure shown below is as established by current (1991) by-laws.

b Revised by-laws that take effect in September 2010 will restructure Standing Committees. None of the Standing Committees shown below will exist as Standing Committees under the 2010 by-laws, although some may continue on as Ad-Hoc Committees.

Aquaculture
Indian Fisheries

Mark Pedersen
Roger Peters

Ad Hoc Committees:

Development	Eric Knudsen
Outreach	Bill Mavros
By-Laws & Procedural Manual Review	Eric Knudsen & Keith Underwood
Team 2011	Cleve Steward & Larry Dominguez
Fisheries Genetics	Todd Kassler
Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation	Keith Wolf & Greg Volkhardt

Membership Type	Total Number	% increase (or decrease) from previous year
Total Membership	886	+15%
New Members	115	+29%
Lost Members	unknown	unknown
Student Members	125	+58%
Parent Society Members	886	+15%

Focus Area 1, Aquatic Stewardship: AFS and its members will be leaders in promoting the sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Local and Global Leadership

The WA-BC Chapter ***organized and sponsored our 2009 Annual General Meeting*** in Shelton, WA (April 21-23). With the theme “New Science for Managing Uncertainty in Fisheries,” the 2009 AGM drew over 220 participants, including 34 students. Technical sessions included 154 papers, 14 poster presentations, and three workshops. Plenary speakers included global and local leaders from academia, government, tribal affairs, and outreach and education.

The WA-BC Chapter ***organized and sponsored our 2010 Annual General Meeting*** in Nanaimo, BC (March 2-4), where we co-convened with the Northeast Pacific Pink and Chum Workshop. With the theme “New Research and Applied Science to Meet Fishery Management Needs,” the 2010 AGM drew over 200 participants, including 37 student participants. Technical sessions included 120 oral and 15 poster presentations, and two workshops. Thirteen vendors participated in the Trade Show. Plenary speakers included global and local leaders from research and regulatory agencies, and conservation organizations. Regional television news covered the AGM (<http://www.youtube.com/ANewsVanIsland#p/u/22/it632bQ1axA>) and ***recognized attendees as the “world’s top authorities” on salmon science.***

WA-BC Chapter membership ***unanimously passed a controversial resolution to encourage treatment of Victoria, BC-area sewage discharged into the Strait of Juan de Fuca.*** The waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca are vitally important rearing, migration, and spawning habitats for commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important fish, shellfish, seabirds, and marine mammals, as well as myriad other marine organisms. In recent years an average of over 115 million litres of raw sewage, landfill leachate, and residential and commercial wastewater is discharged per day into waters near Victoria. The discharge includes twenty-eight chemicals at levels that exceed Canadian or provincial Water Quality Guidelines for the protection of fish and aquatic life. Among other proven effects, the effluent has also been found to be lethal to all fish exposed to 100% concentrations and kills 50% of fish when diluted to between 6 and 24% effluent. The resolution encouraged the implementation of Integrated Resources Management and supported the efforts of B.C. provincial and regional leaders, and the public, to bring secondary or better sewage treatment to the Capital Regional District of Victoria as quickly as possible.

The WA-BC ***sponsored Western Division AGM’s in both 2009 and 2010, and the AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville in 2009.***

Stewardship Education

The WA-BC Chapter ***contributed \$750 toward the publication of the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement’s calendar.*** The calendar was intended for public consumption and provides a monthly educational message promoting ecosystem processes, fisheries conservation, and stewardship. A WA-BC Chapter member ***provided a significant amount of text used in the calendar.***

The WA-BC Chapter ***approved funding for a Fisheries Academy Day Camp*** organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Day Camp is an ***education & outreach program designed to teach 10-12 year-olds the value of aquatic ecosystems*** and their species, and provide hands-on experience in species identification, sampling techniques, population monitoring, invasive species, cultural knowledge, teamwork skills, and careers in fisheries. Five one-day camps are

planned for 2010. This is a pilot effort, and the program may be expanded in 2011.

The WA-BC Chapter *provided technical training for 40 docents of the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail*. The Trail offers salmon viewing and habitat interpretation in a natural setting that educates students, teachers, and the general public about what Washington's at-risk salmon runs need to survive and prosper.

The WA-BC Chapter *supported a local hillside restoration project for 5th graders*. WA-BC Chapter President Jim Shannon chaired the restoration project, which allowed kids to plant wetland and upland vegetation, and learn about watershed processes.

The WA-BC Chapter *annually confers our Haig-Brown Award to recognize an individual or organization that has produced outstanding, non-technical articles or publications* on any aspect of fishery management, research, habitat protection, enhancement, or other related fields, best exemplifying the journalistic spirit in Haig-Brown's book *The Western Angler*: "Hand in hand with preserving and improving the fishery must go the work of presenting it properly to the public."

Promote Stewardship

The WA-BC Chapter *sponsored the recently published AFS book "Pacific Salmon Environmental And Life History Models: Advancing Science For Sustainable Salmon In The Future"*, edited by E. Eric Knudsen and J. Hal Michael, Jr. The volume contains over 20 technical papers documenting recent progress in modeling tools that have practical application for estimating full production capacity, determining appropriate harvest levels, and providing information essential for habitat remediation.

The WA-BC Chapter *sponsored the Pacific Salmonid Recovery Conference 2009*. This 3-day regional conference provided participants with current fisheries science, regulatory updates, and innovative strategies for assessment, restoration, and monitoring of salmonid populations and their habitat. The conference agenda was comprised of presentations from leading scientists, policy makers, and practitioners from throughout the Western U.S. and Canada.

The WA-BC Chapter has *provided funding/sponsorship of the upcoming conference Ecological Interactions between Wild and Hatchery Salmon*, a four day international effort to explore the scale and magnitude of the ecological effects of hatcheries, identify important gaps in knowledge and work towards resolving key issues.

The WA-BC Chapter *sponsored the Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Graduate Student Conference*, which provides a forum for students to share and learn about interdisciplinary approaches to the research and management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

The WA-BC Chapter *annually confers awards to deserving individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to fisheries and aquatic stewardship*. These include the Worthy Coelacanth, Volunteer Organization of the Year, Conservation Organization of the Year, and Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation.

Focus Area 2, Information Transfer and Outreach: AFS and its members will be recognized by decision makers and natural resource professionals as an important source of science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and their conservation, management, and sustainable development.

Visibility
The WA-BC Chapter sponsored numerous conferences and other activities (7 total; documented elsewhere in this application), which led to <i>placement of the WA-BC Chapter logo and web link on websites and printed materials thereby elevating the visibility of AFS</i> and the Chapter.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>2010 Annual General Meeting was covered on western British Columbia television news</i> (http://www.youtube.com/ANewsVanIsland#p/u/22/it632bQ1axA).
The WA-BC Chapter <i>posts chapter activities, including EXCOM meeting minutes and AGM proceedings, to the chapter website</i> . Many Chapter members have commented that the website's structure and content provides an outstanding resource for Chapter business.
The WA-BC Chapter provided a <i>summary of our 2009 AGM for publication in Fisheries magazine</i> .
The WA-BC Chapter <i>sponsored the 2009 Pacific Marine Expo</i> , a large commercial industry trade show. A Chapter member staffed a booth and provided information about AFS and the WA-BC Chapter.
WA-BC Chapter members <i>staffed booths at various conferences and events to promote AFS</i> , and to distribute information and member applications.
Collaboration
The WA-BC Chapter 2010 AGM was <i>held in conjunction with the Northeast Pacific Pink and Chum Workshop</i> . Extensive collaboration between the two organizations occurred during conference planning and implementation.
The WA-BC Chapter initiated <i>collaboration with the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter</i> to more efficiently work toward common conservation goals. This nascent collaboration effort has already included <i>promotion of each organization's activities and materials on the other's website and at the other's conference</i> . Officers of each organization have also committed to <i>long-term collaboration including a stated mutual interest to co-convene conferences</i> in the future.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>collaborated with Trout Unlimited to confer a joint award to a student researcher</i> for "Outstanding Student Research Supporting Salmon and Trout Recovery."
Professional Stature
<i>Professional certification workshops were held at both the 2009 and 2010 AGM's</i> . Workshops included discussions on values and benefits of professional certification, levels of certification and certification requirements, and the certification process. Both the <i>AFS Certified Fisheries Professional (FP-C)</i> and the Canadian Registered Professional Biologist (R.P.Bio) programs were included.
WA-BC Chapter membership boasts <i>36 Certified Fisheries Professionals (FP-C), the most of any AFS chapter</i> .
The WA-BC Chapter is <i>supporting the formation of student sub-units in Washington and British Columbia</i> by offering \$200 each to the first 8 schools to begin organizing an AFS student sub-unit. The fund will support refreshments and other first meeting expenses. The WA-BC Chapter <i>will also help by inviting professors</i> or other recent graduates of fisheries science programs to the meetings <i>to talk about the benefits of teaming up with AFS</i> .
A WA-BC Chapter representative <i>gave a brief talk about AFS, the WA-BC Chapter, and benefits of membership</i> to the Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems Graduate Student Conference

at the University of British Columbia <i>for the purpose of stimulating student membership and participation.</i>
The WA-BC Chapter annually <i>confers Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster awards</i> at our AGM's to stimulate student interest and participation.
At both the 2009 and 2010 AGM's, the WA-BC Chapter <i>hosted student-mentor socials</i> . Both were well-attended and led to internships and job information exchange.
Information Network:
The WA-BC Chapter <i>maintains a professional, comprehensive, and regularly-updated website</i> , which includes general information about the chapter and chapter activities, among other content.
WA-BC Chapter 2009 and 2010 AGM's were paperless. <i>Electronic registration and abstract submittal were mandatory</i> . Links were provided on the <i>Chapter website, which provided comprehensive AGM information</i> , including program schedule, symposia, guides for authors, lodging information, sponsorship information, abstracts, etc.
The WA-BC Chapter recently <i>upgraded its website</i> using WordPress capabilities.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>composes three newsletters per year</i> containing information about Executive Committee and Chapter activities, and other announcements regarding Chapter events, activities, and other information of benefit to Chapter members (e.g., fisheries related conferences, events, etc.). The newsletter is <i>paperless, distributed to Chapter members via the listserv</i> .
The WA-BC Chapter <i>maintains an email listserv to enhance communications</i> between the Executive Committee and Chapter members, and to distribute other pertinent announcements that arise between newsletters.
The WA-BC Chapter recently <i>established a Twitter account to enhance communications</i> among Chapter members and other interested parties.
Public Policy:
The WA-BC Chapter <i>formally transmitted our Victoria sewage treatment resolution to Victoria-area leaders</i> with prominent roles in crafting sewage treatment policy (see Item 3 under Aquatic Stewardship Focus Area above). The resolution was also <i>posted on the WA-BC website</i> .
WA-BC Chapter members have <i>assisted WDAFS by providing technical expertise on public policy issues</i> . WA-BC Chapter President Jim Shannon served on the Columbia River Adaptive Management Implementation Plan review committee. WA-BC members are also working with WDAFS to craft a resolution for the Pebble Mine proposal in Alaska.
The WA-BC Chapter has established a <i>working relationship with Save our Wild Salmon</i> and has included information dissemination for salmon recovery issues in the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and interviews of Chapter members.

Focus Area 3, Member Services: AFS will provide excellent, cost-efficient services, operations, and support for its members.

Professional Development and Recognition:

The WA-BC Chapter <i>provided free workshops</i> at our 2009 and 2010 AGM's. Workshops included conflict resolution and acoustic telemetry technology and products.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>sponsored and facilitated post-AGM field trips</i> to the Goldsborough Creek Dam Removal and Restoration project, and Vancouver Island University Fisheries Facilities.
The WA-BC Chapter regularly <i>organizes AGM tradeshows to help keep members abreast of conservation activities and emerging technology</i> .
The WA-BC Chapter <i>conferred numerous awards at our 2009 and 2010 AGM's to members who so graciously donated their time and energy</i> to the success of the Chapter and AFS. These included Past-President plaques, Meritorious Service certificates, and Certificates of Appreciation.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>promotes student involvement at AGM's</i> by providing registration waivers for volunteers, registration waivers for student presenters based on need, and discounted registration for other students.
The WA-BC Chapter <i>organized and hosted a one day Executive Committee and Leadership retreat</i> . The retreat was open to active WA-BC members and prospective members. The purpose was to provide an orientation to Chapter organization and business, and to stimulate interest in AFS and the WA-BC Chapter.
Science-Based Information:
<i>Planning for the 2011 AFS Annual Meeting in Seattle has occurred for nearly 2 years</i> and momentum is continuing to build for a successful event. WA-BC Chapter and the Western Division co-hosts are anticipating the largest Annual Meeting ever and is anticipating up to 4,000 participants at the Washington Convention and Trade Center venue. The Chapter has recruited nearly 60 people to date to oversee and support committee work and an additional 30 – 40 are likely to be recruited for on-site operations. The Chapter has seen an incredible agency and private industry response in support of this meeting. Innovative web-based planning, scheduling, and document review are an integral part of this organizing effort. The Planning Committee has been able to recruit early sponsorships and partnerships which is heightening the outlook for success in 2011. Please visit http://www.wabc-afs.org/team-2011/ for more information.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Rebuilding the WA-BC Chapter

As recently as 2005-2006, the WA-BC Chapter - known as the North Pacific International Chapter at the time - was nearly defunct. Although established in 1978, and successful for many years, the Chapter had gone for several years without an annual meeting, without an election of officers, and without much activity in general. It was difficult to believe that the largest AFS chapter (nearly 800 members) was almost moribund due to lack of activity. In 2007 the few remaining Executive Committee members, and several other committed Chapter members, took some risky but important actions to revive the Chapter. Special efforts were made to organize attractive annual meetings in 2007, 2008, 2009, with attendance increasing each year. Activities included a focus on students by creating opportunities for annual meeting attendance through fee

waivers, particularly for students willing to present project results, and by creating several student awards. Chapter dues were instituted to support student activities. In 2007, the Chapter boldly stepped forward with a bid to host the 2011 parent Society Annual Meeting in Seattle because the core members envisioned that such a move held a chance for further strengthening the Chapter. The bid was successful and the Chapter is now on its way to organizing the most successful AFS Annual Meeting ever. Because it was perceived the Chapter had a recognition problem, in 2008, the members approved a name change to the Washington-British Columbia Chapter of AFS. A new, more modern logo was also approved. Committees were reestablished and awards were once again conferred to deserving recipients.

In summary, this rebirth set the stage for the Chapter's greatest year in 2009-2010, as amply described in the activities and achievements detailed above. This resurgence is attracting new faces into AFS, the Chapter, the Executive Committee, and the volunteer corps. At this point, the WA-BC Chapter can be considered revived, but not fully recovered. Full recovery is expected over the coming years as an increasingly active membership will allow the Chapter to undertake additional challenges and seek additional means for furthering the mission of the Society and the Chapter.

By-Law Revisions

The WA-BC Chapter membership recently approved sweeping changes to Chapter by-laws. As part of the Chapter rebuilding process, Chapter leaders recognized that the existing by-laws (implemented in 1991) were outdated, cumbersome, and in need of revision. Major changes included restructuring the Executive Committee to combine the Newsletter Editor and Assistant Newsletter editor into one position, split the Secretary/Treasurer into 2 distinct positions, and add a Student Representative as a voting member of the Executive Committee. Most 1991 Standing Committees were either outdated or more appropriately considered Ad-Hoc Committees, and were therefore discarded in favor of more timeless Committees, including: Program, Nominations, Archive, Membership, Resolutions, and Awards. The remaining by-laws were streamlined, and a distinction was made between by-laws, rules, and procedures. For example, many old (1991) by-laws were more appropriately placed as rules or procedures. A by-law was also added recognizing student sub-units. Overall, the 2010 by-law revisions should facilitate more efficient Chapter operations and management. The new 2010 by-laws will take effect at the time of the 2010 Pittsburgh Annual Meeting.

Planning for the Future

The WA-BC Chapter Executive Committee has identified a need to provide more structure in planning and guiding Chapter business in the future. This will be achieved primarily by stepping down the parent society Strategic Plan into a Chapter-specific 5-year plan, and by developing annual Chapter Work Plans. We have implemented the early phases of these efforts...stay tuned!

Student Activities

Engaging and supporting students is a high priority for the Washington-British Columbia Chapter. Over the past year, the WA-BC Chapter has committed to students by increasing communication between the Executive Committee and universities, and by giving numerous awards, scholarships and waivers for conference registrations. The following items highlight the Chapter's student activities.

- The University of Washington student sub-unit was revitalized, with the election of officers and the recognition of their bylaws by the Chapter and the parent society. In recognition of the smaller fisheries programs around the region, the sub-unit explicitly opened itself up to students at other schools as well. The chapter has already hosted a successful Fisheries Trivia Night at the UW which raised \$200 for student travel. The student chapter is also partnering with a local Seattle kayak rental company to organize a Portage Bay/Lake Union clean-up event in late spring 2010.
- The 2009 AGM (April 21-23 in Shelton, WA) had a great student turnout, with 22 oral papers and five posters presented by students from four universities. Twelve student volunteers, along with ten student presenters received free registration to the meeting. Cash awards were given for top two student presentations, and for the best student poster.
- The 2010 AGM (March 2-4 in Nanaimo, BC) had 17 oral papers and three posters presented by students from six universities. Thirteen student volunteers received free registration. Cash awards were given for the best student presentation and poster.
- Student-Mentor socials were planned and sponsored at both AGMs and were well attended by a diverse mix of students and professionals in different fields.
- All proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets at the AGM awards banquet go to support student activities.
- The WA-BC Chapter encouraged its student members to attend other professional meetings. A \$500 travel scholarship was awarded to a student for attending the Western Division meeting in Arizona. In addition the Chapter covered full registration fees for seven students to attend the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem conference in Seattle.
- The Chapter has developed partnerships with other organizations to support student activities. For example, Trout Unlimited presented a plaque featuring a beautifully hand-carved rainbow trout for "Outstanding student research supporting conservation, protection, and restoration of North America's Coldwater Fisheries and Their Watersheds." Also, BC Hydro contributed \$5,000 to the Chapter, which was earmarked for student scholarships.