



IFC Newsletter

Volume I NUMBER 2

OCTOBER, 1998

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A NEW ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO INSTREAM FLOW ISSUES: A PROFILE OF THE INSTREAM FLOW COUNCIL

*From the Chronicle of Instream Flow Activities, USGS River Systems
Management Section*

A new professional organization called the Instream Flow Council (IFC) was formed in 1997 and is incorporated as a Section 501 © (6) non-profit organization. The first international biennial meeting of the IFC was held March 17-19, 1998 in Denver, Colorado.

The newly formed group is an organization of state and provincial fish and wildlife management agencies which are responsible for public trust resources and are dedicated to developing and administering effective instream flow programs for maximum beneficial use of aquatic resource values. The IFC is about states and provinces helping each other better fulfill their public trust responsibilities for stream ecosystem management.

Membership on the governing council of IFC is available to each state or provincial fish and wildlife agency (\$250 annual dues). Each member agency may appoint one

person to represent the interests of that agency and participate as a voting governing council member for conducting the official business of the Instream Flow Council. Agency representatives are expected to be those individuals who are senior personnel, qualified in the technical or administrative aspects of instream flow with that agency. General council membership is open to any individual (\$25 annual dues) or institution (\$500 annual dues) that shares the goals and objectives of the Instream Flow Council, and is committed to helping Governing Council members fulfill their public trust responsibilities.

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

The vision of the IFC is that each stream and river in North America would have instream flows that provide or maintain ecological functions and processes similar to or better than those exhibited in their natural or unaltered state. The mission of IFC is to improve the effectiveness of state and provincial instream flow programs and administrators for restoring, maintaining and enhancing aquatic ecosystems. The IFC holds that instream flow management must include the following principles:

1. Long-term sustainability as a fundamental value;
2. Clear and specific management goals;
3. Sound ecological models as a basis of understanding the structure and function of streams;
4. An understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of stream ecosystems;
5. A recognition of the dynamic character of stream systems and the organisms that reside therein;
6. Close attention to context and scale of instream flow issues;
7. Acknowledgment of humans as an ecosystem component; and
8. A commitment to adaptability, practicality and accountability.

Service Strategies

The IFC is committed to providing a number of services to its member states related to establishing ecologically sound instream flow protection for streams and rivers. Those actions dealing with member agencies are contingent on formal requests to participate by the member agency (or agencies) involved. Some of the major IFC strategies are:

- * Conflict resolution,
- * Instream flow program development and support
- * Scientific advancement of instream flow methods,
- * Facilitating cooperation and exchange between state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies

Officers and Structure

The IFC has the offices of President, President-elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Within the current North American structure (United States and Canada) of IFC there are five IFC Regions. These include four regions of the United States and one region of Canadian Provinces. A Regional Director elected from each Region serves on the IFC Executive Committee with the IFC officers. The IFC officers and Regional Directors are:

President: Tom Annear, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
phone (307) 777-4559 email: :tannea@missc.state.wy.us

President-elect: Gary E. Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources,
Fisheries Division

phone (517) 373-6948 email: :Whelang@dnr.state.mi

Secretary-Treasurer: Rick Jacobson, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection;

phone (860) 424-3482 email:rick.jacobson@po.state.ct.us

Region 1 Director: Gary Smith, California Department of Fish & Game

phone (916) 654-2571 email:gsmith@hq.dfg.ca.gov

Region 2 Director: Larry Hutchinson, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

phone (402) 471-5554 e mail:lhutch@ngpsun.ngpc.state.ne.us

Region 3 Director: Randy Moss, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Freshwater Studies

phone (512) 754-6845 email:rross@itouch.net

Region 4 Director: Rod Wentworth, Vermont Department of Fisheries

phone (802) 241-3709 email: rod@fwd.anr.state.vt.us

Region 5 Director: Allan Locke, Alberta Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Service, Fisheries Management Division, Alberta Canada

phone (403) 932-2388 email:alocke@telusplanet.net

For further information on the IFC, its goals, services, bylaws, and charter, please

contact: Tom Annear (IFC President):tannea@missc.state.wy.us, Wyoming

Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82006; or any of the officers or Regional Directors listed above. Special thanks to Larry Hutchinson for providing this information.

Check out the River Systems Management Section's internet site at <http://www:mesc.usgs.gov/rsm> for the latest information regarding instream flow training, research, software updates, and general information relating to the field of instream flow.

TROUT UNLIMITED OPENS WESTERN WATER PROJECT OFFICES IN COLORADO, OREGON, AND MONTANA

Trout Unlimited and WaterWatch of Oregon have opened three offices in the west to bird dog instream flow issues, water quality issues, endangered species and water resource management, salmon and trout management policies, and public outreach projects in the west. The Western Water Project will be publishing a quarterly newsletter, *Streamflow News*, starting in January, 1999. To get on the mailing list for this publication call 503-827-5700 or send an e mail to tuwest@teleport.com.

IFC PRESIDENT TOM ANNEAR RECOGNIZED AS FISHERIES DIVISION EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR BY WYOMING FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Tom Annear, IFC President and Instream Flow Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department was recognized by his department as 1997 Fisheries Division Employee of the Year for his work on reintroduction of the shovelnose sturgeon in to the Bighorn River and for his outstanding work securing instream flow water rights in the State of Wyoming. Congratulations Tom, we always knew you did a great job, its nice to see that you got the recognition you so richly deserve.

PENNSYLVANIA INSTREAM FLOW STUDY REPORT AVAILABLE

*By Leroy Young, PA Fish & Boat
Commission*

Those of you who attended the international meeting of the IFC in Denver in March, 1998 remember the presentation of results from the Pennsylvania Susquehanna River Basin Study. The final report of that study is now available from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front Street, Harrisburg PA 17102-2391 or call or e mail Pat Adams at 717-238-0427 or padams@srbc.net. The computer model associated with the study should be released sometime after the first of the year (1999). Stay tuned in future issues of the IFC Newsletter for more information regarding the software's availability.

VICTORY FOR THE PUBLIC TRUST IN PENNSYLVANIA

By John Marshall, OH DNR

On May 26, 1998 the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas issued a decision on the status of the Lehigh River. Judge Ann Lokuta ruled that the Lehigh River is a navigable river of the Commonwealth throughout its length which means that the public has the right to fish or boat in the river.

The 26 page decision came in the case brought by the Lehigh Falls Fishing Club against John Andrejewski. The club, which leased lands along a portion of the Lehigh claimed that they could exclude Andrejewski and other anglers from the portion of the river that flowed through their club even when they legally gained access without trespassing over the Club's land. Andrejewski argued that the Lehigh was one of the great rivers of the Commonwealth and that, as such, the bed of the river was under public jurisdiction. The judge cited numerous state and federal court cases in reaching her decision that the Lehigh was indeed navigable.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission attempted unsuccessfully to intervene in the case on the side of Andrejewski to protect the public's rights to use Pennsylvania's navigable waters. PFBC personnel did testify as witnesses in the case as to the status of the river and thus protecting the public's rights to fish in a navigable waterway.

The parties have not yet decided whether or not to appeal the decision to the Superior Court.

IFC'S FEDERAL AID GRANT APPLICATION STILL WAITING FOR APPROVAL

IFC's proposal for administrative grant funding is still waiting for the go ahead from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Federal Aid. The proposal is for the development of regional and national instream flow policies, procedures, and methods.

VERMONT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REVISED

By Rod Wentworth, VT ANR

Vermont's Water Resources Board has initiated formal rule making on the state's water quality standards. The rule making is the culmination of a two year process by state and federal representatives, environmental groups, utility representatives, ski industry representatives and agricultural and silvicultural interests. Wentworth "spoke for the fish" in the process.

The revision is intended to provide clarity and predictability, better management of stream flow and reservoir levels, additional water quality protection, and consistency with federal requirements. The rules currently address, for the first time, numerical criteria for biological integrity and instream flow standards. The instream flow standards continue to be some of the more controversial aspects of the standard revision. Water Resources Board Chairman Davies has praised the work of all involved parties as "policy

through collaboration rather than confrontation." The final rule making process should occur in February, 1999.

For more information contact Rod Wentworth at 802-241-3709 or rod@fwd.anr.state.vt.us.

IFC POSTER/DISPLAY AND BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Annear recently has built a poster and display that was unveiled at the Western Regional Instream Flow Conference held at Copper Mountain Colorado. He wants to make sure that Council members know that it exists, it is quite nice for table-top displays and it is quite transportable. It is a 40 inch by 28 inch light box with a few snippets from the IFC Charter, the IFC logo, and a photo background. It fits into a fairly manageable size box and is mailable via normal ground carriers.

Randy Moss and Kevin Mayes of Texas have produced some attractive 3-fold brochures that complement the display board quite well. If you need that display board or some of the brochures, contact Tom directly.

IFC NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDS COUNCIL MEMBER OR INSTREAM FLOW COORDINATOR INPUT FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER. I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME STATE OR PROVINCE SPECIFIC ARTICLES RELATING TO INSTREAM FLOW ISSUES, STUDIES, LEGAL BATTLES WON OR LOST, SUCCESSES OR FAILURES. PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH YOUR THOUGHTS OR IDEAS FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER.

WE ALSO NEED A CATCHY NAME FOR THE IFC NEWSLETTER. PUT ON YOUR CREATIVE CAPS AND LET'S KICK OFF OUR SECOND YEAR WITH A BANG!!!!

