



President's Report to the IFC Membership May, 2002 – June, 2004

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It has been a busy two years for IFC since I took over the gavel at our 2002 meeting in Crossnore, North Carolina. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of what has happened. But first, let me begin by thanking all of you for your support and participation in IFC. I especially want to thank the Executive Committee for their diligence in working through many IFC issues via meetings, teleconferences and endless emails. Tom Annear, Allan Locke, Hal Beecher and Ian Chisholm lead the effort to produce the second edition of *Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship*. Thanks guys, and to all the authors for making this book a reality.

More than anything, IFC is about networking. In this regard, I think first of our very productive biennial meetings (if you have never attended a biennial meeting, talk to someone who has about their value). But perhaps our most ubiquitous tool is the IFC list server, which allows us to rapidly and efficiently share information, distribute action alerts, and get help from each other. Regional meetings are held in the years between biennial meetings, and in some cases teleconferences have been substituted due to tight travel budgets. Beginning with the 2004 biennial meeting, travel grants were made available and helped three people attend despite a lack of agency funding. Continuation of this program will be decided at this year's business meeting. Some members are rarely able to travel to meetings, and I would like to help them reap the benefits of attendance. Also among our core communication tools is the IFC web site. While we have added to the site, we have plans for great improvements. Expect to hear more about that (and other projects) in the near future.

You have all seen *Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship*, which was published early in 2002. Since then, IFC obtained a second grant to produce a much more polished second edition. Due out this July, you will see it soon so I will let the book speak for itself. In addition to serving as a valuable reference, proceeds from sales of the book will help seed future IFC projects.

I'm sure everyone knows by now that IFC is in the process of writing its first strategic plan. Determining our vision for the future and the specific projects we undertake relies on full member input. The draft plan covers this ground in detail and I will not do so here. Let me just say that our future course will be based on careful forethought.

One of the services IFC provides to members is technical assistance. Over the last two years, we provided technical or policy document reviews for three members. In the past we have also sent representatives to two states to provide hands-on assistance. Last year, IFC co-sponsored a training workshop on Two-Dimensional Hydrodynamic Modeling for Habitat Simulation.

To be effective, IFC must be influential outside of our organization. Toward that end we collaborate with other instream flow proponents; here are some examples from the past two years: invited speaker at World Watershed Summit, Washington DC, sponsored by TNC; invited participant at Southeastern-Great Lakes Instream Flow Roundtable, New Orleans, sponsored by the Mott Foundation and coordinated by the Gulf Restoration Network; invited participant at a meeting sponsored by TNC to discuss a River Science Network proposal. We continue to maintain our ties with the International Aquatic Modeling Group on future directions in instream flow research.

IFC will continue to focus on member services as we undertake new projects, soon with the guidance of our strategic plan. Water use conflicts are only going to increase and represent a significant threat to our fishery resources. Keep up the good fight!