2001 OFWIM Annual Meeting
Portland, OR

Field Trip to the Columbia River Gorge

Kathy Quindlen, VDGIF

Saturday morning found me a bit bleary-eyed and jet-lagged from cross-country travel, as I met the other members of our field trip party in the lobby of the Doubletree Columbia River hotel. After counting everyone and collecting last-minute payments, we piled onto the big tour bus. 19 of us had plenty of room to stretch out. Dave Marvin graciously provided the commentary, pointing out interesting sights along the way. It was still chilly and damp as we piled off the bus and walked through a passageway under the highway to our first destination, Multnomah Falls. After emerging from the tunnel I stood, astounded.

The magnificence of the Falls left me speechless. As we walked down the trail, I felt the mist from the waterfall settle around me, and the huge cedar trees and lush undergrowth made me feel as if I was in a cool rainforest. Amazingly, hardly anyone else was there. Robin, our tour bus driver, used Dave Marvin's digital camera to take the photo of all of us standing on the bridge. I don't need the photo to remember; the image of the Falls is etched in my mind.

Our next stop was the Bonneville Dam, an engineering wonder that spans the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has operated the dam for hydropower production since its construction was completed in 1938. We were submitted to a security check before being led on a tour of the Dam by a friendly and knowledgeable park ranger. We were shown into

Amy Martin, Editor
OFWIM Newsletter
4010 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
www.ofwim.org

a viewing room from which we could look down on the large turbines that generate the electricity. The turbines all operate at approximately 30 feet per minute, which is rather slower than we expected. It turns out that's the speed that is most efficient for providing a steady flow of energy while minimizing wear on the machinery. This second powerhouse was built in the 1980's and the turbines have only been in use for the last 10-12 years, so they were shiny and new and quite a site to behold.

I was expectant as we were ushered into the fish-viewing chamber, where 4 large windows showed us excellent views of Coho and Chinook salmon and rainbow trout. We learned that the folks who work as fish counters sit in front of a window before which all fish traversing the ladder will pass. These counters work for 8 hours with a 10-minute break each hour, 7 days a week from April through October. And we thought our jobs were tough. Earlier I had asked about eel passage and was told that, while there are no eels in Oregon, there are lamprey, and I looked eagerly for one. I was rewarded by seeing a lamprey taking a wild ride downstream on the current rushing through the narrow fish passage. We watched a short video about the Dam that

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explained the technical and fish passage aspects of the dam.

I was particularly fascinated by the miles-long pipe that transports juveniles around Bonneville Dam to a safe downstream re-entry point. We stopped in and talked with the fisheries scientists there and were shown how the PIT tags of incoming juvenile fish are automatically scanned. Fish having certain PIT tag numbers are shunted into the laboratory where they are weighed, measured, and given an all-around fish physical before being released into the river.

After leaving Bonneville Dam, we crossed the Bridge of the Gods. Spanning the Columbia River near the town of Cascade Locks at a height of 135 feet above the Bonneville pool, it is not a place for those afraid of heights! Since the width of the bridge is only 35 feet, looking down out of the bus window I could see straight down into the gorge. Gripping the seat made me feel much safer. The bridge gets its name from an Indian legend that says that the Great Spirit built the great stone bridge as a gift. In fact, about 1,000 years ago, a natural bridge (not a solid bridge, but definitely quite a blockage) was formed here, backing up the river for as much as 50 miles.   Over a period of many years, erosion gradually wore away the blockage, until the water broke through, leaving the natural bridge in place.

Indian legend tells that the Great Spirit assigned the wise old woman Loo-Wit to guard the bridge and sent his sons—Multnomah, the warrior, Klickitat (Mt. Adams), the totem-maker, and Wyeast (Mt. Hood), the singer—down to earth as the great snow mountains. All was well until the beautiful Squaw Mountain moved into a valley between Klickitat and Wyeast. The two brothers argued over who should win her affections, stomping their feet and belching fire, smoke, and red-hot rocks at each other until so many rocks hit the Bridge of the Gods that it fell into the river. Loo-Wit bravely tried to stop the fighting, and because she would not leave her post as guardian, she went down with

the bridge. The Great Spirit rewarded Loo-Wit by making her into the young and beautiful Mt. St. Helens.

Next, we visited the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, Washington. (Hey, I got to add Washington to my list of states visited!) The center provides exhibits and interpretations of the cultural and natural history of the Columbia River Gorge, and is dedicated to both preservation and conservation of these resources. A beautiful structure in itself, it contains a wealth of information about the area and some incredible exhibits. The 37-foot-high replica of a 19th century fish wheel was one of my favorites, as I had heard of but had never seen a fish wheel in action. A soccer ball was used to show how the fish were scooped up and transported by the wheel…a huge quantity of fish was harvested this way! Our guide powered up the restored Corliss Steam Engine that was used to run a sawmill in the 1900's. Also very interesting were the exhibits of Indian artifacts, including clothing, tools, and pottery. Somehow I don't remember the world's largest Rosary collection…but it is there as well.

As everyone knows, sight seeing makes you hungry, so at this point we were all ready for lunch. Not far from the Interpretive Center is the Skamania Lodge, where our tables were ready. The beautiful setting, with views from windows around the perimeter of the dining room, was eclipsed only by the outstanding food. The buffet included everything from fish (of course) to vegetarian entrees to delights for the carnivores in the group. And, in case you're wondering, I chose the mocha cheesecake for dessert. Ok, that was *one* of my dessert choices!

An après-lunch nap was not an option, for there was still the fish hatchery to visit. I was very interested in seeing the raceways full of salmon—juveniles, mid-

Columbia River Gorge, OR

Portland, OR

size, and adult fish—but there was something else I was looking for. Our guide had told us it would be here… I searched the pools…then I saw it—it was beautiful, incredible, big! It was an 8-foot sturgeon! They definitely don't grow 'em like that in Virginia. We fed the sturgeon (like they needed it), rainbow trout, and walleye in the small ponds near the walking trails. Everyone was impressed by the large numbers of healthy-looking salmon and the sophisticated mechanisms for bringing in water and for sorting and transporting the fish.

Tired and happy, we headed home on our comfy bus. Little did we know that, for many, the highlight of the trip was yet to come. At an overlook on the Columbia River Gorge, we stopped to take in the fading sunset. All was quiet until someone (alright, it was Jeff Trollinger) said "Hey, is that an owl over there?" Restrained pandemonium reigned until binoculars and bird books were brought out and the final identification was made. A wee northern pygmy owl posed patiently for us. Now that's something you won't see back East! Our bus driver shook his head as we chattered excitedly about the new addition to our life lists. All in all, it was certainly a day to remember.

Hello OFWIM'ers!

Art Smith, Preseident-Elect

I hope all of you who made it to our Portland conference enjoyed the show, and many thanks to the special people who organized and hosted the conference (you know who you are!). Without your dedication and belief in OFWIM, there certainly wouldn't have been anything to attend. More thanks must go to the presenters who made the conference worth attending. The professionalism exhibited, wide variety of topics presented, and depth of knowledge the presenters gave to the audience was a great treat. My greatest hope is that future conferences are equal to the quality this one was.

During the business meeting it was revealed that I had been elected President-Elect! I am humbled to have been chosen, and thank everyone who voted for me. I am excited at the prospect of helping lead our organization and look forward to fulfilling the assignments required of me. Also during the business meeting the Executive Committee decided that, although there are some lucky OFWIM members that do not have any travel restriction concerns, most of us do not fall into that category and it is much easier to attend conferences which are held closer to home. Therefore, future OFWIM conferences will be held in different areas of the country on a rotating basis.

One of the assignments for the President-Elect is to guide the planning and organization of the next conference. Traditionally for OFWIM, the President-Elect has been the on-site contact, providing the necessary logistical support to develop a quality conference like our most recent. However this year we have a unique opportunity to share some time with the American Fisheries Society's Computer User's Working Group if we hold our next conference in Baltimore. So with the development of this prospect, the Executive Committee decided to forgo tradition for a year or two, or perhaps even to develop a new tradition! Therefore our next conference will be held 22-24 August 2002 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, Maryland, and the year following we will meet in September 2003 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Pacific Northwest in 2001, Mid-Atlantic in 2002, and the Upper Midwest in 2003. I will play major roles in preparations for both of these conferences, and Jeff Waldon has graciously agreed to serve as the on-site contact for the 2002 conference. Undoubtedly Jeff and I will become very familiar with each other in the next year!

Our new tradition? Well, it was a unanimous decision by the Executive Committee that the on-site contacts should have more than a year to prepare for conferences. With the added time it is hoped that planing will be easier and costs kept to a minimum. So with the exception of this year's meeting, locations and approximate dates of future OFWIM conferences will be known.

Again, thanks for choosing me to help lead our group into the future. Stay tuned for developments with our Baltimore and Rapid City conferences, and please send me any comments or suggestions you may have.

Hey, I've got an idea, how about the West Coast in 2004?

An Information Clearinghouse On Wildlife Capture, Handling, And Transport

Mark R. Johnson DVM, Executive Director, Wildlife
  Veterinary Resources
          (excerpt, full article next newsletter)

There is a continuous desire among wildlife professionals to improve their skills and equipment for animal capture and handling. Wildlife capture and handling is a very small part of research, management, and conservation, yet the latter are often characteristically dependent on this essential component. Wildlife handling is also one of the most public and controversial aspects of the wildlife profession. And as a result, both the public and wildlife professionals are experiencing a demand and an enthusiasm for dramatic growth and change in our equipment, our techniques, and at times even in our attitudes and approaches.

Winter 2002

Wildlife Veterinary Resources (Wildlife VR) and its collaborators recognize that the most effective mechanism for this change is a comprehensive database which *truly* builds upon our field experiences. This clearinghouse would gather practical information from biologists from all around the world, so professionals can learn of other tools and techniques which vary from agency to agency, state to state, and country to country. Gathering these tools would increase options for the field biologist. And it will naturally result in significant change as researchers or managers first compare and contrast, then select the proper tools and techniques for their particular species, region, or objectives. Even as the information clearinghouse becomes a catalyst for change, it pays tribute to the extensive growth and accomplishments of wildlife professionals.

Project Description
Wildlife VR, in collaboration with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech University, is addressing this need by constructing an on-line Information Clearinghouse (ICH) which will be a collection of searchable, interactive, and perpetual databases on wildlife capture, handling, and transport. It will allow biologists to conduct a search as simply and completely as possible. It will also allow them to share their knowledge and experiences in a format which compliments published literature and which contains a variety of "gray" or unpublished literature such as field protocols, which can truly make the difference in field success and animal care. It's format will allow for contrast and comparison so species-specific guidelines can also be developed.

Organization History and Status
Wildlife VR is seeking discussion, partnerships, and supporters for this innovative professional resource. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to supporting the wildlife professional and promoting animal welfare in research and management. We recognize that all individuals inherently believe that animal welfare should be explored and strengthened within conservation, research, and management in a manner which maximizes the tools for the biologist and strengthens the wildlife profession. Wildlife VR is responding to this demand with field assistance, training, and professional resources such as the Information Clearinghouse.

For more details on this project, contact:
Wildlife Veterinary Resources, Inc.
Mark R. Johnson DVM, Executive Director
P.O. Box 10248
Bozeman, MT 59719—0248
Phone: (406) 586-4624
Email: mjohnson@wildliferesources.org
Website: www.wildliferesources.org

Pre-Announcement
(Tentative Plans)

Organization of Fish and Wildlife
Information Managers

2002 Annual Conference

Baltimore, MD
August 22-25, 2001

Proposed to be held in conjunction with:
**American Fisheries Society - Computer
Users Section**

Details and a Call for Papers and Posters can be found on
the OFWIM web site at:

www.ofwim.org

Baltimore Harbor at night

Photo courtesy of Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stan Allen, President

Last year, at the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) annual meeting in Silver Creek, Colorado, I had a weak moment and volunteered to be nominated for president-elect of the Organization. By unanimous decision (I was the only one to have a weak moment) I was voted in to office. Thankfully this organization is made up of outstanding and dedicated professionals, many who helped me this past year in fulfilling my duties. There are many individuals to thank, and I hope I can do that some justice here.

First and foremost, I want to recognize the outstanding job that Don Schrupp did this past year as President of OFWIM. Under his leadership, the organization has grown in both membership and purpose. I hope to do my part to carry forward what you started. Thank you, Don, from all of us!

Feedback from many of you tells me that the 2001 annual conference was a huge success. Held November 3-7, 2001 in Portland, Oregon, with the theme of "Data Standards from A-Z," even the weather conditions worked out perfectly (for November in Portland that is…). Saturday, we kicked off the meeting with an adventure filled field trip up the Columbia River Gorge and never looked back!

We spent the rest of our time focusing on the topic of data standards, literally from A to Z. With a registered attendance of 90 (see "2001 OFWIM Conference Attendance Statistics"), we began with an outstanding keynote opening session presentation from Meredith Lane, Academy of Natural Sciences. This was followed by a morning of broader presentations that set the stage for the remainder of the conference. Breaking into topical areas, conference participants learned through 20+ very well done presentations about data collection and data entry standards, volunteer data efforts, library/reference standards, metadata standards, and data management and delivery standards. Special sessions were held on metadata, library/reference information, and Jake Fabisch (IAFWA/NBII) led participants in discussion of ways to better incorporate state agencies into the NBII process. Our Banquet speaker was Dr. Jack Hill (Houston Advanced Research Center & NBII Coalition). Although "never having done it before," Dr. Hill kept us enthralled with what the future holds for data availability and uses.

Additional activities included our annual "Hacker's Ball", where everyone gets to show their stuff (on a computer). This also served as the primary opportunity for viewing and discussing the very professional poster presentations. Throughout the meeting, we were also able to provide some very nice raffle and door prize. Thank you to all those who donated items!

The OFWIM Business Meeting was well attended; please take some time to review the Minutes found on pages 10-13. Several items of particular note include the establishment of an award sub-committee and an annual award(s); establishment of a student and professional development scholarship (funded partly through raffle proceeds); and discussions and planning for next year's meeting. Mark your calendars now for August 22-25, 2002, in Baltimore, Maryland!

Well before the meeting and behind the scenes to most of you were some very hard working individuals that made the annual meeting and organization work. I cannot say enough about what Don Schrupp (CO Division of Wildlife), Lila Borge-Wills (Conservation Management Institute), Becky Wajda, Kathy Quindlen, Jeff Trollinger, Karen Reay and Amy Martin (VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries), Don Fago (WI Department of Natural Resources), Art Smith (SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks), and Randy Meissner (ND Game and Fish Department) provided to the success of this meeting. Dave Marvin (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission) led the way as our field trip leader. Thanks again to all of you who gave presentations, set up poster sessions, participated in the Hacker's Ball, provided raffle donations, and last but not least – attendees and new OFWIM members!

As I write, we are working to provide all presentations given during the 2001 meeting via the OFWIM web site (www.ofwim.org). Check there for regular updates about all of our activities and meetings.

I hope that everyone left the 2001 OFWIM meeting with increased knowledge and enthusiasm for your very important role in the fish and wildlife world, and in OFWIM, and perhaps understand "data standards" a little better. This organization is all about you – the professional fish and wildlife information manager. Please do not hesitate at any time to contact me, an Executive Committee member, or your regional OFWIM contact, with questions, suggestions, etc.
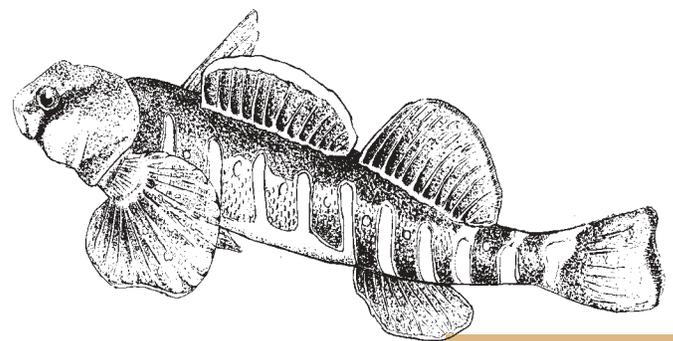

Illustration by Mike Pinder, VDGIF
Candy Darter (*Etheostoma osburni*)

W i n t e r
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Welcome to New OFWIM Executive Committee Members and Newsletter Editor

Stan Allen, President

At our annual Business Meeting, held on November 6, 2001 in Portland, Oregon, the OFWIM membership voted in two new members to the Executive Committee. Congratulations and welcome to Art Smith (South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks) who was elected to the President-Elect position, and to Barb White (US Fish and Wildlife Service) who was elected as Member-At-Large.

Another critical position, although not elected, changed hands recently. Amy Martin (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Newsletter Editor, beginning with this edition. Amy replaces outgoing Editor, Kathy Quindlen, who has done an outstanding job of providing OFWIM with a very professional newsletter.

OFWIM 2001-2002 Executive Committee

President:	Stan Allen	stan_allen@psmfc.org
President:	Art Smith	Arthur.Smith@state.sd.us
Past President:	Don Schrupp	hqwris@lamar.ColoState.EDU
Secretary:	Karen Reay	kreay@dgif.state.va.us
Treasurer:	Jeff Trollinger	jtrollinger@dgif.state.va.us
Member-At-Large:	Barb White	barb_white@fws.gov
Newsletter Editor:	Amy Martin	amartin@dgif.state.va.us

NBII Nodes Get the Nod

Jennifer Gaines, National Biological Information Infrastructure

2002 marks the continuation of exciting progress for the NBII <www.nbii.gov>, a Web-based system that provides access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. We have long been aware of the dramatic strides possible in the management of the nation's scientific and technical information through the development and promotion of a structured system of nodes and now the resources are in place to carry on this important work (the nodes will be interconnected entry points that, taken together, will form the NBII). Each NBII node is being designed to focus on a narrowly defined scope or purpose, or on a group of issues related by a single geographic region. Hence, there are three types of nodes: regional, thematic, and infrastructure.

Regional nodes, such as the Central Southwest/Gulf Coast Information Node, will manage content important to that area of the country, such as sustainable development, with special emphasis on the application of spatial digital data analysis due to the large and often remote nature of the land and Gulf mass. It is being developed through the cooperative efforts of the Houston Advanced Research Center and the USGS Center for Biological Informatics. Other regional nodes underway include: Pacific Basin, Pacific Northwest, California, Northern Rockies, and Southern Appalachian.
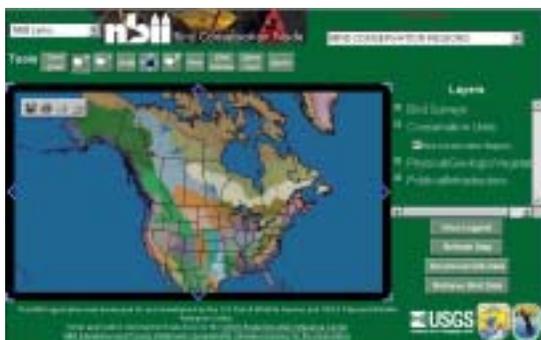
Thematic nodes focus on developing, acquiring, and managing content in a defined subject area. At present, two such nodes are under development: the Bird Conservation Node and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Node.

Infrastructure nodes promote and support the continued research and development of technologies, techniques,

standards, and applications for the management and accessibility of NBII content worldwide. These nodes will focus initially on Knowledge Integration through a public-private partnership, and Network Standards and Technology, in cooperation with leading universities including, Columbia University in New York.

Although we are just beginning to implement what will be a nationwide system of nodes offering coast-to-coast coverage and specialized information on a wide array of topics, support and planning for such a system has developed over the last decade. As early as 1990, a federal report issued by the Office of Technology Assessment called Helping America Compete: The Role of Federal Scientific and Technical Information, recognized that continuous information technology advancements are critical to the continued growth of the body of scientific knowledge. "Scientific and technical advancements are information-intensive, and those who know how to obtain and use [scientific and technical information] will have a competitive edge – whether the competition is over market share or over intellectual leadership on global issues." Although, it acknowledges, critical scientific and information is created by all sectors, the report supports development of a federal framework in which to lead information management efforts. "In the U.S. Government, the long-term objective is to develop a 'virtual' interagency information system… 'Virtual' means that the information system will be a family of decentralized data centers."

The birth of the NBII a few years later under the National Biological Service was a major step toward realizing this goal. In 1997, the need for an even more robust NBII was articulated in former Vice President Gore's report to the nation titled Access America: Reengineering Through Information Technology. In this National Performance Review briefing, Gore describes a hypothetical situation that, with

Mapping application with bird population and habitat monitoring data available through the NBII.

minor modifications, is echoed throughout the country hundreds of times every day. He portrays a team of planners faced with restoration of a publicly owned property that has become a shambles, much to the dismay of local citizens. The team, quite realistically, begins approaching their problem by finding the information they need by computer.

"Some of this information comes from a natural history museum in New York, some comes from a university in California, and some comes from the Department of Agriculture in Washington. In a short time, the team is able to retrieve and combine this information to learn what plants and animals lived on the site in the past. They can begin to plan how they could restore much of the natural habitat and return the site to its former state as a healthy natural ecosystem."

This example is realistic due to the existence of the NBII. And, though hypothetical, the cooperating information owners mentioned – the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the University of California, and the Department of Agriculture – all are actual NBII partners.

The concept of individual, specialized information nodes is generally traced to this call to action. However, Access America embraced and elaborated on a concept that was articulated one year earlier in Executive Order 13011, which charged federal agency heads with the responsibility to "structure major information systems investments into manageable projects as narrow in scope and brief in duration as practicable … to reduce risk, promote flexibility and interoperability, increase accountability, and better correlate mission need with current technology and market conditions."

In 1998 in Teaming with Life: Investing in Science to Understand and Use America's Living Capital, the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology noted that not only is distributed, interoperable development a good federal IT investment strategy, it's good for science as well. The Committee pointed out that in its current form, the NBII can provide access to only one database at a time and significant benefits could be realized through combined access. Calling it "next generation NBII" or "NBII-2," they envisioned that, "Through the NBII-2, a shared digital library system, scientists and policy makers will be able to collaborate with colleagues across geographic and temporal distances. … The research nodes of the NBII-2 should be … considered a long-term commitment by all the partners."

We couldn't agree more.

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Digital Net
**A system designed to catch fishery data
has many other applications too**
Richard Farr, Northwest Fisheries Science Center

For fisheries managers, the dilemma is acute. Let commercial fishers catch too much, and you risk destroying fragile stocks. Close a fishery without good evidence of biological need, and you risk destroying fragile communities. The dilemma is made much worse by the limited amount of available data.

Federal and other biologists collect data through stock surveys. Skippers (at least in some states) keep paper logbooks of their catches and discards. Fish processors complete "fish tickets." But the data collection is patchy, it lacks national or even regional standardization, and it's virtually impossible to collate in a timely and economic manner. Data "roll up" in some states can take *three years.*

What's bad for managers is bad for owners and skippers too: they don't have the information they need to make sound business decisions. And it was representatives of the West Coast fishing industry who, back in 1996, approached Dr. Usha Varanasi, Science Director at Seattle's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Surely, they said, there had to be a way to collect fishery-dependent data that's less… primitive.

"They were urging us to develop an electronic alternative to paper logbooks," says Carol Murray, Project Leader. "We thought, hey, no sweat. A simple Microsoft Access database—call us back in a week. Well, in reality it wasn't simple, it wasn't Access, and building it took over three years. But the result is something that may change both fishing and resource management nationally. Even globally."

EFCL (Electronic Fish Catch Logbook) had to do a lot of things, and do them cheaply, flexibly, and very well. A funding package of just over a million dollars from the Information Technology Innovation Fund required NWFSC to create a prototype product with a nationwide focus and the capability to pay for itself. Other design criteria included a

EFCL Physical Setup
Photo provided by Richard Farr

high degree of modularity, so that fishers, marine biologists and other users could integrate EFCL with existing mapping and charting utilities. Bank-level security protocols were a must, and the system was designed to permit web-based data access in real- or near-to-real time.

"The final product had to respect the realities of commercial fishers' equipment budgets," says EFCL team member Stewart Toshach. "There had to be an open connectivity standard, for piggybacking on the existing mapping and charting products of any company. And the system had to use hardware that most skippers already have: a PC, GPS, and a cell phone. Anyone with that much gear already on the boat will be able to buy into EFCL for the cost of the onboard program—which we expect to see selling for around $500."

What users need:

The central database consists of a web / e-mail / map server and a database server running Oracle 8.x. To connect to this system, **individual users at sea** will need:

- A personal computer capable of operating Windows 98, with at least 133Mhz processor, 32MB of RAM, 40MB of free disk space, and a CD-ROM

- Microsoft Outlook

- The Scientific Fishery / NWFSC application

- A GPS that is NMEA 0183 compatible and capable of connecting to the PC (location data can also be manually entered)

- An internet service provider

- Either a data capable cellular phone, a satellite phone or (if connections are not required at sea) a connection to a land line

Biologists, processors, and other **land-based users** have essentially the same system, minus the need for GPS and wireless communication.

The onboard application was developed jointly with a private sector partner, Scientific Fishery Systems, Inc. of Anchorage, through a CRADA (Cooperative Research and Development Agreement). It will be simple to use, because its design mirrors paper logbooks. But it's quicker, more reliable, more uniform, and more comprehensive than paper. The GPS gives every fishing event an automatic geo-spatial stamp. Most important: because the data from all user groups is uploaded in a standard form to an Oracle database and a secure web site, it can be integrated efficiently in near to real time.

Many different constituents are enthusiastic about EFCL, including people who never hear the cry of a gull. Soil

scientists and the trucking industry have already made inquires. There is still much development work to do, and decisions need to be made about pilot funding and enterprise management. Meanwhile, recent events have suggested yet another way to use this supple, powerful system: the Coast Guard is talking about applying EFCL to Homeland Defense. Something suspicious happening off the Massachusetts coast? If all the commercial fishing boats were running EFCL, the Coast Guard could instantly "subtract" them from its charts, greatly accelerating the job of identifying suspicious activity.

Defending the nation aside, the EFCL has the potential to revolutionize the management of fishery—and other—resources, says Murray. "The State of California will be running a pilot deployment of EFCL during the winter of 2001. The Department of Agriculture and the Coast Guard have both expressed an interest in the field reporting architecture. Internationally, there are enquiries coming in from the South Pacific Island States, the European Union, and the State of Queensland, Australia. The question about standardized electronic reporting is no longer if, but when."

EFCL Physical System Architecture

Figure 4: Physical System Architecture

Electronic Fish Catch Logbook Operational Architecture Diagram

Figure 2: Operational Architecture Diagram

EFCL Logical System Architecture

Figure 3: Logical System Architecture

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Becky Wajda, VDGIF

A hearty round of applause and thanks to the following agencies, organizations and individuals that donated items to the Raffle at the annual meeting in Portland:

Bruce Schmidt
California Department of Fish and Game
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ERSI)
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Pacific Fishing
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Southern Interior Forest Extension and Research Partnership (Canada)
Stan Allen
The Wildlife Center of Virginia
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Watchable Wildlife, Inc.
U.S. Geological Survey (Center for Biological Informatics)

Through their generosity, we made over $450!! As proposed during the annual business meeting, these funds will be used to help seed OFWIM's new student scholarship fund, enabling the Organization to continue providing opportunities for students to network with professionals in wildlife-related information management.

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Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Annual Business Meeting
November 7, 2001
Portland, Oregon

Meeting Minutes

I.   Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m., at the Doubletree Columbia River Hotel, Portland, Oregon. The president was in the chair. The newsletter editor acted in the place of the secretary, who was not present.

II.   Determination of Quorum

It was determined that there was a quorum of Organization members.

III.   President's Message

Mr. Don Schrupp delivered his President's message. The president presented books as gifts of appreciation to the conference planning committee members and executive committee.

IV.   Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted by Mr. Jeff Trollinger. Mr. Trollinger also presented the results of his inquiries into the cost of an audit, as suggested at the last business meeting. He found that Virginia passed a law that disallows Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) employed by the Commonwealth to do work for any organization that is associated with the Commonwealth. This precludes OFWIM from using a CPA who works for the VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries. Mr. Trollinger found that CPAs in private practice charge $3,500 - $5,000 for a full audit and $1,500 for a consultatory review. Discussion ensued regarding finding a CPA who would do it for a lower fee. Mr. Stan Allen offered to check with Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) regarding whether a CPA employed by the state of Oregon could do work for an organization like OFWIM. Mr. Allen also suggested we look at how other professional organizations conduct their audits. Ms. Barb White offered to check with the Society of Wetland Scientists, Mr. Don Schrupp with The Wildlife Society, and Mr. Art Smith with a subcommittee of The Wildlife Society that he is involved with. Mr. Jake Faibisch offered to look into whether there is an organization that provides accounting support or advice to nonprofit organizations. Mr. Allen made a motion to table this discussion until the members come back with more information. The motion was seconded by Ms. Becky Wajda. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

V.   The Secretary's Report

The minutes of the Organization's annual meeting held in August 2000 in Silver Creek, Colorado, Nevada, were approved as written.

The secretary's report was given by Ms. Kathy Quindlen for Ms. Karen Reay, who was not present. Ms. Quindlen stated that Ms. Reay had been maintaining the OFWIM mailing and membership lists and that all attendees of this meeting are now OFWIM members. A summary of the numbers of individual and organizational members and final numbers of attendees for the conference are in Attachment C. These minutes will be published in the OFWIM newsletter and posted on the OFWIM web site.

VII.   Committee Reports

A. Outreach: Mr. Don Schrupp noted that OFWIM's coordination with Jake Faibisch of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) has been the main outreach effort this year.

B.   Technical Trends: Nothing to report.

C.   Membership: Mr. Jeff Trollinger noted that a slate of nominees for the positions of President-Elect and Member-At-Large has been prepared. Currently, OFWIM has 89 members—5 government agency memberships and 84 individual memberships representing 20 states (see page 13). Publication of the online newsletter and the development and filling of the regional contact positions have been the major membership efforts this year.

D.   Communications: Ms. Kathy Quindlen stated that the OFWIM Newsletter was published twice this year in a very attractive format, and sent to a much larger recipient list than in the past. This was due to the use of email and list-serv, in addition to regular mail, to distribute the newsletter. Newsletter: Ms. Karen Reay noted that submissions are needed for the next issue of the newsletter. The next issue will include these meeting minutes.

E.   Data Standards: Mr. Don Fago, chair, handed out and discussed the summary of the data standards survey conducted by this committee over the past year. The OFWIM web site has Excel and .pdf files of the data set of 37 responses. Mr. Fago requested that OFWIM membership provide suggestions to him regarding how to improve the survey form to encourage more responses.

F.   Continuing Education: Mr. Jeff Waldon, chair, discussed continuing education projects that have been conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). NCTC helped to fund the "Introduction to GIS" course that was offered to Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) this past year. Three 3-day training classes were held for a total of 20 participants. A new cooperative agreement funding mechanism in the USFWS prevented OFWIM from getting funded this year. However, if there are states that are interested in receiving training through OFWIM, the Conservation Management Institute (CMI) will work with the states to deliver this. Any member who is interested in becoming a trainer for courses that OFWIM offers, such as New Technologies for Information Managers or Aerial Videography, should contact Mr. Waldon. Mr. Schrupp noted that the regional contacts could be instrumental in identifying and pursuing continuing education opportunities. Mr. Jerry Farringer asked if educational opportunities are posted on the web site. They have not been. It was agreed that courses should be posted on the web site.

The committee reports were accepted as presented.

VIII.   Old Business

A.   Ballots were handed out for the election of President-Elect and Member-At-Large.

B.   OFWIM Award: Ms. Wajda presented a proposed procedure developed by herself and Mr. Waldon for nominating and selecting award recipients. The award will recognize outstanding state agency internet-accessible database systems. The proposal used a framework developed by the Association for Conservation Information (ACI), a professional association of information and education staff of fish and wildlife agencies. There was discussion about the fact that there are many excellent database systems for which recognition is overdue, and it was suggested that more than one award be given for the first few years in order to recognize these sites. After a number of years, it would be preferable to restrict the award to new sites (developed within the past year or so). It was suggested that a graphic be developed that the award-winners could put on their web site that would link back to the OFWIM web page. There was discussion of the development of a subcommittee of the Outreach Committee that would be tasked with developing the criteria and process for this award. Mr. Schrupp made a motion that the proposal be accepted. Ms. Kathy Quindlen proposed an amendment that a subcommittee of the Outreach Committee be established to solicit nominations for the award and that a group be established by the President to review and amend the criteria and process. Mr. Allen seconded the motion as amended. The motion carried as amended.

C.   OFWIM.ORG: OFWIM purchased this domain name, which needs to be renewed annually.

IX.   New Business

A. New Officers: Mr. Stan Allen assumed the position of president as outlined in the Organization bylaws. Mr. Art Smith was installed as President-Elect and Ms. Barb White was installed as Member-At-Large. Mr. Allen thanked Mr. Schrupp for his leadership during the 15 months of his presidency.

B. Other Offices: Ms. Amy Martin was installed as newsletter editor.

C. OFWIM Committees: Outreach Committee - Awards Subcommittee. Ms. Becky Wajda and Mr. Jeff Waldon offered to be co-chairs of this committee. Mr. Randy Meissner, Mr. Don Fago, and Ms. Barb White offered to participate as committee members.

D. Student and Professional Scholarship Fund: Ms. Wajda initiated a discussion about a fund that would give developing professionals the opportunity to mingle with professionals in the field by providing travel funds to attend OFWIM meetings. The fund would be a separate interest-bearing account with some minimum principal so that the accumulated interest would be used to provide scholarships. Mr. Jeff Waldon suggested that we could budget some amount into the annual meeting registration fee for deposit into this fund. Proceeds from the raffle would go into the fund. Mr. Jeff Trollinger made a motion that OFWIM establish a student scholarship award fund using raffle monies and to be managed by the awards subcommittee. Mr. Art Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. OFWIM Logo: Mr. Kirk Keller made a motion that OFWIM investigate development of a new logo and that the logo be in a file format that can be used in multiple ways and in more than one color. Mr. Don Schrupp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. 2002 Annual Meeting: Mr. Jeff Waldon discussed his ideas regarding the 2002 meeting. Co-locating the meeting with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is intended to increase cross-pollination and attract more attendees from the other group. AFS Computer User's Section, which is chaired by OFWIM past-president Doug Beard, has agreed to work with OFWIM on this meeting. There is no agenda yet for the AFS meeting. Mr. Waldon agreed to do an open call for papers and symposia (not restricted to any specific topic or theme) in the next few weeks. If we do not receive papers on a topic that we feel should be addressed, then the planning committee should pursue papers for that topic area. An example is a GIS workshop or symposium. It was agreed that the 2002 meeting would be discussed in a separate meeting after lunch. Mr. Schrupp made a motion that we proceed with planning the 2002 meeting with AFS in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Wajda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. 2003 Annual Meeting. Mr. Art Smith presented some information about Rapid City, South Dakota, as a potential meeting site. He has already met with some hotels to discuss rates and availability. It was suggested that South Dakota would be a good central location if OFWIM is trying to rotate meetings between the east coast, the midwest or central U.S., and the west coast.

H. Conference Calls: Mr. Waldon noted that the executive committee has been working together well since holding regular conference calls. The Conservation Management Institute (CMI) has been paying for these calls, which can be costly, and they are looking for ways to reduce costs on these.

I. Montana wildlife capture and transport effort: Mr. Waldon passed along a letter to the OFWIM membership from Wildlife Veterinary Resources, Inc., requesting comments and suggestions regarding their proposal to develop an information clearinghouse on wildlife capture, handling, and transport (see page ___). Mr. Waldon asked members to comment directly to WVR Inc.

J. VA Tech Biodiversity and Ecosystem Informatics Program: VA Tech University is considering developing this type of program. OFWIM members that are interested in becoming involved by providing guidance to the University, please notify Mr. Waldon and the Continuing Education Committee.

K. OFWIM Budget: Mr. Trollinger brought up the question of whether OFWIM should develop a budget for the coming year. Mr. Allen suggested that our discussion concerning paying for conference calls, scholarships, and OFWIM business costs indicates the need for a budget. Mr. Schrupp offered to obtain a copy of the Colorado Division of Wildlife's business plan for use as an example. Ms. Wajda made a motion that a budget be developed; Mr. Trollinger seconded the motion; the motion carried.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Don Schrupp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Becky Wajda seconded the motion. The motion was adopted. Mr. Stan Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m. PST.

2001 OFWIM Conference Attendance Statistics

Geographic Distribution of Attendees

Northwest/West Coast	54 (60%)	**Mideast/Great Lakes**	3 (3%)	**New England/Mid-Atlantic**	14 (16%)
Alaska	14	Illinois	0	Connecticut	0
California	3	Indiana	0	Deleware	0
Hawaii	0	Iowa	0	Maine	0
Idaho	2	Michigan	0	Maryland	3
Montana	1	Minnesota	1	Massachusetts	0
Oregon	22	Ohio	0	New Hampshire	0
Washington	12	West Virginia	1	New Jersey	0
		Wisconsin	1	New York	0
Southwest	7 (8%)			North Carolina	0
Arizona	0	**Southeast**	4 (4%)	Pennsylvania	1
Colorado	7	Alabama	0	Rhode Island	0
Nevada	0	Arkansas	1	Vermont	1
New Mexico	0	Florida	1	Virginia	9
Utah	0	Georgia	0		
Wyoming	0	Kentucky	1	**Canada**	1 (1%)
		Louisiana	0	British Columbia	1
Midwest	7 (8%)	Mississippi	0		
Kansas	0	Missouri	1		
Louisiana	0	South Carolina	0	**Total Attendance**	**90**
Nebraska	1	Tennessee	0		
North Dakota	2				
Oklahoma	0				
South Dakota	2				
Texas	2				

Affiliation Distribution of Attendees

Affiliation:	Attendance:
State Agency	39 (43%)
Federal Agency	23 (26%)
Regional/Provincial	13 (14%)
University	7 (8%)
Private	8 (9%)