



# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## MONTANA CHAPTER



Gary L. Dusek, Editor-in-Chief  
Intermountain Journal of Sciences  
24107 E. Alki Lane  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

31 May 2011

Dear Mr. Dusek:

Since 1995, the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MCAFS) has supported the Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS) each year by publishing abstracts from our annual meeting and by our members serving on the editorial board. I am writing to inform you that the Executive Committee (Excom) of MCAFS has recently discussed this long-standing relationship in detail and has decided to discontinue publishing our abstracts.

When the IJS was first established, it was agreed that MCAFS would financially support the journal through page charges for abstract printing. It is our understanding that this support was not open-ended and that financial support would cease once IJS became viable on its own (i.e., sufficient funds were acquired to support the journal through publishing of peer-reviewed articles). We believe that any obligation MCAFS had to financially support the start-up of IJS has certainly been met. Over the past 15 years, MCAFS has spent more than \$15,000 on page charges for printing of our annual meeting abstracts.

As I am sure you are aware, technology has greatly advanced over the past several years and we are now capable of posting our annual meeting abstracts on our MCAFS website where they are fully accessible and can be found by anyone using basic internet search engines. We have found that most journals, including journals of the American Fisheries Society, are now largely published electronically and that paper versions (hard copies) are quickly losing popularity. The lack of electronic access to IJS publications, including our abstracts, is a strong concern of the MCAFS. We recommend rectifying this situation as soon as possible to encourage publication of peer-reviewed articles in the future to maintain the viability of your journal.

A primary responsibility of the MCAFS Excom is managing the chapter's limited fiscal resources. We fully believe that funds previously used to pay for printing could instead be used to more directly benefit our members. For this reason we have made the difficult decision to no longer expend MCAFS funds for printing of annual meeting abstracts and have instead determined to use those funds to support other services that were identified as priorities in a recent online membership survey.

MCAFS is willing to continue support of IJS by including editorial board responsibilities as a part of the duties of our Past President, an annually rotating position (currently, Mr. Scott Barndt). In addition, the MCAFS would consider limited financial support for the journal if the IJS can demonstrate long-term viability through incorporation of electronic article abstracting (or other means) and by better attracting scientific articles for publication. Please keep us apprised of your progress in that regard.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Koel, Ph.D.  
President, Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Cc: Whisper Camel, President, Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Douglas Coffin, Executive Director, Montana Academy of Sciences

