

California Fish and Game 102(1):6-7; 2016

Change in Editorship

With this issue, Armand Gonzales, special advisor with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, assumes the duties of editor-in-chief of *California Fish and Game*. Mr. Gonzales' assumption of the editorship follows the department's policy of rotating the editorship between staff members representing the Marine, Fisheries, Wildlife and Water branches. Under his guidance, the journal will continue its policy of presenting to the public the results of scientific investigations as they relate to management programs and the conservation of California fish and wildlife resources. Mr. Gonzales will strive to maintain and enhance the excellent reputation the journal has earned over the past 101 years.

To Dr. Vernon Bleich, editor-in-chief over the past six years, we wish to express our appreciation for a job well done. Dr. Bleich guided the journal through its 100 year anniversary, a milestone for the longest continuously published journal in California.

Charlton H. Bonham, *Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Notes from the Editor

It is a great honor to assume the duties of editor-in-chief of *California Fish and Game*, a role that has been fervently held for the past six years by Dr. Vernon Bleich. Just as Vern did, I will strive to maintain the journal's high standards of professionalism, integrity and relevance, which have made the journal an internationally recognized publication. Vern came out of retirement to be the editor of the journal and was most proud of being able to oversee publication of the 100th volume of the journal, a monumental and prestigious accomplishment. This together with the conversion to online publication, the rising submission as well as rejection numbers validated the importance and significance of the journal, which was distinctly improved by Vern's leadership. Thank you, Vern, for all you did and all you accomplished.

Another significant goodbye and thank you goes to Dr. Eric Loft, who retired at the end of April 2016. Eric was the editor-in-chief of the journal from 1990-1994. Since 2006, Eric has been the chief of the department's Wildlife Branch, where he oversaw programs related to lands management and restoration; nongame species management, threatened and endangered species, and special status species and their conservation; game species management and conservation; resource assessment, and disease/health investigations related to wildlife and humans. Prior to his role as branch chief, he was the lead for the department's resource assessment program and before that the statewide coordinator for the deer program, where he likely had his most fun. None of us choose this occupation for the money; it is truly for the love of nature that we devote our lives to this work of conserving our wildlife resources for the benefit of generations to come. For this, Eric has been recognized many times for his leadership and excellence in science, which is reiterated here. So, thank you, Eric, for all your hard work and dedication. We hope you enjoy your retirement and time with family.

This 102nd volume of the journal comes late and is perhaps diminutive in comparison to recent issues. This is in large part due to the changes made in the editorship and the time needed to get up-to-speed on the intricacies of publication. Small as it may be, the content of this edition is a powerhouse of science, containing what might be one of the most important climate-related papers published in California. Wright et al. describes changes being seen and measured right now in high-elevation tree species that are correlated to a warming climate. Their outstanding work adds to the body of scientific literature that will help us tell the story of climate change and help us plan for the future. Bliss and Weckerly's study area and research subjects are excellent examples of beauty and majesty in nature. It's what gives us hope.

With the change in editorship, there is an opportunity to consider other changes that may help improve the presentation and utility of the journal for its readers, authors, and editorial board alike. Some examples that have been kicked around are to offer more page fee waivers, especially to students, state and federal agency scientists, scientists working for non-profit organizations, and international submissions. Another thought is to use one edition per volume to publish the department's annual report from the branches. There are a number of technical reports produced each year by department staff that are posted to the department's document library, but few people outside the department know about them or know how to find them. It might be worthwhile to publish excerpts with location information so readers have the ability to find and read the full report if desired. Still another idea is to publish updates on significant accomplishments made by the department such as the recent completion of the State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 update (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP>). I'd like to ask you to help shape the future of the journal by sending me your thoughts or suggestions about what we can do to improve the journal content, readability or presentation.

With this issue, there are some changes in the editorial board. I'd like to thank Kevin Shaffer (Fisheries Branch), who is resigning after many years as an associate editor and who specialized in anadromous fish. Kevin is being replaced by Dr. Russ Bellmer (Fisheries Branch), who came highly recommended and is also an anadromous fish expert. Returning to the editorial board is Kevin Flanders, from the Habitat Conservation and Planning Branch, who specializes in all things Bay-Delta. So, many thanks to Kevin for all the time and effort he has put into the journal, and welcome to Russ and Kevin. Your willingness to contribute to making the journal highly respected and professional is much appreciated.

Finally, in accordance with the directions for contributors provided in Bleich 2014 and Bleich et al. 2011, please submit manuscripts by email or postal mail to the Journal Editor, Armand Gonzales, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1221A, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Email: armand.gonzales@wildlife.ca.gov; telephone: 916-445-3379.

Armand Gonzales
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