

Notes from the Editor

In this issue of the *Fish and Game* Journal there are two papers that will benefit field biologists by offering methodological improvements. These types of papers are valued because they help us do our job in a more effective, credible, and consistent way. I encourage those of you out there working on surveys or captures or restoration, or whatever, where there is something you've found that improves on the protocol or methods, integrates new technology, or analytical techniques, to write up a note for publication. Your shared perspective could be valuable to others who may be struggling with similar issues. The third paper in this issue is on the Mexican barracuda, which occurs in the Gulf of Mexico. We have been fortunate to be receiving many manuscripts from researchers and universities in Mexico. Before boundaries, borders, and walls, fish and wildlife moved freely across the landscape and through the seas, migrating and dispersing, in search of better conditions. More recently, we have seen species typically occurring in more tropical settings moving north, many in response to El Nino and warmer ocean temperatures. The more knowledge we can exchange, the better we may be prepared for the future.

We are honored to have contributions from two renowned photographers gracing our covers. This issue, David Mc Chesney, photographer, author, and conservationist, gave us permission to print his photographs on the front and back covers. As you can see, David is an extraordinary photographer, but he also spends a lot of his time campaigning for the conservation of desert ecosystems, which inspired the topic of his new book, *The Mojave Desert: Miles of Wonder*. Last issue, 103-4, Peter Hemming, an accomplished photojournalist, provided a mesmerizing underwater image of Sockeye Salmon. Each issue we try to select cover images that have some connection to the articles inside. If you would like to share your high-resolution photograph for future possible publication, you can send it to publications@wildlife.ca.gov.

The *Fish and Game* Journal has a commitment to quality science and shares this goal with the Department's Science Institute. After many years of effort to further the capacity of the Institute, I am pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Christina Sloop, as Science Advisor to lead the Science Institute. Christina has worked in ecology and natural resource conservation across California, and North America's Central and Pacific flyways. She holds a doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from UC Davis, a Master of Arts in Conservation Biology from San Francisco State University, and Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University. Since 2016, she has led the development of the 30-year Delta Conservation, a multi-agency/multi-stakeholder planning framework to inform the conservation of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystems, and the Delta Plan restoration chapter amendment to help direct future state policy. Christina has served as science advisor on state and federal agency technical committees and has led or contributed to the development of a number of conservation planning documents in California including the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, 2015 Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update for Climate Change, and 2012 SFBJV San Francisco Bay Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. Welcome Christina.

Armand Gonzales
Editor-in-Chief
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