

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to volume 98 of *California Fish and Game*. Since assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief in 2010, I have introduced each issue with this column. Recently, I was provided an opportunity to meet Director Bonham and, at the end of our conversation, I invited him to introduce himself to the readers of this journal, and to contribute some thoughts on science and, specifically, science within the California Department of Fish and Game (Department). In addition to employees of the Department, individuals from numerous disciplines, and representing hundreds of affiliations, have published results of their research in this internationally recognized journal. Among those are individuals working in government agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, consultants, and interested members of the public. The editorial staff is working diligently to ensure the rigor of papers published in *California Fish and Game*, to increase the rate of manuscript submittals, and to enhance the distribution and availability of California's longest-running professional journal. Please see Director Bonham's remarks, which appear below.

Vernon C. Bleich, Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to use this opportunity to share my perspectives on improving the visibility, relevance, and quality of science that occurs within the Department. *California Fish and Game* has a legendary reputation and a broad readership throughout the scientific community because its readers are interested in the conservation and understanding of California's flora and fauna. For many years, the Department has recognized the need to expand scientific capacity in an effort to improve the management, and enhance the conservation, of California's wildlife and fisheries resources. At the same time, many of the Department's constituents continued to make recommendations concerning Departmental scientific work, goals, and actions. Additionally, Departmental scientists conducting research, and those that use research and other scientific work to improve their daily efforts to monitor the status of our diverse resources, deserve professional support and development opportunities.

One of my foremost goals is to help meet these needs. I see several things we can begin to do soon, including enhancing efforts to foster scientific partnerships with academia, professional societies, volunteers, and other stakeholders; improving coordination of science within the Department; and, improving professional development and training opportunities for scientific staff. I also envision a Department that better integrates our diverse scientific and management functions into a holistic effort that includes our information technology and education functions.

At the end of the day, I believe the Department should adhere to the following principles: our scientific work is rigorous; it is transparent and carried out with integrity; and it is highly relevant to our mission and mandates. Another important principle — one that *California Fish and Game* serves to advance — is the publication of results. Thus, I look forward to improving the scientific endeavors within the Department, and to continuing the long and important availability of this journal as a means to enhance knowledge about California's flora and fauna, and to help conserve those irreplaceable resources.

*Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, Director
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