

## Notes From the Editor

In the previous issue of *California Fish and Game*, Director Chuck Bonham voiced his strong support for science as the driving force for wildlife conservation in California. Shortly thereafter, he announced the establishment of a new entity in the Department, which has been termed the Science Institute. Although numerous prior directors have recognized that science should play a role in resource management, Director Bonham has stepped up to the plate and advocated that the conservation responsibilities of the Department be based on the most pertinent data, and that management decisions be grounded in the most meaningful scientific information available. Indeed, a stated role of the Science Institute is, "To ensure quality, visibility, and integrity of the science that is conducted and used within the Department of Fish and Game" (see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Science/>).

Twenty years ago, a previous editor of this journal, Dr. Eric Loft (1992), published a short paper in which he discussed the role of science within the Department of Fish and Game, as well as the lack of contributions to this journal from departmental scientists. In a follow-up commentary (Bleich 1993), the current editor voiced optimism that the role of science in management and conservation would be enhanced as a result of Loft's thought provoking comments. Although most natural resource managers accept the likelihood that political considerations occasionally play roles in decision making processes, Director Bonham's stated positions and establishment of the Science Institute are refreshing and, indeed, are cause for optimism. Further, the strong support he voiced for this journal echoes the thoughts of Loft (1992) and Bleich (1993) and, I'm sure, the majority of the Department's scientists.

Establishment of the Science Institute is not the only change in sight; there will be enhanced opportunities for CDFG scientists to use internet resources to support literature searches and keep current in their specific fields of endeavor. Numerous literature search services are available, and ensuring that those resources are available to scientists within the Department is comforting. There likely are a few Department veterans still working that remember when the internationally respected marine resource library was closed; at the time, many of us took that to signal the end, not only of an historical era and a valuable repository of scientific information, but also of a philosophy. Director Bonham's recent announcements and, more importantly his actions, are to be welcomed by those who work on a daily basis to conserve the biological resources of California.

Vernon C. Bleich, *Editor-in-Chief*

### LITERATURE CITED

- Bleich, V. C. 1993. Comments on research, publications, and California's longest continuously published journal. *California Fish and Game* 79:42–43.
- Loft, E. R. 1992. *California Fish and Game*: California's longest continuously published journal. *California Fish and Game* 78:174–176.