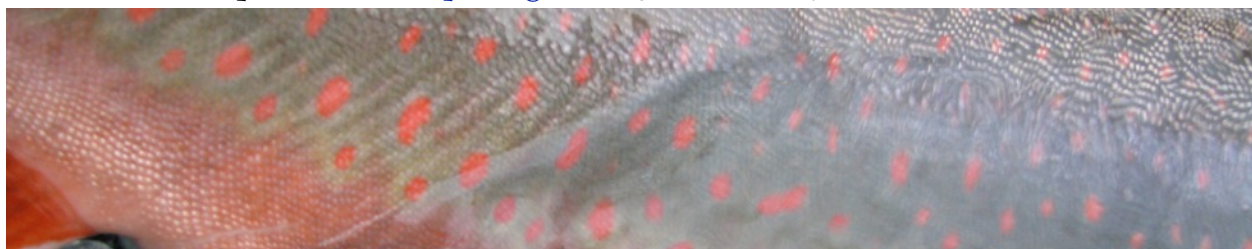


# OPTU NEWS

## Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 [www.optu.org](http://www.optu.org) Editor: John E. Murphy 520-250-4083

Volume 21, Issue 9



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers and Coordinators

**President:** Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388  
[sreiter4@cox.net](mailto:sreiter4@cox.net)

**Vice President:** Vaughn Johnson

**Secretary:** Kathleen Vitelli

**Treasurer:** Cathy Hill

[Cathy@skbuilders.net](mailto:Cathy@skbuilders.net)

**Membership Chair:** Open

**Conservation Chair:** Robin Marsett  
[rmarsett@comcast.net](mailto:rmarsett@comcast.net)

**Healing Waters Chair:** Captain Chris Allen and Major Mario Bracamonte

**Meetings Host:** Scott Koktavy (h)  
520-731-1134

**Fishing Trip Chair:** Joe Vitelli  
520-885-8357

**Public Relations Chair:** Michael Fletcher 520-744-1631  
[mmltfletch@msn.com](mailto:mmltfletch@msn.com)

**Trout in the Classroom Chair:** Joe Fagan  
[jfaganfished@gmail.com](mailto:jfaganfished@gmail.com)

**Youth Education Chair:** Joe Fagan

**Banquet Chair:**

**Assistant Banquet Chair:** Dave Combs  
[davecombs47@gmail.com](mailto:davecombs47@gmail.com)

### Other Board Members

Jeff Collins (emeritus)

Roger McKee (ex officio)

**Newsletter Editor:** John Murphy  
520-299-3278; email:  
[murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu](mailto:murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu)

### Address:

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P O Box 14822  
Tucson, AZ 85732-4822

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

From Kathleen Vitelli's post.

OPTU MEMBER MEETING - DECEMBER 4, 2013

Our December monthly meeting will be held at the Viscount Suites Hotel on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m..

We are pleased to welcome our guest speaker, Cinda Howard of Fly Fish Arizona. Cinda has been an Arizona fly fishing guide for several years. She has spent her whole life fishing and first picked up a fly rod in 1996. She worked for the Orvis Company as a fly fishing manager for eight years before branching out and starting her own business.

Cinda spends a considerable amount of time instructing on the sport of fly fishing. She has been featured in several fly fishing articles and books as an expert on fly fishing Arizona. She is president of Desert Fly Casters and is a board member of the Zane Grey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Her presentation will cover moving and still water in Arizona. She will also touch upon carp fishing in Arizona.

We would also like to remind you that we are selling banquet tickets to our primary fundraiser which will be held on March 8, 2014 at the Tanque Verde Ranch. Your last chance to get a discounted ticket (\$50) will be at the December meeting. After that, a ticket will cost \$55.00. Again, we must stress the importance of this fundraiser as our primary source of money which we give back to you in the form of meeting venues, speakers, youth activities, conservation efforts and fishing trips. Our upcoming OPTU sponsored trip to Lee's Ferry in March 2014 is paid for with money we raise for this organization. If we are not successful, we will no longer be able to provide these things to you, our members. Please help support this organization by attending the banquet. In addition, we are also selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Orvis Helios II fly rod and reel package.

Tickets are \$20.00 each and we are limiting the sale to 300 tickets! We will draw the winner at the March 2014 banquet.

As an early reminder, our January meeting will not be held on the first Wednesday due to the fact that it is New Year's Day. We have rescheduled the meeting for Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Our speaker will be Mike Anderson who is the Native Trout Program Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish and Salley Petre. They will be talking about the status of the native trout recovery program in Arizona with emphasis on our region.

We would also like to extend to you a very happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!



### **BIANNUAL BANQUET - Important Date for Your Calendar**

On March 8, 2014 the OPTU Banquet Fund Raiser will be held at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. This biannual event is very important to all of us because it provides the funds necessary to support all our programs, such as Trout in the Classroom, conservation projects, Project Healing Waters, fishing excursions and our monthly meetings. Your support means everything to us, so please plan to attend. The planning for the banquet is well underway and we believe this will be prove to be an excellent evening of fun, fellowship, opportunities to buy some great things, and the trading of fishing stories (or tall tales). We promise you won't be disappointed.

Tickets will go on sale in September. If you have any questions, want to volunteer, or want to donate in any way please send me an email at [vaughninaz@cox.net](mailto:vaughninaz@cox.net) and thanks for your time and continued support of OPTU.

*Vaughn A. Johnson, VP and 2014 Chairman OPTU Banquet*

### **WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**

#### **Women's Initiative (WI)**

OPTU is looking for someone to take the lead for this work. Responsibilities include taking part in the monthly teleconference, attending a monthly board meeting and working with the board to encourage more women to participate in Trout Unlimited. The only requirements are that you participate in the phone meetings and let the board know the WI status. Please contact Roseann at 760.1659 or [rzann@comcast.net](mailto:rzann@comcast.net) for information on the next teleconference.





I need a bigger net!



Freshly released fish and one of the only times I had a photographer to get a grip and grin for me.



## **CONSERVATION NEWS**

On Saturday 9 November, Steve Reiter, Joe Fagan and Robin Marsett of OPTU met up with Mike Anderson of Arizona Game and Fish at Thomson's Meadow on the West Fork of the Black River in the White Mountains. They recovered and replaced one data logger at the SP Ranch on the West Fork and placed three new temperature data loggers in Thomson's Meadow from Thompson's Creek to the first barrier downstream from road 116.

Mike Anderson explained his plans for the West Fork of the Black River which included more extensive temperature data logging all the way from above Thompson's Meadow to below the bridge at the SP Ranch, a distance of about fourteen miles. There will be a Bureau of Reclamation dam put into to act as a barrier between the SP Ranch and Buffalo Crossing after which the area above that dam will be for Apache Trout only.

Mike is also looking into the ways to add willows to the open stretches of the river to help lower the water temperatures and improve trout habitat. If the willow project is approved OPTU will be helping with fence exclosures to keep the elk from browsing on the willows.

Other projects being considered by Mike are adding more Gila Trout streams to Mount Graham and exploring the possibility of adding Gila Trout and possibly Yaqui Trout to the Chiricahua Mountains. He will be speaking to OPTU at our January 8th meeting about some of these plans.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT**

by Joe Fagan

Here's the link to youth oriented activities done by other chapters of OPTU. We ought to be able to do some of them similarly. Thanks in advance for taking the time to look over the information in the link. Let me know if there are any that are appealing to you to work with me to get started in our chapter. I'd like the women in OPTU to begin sharing with Girl Scouts. I would assist in making this happen. <http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/tacklebox/youth/One-TU%20Youth%20Report%202011-08-23.pdf>

### **Calendar**

**DEC 4:** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Cinda Howard of Fly Fish Arizona speaking on fishing moving and still water in Arizona.

**DEC 4:** BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**NOV 18:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

**JAN 8:** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Mike Anderson who is the Native Trout Program Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish and Salley Petre - On native trout recovery.

**JAN 8:** BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**JAN 15:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

## **PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING**



Starting on January 1st the program will be led by Captain Chris Allen of Sierra Vista and Major Mario Bracamonte of Tucson. They started as participants in the program and have now become the leaders. Please give them your support as they continue the good work.

## **Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports**

### **OPTU FISHING OUTING**

LEES FERRY - MARCH 24-27, 2014

We are very excited to announce the 2014 OPTU fishing outing will be at Lee's Ferry, Arizona.

For those not familiar with this water, Lee's Ferry is a massive, clear running cold water fishery. It runs 15.5 miles from the outflow of Lake Powell at Glen Canyon Dam to the upper end of the Grand Canyon. This will be two days of guided fishing provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers owned by Terry and Wendy Gunn. All guides are full-time professionals.....no part-time guides!

We will be staying at the Cliff Dweller's Lodge at the base of Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. The lodge was built in the early 1950's and was purchased by Lee's Ferry Anglers in 2001 where it was immediately renovated. It is a great lodging experience.

We estimate that the cost of the trip will be \$650 per person including the guides tips. For those interested, the following is included:

- Transportation between Tucson and Lee's Ferry
- Three days lodging at Cliff Dweller's Lodge
- Two full days of professionally guided fly fishing on the Colorado River
- Tips for all guides
- Lunch for your fishing days

The only things not covered will be your meals (other than lunch on the two fishing days which is provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers).

OPTU will be renting a van for participants to travel there and back. Space will be limited and is expected to fill very quickly. We have reserved a few openings for our PHWFF veterans. Participants will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis via email to me, Joe Vitelli at [kayceesgarden@att.net](mailto:kayceesgarden@att.net)

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## **Tips and Tricks**

Fun facts about WD-40 <http://wd40.com/about-us/myths-legends-fun-facts/>  
Google fly fishing tips and techniques for hundreds of links.

## **DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS**

Call us if you need something. If you're unable to make it to the shop before your next trip, we are happy to drop a few bugs and/or leaders (or whatever) in the mail - shipping is free.

Dry Creek resides at the River Center mall; NE corner of River and Craycroft and is open **Tuesdays through Saturdays** from 10 am to 7 pm Tuesday to Friday and 9:30 am to 6 pm on Saturday. Address: 5655 East River Road, Suite 131, Tucson, AZ 85750 and phone (520) 326-7847. East side of the River Center between a beauty shop and Japanese restaurant. Eric is a long-time supporter of OPTU and we all need to be sure to support him. So get over to DCO and buy some of those essential things you know you need. *The Editor*

## **FOR SALE**

I found a website for custom rods that some of you may be interested in viewing  
[www.cbcustomflyrods.com](http://www.cbcustomflyrods.com)

**Simms Medium Long Waders** (foot size about a 9-1/2). A little older but in very good condition. Worn float tubing last summer in western Colorado with zero problems. \$50. Contact John Arnett 520 721 4339 (h) or 520 248 3828 (c)

## **FOR RENT**

4 BR house in Heber City, UT. 15 miles from Park City and a mile from the Provo River; 2.5 hrs to the Green. \$500 per week or \$90/night - plus housecleaning fee. Call John at 520-250-4083 if interested in checking it out.

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Board Meeting, November 6, 2013

#### Banquet Ticket Sales

Vaughn discussed free seats if tables are purchased. One free ticket per full table purchase was agreed upon. Also for very large donors (\$2K) the board determined that Dave Combs could use his best judgment as to how many free seats we would provide (2-4).

#### Raffle Ticket Sales

Vaughn mentioned placing the raffle opportunity on other web sites such as the AzFly & Tie site and placing the notification for both this and the banquet in the Desert Leaf. But the board decided putting private emails in public venues was not the best idea. The plan to create a club email was discussed. Roseann agreed to create the email and to send the password to the board but reminded the board that the emails need to be checked regularly. Joe suggested that Kathleen could do that as the Secretary.

#### Trout in the Classroom

Joe discussed the purchase of a new chiller to replace the broken one. He has two schools and one operable chiller. The board agreed to purchase a new chiller. We also discussed purchasing a new chiller as a replacement chiller. However, the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant would be ideal for the purchase of this chiller. Roseann was tasked to apply for the grant with input from Joe Fagan on costs. If we don't get the grant then we will reconsider buying another chiller (#3) which will be used for emergency replacement only. Joe F. notified the board that he only has the manpower and time for 2 schools.

Eggs will be delivered to Flowing Wells on Nov 20th and to Fruchtendler after Christmas.

#### Conservation

This weekend is the Temperative Logging trip to the White Mountains. Steve notified the board that he spoke with Don Mitchell on the reintroduction of Yaqui Trout to southern Arizona.

Robin Marsett took over as Conservation Lead.

#### OPTU Website

The Board discussed migrating to the TU website. Steve said there was a person who was doing it for Phoenix for \$100/quarter. We will consider doing this also. However, we need a point person within the group to gather all the info for the web site. Roseann agreed to do that task. Roseann and Steve will meet to discuss going forward.

#### Monthly Meetings

December 4th will be the Holiday Celebration – no scheduled speaker.

January 8th – due to the holiday the date was moved out one week. Sally Petrie will be the speaker.

February 12th – due to the Gem & Mineral Show using the facilities during the regular meeting schedule. Speaker will be the Utah trip.

#### Outings

Joe discussed the Lees Ferry trip on Mar 24-27th. It is a joint trip with PHWFF. Cost will be approx. \$650 per person which includes transportation to Lees Ferry, Lodging for 3 nights, 2 full days of guided fishing and lunches on the water. Participants will be responsible for all other meals. Space is limited so it will probably fill up early.

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## **Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule**

[http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h\\_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf)

### **QUOTES AND JOKES**

Failure is the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently.

*Henry Ford*

### **FISHING REPORTS**

New Zealand Fishing Report – November 2013

Arrived in the Land of the Long White Cloud on Friday November 8th after some difficulties – we flew down to Wellington after arrival in Auckland only to be sent back to Auckland. Four extra hours in Auckland then finally arrived in Dunedin at 4:30. Picked up rental car for drive to Lumsden and Trout Cottage.

Saturday the 9th. Went to the Waikaia on an unfortunately cloudy day. River looked good but spotting was difficult. No fish so headed to town for my first Hoki-Poki ice cream. My son's friend Max got his first century in cricket today (100 runs before getting out – I didn't see but it sounded good - though I don't know much about cricket).

Sunday the 10th. Simon came up last night and we went to the Waimea for a long day of tramping and fishing. Total walk about 5Ks I think. Morning was beautiful and I caught three fish sight fishing and twitching. CLASSIC NZ. The wind cooked up to about 70k by 10 am and the clouds set in making it very challenging. I didn't catch any more that day though had chances. Wind full bore in my face made casting nearly impossible and I didn't sight many more though Simon continued catching through the day – but still a lot less than we had expected.

Monday the 11th. Weather overcast so decided to try the Aparima for blind casting. Put in about 2 hours and hooked one really nice fish at the end of the drift. Jumped a few times and then escaped. The weather started to clear so decided to try the Waimea again. By the time I got back to Lumsden it was again overcast so I changed to the 2:30 stream (that's when the mayflies come off and the fish start "hoovering" on the surface). About the time I got up there the skies were perfectly blue (bad for that stream) so I tried the Mataura at Garston. Spotted a few but no luck until a dangling fly caused a strike downstream. Unfortunately after a jump that fish also became unbuttoned. Three fish out of five in 3 days – not so good.

Tuesday through Friday – all work at the University. Good times seeing everyone and some good meals with Simon and a nice dinner with his family. Max is big now. Drove back to Lumsden Friday evening. Been having killer curries at the restaurant (Buzz Cafe) that replaced the Mayfly Café. Yum.

Saturday the 16th. Tried one of the previous rivers this morning from the bridge. Overcast and windy again and just one fish caught blind fishing. Weather kept getting worse so I headed to 2:30 stream for the best day ever. I catch 8 amazing fish and miss three more. So, 9 for 12 this day. MUCH BETTER. One fish was 6 to 7 lbs and none were less than 3 lbs. Rain and cold but wind behind my back made for a classic 2:30 stream day with big heads rising consistently and me getting most of the ones I went after. I only made about half the stream so there might have been opportunities for more. I was greedy this day. 12 of 17 at this point.

Sunday the 17th. Simon and Nigel met me at the Riversdale road bridge for another day on a smallish stream. It was completely overcast till about 10 am but no wind all. I went 12 for 12, Nigel got about 6 of 14, and I am sure Simon was 10 or more for 20 or so. The takes were classic New Zealand spotting where you cast, let drift, twitch the fly, and set the hook as you see the fish inhale the fly. Magical. I don't know if a better day is possible. We saw at least 2 to 3 times as many fish as we caught but we were definitely in good form. This is the type of day people coming to New Zealand to fish can only dream of. Of course it is good to have Simon's eyes spotting fish too, though I certainly was able to spot my own on at least half the occasions. 24 of 29 at this point.

Monday the 18th. Went to the Waimea 3.7 k and managed to land 7 of 8 hooked for the day. It is amazingly exceptional to watch a fish, see it open its mouth for your fly, and make the set. The visual part is exhilarating. The day was sunny all day making for good spotting potential even for me, but the key is to sit at good sections – preferably partially hidden – and watch for fish. On this river they move up and down a lot when the bugs are rising since the current is fairly slow. When one is spotted attempt to put a good cast in front of them and give a little twitch when they come near. Other times if it plops behind them they may turn and grab it instantly. Used 4x fluoro this trip and it didn't seem to bother the fish though it is possible there are times when I might have hooked some that shied away due to the larger line. Lightly dressed flies are the key in about size 14 or dries.

Tuesday the 19th. Went to the Waikaia again and it is official. I no longer have any Waikaia mojo. Saw 8 or so and cast to three but couldn't work out the presentation. Most were near eddies but still no excuses. Ended the day at on another river and went upstream. Wicked hot. Saw tons of fish but they were pretty skittish even with me creeping along. Got 4 of 5 and had one spectacular (for me anyway) catch. Two fish were working across the stream (40 to 50 feet or so) under some gorse. I put the fly over them a few times and finally got the drift just right. Proud of that accomplishment - didn't spook them, made the long accurate casts and got the job done.

Wednesday the 20th. Went to the Aparima in the morning with blistering winds up again. No fish and left after an hour or so. Might have got some if I was willing to do the whole stretch blind fishing but I wanted more spotting so headed to the Maitai at near Garston. Spotted a fish right away and snuck up very carefully – to no avail. It spooked when I was 30 feet away before I even raised my rod for a cast. I guess it is time for me to move to all camo for NZ. Trudged over to the 2:30 stream with high hopes but the still blistering wind straight down the river into my face. This made casting very challenging and there seemed to be about a third of the fish rising as the previous visit. I managed one 5-6 pound brownie, pulled a split second too soon on another and lost it and, unfortunately, snagged another big one that appeared to have turned to my fly but may have felt the leader crossing it. Had many casts at several others but the wind frustrated my efforts. In thinking about the situation I should have worked my way downstream, drawing the fly in front of the risers and then letting it drift right to them. At the end of the day went back to the Maitai and spotted two others. The first spooked from 30 feet behind it and the other let me have one cast that was too short and it was gone. Time to head back to Lumsden and the excellent Buzz Café for a curry with legendary guide Chris Dore.

Went to the Waimea lower section again on the last day with rain all night till 8:30, then overcast and more blistering wind. Saw a few but no luck. Off to the airport to fly back to Tucson and the real world. *The editor.*

## *Newsletter Items That Don't Often Change*

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### **MOVIE LINKS**

**Please** send links to movies you have seen on YouTube or other places. I'll check it out and post. Here are a few:

Top Ten Viral Flyfishing Videos (courtesy of Ernie Gradillas) [http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSi&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So)

[cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSi&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSi&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So)

Catching a nice Gila trout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXEZVJmD3Yo>

This is a classic TU film called The Way of a Trout.

<http://www.lrcu.org/movies/TheWayofaTrout/>

Trout in the Classroom Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWlnuFkCPFg>

Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.

<http://youtu.be/CwFry99OhqE>

This URL refers to the 1<sup>st</sup> book written on fly-fishing by a Benedictine nun and published in 1496. It shows a block print with the first Tenkara-style fly-fishing - recorded in Europe (not Japan). No fly reels back then.

<http://www.headwatersofhistory.com/2012/01/interviews-with-anglers-past-dame-juliana.html>

Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.

<http://youtu.be/CwFry99OhqE>

Controversy about what open containment fish farms are doing to native fish and what they might be doing to you when you buy farmed salmon at Costco. It is long but instructive. *Ernie Gradillas*

<http://vimeo.com/61301410>

### **HELP ON PLACES TO FISH**

Names and email addresses of OPTU members who have kindly agreed to share their fishing waters' knowledge with members who have not fished the particular waters before and are looking for advice is now available for downloading on the new OPTU website at:

<http://optu.org/FISHING%20WATERS%20HELP.doc>. A good first lead about where and when to fish, or where to stay can make the trip easier and more enjoyable. The list is alphabetical by state and several foreign locations are also included. For advice about one of the areas or rivers on the list, get in touch with the named colleague by email and make arrangements to talk to them by phone.

Additionally, courtesy of OPTU flyfisher Don Maggert, there is a disc containing articles pulled from the Web about fly fishing some thirty well-regarded Western rivers (mostly in Colorado and Montana as well as a few from Idaho and Utah). Send me a name of the river and I will check to see if it is on Don's disc and if so, I will forward the write-up. *Stan Vanagunas* [vanagunas@msn.com](mailto:vanagunas@msn.com)

### **OPTU FACEBOOK GROUP**

If you add the OPTU group to your links in Facebook it will help make contacts with members. *Joe DeVries* [jrdaz@cox.net](mailto:jrdaz@cox.net)

### **EDDIES NEWSLETTER**

In case you would like to receive "Eddies: Reflections on Fisheries Conservation," click on the link and sign up for paper or email delivery. <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/eddis/Subscribe/Subs.cfm>

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