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Studying Run Characteristics of Chinook Salmon in the Yukon River Basin

Capturing and tagging chinook salmon for radio telemetry study in the Yukon River basin in 2002.

John Eiler and Ted Spencer

Yukon River salmon support important commercial and subsistence fisheries in both the U.S. and Canada. These returns are a major source of food in many remote communities, and often constitute the primary source of income. Management of the resource is complicated by recent declines in salmon returns and the international nature of the drainage, making it necessary to address harvest allocation issues in both countries. Detailed information on run characteristics, including abundance, migratory patterns, stock composition and timing, is needed to improve management of fisheries and facilitate conservation efforts. However, this is a challenging task due to the immense size and remote nature of the drainage.

A radio telemetry study was initiated in 2000 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide information on the movements, timing and



spawning distribution of chinook salmon stocks, and to help evaluate run assessment programs in the basin. Work in 2000-2001 focused primarily on developing the capture methods, tracking techniques, and infrastructure necessary for a study of this size and scope. A full scale, basin-wide tagging and monitoring program was conducted in 2002. Adult chinook salmon migrating upriver were captured with drift gill nets in the lower river from June 9 to July 13. The fish were tagged with pulse-coded radio transmitters inserted through the mouth and into the stomach, and marked externally with spaghetti tags attached below the dorsal fin. Selected fish were tagged with radio-archival tags, which also recorded water depth and temperature. Radio-tagged fish migrating upriver were recorded by remote tracking stations located at 37 sites on important

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Meetings and Events

Alaska Chapter AFS Conference

Mark your calendars for November 3-6 for the 2003 Alaska Chapter of the AFS conference. The conference will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska. The conference theme will be Ecological and Sociological Linkages in Fisheries. Sessions topics are currently being assembled. I plan to have sessions on Habitat, Marine Fishes, Introduced Species, Native Fish, Hatchery and Wild Fish Interactions, Subsistence, GPS/GIS, Fish and Wildlife, and more. Anyone with ideas on session topics they would like to see offered should contact Tim Joyce, USDA, Forest Service; e-mail: tljoyce@fs.fed.us or phone 424-4747.

Propagated Fishes in Resource Management Symposium

This is the first call for papers for the Propagated Fishes in Resource Management Symposium to be held June 17-19, 2003 in Boise, Idaho. The Symposium will focus on answering the question, "What are the appropriate roles of propagated species in aquatic resources management?" Specific Symposium goals are to share research and 'on-the-ground' results of management actions that have emerged over the past decade, and to challenge paradigms and examine testable hypotheses. For more information, visit our website at: <http://www.heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/congress/PFIRM/> or contact the Symposium Chairs: Vince Mudrak, Vincent_Mudrak@fws.gov and Gary Carmichael, carmichael_gary@yahoo.com.

Alaska Forum on the Environment

The Alaska Forum on the Environment has lined up exciting new Keynote Events and over 70 breakout sessions for the 2003 landmark event. The Alaska Forum on the Environment is the Premier Education and Networking Event. Our agenda covers a vast array of topics appealing to Alaska's Youth, Students, Elders, Citizen Groups, Businesses, and Environmental Professionals. For detailed information on the February 10-14, 2003, Alaska Forum on the Environment visit online at <http://www.akforum.com/>. Preferred lunch service seating at keynote events is limited to the first 400 who register...so sign up early! Early registration rates apply only until January 18, 2003.

21st Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium

The 21st Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, October 22-25, 2003. The title of the symposium is Assessment and Management of New and Developed Fisheries in Data-Limited Situations. For more information contact Sherri Pristash, fyconf@uaf.edu or visit the web site, <http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant/Conferences/dls-call.html>.



American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will convene its 133rd Annual Meeting at the Québec City Convention Center in downtown Québec, August 10-14, 2003. The meeting's theme is Worldwide Decline of Wild Fish Populations. The theme addresses the identification and explanations of potential factors that may be contributing to the decline of marine and inland fish populations. For more information visit the web site http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS_congres/accueil.htm.



World Fisheries Congress

The American Fisheries Society invites you to the Fourth World Fisheries Congress to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 2-6, 2004. The Congress theme, Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems, will be addressed by the world's foremost fisheries scientists serving as Keynote speakers. Our website, www.worldfisheries2004.org, provides comprehensive information on the Fourth World Fisheries Congress, and includes an Expression of Interest Form that will allow us to keep you updated about the event.

2003 AFS Western Division & Cal-Neva Chapter Annual Meeting

The joint annual meeting of the Western Division and the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is going to be held in San Diego, California on April 14-17, 2003. The conference theme is "Productive Pacific Ecosystems: lake, stream, estuarine, and marine environments from Alaska to Baja". The theme and meeting location were chosen to highlight marine and estuarine topics but technical sessions will also reflect the full range of the memberships. For more information visit the web site, http://www.fisheries.org/wd/meet/2003/meet2003_new.htm.

International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application

The International Scientific Committee invites you to the Third International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application to be held July 11-16 2004, at Jupiters Hotel & Casino, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. The Symposium will bring together leading scientists from around the world to discuss state-of-the-art approaches and future directions in the important area of otolith research and application. Topics to be covered include structure, composition, function and physiology of biogenic carbonates; otolith chemistry and isotopic analysis; age and growth estimation and validation; age determination in theoretically as seasonal environments including the tropics and the deep-sea; technological developments; statistics and modelling of otolith based information; quality control in ageing facilities and data processing/analysis; otolith publication media; ecological and population studies including otoliths as indicators of climate change and their use in food web studies; and application of otolith based data in systematics, stock assessment and fisheries management. Early in 2003 a website promoting the Symposium will be established where Expressions of Interest will be sought, and all relevant information provided. ☺

ONCORHYNCHUS

Oncorhynchus is the quarterly newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Material in this newsletter may be reprinted from *AFS Diary* and *Western Division*.

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Deadline for materials for the spring issue of *Oncorhynchus* is March 10.

Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>

Special Election Results

Molly Ahlgren, an Associate Professor in the Environmental Sciences Program at Sheldon Jackson College, is our new Vice-President! The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to have a member of the academic community represented on the Executive committee. Molly's biography indicated she is "particularly interested in supporting student participation in AFS and in increasing the number of undergraduates involved in the chapter. . ." Molly feels that AFS played an instrumental role in her educational and professional life and she now looks forward to "giving back some of the inspiration and support that I've received from the society over the years." Molly believes that AFS chapter meetings provide an excellent venue for a student's first professional presentation and provide wonderful opportunities to meet future employers.

Many people agree with you, Molly, and we look forward to increasing student opportunities and participation in the Society. The Chapter meetings would benefit from more academic participation and a stronger emphasis on marine species; we hope Molly can help steer us in that direction.



The 2002 Excom. From left; David Wiswar, Carol Ann Woody, Carol Kerkvliet, Tim Joyce, and Alisa Abookire. (Bob Ourso was not present .)

Thanks to all who participated in the election and a special thanks to John Thedinga, our editor, who got the special edition newsletter out in record time. The special election edition seemed to capture membership attention, focus it on the candidates, and resulted in a great voter turn out. The Chapter might want to consider having a special edition every year. Opinions? Contact your EXCOM. 🐟

Annual Chapter Conference Highlights

Carol Kerkvliet

The Alaska Chapter Conference in Girdwood this year was a big success thanks to all of our volunteers. The local arrangement co-chairs Cecil Rich and Susan McNeil did an outstanding job. Bill Hauser chaired the raffle and mentored all of us with the local arrangements. Doug Lieb did a fantastic job setting up the audio visual with the help of Jay Baumer. I should highlight this dynamic duo. Even though this was Doug's and Jay's first AFS meeting, Doug took the lead and didn't hesitate to do the job with gusto and professionalism. Jay on the other hand, made a special trip from school in Oregon and offered his help in "whatever needed to be done". They worked well as a team and as a consequence I heard many praises from session chairs that they were always available when needed.

Many others volunteered at their first AFS meeting. Carlos Monsivais was responsible for setting up sheets of paper on the easels to track the schedule of events, and did an odd assortment of errands throughout the meeting. Lyn Dunbar spent most of each day alternating between working the registration desk, and tirelessly shuttling people to and from the airport. Lyn also roped in her dear friend Doug Gibb (a firefighter whose fisheries/AFS involvement is simply that he knows some biologists) into helping. Though Doug paid non-member fees to attend the conference, he volunteered the use of his own vehicle to shuttle people between Girdwood and the airport.

Oh, registration! How can we ever thank Allen Bingham, Lee Ann Gardner, Mia Baylor, and Meg Cartwright who didn't hesitate to offer their time and expertise of "been there done that, but I guess they need me so I will do it again", to register an unexpectedly abundant stream of people? We are especially grateful to Bob Ourso (our treasurer) for his registration assistance. Despite suffering a very debilitating neck injury, he set up all pre-registration materials while frequently perched on his knees in front of a computer to enter stacks of pre-registration information.

Did you notice the Juneau and Fairbanks contingent? Picking up the ball when they saw it about to drop? Yup, they were there when we needed them and they were mostly un-noticed or unseen by the membership. Additional members such as Kate Burke-Brand, Hal Geiger, Eric Knudsen, Ron Regnart, Kathy Rowell, Katie Sechrist and Mary Whalen came forward whenever we needed them.

What is represented by a symbol, routinely embroidered on baseball hats, and frequently worn by fisheries biologist? Answer: agencies such as ADF&G, NMFS and USFWS, consulting firms such as LGL and RWJ, and universities UAF and UAJ. There would undoubtedly be NO ANNUAL MEETING without their support. Also without permission from our supervisors to attend and participate in these meetings, meeting quality and attendance would diminish. AFS is extremely thankful to these supervisors who recognize that these meetings provide opportunities to learn, develop professionally, and energize their employees.

How could we have a book signing of the "Fishes of Alaska" without heavy big backbreaking boxes of books? Lyman Thorsteinson was unable to attend the book signing, so he had the books mailed to himself. He then he unpacked, signed, re-packed and mailed them to Bill Wilson, who in turn transported them to the meeting. Catherine and Tony Mecklenburg arranged their travel schedule to be available for the book signing. We are grateful to all of these individuals for the time and effort they have dedicated to this exemplary and comprehensive work.

One of the goals of AFS is to increase membership diversity through a cultural diversity travel award. The qualities of the applicants this year were exceptional and committee members had a difficult task in making a selection. However, qualifications of two applicants were notable. Jody Neil and Karen Plentnikoff received the award. The advantage of increasing diversity in AFS and ultimately to fisheries was highlighted through the perspectives of Adelheid Hermann and Ira New Breast of the



Kvickak River sockeye salmon session presenters and panel discussion members, standing from left; Ian Stewart, Jim Seeb, Steve Morstad, Norma Jean Sands, and Steve Fried (Session Chair), Sitting from left; Carol Ann Woody, Mary McBurney, Dan Schindler, and Lowell Fair.

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. Their dedication, knowledge of fisheries, and perspectives can help us to maintain and restore the sustainability and health of the fisheries resource. Wayne Morgan (Natural Resource Director of the Kuskokwim Native Association) seemed to out-perform the Alaska membership in increasing the diversity at the meeting. Wayne brought six fish and wildlife technicians from the Kuskokwim River to the conference. One of these technicians (Rhiannon Wheeler) also prepared a poster for the meeting.

Another goal of AFS is the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. This program matches students with fishery professionals to experience fisheries work first-hand. Jeff Milton, Debby Burwen, Diane Loopstra and Dan Bosch of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, mentored Daryl Lescanec and Jayson Lynch. Both students prepared posters to describe their work and presented their posters at the meeting.

New perspectives and understanding of fisheries issues and technology were gained by the membership. Session chairs and continuing education instructors enthusiastically developed their session themes. They recruited and coordinated speakers that fulfilled session objectives. This year we had three continuing education classes, 13 sessions, 79 papers, 24 posters, four panel discussions, and eight vendor displays.

I hope to one-day deliver a speech like the plenary speaker Phil Pister. His words were packed with perceptions built on a lifetime devotion to fisheries. Before and after the conference, Phil and I corresponded by email. At the end of each of Phil's emails, he quotes B. F. Skinner "Education is what survives after what has been learnt has been forgotten." From what I know of Phil, much has survived.

One of the highlights of the meeting for me was listening to Dee Dee Jonrowe's commemoration of Rae Baxter at the banquet. Dee Dee Jonrowe is a role model for many Alaskans. Not only is she one of the top competitors in the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled race, she is one of the most beloved. Dee Dee's actions demonstrate a woman who tackles challenges with absolute tenacity, courage,

and optimism. She is waging a battle with breast cancer, but when I asked her to speak about Rae at the banquet, she said, "I welcome any opportunity to commemorate Rae." Rae Baxter retired from ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division as a fisheries biologist and is still highly regarded in Bethel and the surrounding area. Rae is also recognized as the inspiration for the book "Fishes of Alaska".

Dee Dee had a captive audience when she relived her experiences as a fisheries student and her 14 years as a fisheries biologist working with Rae Baxter. As a UAF student, she explained her dream was to be a biologist. She was told she "could get a degree but there wouldn't be any jobs for her because there were no facilities for women in the field." She later added that she found there were no facilities for men or women in the field. Words did not deter Dee Dee. She continued her education to earn her degree and then "happened to be blessed with meeting up with Rae Baxter. Rae was a guy who believed that women ought to be in the field. He started this because

he married a biologist and he went about his entire career to prove that we could do what needed to be done in the research world."

At age 21, Dee Dee went to work for Rae in what she called her "formative years. He taught me a lot more about my abilities than I had ever thought . . . he gave me an opportunity of a lifetime and I was **never never** going to let that man down. Rae and Sera were my first family in Bethel . . . and he stood up for Mike and I at our wedding."

Dee Dee described Rae as a student not only of fisheries but also of western Alaska. "Rae was the first to explain how the tribes worked together in the area." She explained her cultural experiences on the Kuskokwim River, gave her "very special feelings for the culture of the regions . . . and an appreciation for what the resource means to them."

Rae was a non-conformist and believed there was nothing that couldn't be done. Dee Dee illustrated this when she spoke about the beginning of a weir project on the Holitna River. "He seemed to push me beyond my limits" she said, when in 1975 the two of them hauled tons of angle iron, 55-gallon drums, cables, and pipe to build a weir approximately 130 miles upstream on the Holitna River. She explained this weir as "a land mark project because it would be the first time we would be able to definitively count all the fish passing a particular site. At the time, this 220 foot weir was the longest expanse weir in the state." It should be noted that since the construction of the Holitna River weir in 1976, fisheries managers and researchers have relied this weir data to assess run strength for the Kuskokwim River.

"Rae was involved in a lot of projects. The one thing he loved to do was collect data. He really was a true scientist . . . thrived on collecting any kind of data . . . loved the job title of researcher because that gave him much lee way to spend much time in the field, less time in the office, and the less time he had in the office the happier he was."

Dee Dee finished with "I just really admired Rae. I feel a great loss that Rae is not here today to see what adventuresome trails I have taken because he was there for my first Kusko., he

was there for my first Iditarod . . . he would have been very disappointed if I hadn't made it to Nome and that would have meant something to me. This was a very special time in my life and Rae a very very special man in my life and next to Mike he probably had the most to do with developing my adventuresome spirit."

Following Dee Dee's talk, the characteristics and accomplishments of Rae described by Dee Dee were amplified through the stirring speeches from his daughter Lynx Mullen and his wife Sera Baxter.

As the meeting drew to a close, several individuals approached me and commented that this AFS meeting was the best they had ever attended. The reasons stated for the conference's success were the beautiful setting and hotel, the army of hard working volunteers, agency contributions, AFS committees and an experienced and helpful excom. But I think the success of the 2002 AFS meeting was primarily a result of the attendee fisheries professionals who are dedicated to the pristine conditions in Alaska that provide scientists unique work opportunities with healthy wild stocks of salmon, other anadromous fish and resident species.

I appreciate the efforts of all attendees in making this conference a success. At this meeting I was inspired by Dee Dee and conference volunteers. Dee Dee's words and the way she lives her life, are testimonials to the power of Rae Baxter's mentorship. The volunteers inspired me through their actions. Each one of them faced numerous unexpected challenges and successfully tackled them time and time again, as the meeting grew to unanticipated proportions. I hope the rest of the membership has also been encouraged and inspired by this group of dedicated people. 🗨️



John Eiler at the podium in the continuing education course, "Using Telemetry to Study Aquatic Systems."

New Treasurer for the Executive Committee

Carol Ann Woody

Many of you are aware that our current treasurer, Bob Ourso (USGS), suffered a terrible neck injury a few months ago. In an effort to both reduce Bob's workload and facilitate transition of our financial accounts, Ray Hander was recruited to serve as the new treasurer. Ray is a fishery biologist for the USFWS Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Office in the Subsistence Fisheries Management Branch. Ray's interests revolve around fish ecology, habitat use, and conservation. He earned his undergraduate degree in geography with a minor in biology at the University of Central Arkansas in 1987. He moved to Kodiak in 1988 where he was a biological technician for nine years at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) and worked mostly on fisheries projects. He earned his Master's of Fisheries Science in 1997 from UAF under Jim Reynolds. He has also worked with USGS

where he studied Yukon River chum salmon freshwater survival in the Chena and Tanana Rivers. He is now a Yukon River assistant inseason subsistence fishery manager for USFWS. Ray first joined the AFS in 1993 while attending school in Fairbanks and served as president of the Student Subunit in 1994. We are very happy to welcome Ray to the EXCOM at this time. The Chapter, and especially Bob Ourso will benefit greatly from his assistance.

Please send Bob Ourso powerful healing thoughts and drop him a line or a visit. He is pretty much confined to his home and welcomes some distraction.

I am also very happy to announce that we have two new committee chairs. Debby Burwen will chair Continuing Education and Cecil Rich will chair Environmental Concerns. 🗨️

Studying Run Characteristics of Chinook Salmon, continued from page 1

travel corridors and spawning tributaries. Aerial tracking surveys were also flown to locate fish in non-terminal reaches and spawning tributaries. An automated database-GIS mapping program with an internet link was used to process the tracking data on a daily basis, making it possible to summarize and use the information in-season in 2002.

A total of 768 fish were radio tagged in 2002, with 748 (97.3%) fish resuming their upriver migration. Movement rates averaged 54.4 km/day for fish traveling to the upper basin, including 48.4 km/day for Tanana River fish and 56.4 km/day for fish returning to the upper Yukon River. Middle basin fish traveled an average of 43.3 km/day, while fish in the lower basin were substantially slower (20.1 km/day). These rates were comparable to limited movement data obtained in previous years of the study.

A total of 535 radio-tagged fish not harvested in non-terminal fisheries were tracked to areas throughout the basin. Lower and middle basin fish were present throughout the run, although these stocks were more prevalent during late June and July. Most (77.6%) radio-tagged fish returned to reaches in the upper basin including the Tanana River and upper Yukon River.

Canadian stocks were the primary component of the sample returning to the upper Yukon River, although Canadian fish were also located in U.S. tributaries along the Yukon River main stem. Fish returning to the Porcupine River were tracked to tributaries in both the U.S. and Canada. These data only represent the distribution of fish radio tagged during the study. Stock composition estimates for the entire return will be developed by weighting the telemetry data with run abundance information.

Eighteen fish tagged with radio-archival tags were recovered during the study. Water depth varied as the fish moved upriver, with fish periodically swimming at depths greater than 20 meters. Swimming depth and water temperature data are being analyzed, particularly in reference to movements through areas with fisheries and run assessment projects.

Information from this study has provided new information and insights into the composition, timing and movement patterns of chinook salmon returns in the Yukon River basin. The infrastructure provided by the study is also being used to collect information on other fish species in the drainage, including whitefish and inconnu, as well as other salmonids. 🗨️

Committee Annual Reports

Wally Noerenberg Award Committee

Doug Palmer, Chair

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence is the highest award of the Chapter. It is bestowed as a special honor of an individual's life-long career achievements in fishery excellence. The award was created in 1981, and in 1982 was awarded posthumously to its namesake, Wally Noerenberg. Since then, there have been only nine recipients: Armin Koerning, Robert Armstrong, Clem Tillion, Steven Pennoyer, Jim Branson, Jim Reynolds, Ole Mathisen, Ken Roberson, and John H. Clark. John Clark was the last individual to receive the award in 1997. Contributions may include, but are not limited to, fisheries research; technology development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing or marketing; academics or fisheries education; and involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries.

The committee is comprised of three Chapter past-presidents and a committee chair that cannot be a past president. The committee members during 2002 were Buck Bryant, Cindy Hartman, Bill Bechtol, and myself. The committee solicited nominations for the Wally Noerenberg Award in the Winter issue of *Oncorhynchus* and received one nomination prior to the July 31 deadline. The nomination was for Dr. Augustus John Paul. The committee met via teleconference on August 28 and unanimously supported A. J. Paul as a recipient for the award. Supporting documentation for the award was forwarded to the Executive Committee in early September for final approval.

Dr. A. J. Paul was a marine research scientist at the University of Alaska for over 30 years. A. J. received his MS degree at UAF in 1973 and a Ph.D. in 1987 at Hokkaido University in Japan. Most of his career was spent at the Seward Marine Center where he quickly established a very strong and extremely well funded research program. Much of his support came from agencies, which were eager to have him perform studies and experiments needed in support of fisheries management. The well-published A. J. exhibited a "broad discipline approach" to marine species, but was perhaps best known for research into crab life histories. A. J. retired in 2001 and now holds the title of Professor Emeritus.

Acceptance Statement by Dr. A. J. Paul

It is amazing to me sitting here on the sun lit planes of the Edward's Plateau of Texas that I was even considered for such a prestigious AFS award in Alaska. I am surprised to receive the award because it is uncommon to grant such a prize to someone who spent his whole career having fun. I was most fortunate in having a job where I could continually explore new topics of study, and launch myself into research projects for which I was minimally trained. I can only accept the award if it is acknowledged that whatever was accomplished during my career was done with the help of many other people. Most importantly my wife Judy was always there to do the real work leaving me free to dream up ever more projects for her and my other faithful staff. A very large number of people from the University of Alaska, other universities, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and National Marine Fisheries Service contributed to the scientific output of my research group. These colleagues are too numerous to mention but examining the co-authors of my journal publications easily identifies them. Also I was very fortunate to work at the Institute of Marine Science's Seward Laboratory that has a first class physical plant and a maintenance crew that is superb. I thank the Alaska chapter of AFS for this honor and will treasure it as a capstone to my career as a marine scientist.

The Awards Committee

Andy Gryska, Chair

The Awards Committee announced the presentation of the Meritorious Service Award and Best Paper Awards from the Chapter's 29th Annual Meeting, 2002, Girdwood, AK. This year, the awards committee was proud to present a Meritorious Service Award to a very deserving individual. The Meritorious Service Award had not been awarded since 1998. Based on an impressive nomination, the awards committee selected and the excom approved the selection of Dr. Jie Zheng of Alaska Department of Fish and Game for his accomplishments, dedication, and service to the improvement of Alaskan Fisheries. Congratulations!

The Awards Committee annually judges posters and papers presented at the Annual Meeting. This year, the **Best Student Paper** was awarded to Mark D. Scheuerell "A model framework for relating life-history, freshwater habitat, and the ocean environment to Pacific salmon productivity and capacity". Mark's co-author was Ray Hilborn. The **Best Poster Award** was awarded to Kristin Ciciel "Growth and movement of the sea cucumber *Parastichopus californicus* in southeast Alaska". Her co-author was Ginny Eckert. The **Best Paper Award** was awarded to Alisa A. Abookire "Spawning season and length at maturity for Dover sole in the Gulf of Alaska". Congratulations!

Cultural Diversity Committee

Jerry Berg and Gretchen Bishop, Co-Chairs, Lisa Stuby Committee Member

Committee had the privilege of soliciting for and eventually selecting two top candidates for this year's cultural diversity travel awards. The awards paid the travel expenses for two entry-level fishery biologists to the annual Alaska Chapter conference in Girdwood. The goal is to help diversify our Chapter membership. The Chapter asked us to select an Alaskan Native plus one other person in a minority group for the two awards. We solicited applications from around the state and received seven excellent applications from highly qualified individuals. This made our committee selection process very challenging and was quite difficult to only be able to choose two recipients. The 2002 awardees are Karen Pletnikoff and Jodi Neil. Karen won the Alaskan Native award and currently works for the Bristol Bay Native Association as a fishery biologist in their fisheries partner program. Jodi won the minority award and is working for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association as a fish biologist I.

The Cultural Diversity award application and rating criteria need some fine tuning. Our committee will work to revise these documents prior to next year's awards. If anyone has comments, ideas, or would like to be involved with the revision process, contact any one of the committee members.

Continuing Education Committee

Joel H. Reynolds, Chair

Annual Conference: Tremendous kudos to Ted Otis, Dave Daum, Dan Urban, and everyone who helped them put on the recent Video Monitoring Workshop at the Girdwood meeting. From the standing room only attendance, it was clear this was a timely presentation of important and useful information. The workshop exemplified the professional interaction and sharing of ideas that are the real purpose of the chapter. Good job.

Thanks also to John Eiler and David Bella for their well attended and well received half-day courses. There were a number of requests after the Telemetry course for a continuation covering analysis issues. If this is something that you would be interested

in attending, please contact the Committee Chair. Lastly, sincere thanks to Carol Kerkvliet, Cecil Rich, Susan McNeil, and Doug Lieb for their help with the continuing education day arrangements.

Annual Summary: The Continuing Education Committee sponsored five courses in the last year, four in conjunction with Chapter Meetings and one independent of the Chapter Meeting. Based on approximate records from the recent 2002 Chapter Meeting in Girdwood, a total of 188 people attended these five courses of which 124 (66%) were members. All courses broke even or netted a profit. This profit allows the Chapter to consider sponsoring member-requested courses whose more specialized nature may limit immediate profitability.

I've enjoyed being Committee Chair, but other duties require that I step down. Debby Burwen graciously and enthusiastically agreed to take over as Continuing Education Coordinator for the Chapter; she is already organizing more Technical Writing Workshops with Jud Monroe, Ph.D. in the Anchorage area for Winter/Spring 2003. She is also pursuing some other Continuing Education ideas for next year's meeting including a Mark-Recapture short-course and a short-course on Supervisory Skills and Communication, so now is a good time to send her your course suggestions and requests: debby_burwen@fishgame.state.ak.us.

International Relations Committee

Fred DeCicco, Chair

Duties: 1. Encourage and facilitate communication and exchange of ideas among Alaska Chapter members and members of the international fisheries community. 2. Widen the program at Alaska Chapter meetings by facilitating the inclusion of a foreign speaker from an Arctic or sub-Arctic region of the world to discuss fisheries related issues, programs and problems from a different perspective. 3. Encourage participation of Alaska Chapter members in fisheries conferences, exchanges, and projects occurring in other countries. 4. Provide the President of the Alaska Chapter with an annual report of Committee membership, activities and accomplishments.

Members of the committee include Nick Hughes, Bill Hines, Mark Stopha, Vic Storoska, Ken Harper, Jack Piccolo, Lou Carufel, and Gordon Haas.

The International Committee has been relatively inactive during 2002. Activities have been limited to acquiring old copies of donated journals to send to Institutes in Russia. Unofficial activities have included a brief visit with Nick Hughes and his colleagues in Nelson, New Zealand in January, and attendance at the meeting of the International Society of Arctic Char Fanatics (ISACF) in October. Plans are underway to sponsor a visiting speaker for the 2003 annual meeting. I encourage anyone who is interested in participating in the committee to attend. ☺

Award Nominations Wanted

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA) and the Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence. I encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and submit nominations for these Awards. Send to Andrew Gryska, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701, 907-459-7339, Andrew_Gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us. Award presentations will occur at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Nominations for the MSA can be based on an outstanding contribution in any area of Alaska fisheries, including research, management, education, planning, industry, and policy development. Nominations do not have to come from AFS members, nor do nominees need to be active members. The contribution or accomplishment of the candidate must be recent and not the result of many years of effort; recognition of career-long contributions is more appropriate for the Wally Noerenberg Award. The Awards Committee will select winners based on strength of the nomination and their accomplishments.

The CSA was established to award outstanding service to the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. These candidates should have been involved in some or all of the following activities: active participation in standing or ad-hoc committees, made important contributions to advance the current objectives, long-term goals or stature of the Chapter and fisheries professionals, contributed a significant amount of time to Chapter activities, improved public awareness of the Alaska Chapter and Chapter activities, encouraged development of students as fisheries professionals through recruitment and involvement as Chapter members, and recruited fisheries professionals as Chapter members.

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor on individuals who have made great and outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries. This award was established in 1981 by resolution of the membership. The membership has also set, by resolution, specific guidelines for the Noerenberg Award Committee. Nominee contributions may include scientific research; technological development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing, or marketing; academic and fishery education; or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Please use the form in this issue to make your nominations.

I/We nominate _____ for the Alaska Chapter's (please check only one award below)

- Meritorious Service Award (MSA)
- Chapter Service Award (CSA)
- Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence

because of the following great and outstanding contribution(s) made by him/her/them to Alaska fisheries (WNA), the Alaska Chapter of American Fisheries Society (CSA), or because of some meritorious service (MSA) the nominee has performed in the field of Alaska fisheries. Please summarize the salient points of why you feel the nominee is justified to receive the award (about 1 page, with supporting documentation, e.g. a list of published papers, accomplishments, c.v.):

Nomination submitted by:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____

Please feel free to also submit any other supportive documentation that you think will be of use to our award committees.

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 31, 2003 FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

Send nominations to

Andrew Gryska, ADF&G Sport Fish, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK, 99701 or andrew_gryska@fish game.state.ak.us.

Oncorhynchus
 Allen Bingham
 P.O. Box 221804
 Anchorage, AK 99522-1804

RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD

2003 Alaska Chapter Officers

President Carol M. Kerkvliet, ADF&G/CF, 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage 99518-1599, Phone: 267-2379 (w), 248-3343 (h), Fax: 267-2442, carol_kerkvliet@fishgame.state.ak.us
President-Elect Tim Joyce, USFS, PO Box 280, Cordova 99574-0280, Phone: 424-4747, Fax: 424-7214, tjoyce@fs.fed.us
Vice President Molly Ahlgren, Sheldon Jackson College, 801 Lincoln Street, Sitka 99835-7699, Phone: 747-5255 Fax 747-5254, mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu
Treasurer Ray Hander, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Office, 101 12th Ave., Room 222, Box 17, Fairbanks 99701, Phone: 456-0402, Fax: 456-0454, ray_hander@fws.gov
Secretary Alisa Abookire, NMFS/NOAA, 301 Research Ct., Kodiak 99615-7400, Phone: 481-1735, Fax: 481-1703, Alisa.Abookire@noaa.gov
Past President David Wiswar, USFWS/FRO, 101 12th Ave., Box 17, Fairbanks 99701-6291, Phone: 456-0453, Fax: 456-0454, david_wiswar@fws.gov
Student Unit President Kristin Cieciel, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau Center for Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, Phone: 465-8572, K.Cieciel@uaf.edu
Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

2003 AFS Membership Application

Print or type applicant's name in full _____
 Address _____

 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

 Nation _____ Membership year* _____

Kindly make checks payable to American Fisheries Society in U.S. Currency or Equivalent.

Please mail to Allen Bingham P.O. Box 221804 Anchorage, AK 99522-1804

Professional recruiting others (PROCLUB) _____
 If applicant is a student as defined below, the teacher endorsing him signs here.** _____

 Name of institution where student is enrolled _____

 Date _____

Please provide phone numbers for directory and Society use only:

Home _____ Work _____
 Fax _____ Email _____

Employed by:
 federal govt. state/prov. govt. industry academia self

- Alaska Dues: \$10.00** **Alaska Student Dues: \$5.00**
- Membership Dues (includes *Fisheries* and Membership Directory)
- Regular (North America): \$76.00 (Other than North America, \$88.00)
- Student (North America)**: \$38.00 (Other than North America, \$44.00)
- Young Professional***: \$38.00
- Retired (North America): (65 or over): \$38.00 (Other than North America \$44.00)
- Life (All): \$1,737.00 (includes *Fisheries* and one other journal of choice)

¹ Prices are for AFS members only ² Membership not required for subscription
 * New members accepted Jan. 1-Aug.31 are credited to full membership for that year. (Back issues of Journals are sent.) Members accepted Sept. 1-Dec. 31 credited to full membership as of next Jan. 1, unless requested otherwise. Membership on calendar year only.

Journal Subscriptions (Optional)

- Transactions of the AFS¹ N.A. Journal of Fisheries Management¹
- \$38.00 Paper in North America \$43.00 Paper other than N.A.
- \$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet
- North American Journal Journal of Aquatic Animal Health¹
- of Aquaculture²
- \$38.00 Paper in North America \$43.00 Paper other than N.A.
- \$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet

** Bona fide students of fisheries subjects are eligible for Student membership (limited to 6 years). Persons employed full-time not eligible. Teacher endorsement required (see above).

*** Within 3 years of graduation.

NOTE: Retired membership for Active members upon retiring at age 65. Sustaining membership for commercial firms, conservation clubs, or others desiring to support the Society. Library Subscriptions include bimonthly *Transactions*, quarterly *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health*, quarterly *The Progressive Fish-Culturist*, bimonthly *Fisheries*, and Membership Directory.