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Mapping Coastal Habitats in Southcentral Alaska using the ShoreZone Technique



*NMFS biologist, Mandy Lindeberg, displays the kelp, *Macrocystis*, which is rare in southcentral Alaska. This specimen was found during field verification surveys, but was also observed during the aerial survey portion of ShoreZone mapping. Photo by Mary Morris.*

Susan M. Saupe

Nearshore habitat data and maps can provide valuable information for many uses, such as identifying essential fish habitat, selecting research sites, or making coastal management decisions. Recently, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) initiated a coastal mapping project in southcentral Alaska. The Cook Inlet RCAC, one of two RCACs created in Alaska by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, conducts environmental monitoring to assess potential impacts of oil industry operations in Cook Inlet and the fate and effect of potential oil spills, especially to sensitive coastal areas. To do so, they needed better coastal habitat information.

During the evaluation of various habitat mapping options, a method called ShoreZone Mapping emerged as a tool that could provide both nearshore habitat information and shoreline digital images along a wide geographic range, within a reasonable budget. ShoreZone mapping had been applied in Washington State and British Columbia and it made sense to use a method that had been successful in areas with many similarities to the areas of interest in Cook Inlet and the Kenai Peninsula. In addition, Dr. Carl Schoch of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve had used ShoreZone in his Washington coast spatially nested shoreline partitioning model and could also apply it to his local research.

ShoreZone is a habitat mapping procedure developed by Dr. John Harper at Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. (CORI) that maps coastal morphology and biota using low-tide aerial video imagery and in-flight commentary as the primary source of information. Later, a geomorphologist and coastal biologist interpret the images and classify shoreline features into a database by dividing the shoreline into alongshore units based on morphology and exposure. They then classify the physical and biological attributes of the units as well as associated across-shore components.

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Student Mentors Needed

Molly Ahlgren

The membership committee is looking for individuals interested in sponsoring/mentoring student AFS members. We are particularly interested in helping a newly formed AFS student sub-unit to become established at Sheldon Jackson College. This January, SJC students formally organized an AFS student sub-unit. There are currently 22 SJC students who are interested in becoming active AFS members.

A mentor program was established several years ago to get students in touch with experienced biologists so they could establish some rapport and learn from people working in fisheries fields. In the past, mentors have interacted informally with students via e-mail and even helped students with resumes, recommendations, proposals etc. Additionally, mentors have learned from students and made new friends too. It's a great opportunity to share and gain personal experience.

If you would like to sponsor a first-time student membership and mentor a student please contact Molly Ahlgren at Sheldon Jackson College, mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu, 747-5255. ☺

The President's Column

Carol Kerklvit

His name is Arctic cisco *Coregonus autumnalis*. He has a terminal mouth but he is not slimy nor does he have scales, which is how this whitefish could be described, rather, his coat is otter-like thick soft rich chocolate brown fur. He is a 16-year-old Labrador retriever mix. I have always hoped that when the time came for him to leave me that I would wake up one morning see him sigh once, while sleeping on the couch, along side the bed, or lying in the hall and then die peacefully. Life is not that easy. I may have to make the decision for his leaving and I don't want to.



The companionship of living with a friend like a dog is like the companionship many of us feel living with the environment. I suspect many of us entered this profession because of our relationship with the environment and saw the need to promote its health. The recent "Letter of Environmental Concerns" to our Governor has recently highlighted our commitment to the environment. The letter was drafted by the Environmental Concerns committee and was reviewed by past presidents and officers, the executive committee, and fisheries professionals with the goal to represent our membership. Final approval was by the executive committee. The letter was then sent to the Governor with copies to legislators and interested parties.

This letter was distributed to the membership through our list server stating . . . At present, ADF&G has permitting responsibility for projects that may affect fish habitat while ADNR has responsibility for resource development. This provides a system of checks and balances and an opportunity for fishery biologists to work with developers – through the permitting process – to make proposed projects more fish-friendly. We believe that if this permitting function is transferred to ADNR, the check and balance system will be tilted away from habitat protection to the long-term detriment of our aquatic resources. Many of our members have personally observed the impact of this approach to habitat protection on fish and aquatic resources in the lower 48-Pacific Northwest." This letter is reprinted in this newsletter for your review. Please read the letter and decide where you stand on this issue.

Executive Order 107 has been signed and the only way to rescind this order is through the legislature. If it is not rescinded, it will go into effect on April 15th. Some people have expressed that it is doubtful that the legislature will overturn this action, but only time will tell. What can we do in response if this order is upheld? We should take action when warranted and not allow our disappointment to cloud a bigger concern, the health of the environment. If the Executive Order stands, we must seek a workable solution but be vigilant and reaffirm our commitment as caretakers of the environment and aquatic resources.

The immediate casualties of this order are employees in the Habitat Division. Many of us know individuals in the Habitat Division and recognize their professionalism and dedication to the environment. My heart goes out to those individuals whose jobs are in jeopardy. In this time of transition, we need to encourage and support our colleagues. Please help where you can. Any one of us could potentially find ourselves in the same situation.

In the future, we may be called to make decisions concerning the health of the environment that we do not want to make; such as my decision with Cisco. I ask myself if I will be attentive to the quality of his life and do what is best for him or will I not act until my companion has wasted away? I only hope that I will not need to make this decision – but if I do, I hope that I will have the wisdom to decide what is best for him. ☹

Volunteer to help with the 2005 National AFS Meeting in Anchorage

Tom Kron

The AFS 2005 Local Arrangements Committee still needs people to help with the National Meeting to be held in Anchorage in 2005. We need someone to volunteer to head a subcommittee or coordinate work on:

- Student helpers (who will work on A/V, registration, etc.)
- Spawning run (a mini marathon with t-shirts, etc.)
- Signage and banners
- Theme decorations (PAC and EGAN and socials and name tags, etc.)
- Raffle (liaison to the AFS Raffle Committee)
- Door prizes (for Trade show reception)
- Opening reception arrangements (work with Bill Wilson - major social event)
- Trade show reception arrangements
- "Free night" options coordinator
- Program and abstracts printing/CDs
- Intra-committee and meeting communications
- Internet access/internet cafe
- Registration packets/bags/paraphernalia
- Meeting space planning
- Local arrangements committee identification/t-shirts/support.

Some of these "jobs" can be done by more than one person; several "jobs" can be done by one person. And there is some overlap in these areas also. Anyone who wants to help – we'll find a place for you! Please contact Bill Wilson, bill.wilson@noaa.gov or Tom Kron, tom_kron@fws.gov. ☹

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 June 10.

Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

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Mapping Coastal Habitats, Continued from Page 1

The biological information provided for each across-shore component are recorded as biobands, which are defined descriptors of vegetation, algae, and invertebrate assemblages or, in some cases, species that are observed in the coastal imagery, and are recorded as continuous, patchy, or trace. Several examples of biobands that are mapped along the Alaska coast are mussels, rockweed (*Fucus gardneri*), bull kelp (*Nereocystis leutkeana*), dragon kelp (*Alaria fistulosa*) and eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). The final database is linked to digital shorelines so that all data is georeferenced and users can produce maps by querying the database for various shoreline features.

Cook Inlet RCAC initiated ShoreZone in central Cook Inlet in 2001, and expanded their program in 2002 to include southern Cook Inlet and the outer Kenai Peninsula coast. In addition, they added on-the-ground field surveys to verify species assemblages in the biobands. In 2002, the EVOS Trustee Council supported ShoreZone along the rest of the outer Kenai Peninsula coast, extending as far east as the entrance to Prince William Sound, and along the shores of the Northern Kodiak Island Archipelago. The digital imagery acquired during

the Alaska ShoreZone program so far are available over the internet and users can virtually "fly" along the coast. This web link as well as more detailed descriptions of the ShoreZone methods and a draft database from portions of the outer Kenai Peninsula coast are available through links on CORI's website at www.coastalandoceans.com.

The future of ShoreZone seems bright as interested users learn how the method may be applied to their specific needs. Recently, the EVOS Trustee Council convened a workshop that provided a venue for about 30 representatives from local, state, and federal agencies, non-profits, research institutions, and industry to discuss their coastal habitat mapping needs and to standardize and refine Alaska ShoreZone protocols. The group recognized the value of a "broad brush" mapping program that is consistent across wide geographic ranges and provides a first step to identifying areas where more detailed habitat mapping methods might be required. The consensus of the group was that ShoreZone should be applied not only across the oil spill region, but that it could and should grow to include all of coastal Alaska with the support, collaboration, and efforts of multiple organizations. ☺

Continuing Education Announcement

Debby Burwen

Haunted by an unfinished manuscript or report? Want to improve your writing? Invest 5 days learning skills that will empower your writing and make you a more effective, and efficient, communicator. Dr. Jud Monroe is returning to Alaska to repeat his highly praised technical writing workshop. Participants will learn general approaches to clear, effective writing and how to adjust their writing to the specific needs of management, regulatory, and scientific audiences. The workshop emphasizes *immediate practical application* of techniques: participants spend mornings learning techniques for specific stages of the writing process, then devote afternoons to applying and exploring these techniques on their own manuscripts. *Participants must bring a technical/scientific paper or report to work on.* Dr. Monroe will provide editorial feedback on each participant's manuscript until it is finalized, even after the conclusion of the workshop, if necessary up to one year from the course date.

The workshop is being offered in Anchorage, April 7-11. The class will be held at the Alaska State Training Center, 619 East Ship Creek Road, suite 309. The cost is \$350 for Chapter members and \$400 for nonmembers. **The course is limited to 22 participants, so don't delay.** Email debby_burwen@fishgame.state.ak.us or call 267-2225 to register today. ☺

Fisheries Communication and Education Committee Annual Report

Laurel Devaney and Andrea Medeiros,
Committee co-chairs

The goal of this committee is to increase the knowledge and skills of AFS members so that they can develop and implement outreach and education programs about their projects and Alaska's fisheries. The ultimate goal is to use our communication skills to develop respect and stewardship of our unique fisheries and aquatic resources among all Alaskans.

In the past year, our committee worked with Allen Bingham to get an attractive electronic version of the fishery education materials resource guide posted on the AFS web site.

The Communication and Education committee chaired a session at the 2002 state meeting called: Communication as Fisheries Management Tool. This session was well attended, and we received a number of favorable comments about the speakers and topics presented.

A Communication and Education committee meeting was also held at the 2002 state meeting. Mark Lisac, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Mary McBurney, with the National Park Service, gave presentations about fisheries education and training programs that they've developed. We also used this time to explore fisheries education and communication needs that can be met by this group, and brain-stormed possible topics to cover in a pre-conference workshop or future workshop sessions.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Education committee, please feel free to contact Andrea Medeiros: andrea_medeiros@fws.gov, 786-3674 or Laurel Devaney: laurel_devaney@fws.gov, 456-0558. ☺

AFS Annual Meeting

Fairbanks November 3 - 6, 2003

Put this date on your calendar today!

Meetings and Events

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

The 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 http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/AFS_congres/appel_A.htm.

21st Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium

The Alaska Sea Grant College Program is sponsoring the 21st Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium in Anchorage, 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>.

Western Division AFS Meeting

Just a quick reminder that the "Productive Pacific Ecosystems: Lake, Stream, Estuarine and Marine Environments from Alaska to Baja" Conference will be convened in San Diego during April 14 -17, 2003. We have a full program that includes a Plenary Session, 21 Symposia and 6 technical sessions covering an array of topics, plus four Continuing Education Workshops, including the AFS Leadership Principles Workshop. This 3-hour workshop is taught by our AFS senior leaders: Carl Burger, Gus Rassam, Fred Harris, Barb Knuth, and Joe Margraf. This is definitely AFS's "A TEAM"! Everyone is encouraged to attend this workshop, and it is free!!! Any new Division or Chapter officer or Committee Chair should attend this workshop to gain the tools you need to be an effective leader within AFS and beyond. The three other workshops that are being offered on Monday, April 14th are: Biological Assessments - Expediting Section 7 Consultations, Biotelemetry Systems - Theoretical and Practical, and Conflict Resolution Skills for Natural Resource Professionals. Also a reminder that there are two free student spaces in the telemetry workshop. These spaces will go to the first two students to contact Kathy Hieb at khieb@delta.dfg.ca.gov or phone 209-942-6078. For more information on the conference, see our web site at http://www.fisheries.org/wd/meet/2003/meet2003_new.htm.

2003 Larval Fish Conference

This year's event marks the 27th annual Larval Fish Conference. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Santa Cruz Laboratory in Santa Cruz, California, is pleased to host this conference with co-sponsors UCSC Institute of Marine Sciences, CALFED, and the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP). The conference dates are August 20-23, 2003. Meeting rooms and accommodations are on the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) campus, with several off-campus social events planned. A Larval Identification Workshop is being planned to follow the conference. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact Sue Sogard today at Susan.Sogard@noaa.gov. The deadline to submit abstracts is April 7. For more information visit the web site <http://www.lfc2003.com/>.



Propagated Fish in Resource Management Symposium

This Symposium, being held in Boise ID June 16-28, 2003, will be of interest to anyone involved in the use of cultured fish in fisheries management. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Chair, John Nickum at jgnickum@hotmail.com. The PFIRM Symposium program, plus other conference information, has been placed on the website at www.fishbiologycongress.org/PFIRM.

Capture-Recapture Models Course

The course, Modern Capture-Recapture Models For Terrestrial and Aquatic Applications, will be held August 4-6, 2003 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia and taught by Dr. Ken Pollock. The course will cover modern capture-recapture models that are used to estimate various population dynamics parameters, particularly population size or abundance. Closing date for applications is June 13, 2003 and the cost is \$570. For information contact Dr. Alan Temple: Alan_Temple@fws.gov, phone: 304-876-7440, Fax: 304-876-7225 or visit the National Conservation Training Center Website: <http://training.fws.gov>.

Applied Electrofishing Principles and Practices Course

The Northwest Environmental Training Center (NWETC) is offering a one-day electrofishing course on Wednesday, May 7, in Anchorage at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. James B. Reynolds, University of Alaska Fairbanks is the instructor. Electrofishing is an effective way to sample freshwater fishes. However, electrofishing may cause fish injury or mortality. The proper balance between efficient sampling and minimal adverse effects to fish is achieved through understanding the principles of electricity and use of proper field techniques. This course will provide a one-day overview of electrofishing principles and practices. Participants will spend one-half day in the classroom and one-half day using backpack electrofishers in a nearby stream. Course topics include circuit and field theory, electroshock effects on fish, electrofishing systems, electrofishing safety, and sampling techniques and standardization. Course Registration is \$195 (\$150 for government; nonprofits; Native American Tribes; students; and AFS, AAEP, NAEP, NWAEP, and NEBC members). Enrollment is limited to the first 30 participants. Early registration is recommended although you may register up to the day prior to the class provided that space is available. Each person will have the opportunity to use a backpack electrofisher in the field. Participants are welcome to bring their own backpack electrofishers to gain instruction specific to their own equipment. To request further information, call: 206-762-1976 or send an email to: www.nwetc.org.

13th International Salmonid Habitat Enhancement Workshop

The Proceedings of the 13th International Salmonid Habitat Enhancement Workshop, which was held in Westport Ireland in September last year, are now online at http://www.cfb.ie/salmonid_workshop/papers.htm. In most cases the entire paper is available. The workshop was attended by over 220 people that included leading world experts on the restoration of salmon and trout rivers. 🐟

First Call for Papers: 30th Alaska Chapter Annual Conference: Ecological and Sociological Linkages in Fisheries

Tim Joyce

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Conference will meet in Fairbanks November 3 - 6, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Wedgewood Resort. Continuing education classes are being organized by Debby Burwen and will take place prior to the start of paper presentations. A number of sessions are being planned, which should provide items of interest for all members of the Chapter. Now is a good time to start thinking about presenting your work at one of these sessions. More detailed information will be available in the summer issue of *Oncorhynchus*.

Sessions on introduced species and on communications are also being planned. If you have ideas about a session topic that is not contained in the following list, please contact Tim Joyce, U.S. Forest Service; e-mail: tjoyce@fs.fed.us or phone 424-4747.

Session Title: Carry Capacity for Salmon in Marine Habitats.

Session Chair: Alex Wertheimer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, e-mail: Alex.Wertheimer@noaa.gov or phone: 789-6040.

Description: This session is soliciting papers that provide information for processes defining or limiting the carrying capacity of marine habitats for Pacific salmon. Of particular interest are studies or reviews on whether survival and growth in marine habitats are driven by density-dependent or density-independent processes, and the implications for the interactions of hatchery and wild salmon in these habitats.

Session Title: Contributed Paper.

Session Chair: Bill Smoker, Division of Fisheries, UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, Juneau, AK, e-mail: Bill.Smoker@uaf.edu or phone: 465-6441.

Description: Presenters with topics that do not fit the subject matter of the other sessions are encouraged to submit their abstracts to this session.

Session Title: Habitat Protection and Habitat Restoration: Complementary Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries.

Session Chair: Cecil Rich, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division, e-mail: cecil_rich@fishgame.state.ak.us, or phone: 267-2122.

Description: Alaska's freshwater habitats are some of the most pristine in the country, however, the cumulative impacts of past and current development activities continue to degrade habitat quality and limit fish production. Efforts to address these impacts include two complementary approaches: minimizing potential impacts of proposed development projects through agency permitting processes and restoring impaired habitats using techniques such as bio-stabilization of stream banks or restoring passage to unavailable habitats (e.g., replacing bad culverts). Examples from the Pacific Northwest indicate that habitat protection efforts are a more certain and efficient method of long-term

conservation of habitats whereas there is much uncertainty regarding the efficacy of some habitat restoration efforts. The goal of this session is to explore the importance of each of these strategies in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Alaska's freshwater habitats. Topics for discussion may include, but are not limited to: successes and limitations of habitat protection efforts, successes and limitation of habitat restoration techniques, and fish passage restoration.

Spatial Analysis and GIS, How It Can Be Applied to Fisheries Management.

Session Chair: Samantha Greenwood, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 280, Cordova, AK 99574, email: sgreenwood@fs.fed.us or phone: 424-4740.

Description: Spatial analysis and GIS are becoming valuable tools in fisheries work. Projects range from using GPS to locate and mark habitat structures in the field for long term monitoring, to using GIS to model temperature data on streams and predict species presence. Predicting future land use and its potential cumulative impacts on fisheries habitat is an example of how GIS is being used for large-scale assessments. This session will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and information on spatial analysis and GIS and how it is being used in the fisheries field. Papers are invited that relate the various applications of GIS and spatial analysis to fisheries work.

Session Title: Managing Salmon Populations for Sustained Yield in Large Riverine Systems Throughout the Pacific Northwest: Who's Foolin Who?

Session Chair: Charlie Swanton, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, e-mail: Charles_Swanton@fishgame.state.ak.us or phone: 459-7225.

Description: The sheer physical magnitude of a large riverine watershed is daunting enough without contemplating the myriad salmon species and stocks that annually return to spawn. Management of salmon populations employing numerous and in some cases imprecise data sources make the holy grail of meeting escapement goals or prescribed harvest rates virtually untenable. When coupling these impediments to management, with thousands of resource users disparate cultural, social, and fiscal demands, the fishery manager is often heard muttering "I hate my job". This session is intended to address how inseason management is conducted over a wide breadth of systems, what aspects are common amongst systems, and what are the overarching impediments to improved management. It is also desired that commercial, subsistence/aboriginal, and recreational/sport users perspectives be provided as well. The session will end with an open discussion of what changes can we suggest that will improve inseason management of salmon stocks from both manager and user perspectives.

Session Title: Recent Advances in Marine Biology.

Session Chair: Dan Urban, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, e-mail: dan_urban@fishgame.state.ak.us or phone: 486-1849.

Description: Marine species of fish and invertebrates in the waters off Alaska support some of the largest and most valuable fisheries in the world. A great deal of innovative research on those marine species has been done in recent years, but is generally not well known by Alaskan fisheries scientists working in other areas. This session will make available to the conference information on advances in our knowledge of the marine world. Examples of possible topics would include recent work on life history parameters, stock/recruit relationships, and ecosystem management techniques.

Session Title: Status of Western Native Fishes Project: An Introduction and Evaluation of its Applicability to Alaska.

Session Chair: Michael Wiedmer, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, e-mail: mike_wiedmer@fishgame.state.ak.us or phone: 267-2292.

Description: This session will introduce the American Fisheries Society, Western Division's *Status of Western Native Fishes Project*, and discuss its application in Alaska. The Western Division has initiated this project to assess the status of freshwater, non-anadromous fishes of western North America. The project is intended to compliment other, related projects that have assessed the status of western anadromous salmonids (Nehlsen *et al.* 1991, Slaney *et al.* 1996, Warren *et al.* 2000, Taylor *et al.* 1996, Huntington *et al.* 1998, and Baker *et al.* 1999) and marine fisheries resources (Musick *et al.* 2001). The Western Division desires to collect detailed information on the status of western native fishes for a number of reasons. First, such information is needed to identify species and populations at risk throughout western North America. In addition, information on the status of inland fishes is needed to evaluate the efficacy and potential impacts of recovery plans that have been developed or are being developed to facilitate the recovery of anadromous fish populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, such information is needed to identify key data gaps and to help focus limited state and federal resources on the most appropriate areas (i.e., river basins, species, and stocks). Papers are invited that relate to the status of inland native fishes, including an evaluation of their distribution and abundance relative to known historic conditions.

Session Title: Fisheries Monitoring Partnerships with Tribal and Rural Organizations.

Session Chair: Steve Klein, Chief, Fisheries Information Services, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, AK 99503, e-mail: steve_klein@fws.gov or phone: 786-3605.

Description: Fisheries monitoring and research programs are increasingly utilizing tribal and rural organizations to successfully implement projects. Benefits of such cooperative ventures includes synergistic outcomes for fisheries projects, strengthened partnerships, improved coordination and acceptance of results, creation of jobs and contracts in impoverished areas, and expanded capabilities and expertise in tribal and rural organizations. Successful partnerships often promote more effective and efficient data gathering and management, can minimize present and future conflicts, and improve local support for fisheries management programs. Involvement of tribal and rural

organizations ranges from consultation with local communities, to complete project implementation by local entities. This session is intended to showcase examples of successful integration of tribal and rural organizations into fisheries monitoring and research programs. Papers are invited that demonstrate successful local-tribal-state-federal partnerships for implementation of fisheries programs, including those that blend traditional ecological knowledge with the biological sciences.

Session Title: Suburban Development in the Riparian Zone.

Session Chair: Tom Paragi, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, 99701, e-mail: tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us or phone: 459-7327.

Description: This 4-hour invited session is being organized by Fairbanks members of the Alaska Society of American Foresters and Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Our goal is to encourage communication and problem solving across the disciplines of forestry, fisheries biology, and wildlife biology. We will invite 7-8 speakers to present various viewpoints for 15-20 minutes on regulatory standards in suburban development and how they affect fish and wildlife habitat and forest management along rivers near urban Alaska. Anticipated speakers will likely include knowledgeable individuals from the Army Corp of Engineers, DEC Water Quality, DNR Forestry, DNR Lands, an engineering firm that represents developers, the planning section of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, a wildlife agency, a fisheries agency, and an Alaskan metropolitan government outside of Fairbanks.

SAF-TWS will provide guidance for topic sideboards when recruiting speakers and ask them to represent a statewide perspective to the extent possible. **Input from AFS members on prospective speakers and topic sideboards is encouraged ASAP, preferably by email.** After presentations, the speakers will sit on a panel and field questions from the audience. Our experience in doing SAF workshops and joint SAF-TWS meetings over the last two years is that the discussion period is extremely beneficial, particularly among disciplines. SAF and TWS would like to thank Alaska AFS for this opportunity! 🗣️

**New Book Release from AFS:
Sustaining North American Salmon: Perspectives
Across Regions and Disciplines**

U.S. and Canadian fisheries professionals from multiple disciplines examine the history, current knowledge, and research needs of fisheries stakeholders, managers, and policy makers regarding salmon ecology, policy, and management in North America. This book offers a greater understanding of the complexity and repercussions of salmon management. Information needs from biological, social, and economic perspectives are identified, enabling managers and policy makers to develop an action agenda to acquire and utilize this information.

This excellent reference for the management of salmon presents a synthesis of the history, ecology, sociology, economics, politics/institutions, and the future of one of the most economically and culturally significant fishes in America. AFS member price for the book is \$48. 🗣️

Business Meeting Minutes

[Condensed by Editor] The Annual Business Meeting was held October 23 in Girdwood during the annual Alaska Chapter AFS meeting. Alaska Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) members present were: president David Wiswar, president-elect Carol Kerkvliet, vice-president Tim Joyce, past president Carol Ann Woody, treasurer Bob Ourso, and secretary Alisa Abookire. Also present were past presidents Bill Bechtol, Tom Kron, Joel Reynolds, Bill Wilson, and Alex Werthhimer. Other AFS officers present were Western Division past president Eric Knudsen and Society Parliamentarian Joe Margraf. David Wiswar announced that the Environmental Concerns chair is empty. David Wiswar installed the new officers, Carol Kerkvliet as President and Tim Joyce as President-Elect. The Vice President position remains vacant pending results of the ongoing election.

David noted that Bob Ourso (present via teleconference) will temporarily remain as Treasurer until some financial issues are resolved, but David wanted to acknowledge him at the business meeting for bringing the Alaska Chapter into the 21st century, especially with the credit card registration. Bob was presented a plaque of recognition. The Meritorious Service Award was awarded in 2002 for the first time since 1998. Dr. Jie Zheng from ADF&G was selected for this award. Jie was not present, but was presented the award in Juneau by Gordon Kruse.

A complete version of the business meeting minutes including reports on education, finances, the Fishes of Alaska book, membership, the Chapter Historian, awards, and the student subunit are posted on the Chapter web site: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>

Letter of Environmental Concerns

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society sent the following "Letter of Environmental Concerns" to Governor Murkowski, with copies to legislators and other interested parties in regards to the filing of an Executive Order to transfer the habitat permitting function from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR).

Dear Governor Murkowski:

The members of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society urge you not to transfer habitat permitting from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. We believe that this action will cause long-term, cumulative harm to Alaska's fishery resources. Fish are Alaska's most valuable renewable natural resource and have critical historical, cultural, and economic importance to Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and sport users. This valuable resource also represents additional opportunity for economic development.

The American Fisheries Society is the oldest and largest international scientific organization of professional fisheries scientists with nearly 8000 members dedicated to wise management and use of our sustainable aquatic resources and the continuing education of fishery scientists. The Alaska Chapter is one of over 100 subunits of the American Fisheries Society and includes more than 400 fisheries professionals who work in state and federal government, academia, and the private sector. A primary mission of the American Fisheries Society is "to ensure self-sustaining populations that support commercial and recreational fishing both now and in the future."

The Alaska Constitution states that fish and wildlife resources must be managed by the State for the sustained yield, maximum benefit and common use of all people. The framers of our State Constitution were concerned for the long-term viability of Alaska's most important renewable resource when they enacted safeguards to ensure that fish habitats would be maintained. These safeguards are a "check and balance" to assure that fishery and aquatic resources have equal standing with other important resources. This is accomplished by a review of project plans that may affect fish habitat by an independent professional fisheries scientist.

There is ample evidence from States in the Pacific Northwest that poorly designed, installed, or maintained

culverts result in loss of access by fish to thousands of miles of productive habitat. Fishery scientists have estimated that the production of anadromous fish in Washington and Oregon is about three percent of historic levels; resident fish abundance is affected as well. Most of the productivity loss has been attributed to loss of aquatic habitat. Alaska is not immune to such loss; for example, recent studies of the State road system and logging roads on the Kenai Peninsula revealed that more than half of culverts block or impede fish passage to spawning, rearing and overwintering habitats. We, the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, believe that if Alaska's fisheries resources are to be sustained for the benefit of all Alaskans, common property fisheries and aquatic resources must be given equal consideration with other land uses at the highest level. The best way to achieve this is to maintain the time-tested process enacted by the first State Legislature. We believe that if the review and permitting function is transferred from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources the invaluable system of checks and balances that have existed in State Statute since statehood will be lost. We believe that professional fisheries scientists within the Department of Fish and Game must continue to review and approve the design and installation of all proposed projects that affect our fish and aquatic resources in Alaska to ensure responsible stewardship of our sustainable fisheries and the healthy habitats that support them.

We encourage a dialogue (public hearings for example) concerning this matter and members of the Alaska Chapter of American Fisheries Society are available to assist if that will be useful. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about our fishery and aquatic resources akafs@hotmail.com.

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Hutton is an educational program for high school students designed to develop interest in a career in fisheries among groups underrepresented in the fisheries profession, including minorities and women. AFS encourages its members to consider mentoring a student during the summer of 2003. For information on how you can get involved, go to <http://www.fisheries.org/Hutton.shtml>, or contact Christine Fletcher at cletcher@fisheries.org, phone: 301-897-8616, ext. 213.

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 Allen Bingham
 P.O. Box 221804
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RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD

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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 gov't. state/prov. gov't. 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

\$43.00 Paper in North America \$48.00 Paper other than N.A.

\$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet

North American Journal Journal of Aquatic Animal Health¹

\$38.00 Paper in North America \$41.00 Paper other than N.A.

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** 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.