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### American Fisheries Society

#### Third Call for Papers

The American Fisheries Society will convene its 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin August 22-26, 2004. The meeting's theme will be "The Gathering: Leopold's Legacy for Fisheries." The theme celebrates Wisconsin's name (which has been translated as "The gathering of the waters") and Wisconsin's



celebrated ecologist Aldo Leopold. Your hosts invite you to gather with new friends on the Isthmus next summer to learn how Leopold's legacy has influenced the conservation of our aquatic resources.

Abstracts are due by February 2, 2004. Questions regarding symposia should be addressed to Tom Kwak: [Twak@nscu.edu](mailto:Twak@nscu.edu), questions regarding contributed paper sessions should be addressed to Bruce Vondracek: [bnondrac@umn.edu](mailto:bnondrac@umn.edu) and questions regarding the poster session should be addressed to Gerold Grant: [gerold.grant@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:gerold.grant@dnr.state.mn.us). For more information, visit the web site: <http://www.afs2004madison.org>.



*Eulachon were tagged with radio tags to determine the location of spawning areas and residence time in rivers.*

## Eulachon: Fish Swims in Sea of Mystery

Rob Spangler

The eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) is an anadromous forage fish inhabiting temperate regions of western North America. They have been reported from the Russian River, to the southern Bering Sea, Alaska. There appear to be reductions in the abundance of spawning fish in the rivers of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California, but very little is known about the status of the more than 30 eulachon populations in Alaska.



The eulachon has one of the highest lipid contents of any fish known and is thus a valuable prey item for many species. Each spring, eulachon return by the millions where they are fed on by countless birds, fish, and marine mammals. Eulachon have been and continue to be an important resource for humans as well. Historically, native tribes harvested eulachon for oil and food. Fish and rendered oil were bartered with inland tribes forming the "grease trails" of southeastern Alaska and British Columbia. Eulachon are still considered to be an important subsistence and personal use fishery in Alaska.

Continued on page 2

## The President's Column

Tim Joyce

I want to thank all those people who made the annual conference in Fairbanks a success. We had 283 people register for the conference this year. We also had 54 people attend the Chapter business meeting. A good attendance for both, but what really impressed me this year was the number of students that took time to attend our conference. Students are the future of AFS. Students taking an active role as presenters or listeners gain information and experience they could get no other way. They are also able to make contact with other professionals in the fisheries field gathered in one place. What an opportunity to learn.



I am also very proud of the outstanding job by Debby Burwen in coordinating the Continuing Education program. All of the offered classes were full and some had a standby list. I also have to thank all of the session chairs. Those people that take on the responsibility of chairing a session deserve a big thank you from the rest of the membership. They really do a lot of work in organizing and coordinating their sessions. This is truly a case where the "sum of the parts can be greater than the whole." The following people chaired sessions in 2003: Alisa Abookire, Steve Fried, Samantha Greenwood, Steve Klein, Denny Lassuy, Tom Paragi, Robert Piorkowski, Cecil Rich, Martin Robards, Bill Smoker, Charlie Swanton, Dan Urban and Alex Wertheimer. If you see them be sure to thank them. Each session chair had to make sure that they stayed on schedule, especially since we held concurrent sessions and participants wanted to switch from one session to another to listen to a particular talk. It is a challenging, but at the same time, a rewarding experience to chair a session. The session chair has the opportunity to highlight the latest developments in their field by selecting the session topic and soliciting speakers. If anyone has an interest in chairing a session at the next conference they should contact Molly Ahlgren, [mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu](mailto:mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu) the president-elect who will be coordinating next year's conference.

The annual conference is also a time for people to highlight field work that they have been involved with in recent years. Our chapter allows presentations either as a poster or as an oral communication. We also highlight the best presentations with a best paper and a best poster award in two categories, student and professional. The best student

paper went to Suzan Speckman and the best student poster went to Anthony Eskelin. The best paper award went to Fred DeCicco and the best poster award went to Jeffery Barnhart. These people should be proud of their accomplishments and deserve congratulations from us all.

I finally want to thank the Plenary Speaker, Lionel Johnson on a very thought provoking and interesting talk on the Thermodynamics in an Ecosystem. It is fortunate that our Chapter is able to involve scientists with different backgrounds and experiences to share their life's work with us and to offer their insight in a thought provoking way. 🐟

## Eulachon, Continued from Page 1

The general lack of knowledge about eulachon and their apparent decline has necessitated the development of population monitoring programs. However, because so little is understood about their ecology and migratory behavior, it is difficult to design programs that will yield desired results. This is especially true in Alaska, where there have been very few investigations of eulachon adult and larval behavior. Our objective was to learn more about the ecology of eulachon in order to develop such monitoring studies that would be efficient and cost effective.

What began as a study initiated by Elizabeth and Rob Spangler in 2000 in tributaries of Turnagain Arm, in southcentral Alaska, has recently expanded to include populations in southeastern Alaska in tributaries of Berners and Burroughs Bays. Rob, currently the Fisheries Program Leader of the Chugach National Forest and a Doctoral student, is now coordinating these eulachon studies with the help of Dr. Brenda Norcross (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Dr. K Koski (National Marine Fisheries Service), and Todd Tisler (U. S. Forest Service).

Over the past four years, we successfully implemented radio telemetry to gain new insights into adult eulachon migratory behavior. During this time we have learned that returning fish spend surprisingly little time in freshwater. Males tend to migrate further and spend longer (3 days) in the river than females that move in and out quickly (1 day or less). Similar spawning sites are used each year although the upstream limits of migration varied substantially. Most fish are age three when they return, however, males tend to be somewhat older, larger, and heavier than females. Run strength of adults was highly correlated with water temperature, tide height, river discharge, light intensity, and the density of a predator, bald eagles.

With the help of Dr. Doug Hay, Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, we have successfully adapted larval monitoring for smaller rivers in Alaska and learned more about the variability in larval drift to aid in the development of future studies. Mark-recapture of adults shows promise as a monitoring tool as well. Future work includes investigating salinity tolerance on the hatching success of eulachon eggs to help determine spawning areas, describing genetic differences and stock discreteness among populations across the state of Alaska, Canada, and the contiguous U. S., and further investigations of larval retention in estuaries. 🐟

### 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/>

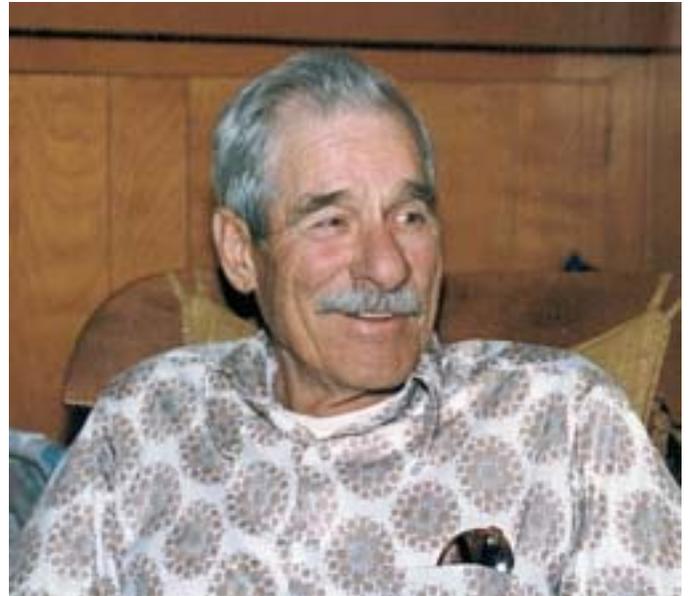
## Ralph Pirtle Passes Away

Tim Joyce

Ralph B. Pirtle passed away in August this year. Ralph was born in Redlands, California July 24, 1924. He attended elementary and high school in California. He joined the Navy in 1942 and served in the Pacific theater until the end of the war.

After the war Ralph attended the University of Montana and obtained his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Technology with major emphasis on fishery science. He worked in Oregon in 1952 and 1953. In 1953 he took a position with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game where he was promoted in 1956 to District Management Biologist. In 1959, after Alaska became the 49<sup>th</sup> state, Ralph resigned from the Idaho position and took a job with the newly formed Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a District Management Biologist in the Commercial Fisheries Division headquartered in Cordova. Ralph spent the rest of his career in Cordova managing not only the finfish, but the shellfish fisheries in Prince William Sound and off the mouth of the Copper River. Ralph was well liked and respected by those in the fishing industry.

One of the biggest challenges Ralph faced as a management biologist was shortly after the 1964 earthquake. Alaska's commercial salmon fisheries are based on a sustained yield basis, which requires a minimum escapement to be achieved in the anadromous streams of the area. Most of the coastal streams in Alaska have an area closed to commercial fishing near the mouth of the stream to provide some protection to salmon as they adjust from the marine environment to the freshwater of their natal stream. After the earthquake, areas around Prince William Sound were drastically changed either by uplift or subsidence, especially around Montague Island. It was Ralph's responsibility to make sure the regulatory markers were in place for the summer's commercial fishing



season. The challenge was where to put a marker when there were no trees within 1000 feet of the stream mouth because the shore used to be ocean bottom covered by 30 feet of water! The only thing that he could do was to hike back to the tree line and put up large enough markers that fishing boats could see them. Ralph ran into one other problem, which was the snow level, that year it was 10 to 15 feet deep. As a result, the markers were placed in trees by Ralph and his crew when they were standing on the snow. To this day, some of those marker trees are still standing with markers in them. I always wondered why the old markers were always so high up in those trees, making it nearly impossible to clear the tree limbs.

Ralph was the Alaska Chapter president in 1975 and 1976. He loved the outdoors and always looked forward to the days he could spend in the field. He made Cordova his home after retiring from the Department of Fish and Game, and his passing is certainly a loss to the fisheries community and to Cordova. ☹

## The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a mentoring program for high school students designed to stimulate interest in pursuing a career in fisheries science among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Although the program focuses on minorities, non-minority students may also participate. Students selected for the program are matched with a professional mentor for a summer-long, hands-on experience in a marine or freshwater setting. A scholarship of \$3,000 is awarded to each student accepted into the program.

For more information and application forms visit the web site, <http://www.fisheries.org/html/Hutton.shtml> or contact the Hutton Program Assistant, Christine Fletcher at [hutton@fisheries](mailto:hutton@fisheries) or 301-897-8616, ext. 213. Applications are due March 1, 2004! ☹

## Authorship Guidelines

Guidelines of authorship of AFS journals are available at the following web site: <http://www.fisheries.org/html/publications/AuthorshipGuidelines.doc>. The purpose of these guidelines is to assist AFS members in determining authorship of scholarly documents intended for presentation, publication, or other dissemination. Such documents include manuscripts intended for publication in the peer-reviewed literature, reports, and visual aids used to illustrate oral presentations at professional meetings. ☹

## Special Election Results

Hal Geiger, a fisheries biologist for ADG&G is our new Vice-President, and Robert Piorkowski, the coordinator of the ADF&G Invasive Species Program is our new Secretary. Of the 95 ballots cast, 76% were electronic. Thanks to all who participated in the election. ☹

## Meetings and Events

### Sea Lions of the World: Conservation and Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Alaska Sea Grant College Program is sponsoring this Lowell Wakefield symposium September 30 - October 3, 2004 in Anchorage. The goal of the symposium is to bring together scientists and resource managers to address knowledge of world sea lion populations as a point of comparison with the Steller sea lion, and to identify research needs for the future. Abstracts are due by April 1, 2004. For more information visit the web site: [www.uaf.edu/seagrant/conferences/sealions/call.html](http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant/conferences/sealions/call.html) or contact the Symposium Coordinator, [fyconf@uaf.edu](mailto:fyconf@uaf.edu) or 907-474-6701.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Coastal & Estuarine Habitat Restoration

This conference is being organized by Restore America's Estuaries and will be held in Seattle, September 12-15, 2004. While addressing restoration challenges and successes around the country, the Second National Conference will also highlight the unique resources and restoration efforts in and around the Pacific Northwest. Presentation and Session Proposals are due February 2, 2004. For more information, please contact Nicole Maylett, Conference Coordinator, 703-524-0248, or Steve Emmett-Mattox, Vice President and Program Director, 703-524-0248 or visit the web site <http://www.estuaries.org/2ndnationalconference.php>.

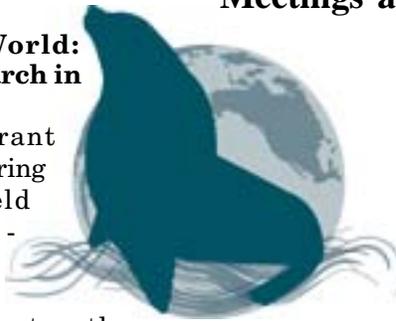
### Anchorage Environmental Chemistry Workshop Series

The following three classes will be held in Anchorage at the Holiday Inn and are presented by the Northwest Environmental Training Center.

**Fundamental Chemistry for Environmental Professionals** will be held February 3 - 4, 2004, [http://www.nwetc.org/chem-402\\_01-04\\_anchorage.htm](http://www.nwetc.org/chem-402_01-04_anchorage.htm).



Invited speaker at the Chapter Conference banquet, Kevin Duffy, commissioner of ADF&G.



**Contaminant Chemistry and Transport in Soil, Surface Water, and Groundwater** will be held February 5 - 6, 2004, [http://www.nwetc.org/chem-403\\_01-04\\_anchorage.htm](http://www.nwetc.org/chem-403_01-04_anchorage.htm).

**QA/QC Management of Environmental Analytical Data** will be held February 10, 2004, [http://www.nwetc.org/chem-404\\_02-04\\_anchorage.htm](http://www.nwetc.org/chem-404_02-04_anchorage.htm)

### Watershed Planning: Approaches, Challenges, and Strategies for Success: First Call for Papers

With its interest in promoting the sound resource stewardship at the watershed level, the Western Division AFS is convening this symposium in conjunction with its 2004 Annual Meeting February 29 - March 4, 2004 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This symposium will strive to:

- Describe the goals of watershed-based planning;
- Discuss the challenges associated with the development of watershed plans;
- Highlight the approaches that have been used to develop ecosystem-based watershed plans in various jurisdictions;
- Identify the challenges associated with the implementation of such plans; and,
- Discuss the strategies that can be used to overcome these barriers and move toward ecosystem-based watershed management.

For more information visit the web site: [http://www.wdafs.org/meet/2004/meet\\_2004.htm](http://www.wdafs.org/meet/2004/meet_2004.htm).

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference and 14<sup>th</sup> International Salmonid Habitat Enhancement Workshop

This Conference will be held in Davis, California, March 17-20, 2004. The Salmonid Restoration Federation will host this conference entitled "Collaborative Watershed Efforts for Salmonid Recovery" in collaboration with the American Fisheries Society-Fisheries Management Section and Trout Unlimited. For more information contact Josh Israel, University of California, Davis, 530-752-6351 or visit the web site [www.calsaomon.org](http://www.calsaomon.org).



2003 Chapter Conference, Spatial Analysis and GIS, How it can be Applied to Fisheries Management Session participants: from left, Christian Torgersen, Scott Maclean, Ted Otis, Samatha Greenwood (Chair), Gordon Reeves.

**2003 Chapter Conference**  
Photos by Randy Brown and Dan Gwinn



*Carrying Capacity for Salmon in Marine Habitats Session participants: from left, Joe Orsi, Doug Eggers, Alex Wertheimer (session chair), Steve Reifensstuhl, Jamal Moss, Ed Farley*



*Aquatic Invaders in Alaska Session participants: from left, Denny Lassuy (co-chair), Lionel Johnson, Bob Benda, Mark Gamblin, Jim Seeb, Gary Sonnevil, Bob Piorkowski (co-chair). Mike Wiedmer is missing from the photo.*

*Recent Advances in Marine Biology Session participants: from left, David Barnard, Olav Ormseth, Dan Urban (Chair), Peter van Tamelen, Margaret Spahn, kneeling from left, William Bechtol, Gregg Rosenkranz.*



*Fisheries Monitoring Partnerships with Tribal and Rural Organizations Session participants: from left, Rachel Mason, Dave Cannon, Tim Roettinger; Jan Conitz, Kimberly Elkin, Erin Hiebert, Beth Spangler; Steve Klein (Chair), Judy Ramos, Erica Valentine, Gary Holton, Mike Kelly, kneeling from left, Constance Miller-Friend, Karen Dunmall, missing from the photo is Catherine Moncrieff.*

## Committee Reports

### Electronic Communications Committee

Allen Bingham, Chair

This committee was established at the 1995 Chapter annual Conference in Wasilla. The main purpose of this committee is to maintain and keep current the Alaska Chapter web site. The committee is also responsible for routing and responding to email sent to our chapter.

During this past year the web site has essentially just been “maintained”. The web-site was successfully used to conduct on-line e-balloting for the 2002 and 2003 elections and will be similarly used again for the 2004 elections. Each newsletter that has been put out during this past year has been made available on our web site in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format; and information about training courses and meetings have been posted.

The Student Subunit web site is maintained as a portion of our site and has continued to be maintained by the Electronics Communications Committee. Their web site address is: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/student>.

The committee continued to maintain an email distribution list for most Chapter members with email addresses in the Chapter’s membership database. The distribution list was used successfully to “get the word out” for Chapter activities such as the recent announcements for the 2003 Annual Conference.

The committee is interested in hearing what members would like to see on our web site. The web site address is: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak>, and the email address for sending comments about and contributions to the web site is: [allen\\_bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:allen_bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us).

### Awards Committee

Andy Gryska, Chair

The Awards Committee annually judges posters and papers presented at the Annual Conference. This year, The **Best Paper** was awarded to Alfred L. DeCicco “*Direct validation of otolith ages in Arctic grayling*”, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, sport Fish Division biologist. The **Best Student Paper** was awarded to Suzann G. Speckman “*Bottom-up forcing across trophic levels in a subarctic estuary*”, University of Washington student. The **Best Poster Award** was awarded to Jeffrey P. Barnhart

“*Warm water checks in weathervane scallops (Patinopecten caurinus)*”, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries biologist. The **Best Student Poster Award** was awarded to Anthony Eskelin “*Relative precision of trap efficiency experiments to estimate coho salmon smolt abundance in small streams*”, University of Alaska-Fairbanks student. Congratulations!

### Membership Committee

Molly Ahlgren, Chair

In 2003, membership increased by 41 members or 11% since 2002, more than offsetting the net loss reported in 2002 of 19 members. Much of the previous loss resulted from removing life members with unpaid chapter dues from the membership roster. This trend among life members to not pay Chapter dues reversed during 2003. Several life members with unpaid Chapter dues re-joined the Chapter roles as members in good standing. Most of the overall increase in membership was due to a 22% increase in Student memberships and a 145% increase in the “other” membership category (mostly due to the young professional membership).

I attribute the increase in “young professional” memberships to personal contact with and recruitment by Alaska Chapter members. Thanks to everyone who has helped me get the word out to join AFS! Great Job!

I helped students at Sheldon Jackson College form a campus group of the AFS student sub-unit during Spring 2003. The SJC student sub-unit currently has 12 active members and accounts for much of the increase in student memberships during the past year.

I also solicited support for a mentoring program through e-mails and an article in the Spring *Oncorhynchus*. The mentoring program gets students in touch with experienced biologists. This year, members of the Alaska AFS Chapter mentored and sponsored first time membership fees for twelve students. Thanks to the 2003 mentors: Bill Bechtol, Allen Bingham, Eric Knudsen, Ted Otis, Mel Siefert, Kate Wedemeyer, Carol Ann Woody, and myself.

### Wally Noerenberg Award Committee

Doug Palmer, Chair

The Wally Noerenberg Award for fishery excellence is the highest award of the Alaska 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 ten recipients: Armin Koerning, Robert Armstrong, Clem Tillion, Steven Pennoyer, Jim Branson, Jim Reynolds, Ole Mathisen, Ken Roberson, John Clark, and A. J. Paul. 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. In 2003, I was on the committee along



The Alaska Chapter EXCOM: from left, Alisa Abookire (secretary), Tim Joyce (president), Carol Kerkvliet (past president), Molly Ahlgren (president-elect), Ray Handar (treasurer).



*Alex Wertheimer accepts the Wally Noerenberg Award from Doug Palmer at the Chapter Conference banquet ceremony.*

to September 15. The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence was presented to Alex Wertheimer during the banquet at the Chapter Conference in Fairbanks. Alex is a leading research scientist working for the National Marine Fisheries Service at the Auke Bay Laboratory. He is recognized for his outstanding personal and professional excellence and has made major contributions in helping foster the development and preservation of healthy wild and hatchery salmon stocks in Alaska.

As an innovative, dedicated, and highly competent scientist, his research results have had significant impact on management policy in both domestic and in delicate international fisheries issues. His leadership role, broad-ranging technical expertise, and professional decorum in dealing with individuals, other agencies, entities, and controversial issues is widely recognized and highly respected in the fisheries and scientific communities in Alaska, the nation, and internationally.

Alex has authored numerous journal publications and agency reports on various aspects of the biology, culture, and status of Pacific salmon in Alaska. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for Transactions of American Fisheries Society and is a journal and symposium reviewer for numerous other national and international technical publications in fisheries science. His career in Alaska fisheries truly embodies what the Wally Noerenberg Award is all about. He is highly deserving of the award, he is a credit to the fisheries profession, and certainly he is a credit to Alaska fisheries and to the Alaska Chapter.

### **Cultural Diversity Committee**

*Jerry Berg and Lisa Stuby, Co-Chairs*

Our committee updated the travel award application process as we continue to improve on our goal of getting young energetic people involved with the Chapter. The travel award pays for an entry-level person involved in the natural resource field to attend the annual Alaska Chapter Conference. The award also covers registrations fees and annual dues for one year. The goal is to help diversify our Chapter membership and get young upcoming people active with AFS. The Cultural Diversity Committee endowment is now over \$12,000 with the interest being used to pay for our annual award.

with Cindy Hartman, Bill Bechtol, and Carol Woody. The committee solicited nominations for the Wally Noerenberg Award in the Winter issue of *Oncorhynchus* and received one nomination prior to the deadline which was extended

We solicited applications from around the state and received applications from two highly qualified individuals. This made our committee selection process very challenging and would have been extremely difficult to only be able to choose one recipient. However, the Chapter's student funds were able to pay the travel for one applicant, leaving our award to fund the other applicant. So, this was a win-win situation for everyone involved. Thanks to Molly Ahlgren and the EXCOM for helping to make our decision much easier. The 2003 recipient is Courtenay Peirce and the student travel funds paid for Zachary Penney. Both applicants would have been excellent choices and we are glad that both were able to attend this year's Conference in Fairbanks. Courtenay is currently working towards a bachelor's degree in natural science at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and hopes to pursue a Master's degree in fisheries. Zach is a senior at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka and is president of the newly formed AFS student chapter there.

The Cultural Diversity award application and rating criteria were slightly adjusted this year in our efforts to make it better. Our committee has faced some difficult decisions in the past with such highly qualified candidates as we had this year. We would like to get the members' input on how to get the most of this award for future recipients. One option being considered is identifying the money available each year ahead of time and then using whatever money is available to fund as many applicants as possible. The Cultural Diversity Committee invites ideas and suggestions from all chapter members and will continue to work with the EXCOM to better define the number and amount of the awards.

### **International Relations Committee**

*Fred DeCicco, Chair*

The purpose of this committee is to 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 Conferences 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 and 3) encourage participation of Alaska Chapter members in fisheries conferences, exchanges, and projects occurring in other countries.



*Plenary speaker at the 2003 Chapter Conference: Lionel Johnson.*

The International Committee has continued with its effort to transfer journals to colleagues in Russia. In 2003, a nearly complete set of AFS and other journals were sent to Dr. Pavel Gudkov at the Sakhalin Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography in Sakhalin, Russia. They will become part of the institute's library. The committee was also instrumental in arranging for Lionel Johnson to attend and give the plenary address at the 2003 Chapter Conference.

### Environmental Concerns Committee

*Cecil Rich, Chair*

The purpose of the Environmental Concerns Committee is to provide coordinated technical and policy analysis and Chapter input and comments on environmental issues that affect Alaska's fishery resources.

In the spring of 2003 the Committee sent a letter of environmental concern to Governor Murkowski regarding his proposed transfer of habitat permitting responsibilities from the ADF&G to the DNR. After the Committee drafted the letter, a range of Chapter members were recruited to provide comments, and the EXCOM provided final review and approval of the letter prior to it being sent to the Governor and copied to the Alaska Legislature and other interested parties. The Committee also coordinated a letter from the Western Division of AFS to Governor Murkowski on this issue. Both letters are posted on the Chapter website.

Please contact the committee chair if you would like to bring forward and work on a particular issue: [cecil\\_rich@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:cecil_rich@fishgame.state.ak.us), 907-267-2122. The Committee can assist you with the process outlined in the Chapter procedures manual.

### Student Unit, Sheldon Jackson College

*Zachary L. Penney, President of SJ Student Unit*

The Sheldon Jackson (SJ) Student Unit of AFS was formed in the spring 2003 with an initial enrollment of 24



*Zach Penney, a student at Sheldon Jackson College, was recognized as a recipient of the Cultural Diversity Award.*

students. This fall we currently have 12 active student members, but are still actively recruiting from the student body. The elected officers for the 2003-2004 term are: President – Zachary Penney, Vice President – Kyle DeerKop, Treasurer – Annie Fiske, and Secretary – Lacie Penven. The SJ student unit is advised by Professor Dave Turcott, but is also strongly supported by Professors Mel Seifert, and Molly Ahlgren. The SJ unit adopted the bylaws as listed on the Alaska Chapter web-page in the spring 2003. We hold meetings twice each month, and have a completely open membership to all students and faculty on campus.

Since becoming established as a Student Unit, our group has been progressive in the development and distinction of our Unit. We are currently in the process of ordering sweatshirts for members that will include both the SJ student unit designation and a special student-designed salmon logo. Other activities include barbecues and dinners throughout the semester, and occasional fishing trips for both halibut and salmon.

Many activities are planned for our unit into the 2004 year including a trip to one of the local hatcheries for interested members, and long-line fishing for halibut this winter to ensure future dinner gatherings. There are also plans to have short seminars for students on fisheries related topics, which will be provided by professors and other local professionals. We are extremely pleased to be a part of the Alaska Chapter of AFS, and hope to get greatly involved with the society and all its members in the future.

### Oncorhynchus Newsletter Committee

*John Thedinga, Chair*

The Oncorhynchus serves as a medium to distribute information to Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter is produced by editor, John Thedinga. John edits and compiles articles submitted by chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. Each issue includes a front-page feature article and photo supplied by a volunteer. Everyone is welcome to submit articles to include in the newsletter; photos are encouraged. In addition to the four regular issues that were printed this year, a special election edition was also printed in November. Submission deadlines are the 10th of March, June, Sept. and Dec. In addition, the Electronic Communication Committee has worked to archive back issues on the Chapter website. If you have a possible newsletter contribution, please contact John Thedinga, Editor at: [John.Thedinga@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Thedinga@noaa.gov), 907-789-6025.

### Continuing Education

*Debby Burwen*

The Continuing Education Committee held four short courses at the 2003 Chapter Conference with approximately 87 attendees. The Basic and Advanced GIS courses filled quickly and had waiting lists of an additional 20 people. The ACCESS course had a waiting list of 5 additional people. Because the GIS courses were "hands on" computer-based classes with specialized software \ hardware needs, we held the courses over the weekend preceding the meeting at the University of Alaska Fairbanks GIS lab. Obviously the demand for database and GIS courses is still high enough to warrant looking into additional courses in the future. People even gave up their weekend to take them!

The Continuing Education Committee sponsored five courses in the last year, four in conjunction with the 2003 Chapter Conference and one independent of the Chapter Conference in April 2003. Based on approximate records from the recent 2003 Chapter Conference in Fairbanks, a total of 109 people attended these five courses. All courses netted a profit. This profit allows the Chapter to consider sponsoring member-requested courses whose more specialized nature may limit immediate profitability. Additionally, we helped coordinate two courses offered through the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC); a Biotelemetry Course offered last spring, and a Mark-Recapture Course that will be offered in spring 2004.

I've enjoyed being Committee Chair, but other duties require that I step down. I do not have a replacement chair lined up and would appreciate people spreading the word to help recruit for this important position. I have already coordinated all the logistics for another Technical Writing Course by Jud Monroe to be held April 5-9, 2004 in Anchorage and a class in Modern Capture-Recapture Models For Terrestrial and Aquatic Applications by Ken Pollock to be held March 8-11, 2004 in Eagle River. I would be happy to remain on the Committee to help coordinate additional classes in the future, but I can no longer assume the lead role. Many thanks to Karen Hyer for helping out with the logistics of the Technical Writing and NCTC courses and to Ray Hander and Tim Joyce for their help with the continuing education arrangements at the 2003 Conference. ☺

## 2004 Award Nominations Wanted

Andy Gryska and Doug Palmer

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA) and the Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA). I encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and submit nominations for these awards. Send MSA and CSA nominations to Andrew Gryska, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701, 907-459-7339, [Andrew\\_Gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:Andrew_Gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us), and WN nominations to Doug Palmer, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1670, Kenai, AK 99611, 260-0127, fax: 262-7145, [douglas\\_palmer@fws.gov](mailto:douglas_palmer@fws.gov). Awards will be presented at the next Chapter Conference.

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 WNA was established to honor life-long career achievements in fishery excellence. 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 or international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Nominations should include a justification about why the nominee should receive the award. Also, feel free to submit any other supportive documentation that may be useful to the Wally Noerenberg Award Committee.

### AWARD NOMINATION FORM - AFSAK CHAPTER

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

Meritorious Service Award (MSA)     Chapter Service Award (CSA)     Chapter Wally Noerenberg (WNA)

because of the following great and outstanding contribution(s) made by him/her/them to the Alaska Chapter of American Fisheries Society (CSA), because of some meritorious service (MSA) the nominee has performed in the field of Alaska fisheries, or for life-long career achievements in fishery excellence (WNA). 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, additional letters from peers supporting the nomination, accomplishments, c.v.):

Nomination submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. Send nominations for the **CSA** and **MSA** to Andrew Gryska, ADF&G Sport Fish, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK, 99701 or [andrew\\_gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:andrew_gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us), and for the **WNA** to Doug Palmer, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1670, Kenai, AK 99611 or [Douglas\\_Palmer@fws.gov](mailto:Douglas_Palmer@fws.gov).

### Nominations Requested for Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award

This award is presented annually by the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to an individual or organization, professional or nonprofessional, for outstanding contributions to the conservation of fishery resources. Eligibility is not restricted to AFS members, and accomplishments may include political, legal, educational, scientific, and managerial successes. Nominations should include the name and contact information for the nominee (and for the nominator); a synopsis of fishery conservation contributions; a description of the influence of those contributions on improved understanding, management, or use of fishery resources; and at least one additional supporting letter. More than one supporting letter is useful to help demonstrate the breadth or depth of impact. Submit Nominations direct inquiries to: Dr. Barbara Knuth, [bak3@cornell.edu](mailto:bak3@cornell.edu). Receipt Deadline for Nominations is April 23, 2004.



2003 Chapter Conference, Human Dimensions of Fisheries Management Session participants: from left, Martin Robards (session chair), Phil Smith, Melissa Robinson, Steve Langdon. Photo by Randy Brown and Dan Gwinn

# Oncorhynchus

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

**RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD**

## 2004 Alaska Chapter Officers

**President** Tim Joyce, USFS, PO Box 280, Cordova 99574-0280, Phone: 424-4747, Fax: 424-7214, [tjoyce@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjoyce@fs.fed.us)

**President-Elect** Molly Ahlgren, Sheldon Jackson College, 801 Lincoln Street, Sitka 99835-7699, Phone: 747-5255 Fax 747-5254, [mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu](mailto:mahlgren@sj-alaska.edu)

**Vice President** Hal Geiger, ADF&G/CF, P.O. Box 240020, Douglas 99824-0020, Phone: 465-4257, [Harold\\_J\\_Geiger@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:Harold_J_Geiger@fishgame.state.ak.us)

**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](mailto:ray_hander@fws.gov)

**Secretary** Bob Piorkowski, ADF&G/CF, 1225 W. 8th St., Juneau 99802, Phone: 465-6109, [Robert\\_Piorkowski@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:Robert_Piorkowski@fishgame.state.ak.us)

**Past President** Carol M. Kerkvliet, ADF&G/CF, 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage 99518-1599, Phone: 267-2379 (w), 248-3343 (h), Fax: 267-2442

**Student Unit President** Mark Stichert, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 211 Irving I Building, P.O. Box 757020, Fairbanks 99775 Phone: 474-7717, [fbafs@uaf.edu](mailto:fbafs@uaf.edu)

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

## 2004 AFS Membership Application

You can JOIN the AFS and the Alaska Chapter on-line (or by fax/phone), see <http://www.fisheries.org/html/membership/choicenew.shtml> for details, or fill out the application form and process as noted below.

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 drawn on a U.S. bank.

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.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)

<sup>1</sup> Prices are for AFS members only <sup>2</sup> 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 AFS <sup>1</sup>  NA. Journal of Fisheries Management <sup>1</sup>

\$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 Health <sup>1</sup>

\$38.00 Paper in North America  \$41.00 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.