



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Vol. XXVIII Spring 2008 No. 2

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Seasonal workers enumerate and sub sample migrating salmon smolt.

Hatchery Reform in Alaska

Hal Geiger, St. Hubert Research Group

Jim Lichatowich's 1999 book, *Salmon Without Rivers*, does a great job of documenting the history of problems that followed in the wake of the hatchery movement in the Pacific Northwest—an area with a very different history with hatcheries than Alaska. One of most articulate voices calling for reform in that part of the world during the 1990s, Lichatowich's main message might be summarized by saying that the hatchery-based solutions to the fishery management problems in the Pacific Northwest simply and observably had not worked. He pointed out that (at the time of his writing in the 1990s) about \$3 billion had been spent to restore salmon to the Columbia River over the previous 50-year period, and although the runs had declined dramatically even after all that spending, fishery institutions were calling for an additional \$1 billion to do more of the same.

The reformers' call was answered, and in 2000, the U.S. Congress funded what was called the Hatchery Reform Process for the Pacific Northwest with two principal goals: to help conserve wild salmon and steelhead populations and to support sustainable fisheries. Some of this money was used to develop a scientific group, called the Hatchery Scientific Review Group, which included Bill Smoker and Lisa Seeb from Alaska. You can find more information on the Hatchery Reform Process from their website (<http://www.hatcheryreform.us>) or through a recent article in *Fisheries* ("Hatchery Reform in Washington State: Principles and Emerging Issues," from June of 2005).

This ties into Alaska because last fall our chapter had a special symposium on hatchery straying in association with our annual meeting, and the state of Washington sent several speakers so our chapter could hear about the practical aspects of the Hatchery Reform Process and how it is working. The

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The President's Corner

Bert Lewis

As an active member of the American Fisheries Society, I believe advocacy is an essential function of our organization. I came to this belief at my first AFS Idaho Chapter meeting, which included a hot debate over whether the Chapter should advocate for the removal of the four Lower Snake



Bert Lewis, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

River dams in the Columbia River Basin. This open debate took place at the annual business meeting, with members presenting strong arguments for and against our taking an official position on this important fisheries issue. In the end, I supported a vote that resulted in an official letter advocating for dam removal as a means to recover endangered salmon. AFS, in this case, expressed a unified concern relevant to fisheries conservation and management.

Although AFS has taken such actions, advocacy remains a matter of concern, as it can be controversial. We need to proceed with caution, because each time our organization takes an official stand on an issue we put our credibility on the line. Whereas our intention is to influence policy makers, advocating on an issue also influences public perception of our organization.

To ensure AFS's credibility and professional reputation, the parent Society and the Alaska Chapter have developed a set of guidelines for evaluating advocacy issues on a case-by-case basis. The guidelines state that "the principal instruments of advocacy are Society policies, i.e., general statements of principle about resource topics that explain and justify the Society's perspective or attitude in largely philosophical terms." According to the guidelines, the Alaska Chapter will publicly champion an aquatic habitat or fisheries issue if the following criteria

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Hatchery Reform in Alaska, continued

speakers from Washington were Jeff Koenings, the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and several key people on his staff, including Heather Bartlett, the Salmon and Steelhead Division Manager; Andy Appleby, the Aquaculture Coordinator for the Hatchery Division; and Paul Seidel, a geneticist with WDFW. As you can see, these speakers provided about as broad a representation with respect to hatcheries as their agency could offer in four individuals.

All of the Washington speakers stressed the need to understand the human side of the problems associated with hatcheries. That is to say, there are many technical and scientific issues involved with hatchery reform, but the biggest problem is the one of getting people to not think just in terms of their past loyalties. Part of their message was that once everyone was able to get to a point of open-minded and fair introspection, the technical problems were easy by comparison. The result, at least in this one session, was a politician, a geneticist, and a long-time fish culturist on the same program, in complete agreement about what the problems were, how to solve these problems, and how to move forward to use hatcheries to reach common goals.

To understand even a little about how they intend to reach these common goals, you need to understand some of the terms they used. Recognizing that hatchery fish will always stray out of hatcheries, and in some cases natural spawners might be either intentionally or unintentionally introduced into a hatchery, this led the Hatchery Scientific Reform Group to think of two different kinds of broodstocks, each with a different purpose with respect to a hatchery's larger goals. In an ideal integrated broodstock, the fish will face two different environments, but there will be only one breeding population. In this case, by design, managers will force exchange between the natural spawners and the hatchery-derived spawners. In an ideal segregated hatchery there will be two environments and two different spawning populations. Hatchery-derived spawners are to be excluded from aggregations of natural spawners under this kind of hatchery, at least to within specific limits that are actually monitored.

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President's Corner, Continued

are met: 1) the issue is pertinent to conservation of aquatic resources and habitats; 2) the issue is supported by either two thirds of the Chapter's membership or by unanimous consensus of the Executive Committee; 3) the Chapter can provide relevant, science-based information to help resolve the issue; 4) minority opinions are solicited and included in the advocacy materials released to the public; and 5) the Chapter can commit to remaining involved until the issue is resolved. I encourage members to familiarize themselves with the full text of the parent Society and Chapter advocacy guidelines which are available online at: http://www.fisheries.org/afs/publicpolicy_advocacyguidelines.html, and http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/procedures/AK_AFS_Procedures_Manual_2007.doc (Appendix A, page 33). As concerns are brought forward, the Executive Committee solicits expert opinions from members and others and considers the merits based on the Society advocacy guidelines.

The Alaska Chapter regularly receives requests for advocacy support from the public and from our own membership. A handful of examples have come across our desks this past year. The Chapter was asked to take a position on jet boat permits on the Chilkat River, to weigh in on a Chinook stocking project, and to file a Friend of the Court statement in the Exxon oil spill Supreme Court case. Our membership initiated a letter of concern about a state stocking program, and the Chapter's past presidents wrote a letter to the governor about state employee retention and hiring problems that potentially threaten the management of fishery resources.

The Exxon oil spill provides an interesting example of how the Chapter is handling advocacy. The Executive Committee was not unanimous on taking a position on the Exxon issue and looked to our membership for direction. All active members were sent a notice explaining the issue and AFS's possible role; members were given an opportunity to voice their opinion. Although the Executive Committee was hesitant, wondering how we would handle some large membership input, this turned out to be a non-issue. We received just two replies, one adamantly opposed and the other adamantly in favor of our filing a Friend of the Court position paper. Ultimately, the Executive Committee declined to take action on the Exxon case because of a lack of consensus (refer to guideline no. 2), and time constraints, on preparing an *amicus curiae* brief (guideline no. 5). Does the membership concur with this decision? Was the process effective and the result the best outcome?

I encourage you, as a member of the American Fisheries Society, to discuss the role of advocacy with fellow fisheries professionals and let us know your ideas on how the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee should handle these issues. As requests for advocacy support are received, the Executive Committee will continue to hold informed debates prior to taking any action. In instances where consensus is lacking, members can expect to be asked for their opinion. Your input may be critical to the Chapter moving forward to publicly champion an aquatic habitat or fisheries position. 🐟

Hatchery Reform in Alaska, continued

At first, all these terms seemed a little tedious. However, one of the most striking lessons from last fall's symposium on straying had to do with the clarity of the language that the Washington group had, as compared to the Alaskans. To offer a specific example, the Prince William Sound Phase 3 Comprehensive Plan (the State's plan outlining the development of hatchery stock enhancement in Prince William Sound) contains the following statement: "... If it is determined that the rate of straying is significantly greater than the acceptable threshold of 2%, the [state planning authority] will determine whether and to what extent the

hatchery program in Prince William Sound should be modified to reduce the rate of straying." On the face of it, the rate of straying does seem to mean, at least in this document, the rate at which hatchery fish stray out of their natal population. Indeed, listening to how Alaskan managers and research biologists talked about straying, many people have been using this term, straying rate, to indicate the rate at which individual fish stray out (so that the size of the natal population should be in the denominator). However, others—or even the same people at different times—also used this

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Mature salmon roe is collected at an "egg take" for incubation at the hatchery.

Hatchery Reform in Alaska, continued

term to mean the proportion of fish in a breeding aggregation that have a hatchery mark. In other words, the term straying rate has also been used to mean the rate at which fish stray in to some other population (so that the size of the new population should be in the denominator). Irrespective of which meaning you think is appropriate, it was very obvious from last fall's symposium that Alaskans have not been using key technical terms clearly, so that a listener or a reader can know exactly what is intended.

In contrast, the speakers from Washington were using very precise terms developed by the Hatchery Reform Process. Two of their most important terms are *Hatchery Origin Spawners* and *Natural Origin Broodstock*. Then, by defining the variable *pHOS* as the proportion of hatchery origin spawners within a naturally spawning aggregation of fish and *pNOB* as the proportion of non-hatchery origin fish (that is the proportion of natural-origin fish in the broodstock) introduced into a hatchery breeding system, the Washington speakers at last year's symposium were perfectly clear and consistent when they talked about straying rates.

Over the last couple of years, the topic of straying of hatchery fish from hatcheries has popped up repeatedly in Alaska. The Anchorage Daily News featured at least a couple of jarring stories, including one from December 26, 2006 that appeared under the headline "State Slams Hatcheries." That article cited "'large-scale straying' of hatchery-born pink and chum salmon," and implied that this has been a problem for some time.

The Marine Stewardship Council, the organization that certifies Alaska's fisheries as sustainable, dinged ADF&G for not having a better idea of the effect that Southeast hatcheries were having, through straying, on the wild chum salmon stocks. Whether straying from hatcheries is or is not a real technical problem in Alaska, this topic has persisted as a perceived problem. Although there was, and is, a lot of the specific details of the Hatchery Reform Process in Washington that are unnecessary, inappropriate, or redundant to what Alaskan agencies already do, Alaskans could learn some valuable lessons by studying what is going on in the Pacific Northwest, including some lessons about precise language. Most importantly, whatever magic they used in Washington to bring together the geneticists, policy makers, fish culturists, and politicians—and then motivate these different groups to move forward with common goals—that is magic that would be useful anywhere and anytime. 🐟

UAF to offer B.A. in Fisheries

Victoria Barber, excerpted from <http://thedutchharborfisherman.com/news/story/1308>

Picture a typical liberal arts program with students studying subjects such as political science, writing, economics and anthropology. Now picture those students taking that knowledge and applying it—to a fisheries degree. It's not a typical program of study, but starting in the fall, University of Alaska Fairbanks students will be able to do just that and earn a Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries. The B.A. is one of many new programs being launched at the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences as a result of a \$5 million endowment from the Rasmuson Foundation. "We have developed something that is new and unique," said Trent Sutton, Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator at the UAF. "It's an opportunity to develop something that is certainly needed in Alaska, but also beyond Alaska." The B.A. allows students to supplement their fisheries studies with subjects not typically associated with fisheries or ocean science. Sutton said that these new combinations will lead to new and much-needed kinds of fisheries professionals. Fisheries and business management, for example, could prepare a student from a fishing community to return home and manage the family business. Political science and fisheries would be a unique advantage to a young Alaskan with political ambitions. Anthropology would provide a background to a fisheries student who is interested in understanding traditional fishing methods, and economics would be an

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UAF to offer B.A. in Fisheries, continued

advantage to students interested in the market forces that affect the fishing industry. Kris Norosz works in government relations at Icicle Seafoods, she noted that the state will benefit from having more well-rounded fisheries graduates in the job pool. "There are employees with biology degrees helping to form policies that affect industry, if they don't understand world markets and products . . . it makes it hard for them to understand the implications of their decisions," Norosz said. "We need accountants, fleet managers, plant managers, marketing and sales (staff) . . . there are a lot of different types of jobs besides sliming fish that are career jobs," she added. Along with the addition of the B.A. program, the endowment has allowed UAF to hire five new faculty members and construct a Learning Center, which will include laboratories, lecture halls and videoconferencing equipment for distance learning. A minor in fisheries science has been added, and all fisheries majors will have to complete internships as part of a program-wide emphasis on hands-on learning.

Amanda Rosenberger is a fish ecologist who was one of the first faculty members to be added to the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Rosenberger said that she thinks the internship requirement is "the best way we can take advantage of how unique Alaska is and the opportunities that are available in the state." "Honestly, I think its one of the most fun things you can do as a student, to go into the field and mess with fish," Rosenberger said. "If you haven't done that, then I don't think your education is complete." She added that potential employers throughout Alaska have expressed eagerness to participate in the program. "We don't need to worry about having enough jobs for our students," Rosenberger said. Recruiting and training more rural Alaska and Alaska Native students to take their place in the Alaska fisheries industry is a key component of the Rasmuson program expansion. UAF will be raising awareness in rural high schools and working with organizations such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to help

prepare students for the transition to a university.

Doug Molyneaux, salmon research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said that UAF's emphasis on rural and Alaska Native recruitment will help to address a critical gap between Alaska's emerging workforce and the jobs that are available at state agencies such as Fish and Game. "Rural residents have the context of their life experience to perhaps better develop management approaches and apply research findings to rural fish and wildlife issues," Molyneaux said. "But there is more to these jobs than tromping in the woods and streams and oceans. Fish and wildlife specialists need strong skills in math, computers and writing." "This program should provide for a broader pool of candidates to fill future vacancies," Molyneaux added. "The state has been having difficulty filling these vacancies, and because of this, has been looking more and more to outside Alaska."

Fisheries students will also have the option of completing part of their degrees in Anchorage, at the University of Alaska campus there, or in Juneau, at either the new UAF Lena Point Fisheries Facility or the University of Alaska Southeast campus communicating remotely with UAF faculty via teleconference. Wherever students choose to study, Alaska has a unique appeal to students interested in fisheries science. Jessica Johnson, a senior in the fisheries program, moved from her home in Montana to study at UAF. Johnson said that she was sorting through a pile of college brochures when a pamphlet from UAF grabbed her attention. "I liked it that students were able to get out into the field," said Johnson. Johnson has taken two internships while at UAF. She said that it's critical for students to discover how they feel about getting "hands on" with fisheries science. "Quite a few people go into the program and they don't get into the field until their senior year and I think they say, 'Ew, gross,'" Johnson said. "It made me more excited to apply the knowledge that I had from class."

Sutton said that he hopes that these innovative elements, along with new facilities and better staffing will help UAF become competitive with programs such as that of the University of Washington. The Rasmuson fisheries expansion, he said, is ultimately about making Alaska a better place. "We could be training administrators in seafood processing plants, state senators on Capitol Hill enacting legislation that enhances fisheries," Sutton said, "people who are going to go out there and make a difference for fisheries in Alaska." 🐟

The deadline for nominations for the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, Meritorious Service, Chapter Service and Almost Darwin Awards are July 31, 2008. For the award nomination form, see the website at http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards_scholarships.

Don Collinsworth Obituary

Excerpted with permission from the Juneau Empire

Juneau resident Don W. Collinsworth died January 23, 2008, at his home, surrounded by his family. His illness was brief, and death came a short two weeks after his being diagnosed with a prion disease. He was 66.

Born September 6, 1941, in Glendale, California, to Les and Marie Collinsworth, Don moved with his parents to northern California as a young boy. He married Nancy Jewell, his high school sweetheart, in 1966. In 1976, they moved with their two young daughters to Juneau, where he went to work for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. Later, during Governor Jay Hammond's second term, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He subsequently served as Commissioner under Governors Sheffield and Cowper. Before retiring in 1997, he was Deputy Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau.

"With a spirit that was larger than life itself, he always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye," his family said. The love he shared with his family and his ability to bring a smile to all those who knew him were



unsurpassed. According to his family, he was admired in the workplace for his unwavering leadership and dedication to making sound decisions. Away from the office, his time with family and friends was lived to the fullest. He enjoyed shooting his traditional bow at the archery range, hunting, camping, fishing and traveling. He and Nancy took several trips to South Africa and traveled the United States extensively. Over the years, they also spent a great deal of time at their cabin in Tenakee Springs, enjoying the Alaska outdoors with each other and their family.

He was preceded in death by his mother; and brother-in-law, Bill Patch and is survived by his father and stepmother, Elsie, of California; wife, Nancy Collinsworth, of Juneau; daughters, Dawn Germain and her husband, Tom, of Juneau, and Kris Dorsey and her husband, Ryan, of Angoon; brothers, Rex Collinsworth and his wife, Jeanne, and Ken Collinsworth, of California; sister-in-law, Beverly Patch, of Tenakee Springs; grandchildren, Casey, Wendy and Johnathan Germain, and new grandbaby, Emma Dorsey; and many good friends and family members.

As he requested, the family has honored his wishes not to hold a formal memorial service. They will spread his ashes at his favorite hunting spot and will have a celebration of life this summer.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that remembrances in his name be made to the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center ("NPDPS"), Case Western Reserve University, 2085 Aldebert Road, Room 419, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106, or Hospice and Home Care of Juneau, 419 Sixth St., Juneau, AK 99801. 🐾

First Call for Symposia and Session Proposals, Alaska Chapter 35th Annual Conference: “Expanding Perspectives of Fisheries”

Hamachan Hamazaki

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce that the 35th annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, in downtown Anchorage, from October 27–30, 2008. This year’s meeting theme is: “Expanding perspectives of fisheries.”

Alaska’s fisheries have long benefited from healthy stocks and sound fisheries practices. However, the circumstances surrounding Alaskan fisheries are changing and expanding rapidly, issues include globalization of fishery markets, changes in socio-economic conditions surrounding fisheries, increasing interests in oil, gas, mining, and urban development, changes in global climate and ocean conditions, and changes in fishing practices and technologies. To understand the impacts of these issues on fisheries, and vice versa, we need to expand our perspective of fisheries through interaction with other disciplines and entities. Anchorage is centrally located and, with its high concentration of state and federal government agencies, a University, and many other fisheries-related entities, is a perfect venue to explore this theme.

We invite you to submit a symposium or session proposal that would expand the perspectives of fisheries. Symposia or sessions that include speakers who do not normally participate in the annual Alaska Chapter meeting are especially encouraged. Please submit a symposium or session title and an abstract (< 500 words) briefly explaining its scope and any other information to Toshihide “Hamachan” Hamazaki at: toshihide.hamazaki@alaska.gov. The deadline for proposals is April 25, 2008. ?

Committee Reports

Electronic Communications Committee

Allen Bingham

This committee was established at the 1995 annual Chapter meeting in Wasilla. Its main purpose is to maintain and update the Alaska Chapter website and the Chapter’s email distribution list.

During the past few years, the website has essentially just been “maintained” (i.e., no new improvements). The website was successfully used to conduct online e-balloting for elections in the past, but due to changes in the server hosting our site, we are conducting e-balloting entirely through email this year, and e-balloting is expected to be used in one form or another into the future. Each newsletter that has been put out during this past year has been made available on our website in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format; and information

about training courses and meetings of not only the Chapter but also the parent Society and the Western Division have been posted. New this year has been the conversion of the newsletter distribution system from a regular mail and address-based system to a mostly email-based system.

The Student Subunit website is maintained as a portion of our site, and has continued to be maintained by the Electronics Communications Committee. Their website address is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/student/>. The Student Subunit’s website includes postings of the officers and meetings; special event announcements were posted for each of the following active Campus Groups: Anchorage–UAA (University of Alaska Anchorage); Fairbanks–UAF (University of Alaska Fairbanks); and Juneau–UAS (University of Alaska Southeast). The Sitka-Sheldon Jackson College campus group is inactive, as the college has shut down.

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 2007 Annual Conference, Chapter elections, the Chapter

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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 summer issue of Oncorhynchus is June 10.

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Committee Reports, continued

newsletter, and other items of interest. Last year the parent Society re-implemented support for our Chapter's listserver, and all Chapter members with an email address who have chosen to participate can be members of that list. Chapter members that are subscribed can post email to the list at the following address: akchap@fisheriessociety.org. The list is moderated by yours-truly, due to the 15-50 SPAM-type messages received on a daily basis that must be filtered out before allowing transmission to subscribed Chapter members. Membership in the list is contingent upon membership in the Chapter. Periodically, postings from non-Chapter members have been permitted to be posted for distribution to the list on a case by case basis.

The committee is interested in hearing what members would like to see on our website. The website address is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak>, and the e-mail address for sending comments about and contributions to Allen for the website is: allen.bingham@alaska.gov.

Fisheries Communication and Education Committee

Laurel Devaney

Laurel Devaney coordinated the continuing education workshop entitled, "Improving Your Scientific Presentation and Speaking Skills" presented by Andi O'Connor, Ph.D., at the Annual Chapter Meeting in Ketchikan. The workshop was attended by 11 people and received excellent evaluations which were shared with the ExCom. Laurel Devaney also coordinated a session at the workshop entitled, "Sharing your message effectively with adults and children," which was also well received. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Education Committee, please feel free to contact the chair, Laurel Devaney at: laurel_devaney@fws.gov or 456-0558.

Environmental Concerns Committee

Cecil Rich

The Environmental Concerns Committee was established by the Executive Committee to provide coordinated technical and policy analysis and Chapter input and comments on environmental issues that affect Alaska's fishery resources. This may occur, for example, when the Chapter's opinion or position is solicited by members or by external organizations or agencies. The committee formulates, through consensus, a Chapter position on such issues for review by the

Executive Committee. These positions are to reflect the concerns of the membership as a whole. Due to the time-sensitive nature of many environmental issues, review of positions formulated by the committee is by the Executive Committee.

2007 Activities

I accepted the position as chair of this committee following the 2006 Chapter meeting, 2007 committee activities have been numerous. In January of 2007 a letter was sent to Governor Palin, asking her to reverse previous Governor Murkowski's transferring of the authority for permitting of development activities in anadromous fish habitat from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. Copies of this letter were also sent to Alaska State legislators. In the spring, a letter was sent to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game expressing concern over the Department's hatchery supplementation of sockeye salmon in lakes in Southeastern Alaska. The committee is currently reviewing a draft letter of concern on the State's large mine permitting process; the letter points out deficiencies in the process as applied to the Pebble Prospect in the Bristol Bay drainage.

2008 Activities

The committee considered requests from the public to evaluate a Chinook stocking plan for the Chilkoot drainage and a commercial use permit for jet boats in the Chilkat River near Haines and made a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee decided that the Chapter would not take an advocacy position on these issues. If you would like to assist the committee, please contact Cecil Rich at 227-3509 or cecil@gci.net.

Membership Committee

Hamachan Hamazaki

The membership statistics for 2007 are substantially lower than similar figures for 2006 (Table 1). The 2006 membership numbers were likely above normal due to the 'free' membership that came with registration at the Parent Society's annual meeting that was held in Anchorage the previous year (2005). Similarly, the

A reminder—AFS Alaska Chapter Chinook t-shirts are still available and make great gifts for family and friends, to order visit the website at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/memorabilia/memorabilia.html>.

Committee Reports, continued membership figures for 2005 were likely raised, by individuals joining and/or renewing on their own in anticipation of the 2005 AFS meeting in Anchorage. Those suppositions aside, in comparison to all recent years, there appears to be a decline in our Chapter’s membership as of the June accounting, and this decline may be a cause for concern that should be addressed in the upcoming months. The statistics listed for “State/Province” in Table 1 represent the number of different states or locations outside of Alaska where we have members. ?

Table 1. AFS membership summary (2003 to 2007).

Membership category	Year and month				
	2003 May	2004 June	2005 June	2006 June	2007 June
Active	254	267	288	347	210
Life	35	32	23	30	26
Retired	7	9	9	11	8
Student	51	54	60	41	43
Other	18	34	36	20	32
Total	365	396	416	449	319
Owes Parent AFS dues	0	0	0	0	0
Recent Delinquent (paid Parent AFS through previous year)	98	96	105	226	242
Owes Chapter State/Province	18	20	10	60	9
(outside of AK)	9	16	13	13	11

Fairbanks Campus Group Activities

Jess Johnson

The Fairbanks campus group of the Student Subunit of the Alaska Chapter of AFS would like to share some notable highlights of our activities from this past year. We participated in the Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium (ASHSSS). This is a University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) outreach program in support and celebration of secondary students conducting original scientific research, usually with the guidance of a mentor. Students whose papers are accepted for competition present the results of their work at a symposium in a manner similar to that of a professional conference. The ASHSSS is a regional event with winners from seven categories going on to participate in the 46th National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (NJSHS), in Huntsville, Alabama. The Fairbanks campus group presented an award for Best Aquatics Paper and assisted with judging some of the presentations. This was the fourth year that we have attended ASHSSS and we plan to continue this tradition in the future.

Jackson Drew, of West Valley High School, won this year’s award for Best Aquatics Paper, as judged by our Fairbanks Student AFS judges. Jackson is a junior this year and presented his work entitled “Behavioral Aspects of Alaskan Blackfish”. He plans to attend college after he graduates. Jackson’s mentor was Holly Carroll of ADF&G. Jackson received a cash reward of \$200, and a one-year student membership to AFS. The Alaska Chapter of



Fairbanks campus group takes a break on their recent dog-mushing, burbot fishing trip on the Tanana River. Photo by Tammy Hoem.

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Fairbanks Campus Group, continued

AFS assisted the Fairbanks campus group in sponsoring the award. They graciously helped pay for part of the cash reward and for the student membership.

The Fairbanks campus group has been trying to be more active with outreach programs around Fairbanks, in doing so we have two new positions. The first is an Outreach Coordinator which Megan Perry, a graduate student has taken. The second position is the Continuing Education Coordinator which Seth Wietgreffe, an undergraduate student, has taken. Both of these positions have made it possible for the Fairbanks Student Group to reach out into the community more. The Group has also been sponsoring movie nights once a month. The movie is usually something fish-related and there are snacks and beverages. On March 1, the Group sponsored a burbot-fishing, dog-mushing trip and pot luck on the Tanana River. About 15 people showed up on a windy beautiful -10° F day. It was a successful day with one burbot being caught and lots of great food after words. 🐟

New Books from AFS

Burbot: Ecology, Management, and Culture

This book, edited by Vaughn L. Paragamian and David H. Bennett, summarizes the Burbot symposium held in association with the AFS meeting held in Anchorage in 2005 and is available online at: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/>. A summary is provided below.



Burbot are circumpolar in distribution and found in the northern tier of states and Canada.

Recent research suggests that there are two subspecies: *Lota lota lota* found in Eurasia and Alaska, and *Lota lota maculosa* found in North America south of Great Slave Lake. Burbot populations are threatened or have been extirpated in many waters in their southern range in North America, and in many states they are a species of

special concern. The status of burbot is in question in some European countries, or they have been extirpated in others.

Among other topics, this volume explores differences in mitochondrial DNA frequencies of burbot in the Pacific Northwest, how temperature changes due to regulated discharge from a dam and climatic changes may be affecting burbot abundance, the status of burbot in the Great Lakes, burbot culture, and how local government and a Native American tribe intervened to develop a burbot conservation strategy.

The book will be appreciated by burbot experts as well as those just interested in a unique fish.

Ecology of Juvenile Salmon in the Northeast Pacific Ocean: Regional Comparisons

Edited by Churchill B. Grimes, Richard D. Brodeur, Lewis J. Haldorson, and Stewart M. McKinnell, this book is the proceedings of an AFS Symposium; chapter titles are listed and the book may be purchased online at: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/>.

Understanding the interaction between Pacific salmon and their environment is critical for salmon management. This book presents recent advances in our understanding of the ecology of salmon in the North Pacific and Bering Sea and the influence of ocean climate on the life history and population dynamics of Pacific salmon stocks. It focuses on regional comparisons of salmon ecology south and north of the British Columbia transition zone where ocean conditions effect salmon production in opposite phase. 🐟

Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

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

Membership information and application

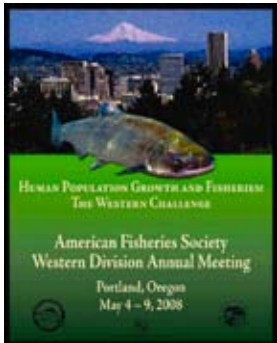
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html>

Meetings and Events

GEOHAB Marine Geological and Biological Benthic Mapping

April 29–May 2, 2008: This meeting, sponsored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Global Undersea Research Unit, is themed “Deep-sea Marine Benthic Habitats and High-seas Marine Protected Areas.” Visit <http://www.geohab.org/sitka.html> for more information.

2008 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting



May 4–8, 2008: The 2008 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Oregon Chapter AFS and will serve as the Oregon Chapter’s Annual Meeting. This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Visit <http://www.orafs.org/>.

River Management Society Meeting

May 12–16, 2008: This meeting, themed “Branching out from the mainstream,” will be held in Portland, Maine. Visit <http://www.river-management.org/symposium-2008/Home.htm>.



PICES Symposium: Effects of Climate change on the Worlds Oceans

May 19–23, 2008: This PICES meeting will be held in Gijon, Spain. For information, visit: http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2008_symposia/Climate_change/climate_background_3.aspx.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Conference

July 23–28, 2008: This meeting, to be held in Montreal, Canada, will include the 24th annual meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society, the 51st annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the 66th annual meeting of the Herpetologists’ League, and the 88th annual meeting of the American Society



of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. For more information, visit: <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/jointmeeting/>.

8th International Congress on the Biology of Fish

July 28–August 1, 2008: This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The abstract deadline is April 1 and the webpage is: <http://fishbiologycongress8.usgs.gov/>.



American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting

August 17–21, 2008: The annual meeting of the AFS parent society will be held in Ottawa, Ontario. This meeting will feature 37 different symposia including sessions on: “Evolving Fish, Changing Fisheries,” “Community Ecology of Stream Fishes: Concepts, Approaches and Techniques,” “Human Disturbance to Aquatic Habitats in Midwest Glacial Lakes,” “Tagging and Its Use in Stock Assessment,” “Modeling and Model Selection in Fisheries Science,” “Hydropower Development and Sustainable Fisheries: What Have We Learned?,” “Harvest Control Rules: Experiences in Modeling and Application,” “Sustainable Fisheries for Highly-Migratory Large Pelagics,” “Contributions of Genetic Principles and Technology to Sustainable Fisheries: Concepts, Challenges, and Case Studies,” “Global Management of Squaloid Sharks: Protection and Enhancement of Regional Fisheries in Light of Global Conservation Initiatives,” “Innovative Approaches to Bycatch Reduction,” “Well-Managed Fisheries: Defining Best Practices in Fisheries Management,” “Who Holds the Cards: Government Versus Third Party Certifiers?,” “Setting the Standards for Sustainable Fisheries,” “Cultured Aquatic Animals: Use and Implications for Stock Enhancement, Fisheries Management, and Species Diversity,” “Parental Effects and Their Consequences for Recruitment Dynamics and the Sustainability of Harvested Stocks,” “The Changing Role of Aboriginal Communities in Fisheries Management,” “Social and Economic Dimensions of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management,” “Fisheries Management for Ecosystem Health.” Visit <http://www.fisheries.org/afs08/>.



Continuing Education Opportunities with AFS

Jack Erickson

One of the benefits of membership in the American Fisheries Society is the abundance of continuing education class offerings. The purpose of this article is to tell you about recent and upcoming opportunities with the Alaska Chapter, Western Division, and parent Society of AFS and to solicit members for the Continuing Education Committee.

The Alaska Chapter of the AFS offered four classes (“Technical Writing,” “How to Run an Effective Meeting Using Robert’s Rules of Order,” “Improving Presentations,” and “Escapement Goal Development”) at our annual meeting in Ketchikan. A total of 30 members took advantage of these workshops. Many thanks to David Bernard, Steve Fleischman, Bob Clark, Laurel Devaney, Andi O’Conor, James Hale, Hal Geiger, and Joe Margraf for coordinating and teaching these classes.

A Stream Restoration Workshop will be held at the Western Division AFS meeting, hosted by the Oregon Chapter, in Portland, Oregon on May 8–10, 2008. It will feature prominent scientists and practitioners with aquatic restoration applications pertinent to the western United States, Mexico, and Canada. The plenary format will cover current restoration practices set in a watershed context and aimed at restoring native fish assemblages. Topics include: foundations of physical and ecological river functions; data requirements for design and effectiveness monitoring; restoring channel complexity in wet, arid and urban stream systems; restoration of tidal areas; aquatic invasive species issues; and physical and biological implications associated with dams and their removal. The practical aspects of working with private landowners, as well as project management and implementation will also be addressed. Attendees will receive an electronic notebook of key restoration literature. Speakers will include: Dave Montgomery, Jason Dunham, Leslie Reid, Derek Booth, and many others.

The 138th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will also include numerous continuing education offerings. A preliminary list of classes that will be offered at this meeting follows: “An Introduction to Programming in R for Fisheries Scientists,” “Leadership Principles Training,” “HACCP Planning for Natural Resource Pathways,” “Planning & Executing Safe & Effective Rotenone & Antimycin Projects;” “Fish Bioenergetics Modeling: Basics, Pluses and Minuses, Novel Developments and Applications;” “Basic GIS for Fisheries Biologists,” “Basic/Inter GIS for Fisheries Biologists,” “Advanced GIS for Fisheries Biologists,” “Introduction to Instream Habitat Modeling using MesoHABSIM,” “Natural Channel Design: Instream Structures for Habitat Enhancement,” and “Mapping Aquatic Habitat of Inland Freshwater Systems using Side-Scan Sonar.”

The election of Hamachan Hamazaki to the Vice President seat has left the important Continuing Education Committee chairmanship vacant. This position is responsible for coordinating continuing education course offerings at the annual meeting, which is currently under development. Please contact Hamachan if you are interested in serving as the new chair. Hamachan is also looking for topics from the membership for future workshops. Some workshops on the horizon include: “The Scientific Presenter’s Toolbox” and “Application of the DIDSON technology”. Contact Hamachan at toshihide.hamazaki@alaska.gov, if you have a suggestion for a workshop or would be willing to teach a workshop.

2008 Alaska Chapter Officers

Alaska Chapter officers serve for 2 or 3-year terms. Elections are held annually in the fall for open offices. It is the responsibility of the past president to recruit candidates. If you are interested in serving, please contact Jamal Moss.

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Student Subunit President

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members