



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society
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NOAA vessel *J. N. Cobb* trawling for epipelagic fishes in Icy Strait, 2005, with a 264 Nordic rope trawl.

The NOAA Ship John N. Cobb Leaves a Rich Legacy

Joe Orsi and Bill Heard

For over half a century, the NOAA Ship *John N. Cobb* has plied Alaskan waters as a government fisheries research vessel, a career which sadly came to a close this past June of 2008. This was her last scheduled year of operation; however her season was cut short due to a catastrophic breakdown: a broken main crankshaft in her vintage Fairbanks-Morse 1931-design, 325 hp direct drive, locomotive engine. The cost and time to re-power and ballast the vessel—estimated at \$245,000 and 4 to 6 months—was deemed unfeasible; consequently, the remainder of the vessel's scheduled research was curtailed.

The *John N. Cobb* is the oldest and only remaining wooden boat in the NOAA fleet. Built by Western Boatbuilding Co. in Tacoma, Washington, the *Cobb* was delivered in February of 1950. Her design is a West Coast purse-seiner with additional capabilities to allow trawling, long lining, gill netting, and oceanographic sampling. The *Cobb's* normal complement of command and crew is eight, with additional accommodations for four scientists. Her size is 93 ft in length, 26 ft in beam, and a gross tonnage of 185 tons. Interestingly, another historic wooden-hulled vessel, the *Mayflower*, had a similar estimated size (90–110 ft length, 25 ft beam, and a gross tonnage of 180 tons). However, the *Mayflower* was a little more crowded in 1620 with 130 persons onboard!

Although home ported in Seattle, Washington, the *John N. Cobb* spent much of her storied life working in Alaska waters. In the past several decades, the vessel primarily supported research projects in southeastern Alaska for Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay and National Marine Mammals Laboratories (<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/>). Some of these research projects have included:

- juvenile salmon marine ecology and factors affecting year class strength
- marine mammal surveys: cetacean ecology, humpback whale prey
- harbor seal ecology near tidewater glaciers

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The President's Corner

Bert Lewis

With an average of close to 350 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the strongest chapters in the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. We are also fortunate to be financially secure compared to many other chapters. The Chapter has a bright financial outlook, with revenues from the national, division and chapter meetings, scholarship funds, and investments. However, as you may recall from the spring *Oncorhynchus*, our membership numbers have declined in the past couple of years—although this is due partly to membership inflation in 2005 when we hosted the national AFS meeting.



Bert Lewis, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

Because holding the annual Chapter meeting in Anchorage is likely to increase attendance, we hope to see another membership increase this fall. Delinquent members who wait until the annual meeting to catch up on their dues and registration will contribute to this. These delinquent members were just sent an email reminder to renew their membership. I also suggest leaving the newsletter in prime reading locations at work to help get our message out.

Many of the benefits of membership in AFS are embedded in our mission statement. It calls for AFS to be “recognized widely as a leader in promoting the development of fisheries professionals, advancing fisheries and aquatic science, and promoting the conservation and sustainable development of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems.” This captures many of the goals we, as members, try to accomplish daily at our workplaces. The parallel efforts of the individual, chapter, division, and parent society create a structure in which we can work together towards these common goals.

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NOAA Ship John N. Cobb, continued

- coral and sponge benthic habitat
- habitat mapping of nearshore estuaries
- sablefish tagging and telemetry
- juvenile rockfish habitat assessment
- oceanographic sampling and long-term coastal monitoring
- support remote field camps and Little Port Walter Marine Station

Immediately after commissioning in mid-February of 1950, the *Cobb's* initial shakedown cruise was to search for commercial quantities of shrimp in Alaskan waters. In June of 1950, the *Cobb* embarked on a four-month cruise to “search for untapped resources of albacore tuna in waters off Oregon, Washington, and Alaska...”. Note that these early surveys to Alaska were nearly a decade before statehood! In August of 1959, the *Cobb* was involved in “Chariot Project” with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to assess the feasibility of using nuclear explosives off the northwest coast of Alaska to excavate harbors or canals. Fortunately this project never did materialize. In the early 1980s, the *Cobb* collaborated on a coast-wide research project for sampling juvenile salmon with small mesh purse seines off the coasts of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. With a renewed focus on marine ecology of juvenile salmon and other epipelagic fishes, the *Cobb* (from 1997–2007) helped pioneer the use of surface rope trawls. Use of these trawls led to the Southeast Coastal Monitoring (SECM) Project and development of an important long-term data set on biophysical factors affecting fluctuations in inter annual year class strength of salmon populations.

One of the most memorable moments of the *Cobb's* remarkable career as a research vessel was helping evaluate effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill that occurred in Prince William Sound on March 29, 1989. Before the spill, the *Cobb* was in an inactive status, but was quickly mobilized to play a key role in this major research response. In subsequent years, the *Cobb* supported numerous studies evaluating lingering effects of this damaging oil spill to the Prince William Sound ecosystem.

The *John N. Cobb* was named after John Nathan Cobb (1868–1930), an author, naturalist, and conservationist. Cobb began his career as a

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President's Corner, continued

The mission statement goes on to mandate that AFS be “an important source of professional development and a forum for receiving and disseminating research, management, and outreach information.” Information is received and disseminated by attending AFS meetings—one of the greatest benefits of membership. As President, I represented the Chapter at the Annual Meeting of the Western Division in Portland this past May; with approximately 1,100 people attending and numerous high quality presentations, it was an excellent meeting. The annual Chapter, Division, and National meetings all provide great presentation forums and the opportunity to sharpen public speaking skills in front of a mostly friendly audience as well as to exchange ideas and brainstorm with colleagues. The socials act as big reunions and as a venue for connecting with colleagues, making new contacts, and even job hunting. I invariably come away from these meetings with renewed enthusiasm for my own work.

Your membership and meeting participation also provides you with opportunities for professional development. AFS has developed a solid continuing education program that includes the latest developments in relevant topics and technology. At the Alaska Chapter meeting last year, we had several professional development courses including Escapement Goal Development, Technical Writing, Public Speaking, and Robert's Rules of Order. At the Western Division meeting, classes included Conflict Resolution, Analysis and Interpretation of Fisheries Data, Basic GIS, and Natural Resource Career Development. All the courses are presented by outstanding instructors brought in especially to meet our requirements.

Our mission statement further says that AFS will “actively use the best available technologies to facilitate communications among its members and with external audiences.” Selective advocacy is one of the most important functions of AFS; through your AFS membership, you can positively influence policymakers on important fisheries issues. All levels of the society advocate with the best available science to help guide policy decisions on issues pertinent to the conservation of aquatic resources and habitats.

Your membership also helps in developing future fisheries professionals. Dues and fundraising activities support student travel to various meetings; their attendance is an important step in their recruitment into the field of fisheries. The Alaska Chapter provides \$8,000 to \$10,000 each year for student travel from around the state. The students volunteer in many capacities, allowing them to interact with professionals from the many fields of fisheries work in the state. For students, the meetings act almost as a career fair, providing networking and job hunting opportunities. We count some of the leading researchers and brightest minds among our membership, and the annual meetings provide an opportunity for students and professionals to see the work these leaders are doing and rub shoulders with them at the socials.

All these benefits would not be available without the support of our members. You can give something back to the Society by volunteering to be on committees or serve on the Executive Committee. I didn't know what I was getting myself into when I signed up to run for vice president three years ago but it has been a great experience. The duties require a teleconference every 4–6 weeks and a small amount of correspondence. Of course, the one-time annual meeting responsibility demands considerably more time, but in the end it was fun and kind of like throwing a big party on someone else's dime. Volunteering your time does not require much sacrifice and you reap the benefits of the Society while supporting our common goals. I encourage you to take advantage of all the Society offers and to get more involved by signing up to help out with committees and at the meetings. ☺

NOAA Ship John N. Cobb, continued

newspaper reporter and editor in the late 1880s, then later authored various publications for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries from 1895–1904. He subsequently served with distinction as Assistant Agent of the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, Editor of *Pacific Fisherman*, Assistant General Superintendent of the Alaska Packers Association, and President of the Pacific Fisheries Society. John Cobb was also the founding Director of the College of Fisheries, University of Washington—the first fisheries school in the United States—from 1919 to 1930. As Dean of the University of Washington in 1924, Cobb later became instrumental during a major battle in the salmon vs. dams debate over the Priest Rapids hydroelectric dam proposed on the mainstem of the Columbia River. He spoke in opposition to this dam at a time that predated “environmentalists,” and tried to implement creative solutions such as fish hoists and passage baskets in order to enable salmon to overcome modern barriers.



The Cobb in 1984 purse seining for juvenile salmon in Lower Chatham Strait.

NOAA Ship John N. Cobb

Official web site:

<http://www.moc.noaa.gov/jc/index.html>

Fifty-year anniversary summary:

http://www.oma.noaa.gov/publications/jcobblier_200.pdf

Digital photo collections:

<http://usasearch.gov/search?v%3Aproject=firstgov-noaa-images&query=cobb>

The Cobb comes to the aid of the grounded Alaska state ferry *Le Conte*:

<http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2223.htm>

Mr. John N. Cobb

***Marine Fisheries Review* article:**

2003. Dunn, J. R. John Nathan Cobb (1868–1930): Founding Director of the College of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle. *Marine Fisheries Review*: 65(3):1-24.

Information on the vessel’s namesake:

http://www.moc.noaa.gov/jc/john_cobb.htm

University of Washington beginnings:

<http://www.fish.washington.edu/history/1919.html>

An excellent article on John Cobb, authored by J. R. Dunn, was published in the *Marine Fisheries Review* in 2003. In acknowledgement of Cobb’s lifelong achievements in fisheries, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service named the research vessel after him.

The *Cobb* leaves a rich legacy, and although she is scheduled to be decommissioned in August at Sand Point in Seattle, her final resting place is still to be determined. Preliminary plans are underway by a broad group of maritime heritage interests to have the *Cobb* saved as a historic representation of wooden hull research vessels of the U.S. Federal Fisheries programs. The idea is to keep her open for public viewing and for use in educational and outreach programs.

The *Cobb*’s career also included at least two high-profile rescue operations and one burial at sea. She came to the assistance of the purse seine vessel *Karen Rae* in Icy Strait in the mid 1990s and the Alaska State Ferry *Le Conte* in 2004. At the wishes of his family, the ashes of Dr. Richard Carlson, a long time researcher and renowned diver, who worked at the Auke Bay Laboratories, were spread in the waters of Auke Bay by the *Cobb* in 1999. Some web links are in the side bar that provide additional information on the mission and historical information on the *Cobb* over her many years of service, and on John N. Cobb—the man. 🐟

First Call for Papers, Alaska Chapter 35th Annual Conference: “Expanding Perspectives of Fisheries”

Hamachan Hamazaki

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce that its 35th annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Anchorage from October 27–30, 2008. Plenary speakers will include Terry Johnson, a well-known marine recreation and tourism specialist with the University of Alaska Sea Grant program in Homer; other speakers are still being confirmed.

It's not too early to think about hotel reservations, and the Hilton Hotel has set up a special hotel reservation website for the Chapter. Please use this link for room reservations: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/ANCAHHF-AMF-20081026/index.jhtml>

The abstract submission deadline is August 15, 2008 and we currently have the following sessions:

Everything You Wanted to Know About Whitefish, but were Afraid to Ask

Session Chair: Timothy Joyce; U.S. Forest Service, Cordova; tljoyce@fs.fed.us

This session will discuss topics in the Subfamily Coregoninae. The session is open to any information collected recently in Alaska on this interesting group of fish. Presentations can include taxonomic distinctions, life history information, interactions between species, population, and distribution information, and any other interesting area of study. This subfamily is widely distributed in Alaska and often overlooked. It is used as a subsistence food in rural areas, yet limited information is available in many areas of the state.

Escapement Goal Management

Session Chair: Ray Beamesderfer, Beamesderfer@fishsciences.net

Escapement goal management has been a lynch pin in the tremendous success of Alaska's salmon management system. It is designed to ensure spawning escapements that sustain populations and optimize production over the long term. However, implementation of escapement goal management is not without its problems and controversies. Significant questions concern effective methods for accurately identifying sustainable escapement levels, appropriate management objectives for stocks where data is lacking or incomplete, management imprecision that makes it difficult to consistently achieve many goals, implementation in mixed stock fisheries where not all goals can be achieved, conservation risks of low escapements, and the effects of large escapements on potential future yields. Many of these biological issues have significant fishery implications and very controversial social and political dimensions. This session explores the implementation, strengths, and weaknesses of escapement goal management and highlights outstanding questions for future consideration.

Alaska's Subsistence Fisheries: Balancing Tradition, Conservation, and Economic Change

Session Chair: Jan Conitz; Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Juneau; jan.conitz@alaska.gov

This session explores wide dimensions surrounding subsistence fisheries. Current management systems for subsistence fisheries are poorly developed, and are based on commercial or recreational fishery management models, without taking into consideration differences in the structure and basic economic motivations of subsistence fisheries. How can modern scientific management concepts and fisheries research better address subsistence fisheries and the desire of rural Alaskans for more control over the fish resources they depend upon? How can local traditional knowledge be integrated into scientific concepts of fish stocks and their conservation? How should the responsibility for conservation of stocks be apportioned between subsistence and commercial fisheries, particularly when commercial fisheries target larger or mixed stocks farther offshore? How are economic changes in rural Alaska, such as the extraordinarily high cost of fuel, or the growth of the tourism and charter fishing industries, affecting subsistence activity? What is the value of healthy and viable subsistence fisheries to Alaska's small communities in relation to income from other resource development, such as mining? Most importantly, how can traditional fisheries be sustained for future generations in a fast changing global economy?

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Size Trends of Alaskan Salmon Stocks

Session Chair: Danielle F. Evenson; Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage; *dani.evenson@alaska.gov*

Anecdotal information and local knowledge suggests that the size of salmon, *Oncorhynchus* spp., has decreased and some fishers have expressed concerns over a reduction in their encounters with large fish. Reports of small size and low numbers of females have become increasingly common in recent years, and apprehension over the long-term health of stocks has grown. The subject has been discussed in Alaska Board of Fisheries and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, and other forums that involve subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers. This session will explore the various causes, current status of salmon stocks, and potential management implications of size trends.

Applying GIS to Fisheries Research and Management

Session Chair: Jeff Adams; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fairbanks; *Jeff_Adams@fws.gov*

As Alaskan fisheries agencies and users strive to adapt to environmental and social responses caused by climate change, increased infrastructure, and new fishing practices, there will be an increased need to address fisheries issues from a large scale, multi-disciplinary approach. To understand these responses, fishery scientists must understand and embrace the role that GIS can play in future research and management. The first portion of this session will introduce the audience to GIS technology as it applies to Alaskan fisheries, and will provide an awareness of techniques and products that fisheries researchers and managers can apply. The second portion will provide specific case studies of GIS applications.

DIDSON-based Fish Assessment

Session Chair: Debby Burwen; Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage; *debby.burwen@alaska.gov*

Hydroacoustic assessment programs are often the only way to obtain inseason escapement estimates for fish stocks in rivers that are too wide for weir structures and too occluded for visual observations. Hydroacoustic survey methods are also used extensively for surveying stocks of fish in lake and marine environments. Use of hydroacoustics continues to expand as sonar technology and analytical methods for these applications evolve and improve.

In this symposium, we plan to highlight innovative techniques for using hydroacoustic technology to assess fish populations in both marine and riverine environments. Significant advances in acoustic technologies have been made in recent years and hydroacoustic techniques are emerging as some of the most powerful tools for assessing fish stocks.

Application of Simulation Model for Fisheries

Session Chair: Toshihide “Hamachan” Hamazaki; Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage; *toshihide.hamazaki@alaska.gov*

Fisheries modeling has been dominated by production models, such as Ricker and Beverton-Holt. However, those models are not really capable of incorporating a biological understanding of the species. Life-history and ecological simulation models are designed based on biology and have been widely used for conservation and management of wildlife. However, these models have not been applied widely in the field of fisheries. This session will explore how the use of life-history and ecological simulation models could improve our understanding of fisheries.

What’s going on with Fish and Fisheries on the North Slope?

Session Chair: Dennis Lassuy; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage; *denny_lassuy@fws.gov*

Alaska’s Arctic is an epicenter for the dual challenges of climate change and energy development. This session is intended to start gathering “fish folks” who are active or interested in marine and freshwater fishes of the North Slope of Alaska. The session will highlight some of the ongoing work in this huge chunk of Alaskan geography and conclude with a panel discussion. The panel, working with session attendees, will be the kickoff of an effort to identify the pressing management and science needs that can position us all to help ensure the continued health of Alaska’s arctic fish resources under these changing

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conditions. The culmination of this session may be cooperation between the North Slope Science Initiative and the Alaska Chapter of AFS to put on a workshop at the 2009 meeting of the Alaska Chapter as a way to share our knowledge, establish research priorities, and to develop a collaborative plan to meet these emerging challenges.

Student Paper Session

Session Chair: Cheryl Dion, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage; Cheryl_Dion@fws.gov

This session will include any student paper accepted for presentation that has been submitted for consideration for the Best Student Paper Award for undergraduate and graduate students. All presentations will be judged by the same group of judges to ensure equity in scoring of each student presentation. **Students who would like their papers to be considered for the Best Student Paper Award MUST submit and present at this session.**

Contributed Papers

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

All sessions are currently open for presentation submission. For more information about a session, submission guidelines or continuing education courses, please visit the website at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/meetings/2008/meet2008.htm>.

Continuing Education Workshops at the Annual Conference

Continuing education courses scheduled so far include: Technical Writing (October 27), DIDSON-based Fish Assessment, (October 26, 27, 28), Scientific Speaking and Presenting Skills, (October 26, 27), and Wilderness First Aid (October 26, 27).

Technical Writing

Technical Writing will be instructed by Jim Hale, a former English professor and now a technical editor for NOAA. This workshop offers no nonsense, common sense lessons for writing in the workplace, with real solutions to the everyday problems in professional writing. This seminar will help you write clear sentences, well-developed paragraphs, and coherent documents.

DIDSON-based Fish Assessment

The DIDSON-based Fish Assessment workshop offers introductions and advanced acoustic assessment techniques and is broken into three separate workshops as follows:

- October 26: Use of Echoview instructed by instructors from Echoview.
- October 27: Introduction to DIDSON-based assessment techniques. This workshop is the

most suitable for people who have started, or are planning to start, using the DIDSON system.

- October 28: Advanced topics in DIDSON tools and techniques. This workshop is limited to the most experienced users, for details about the workshop, please contact Debby Burwen debby.burwen@alaska.gov.

Scientific Speaking and Presenting Skills

A workshop, Improve Your Scientific Speaking and Presenting Skills, will be instructed by Andi O'Connor. This workshop is tailored specifically to the scientific speaker. You will receive specific tips and tools to help you speak and present more effectively. Each workshop includes several practice sessions.

Wilderness First Aid

Wilderness First Aid (WFA) will be instructed by Deb Ajango, and provides an excellent introduction to the fundamentals of wilderness medicine. WFA is typically considered the minimum training required for people leading trips in semi-remote environments. It is also becoming the standard for field workers in a number of professions. For information, please see: <http://www.safetyed.net/whatissafetyed.html>.

A REMINDER THAT APPLICATIONS FOR THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAVEL AWARDS TO ATTEND THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 26, 2008.

SEE THE WEBSITE AT: http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards_scholarships.htm FOR THE AWARD GUIDELINES AND AN APPLICATION FORM.

Call for Nominations for Vice President and Assistant Treasurer

Jamal Moss

Ever wonder what Bill Heard, Kate Wedemeyer, Buck Bryant, and Carol Ann Woody have in common? All were AFS, AK Chapter EXCOM members ... and you could be too! Chapter nominations (self or otherwise) are currently being accepted for the important Alaska Chapter Executive Committee positions of vice president and assistant treasurer. Elections will be held in October, following publication of nominees' biographies in the fall *Oncorhynchus*.

The vice president serves for a 4-year term, graduating first to president-elect, then president, and finally to past president. The duties of the vice president include seeking out and appointing Chapter members to serve on the Membership Committee; working with the Membership Committee to increase membership; serving as a voting member of the Executive Committee; assisting the president-elect in the organization of the annual meeting; and disbursing Chapter funds as authorized by the Chapter Executive Committee.

The treasurer serves a two-year term, their duties include serving as a voting member of

the Executive Committee; maintaining records of financial transactions, membership payments, and all other records related to managing the Chapter funds; preparing an annual financial report for submission to the membership at the annual business meeting and as needed for state and federal revenue agencies. Currently we are looking for an assistant treasurer to initially work with our existing Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner and ultimately assume the treasurer position.

This is truly an opportunity to reap great rewards in exchange for a small time commitment. So if affecting change in fisheries science and management at a grass roots level and serving our Chapter's membership through continuing education and symposia sounds appealing, please do not hesitate to partake. For more information on the duties of these and other EXCOM positions, see the Chapter Procedures Manual online at http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/procedures/2007_procedures_manual.html. If you are interested in serving, please contact Past President Jamal Moss or President Bert Lewis or another EXCOM member. ☺

Juneau Student Group Update

Lisa Kamin

The Juneau student group of the AFS Alaska Chapter, Student Subunit held their annual Student Symposium at the University of Alaska Southeast campus on April 14th, 2008. This was the 12th year that the symposium has been held. The symposium is intended as an opportunity for students to



Jodi Pirtle, winner of the Best Student Presentation Award at the annual AFS Student Symposium in Juneau.

present the results of their theses and other projects in front of an informal crowd of peers. It is also designed to provide constructive reviews of the presentations by professionals in the field. Subunit officer Katie Palof provided opening remarks, which were followed by five student presentations in front of a 50-member audience comprised of university staff and students as well

as staff from various government agencies. Presentation topics included the effects of hatchery salmon releases on coho salmon marine survival, coexistence and competition between a dominant kelp and a guild of encrusting algae, and spatial and temporal variation in the population genetic structure of Pacific ocean perch.

This year's Best Student Presentation Award was given to Jodi Pirtle for her presentation entitled "Nearshore Subtidal Community Structure Linked to Habitat and Environmental Variability in Southeast Alaska". The runner up was Kristin Dunlap for her presentation "Blasting Effects on Juvenile Salmonids and Embryos: A Pressure Wave Analysis." Much appreciation is extended to the fisheries professionals who agreed to evaluate student presentations this year! We would also like to thank the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences who provided funding to maintain our perpetual plaque, which hangs in the Juneau Center office to commemorate current and previous winners of the Student Symposium. For additional information, contact Lisa Kamin at l.kamin@uaf.edu. ☺

Meetings and Events

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 webpage is online at: <http://fishbiologycongress8.usgs.gov/>.



Fourth International Symposium on GIS/Spatial Analyses in Fishery and Aquatic Sciences

August 25–29, 2008: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information, see: <http://www.esl.co.jp/Sympo/4th/1st%20Announcement%20&%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>.



American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting

August 17–21, 2008: The annual meeting of the AFS parent society will be held in Ottawa, Ontario. Visit: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs08/> for additional information.

Linking Herring, Galway 2009

August 26–29, 2008: This meeting, sponsored by ICES, PICES, and GLOBEC and subtitled, “Herring: Linking Biology, Ecology and Status of Populations in the Context of Changing Environments,” will be held in Galway, Ireland. For more information, please see: <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=46>.



PICES 17th Annual Meeting

October 23–November 2, 2008: This meeting with its theme of: “Beyond Observations to Achieving Understanding and Forecasting in a Changing North Pacific: Forward to the FUTURE,” will be held in Dalian, China. For more information, see: <http://www.pices.int/meetings/annual/PICES17/background.aspx>.

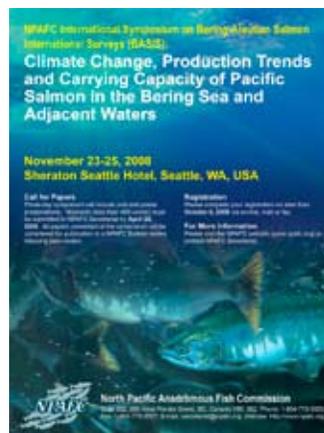


AWRA 2008 Annual Water Resources Conference

November 17–20, 2008: The annual meeting of the AWRA will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information visit: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2008/index.html>.

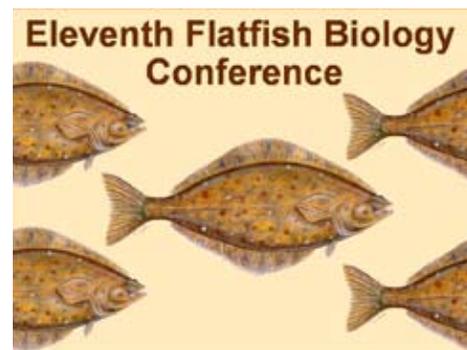
NPAFC International Symposium on Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Surveys (BASIS)

November 23–25, 2008: This meeting with its theme of “Climate Change, Production Trends, and Carrying Capacity of Pacific Salmon in the Bering Sea and Adjacent Waters” will be held in Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Seattle. For more information, see: http://www.npafc.org/new/basis_home.html.



11th International Flatfish Symposium

December 3–4, 2008: This meeting will be held at the Water’s Edge Resort and Spa in Westbrook, Connecticut. Further information regarding submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations, theme sessions, workshops, registration and other important dates can be found on the symposium website: <http://www.mi.nmfs.gov/flatfishbiologyworkshop.html>.



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>

Call for Award Nominations

Cheryl Dion and Ted Otis

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA), the Almost Darwin Award, and the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence. I encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and submit nominations for these awards. Please use the form on the Chapter website at http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/committee/awards/2008_award_announcement_application.html to make your nominations. Award presentations will occur at the 2008 Annual Meeting. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY August 15, 2008.**

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 the accomplishment.

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. Submit MSA and CSA award nominations and letters of support for nominations to: Cheryl Dion, USFWS; 605 W 4th Ave., Anchorage 99501; Cheryl_Dion@fws.gov, or call 271-2776 for further information.

The Almost Darwin Award recognizes the most humorous and outrageous fisheries *faux pas* of any fisheries professional. The nominees must have committed the *faux pas* within the 2006 calendar year. Please include a photo of proof along with the story. Submit award nomination stories and photos to Cheryl Dion.

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor on individuals who have made great and outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries. This award was established in 1981 by resolution of the membership. The membership has also set, by resolution, specific guidelines for the Noerenberg Award Committee. Nominee contributions may include scientific research, technological development, species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing, or marketing; academic and fishery education, or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Submit Wally Noerenberg Award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Ted Otis; ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries; 3298 Douglas Place, Homer 99603-8027; Ted.Otis@alaska.gov, or call 235-1723 for further information.

Rewarding excellence is an enjoyable but challenging task and finding judges is a challenge, too. If you would like to help out, the Chapter is soliciting members for the Awards Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Cheryl Dion. ↩

ONCORHYNCHUS

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Deadline for materials for the fall issue of *Oncorhynchus* is Sept. 10.

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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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members