ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

Vol. XXIX Summer 2009 No. 3

In this issue:

Prospective aquatic farmers are overseen by Art King of the Naukati Community Association Nursery as they attach oyster culture trays to a raft as part of the Weekend Warrior Program.

Mariculture and Aquatic Farming in Alaska

Cynthia Pring-Ham

During January through April of 2009, prospective aquatic farmers submitted multi-agency applications to the state to establish an oyster culture business. While they wait the 7 to 9 months it takes the state to review their applications, many are trying out oyster farming on a part-time basis with Art King, manager of the Naukati Community Association Nursery. Mr. King established the Weekend Warrior Program to train potential aquatic farmers on culturing and raising juvenile oysters or "spat"—techniques that will be needed during their first year of operation. If all goes according to plan, these aquatic farmers will be harvesting their first crop of Pacific oysters, *Crassostrea giga*, approximately two years after being issued an operation permit.

The aquatic farming industry in Alaska is relatively small, comprised of 53 permit holders responsible for operations at 66 farm sites, for a combined total of 292 acres. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) leases these state-owned tidelands and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issues a permit allowing aquatic farmers to develop and operate a farm at the site. Farm site locations are one of the key elements to success, and aquatic farming epicenters have emerged in Kachemak Bay—near Homer, and in the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island. Due to its inability to spawn in Alaska's cool waters, the Pacific oyster is the only non-indigenous species for which seed stock is allowed to be imported; it is also the most rapidly growing of culture operations in Alaska—over 94% of state production currently comes from sales of the Pacific oyster. Cultivation of indigenous littleneck clams, *Protothaca staminea*, and blue mussels, *Mytilus edulis*, make up the remainder of Alaskan production.

There were very few aquatic farmers in business prior to promulgation of the Aquatic Farm Act in 1988. This Act clarified what type of operations were legal within the state, allowing for farming of shellfish and aquatic plants while prohibiting finfish farming, which effectively cleared the way for investment to safely flow into the industry, and

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The President's Corner

Hamachan Hamazaki

Hamachan Hamazaki, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

By the time you receive this newsletter, many of you will already be in the middle of fieldwork or about ready to go into the field. Field studies and field monitoring of fisheries forms the foundation for good fisheries. Without data, there is no progress in fishery science and management. Through careful observations and insights, new understanding about fish and fisheries are developed.

Many things happen during fieldwork: joys and excitement, difficulties and struggles, and tragedies and regrets. As fisheries biologists, we have the privilege of working in some of the most remote places in Alaska. Simultaneously, field work is mundane. Day in and day out, sunshine or rain, hot or cold, you work in the field. Time stays still in the field, while the outside world is moving at light speed. Accidents happen, and some get injured, sick, or may even lose their life.

In the end, all of your efforts, struggles, energy expended and emotions experienced throughout the field season will be crystallized into numbers. Just numbers buried in rows and columns of a statistics table, or points on a graph; just dry numbers that someone can easily copy, paste, and type in. Within a few years no one will be able to distinguish whether the number was really collected or maybe just filled in by someone in an office. These numbers may reveal significant findings, may be nothing out of the ordinary, or may be tossed out as an outlier. Except for a few, all the stories behind these numbers will be forgotten.

When I open a dry annual report and see numbers, I wonder about the stories behind those numbers, how many people were involved, how much money was spent, how many lives are lost, etc. Then, I realize that the collection of dry numbers is actually a collection of testaments of all the people involved in the field work.

This year's field work may be your first, last, or one of many. Your field work may be small or large, easy or difficult. No matter what your field work consists of, have a happy, safe, and productive season. See you in the fall!

Mariculture and Aquatic Farming, continued

led to an increase in aquatic farming of shellfish. Alaska's Aquatic Farm Programs were developed in ADF&G and ADNR following the enactment of the Aquatic Farm Act to provide support for the development of this income-generating industry within coastal communities.

As with many emerging industries, aquatic farming in Alaska has faced many obstacles since its inception. Overall farm-gate value of Alaska aquatic farm production increased gradually to a peak of $676,045 in 2005, dropping subsequently to $463,513 in 2008. Many factors have contributed to this decline; they include seed availability and quality, difficulty with spat acclimation, reductions in bivalve growth and survival (a result of lower ocean temperatures leading to decreased phytoplankton abundance), increased prices for fuel and farm materials, the high costs and shortage of labor, and declines in littleneck clam wild stock harvest. A final factor is that it is difficult for farmers who do not reside on their aquatic farms to maintain and develop operations, and protect investments from predators and theft.

In response to some of these obstacles, small-scale farmers have begun to cluster their farm sites near their residences and to develop cooperatives, nurseries, and shared processing facilities. These activities can boost growth of the industry by achieving economies of scale with production, transportation, processing, and marketing. Naukati, on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, is a prime example of a rural coastal community that is involved with all stages of the shellfish industry, providing new, sustainable economic opportunities to people living in this depressed area. Several years ago, Naukati obtained federal grant funds to establish a nursery that supplies high quality spat to farmers across the state and has also recently established a cooperative called the Tongass Oyster Growers Association. Naukati is also being assisted by John Sund of Oceans Alaska (a new organization that provides leadership to the shellfish aquatic farming industry, see *http://oceansalaska.org/*) with planning and development of a processing facility to be used by all farmers in the area. A similar organizational structure is in place in southcentral Alaska where farmers

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Mariculture and Aquatic Farming, continued

associated with the Kachemak Bay Shellfish Growers Co-Op and the Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association have established a nursery to help supply oyster spat and built a new processing facility on the Homer Spit to sort, process, and market their oyster product. The growth of the industry depends on this type of cooperative community-based development.

This homemade sorting apparatus is used to prepare oysters for market or further grow out at the aquatic farm.

Alaskan aquatic farmers are experimenting with ways to increase production and reduce the labor intensiveness of their operations. Newer farmers are replacing the traditional lantern nets suspended from logs, longlines, or rafts, with stacks of plastic culture trays suspended from longlines or work rafts. Innovations such as mechanization of oyster sorting and of lifting suspended gear, or the use of tidal fluctuations to rotate intertidal or suspended floating bags are being tested. These innovations and farmer partnerships, along with the approximately 37 acres of new farm sites planned for 2010 will provide for a steady growth of the industry. Based on an inventory of current aquatic farm site oyster stock and average prices, farm-gate oyster production in Alaska is projected to total $1.41 million and $1.52 million respectively for 2009 and 2010.

Eric Wyatt, an oyster farmer in eastern Tokeen Bay on Prince of Wales Island, shows his trays full of oysters during an ADF&G site inspection.

Although some farmers have had success with on-bottom intertidal farming of littleneck clams, most have found it to be very labor intensive and there have been problems maintaining densities of clams relying solely on natural recruitment, so supplementing with hatchery-produced littlenecks would be necessary to maintain populations. Unfortunately, very little information is available on intertidal culture methods for hatchery-produced shellfish in Alaska. In response to this information deficit, Ray Ralonde, an aquaculture specialist with

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Mariculture and Aquatic Farming, continued

the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, in coordination with ADF&G and a local farmer, will begin a multi-year study of growth and survival of littleneck clams near Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska this fall.

In order to protect wild stock and to keep pathogens from entering the state or from being transferred between areas within the state, strict policies on genetics and pathology regulate aquatic farming and hatcheries. All hatchery-produced shellfish transported into the state for use on aquatic farms must come from seed sources certified to be disease-free and have a transport permit. Indigenous species can only be transported from in-state, Alaska-certified seed sources, whereas Pacific oysters can be transported from either in-state, or out-of-state Alaska-certified seed sources.

There are currently only five certified Pacific oyster seed sources available to farmers; three of these (Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery, Naukati West Homeowners Association Nursery, and Halibut Cove Nursery) are in-state facilities, while the other two (Coast Seafood Company's Quilcene Hatchery and Kona Coast Facility) are out-of-state facilities. The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery (APSH), managed by Chugach Regional Resources Commission and located in Seward, is the only certified seed source available to supply aquatic famers in Alaska with indigenous hatchery-produced geoduck, littleneck clams, and basket cockles.

Towards the end of 2008, APSH, in coordination with ADF&G, began the development of a 5-year basic management plan (BMP) similar to the approach developed for the salmon hatchery program. The BMP establishes genetic and pathology management techniques to be implemented at the hatchery to avoid inbreeding and to ensure adequate protection to wild stock shellfish resources in the state. It also provides information on the layout of the facility, algae production, shellfish rearing methods, and historical and projected shellfish production goals for each species. Until more data on hatchery production of indigenous species is available, the BMP takes a conservative approach to handling genetic management concerns at APSH.

Aquatic farming is not without its share of conflicts and controversies. During its review of proposed farm sites, the State is obligated to consider existing uses, such as commercial fisheries, subsistence uses, and sport and recreational clam harvests. Farm sites cannot be located in sensitive areas or habitats such as rookeries, eelgrass or kelp beds, or where significant populations of wild stock of the species proposed for culture reside. A particularly litigious recent controversy has centered around the extent to which holders of permits for geoduck farms can take and sell common property wildstock geoducks residing on their subtidal farm sites. ADF&G has been working to find solutions that protect the public interest, while allowing harvest from permitted subtidal farm sites, and after significant discussions with geoduck farmers, new regulations were drafted and are currently under review. For more information on these, visit the ADF&G Mariculture and Aquatic Farm Program website: *http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/enhance/maricult/maricult.php.*

With Alaska's clean waters and vast coastline, the aquatic farm industry has great potential for continued growth and provides an important opportunity to coastal communities searching for sustainable industry development.

Award Nominations

Meritorious Service Award (MSA)

Chapter Service Award (CSA)

Almost Darwin Award

Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence

Nominations must be submitted by July 31, 2009.

Please use the form on the Chapter website at *http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/committee/awards/2009_award_announcment_application.html* to make your nominations.

Award presentations will occur at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

First Call for Papers, Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference: "Celebrating Professional Diversity within Alaska Fisheries"

Lisa Stuby

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will take place in Fairbanks from November 3–5, 2009 at the Westmark Hotel in downtown Fairbanks. Rooms have also been reserved during November 1–2 for continuing education courses. An offsite trip to the local Silver Gulch Brewery is planned for the opening social on November 3rd and a banquet buffet will take place the following evening at the Westmark. Similar to last year, the banquet dinner will be buffet-style, with the cost incorporated into the meeting registration fees. Given the offsite social the evening beforehand, the banquet entertainment will be fairly low-key, with a band to playing in the background while participants eat and socialize. It is never too early to reserve a room. Not including tax, single or double rooms will cost $74 per night and this will include a continental breakfast. Rooms can be reserved by calling the Westmark at 459-7738.

Jennifer Nielson will be our keynote speaker. Jennifer is the fisheries supervisor of the USGS Alaska Science Center and was past president of the AFS parent society during 2006–2007. In addition, Trent Sutton of the Univerity of Alaska, Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences will give a presentation on recent and upcoming changes to the fisheries program at the University of Alaska. One or two additional speakers will round out the plenary session, one of whom will talk about some facet of fisheries policy. Suggestions or recommendations are welcome.

During last year's meeting, the Alaska Chapter hosted a Student Mentor Luncheon that was very popular. As a result, we will be hosting this event again at this year's meeting; Shelly Woods, our EXCOM student representative, will be recruiting mentors later in the summer and early fall.

Including a contributed papers and a poster session, a total of eight sessions are planned, but there is also still room for additional sessions; potential topics include, Fishery Genetics, Education, and Marine Biology, please feel free to suggest another topic, even something we've never had at a meeting. Again, this meeting will emphasize diversity, so I hope for many different talks. The National AFS meeting, has the theme of "Diversity, the Foundation of Fisheries and the American Fisheries Society: Are We Gaining Ground?" Let's make this meeting a YES!! I hope you are all having a great summer and that your field projects are going well. Listed below are the sessions planned to date. If you would like to present, please contact the session chairs.

Allocation among Fisheries Users: "How to Divide up Alaska's Fish Pie?"

Session Chair: Audra Brase, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, *audra.brase@alaska.gov*

Alaskan fisheries are allocated among many user groups including subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational fishermen. Allocative decisions are among the most difficult to make and the outcomes are almost always controversial. The goals of this session are to examine the evolution of various Alaskan fisheries, how and why allocations have changed over the years, what can be learned from those changes and what may be expected in the future. Suggested fisheries to examine include, but are not limited to: Pacific halibut; Chinook salmon throughout the state (Southeast, and Copper, Kenai, and Yukon Rivers); Bering Sea king crab and Southeast rockfish.

Management of Whitefishes in Alaska: "What Do We Know and Where Do We Start?"

Session Chairs: Trent Sutton and Aaron Dupuis, University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, *tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu*; *a.dupuis@sfos.uaf.edu*.

Alaska supports a diverse assemblage of *Coregonine* fishes (hereafter termed whitefishes), with eight recognized species in the genera *Coregonus*. Whitefishes are broadly distributed throughout Alaska in a variety of freshwater, brackish, and marine environments. Many whitefish species are abundant year round, and consequently support important subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational fisheries. Whitefishes are also an important component of the trophic food web, serving as prey for

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First Call for Papers, continued

a variety of piscine, avian, and mammalian predators. Although many species in Alaska exhibit similar life history attributes, there is significant variability within and among species in life history strategy, including freshwater-migratory, anadromous-migratory, and non-migratory strategies. Given this variability, there is limited information on the basic biology of most whitefish species, including distribution and abundance, migratory behavior, spawning, nursery, and feeding habitats, stock structure and dynamics, and early life history. This information is particularly crucial for whitefish because they are harvested year round and at different phases of their migration. Species identification based on morphological measurements and meristic counts can be difficult, particularly for larval and juvenile life stages. Because of the challenges associated with species identification, regardless of life stage, species groups are often combined in harvest reports and management plans. Further, there is limited information about the extent to which harvest affects whitefish populations, which may vary on both temporal and spatial scales. The increased harvest of whitefish in recent years from subsistence and commercial fisheries has raised concerns about the status of their populations in Alaska and their long-term sustainability. In this symposium, we will explore the current state of knowledge and information gaps for whitefishes in Alaska.

Habitat Restoration in Interior Alaska

Session Chair: Jeff Adams, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office, US Fish & Wildlife Service, *jeff_adams@fws.gov*.

With the increased recognition of the value of habitat restoration to fisheries conservation, managers, researchers, and the public need to become aware of the appropriate methods and approaches used for restoration activities. This session will spotlight current and historic activities and describe the successes and failures of fish and aquatic species passage and riparian, wetland, and upland restoration projects in Interior Alaska. To provide insights about evaluating specific sites for restoration and to better educate all stakeholders for future involvement, the session will also include presentations concerning pre- and post-treatment habitat and population assessments to assist with prioritizing projects. Although focused on applications in Alaska's Interior, presentations from other states and regions will be considered.

Evolution of Fish Diversity

Session Chair: Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, *lisa.stuby@alaska.gov*

To better understand why fish species in Alaska and elsewhere show varying distributional and habitat needs, it is important to understand where, how, and why they evolved the characteristics that are necessary for their survival. With modern techniques such as genetics, much can be gleaned on the phylogeny that could only have been assumed from fossils years ago in more traditional cladistical analyses. As different techniques become available with greater sensitivity and accuracy, the evolutionary relationships between species will become clearer.

Quantitative methods in Alaskan fisheries research and management

Session Chair: Milo Adkison, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *milo.adkison@uaf.edu*.

This session is intended to highlight the broad array of quantitative tools applied to fisheries research and management problems in Alaska. Novel techniques and novel applications of existing techniques are encouraged. Speakers should plan on incorporating an educational component in their talks; i.e., discuss the potential uses, best implementation, and limitations of their methodology.

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

First Call for Papers, continued

Alaskan Coastal Waters: Biology, Ecology, and Ecosystem Services

Session Chair: Ann Knowlton, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *knowlton@sfos.uaf.edu*.

Nearshore areas provide important ecological and biological services for Alaska's natural marine resources, as well as economic and recreational opportunities for local communities. This session will highlight the biodiversity of Alaskan coastal waters including habitat function and community processes. This session will give an expansive perspective, to include both commercially exploited and unexploited species, and will provide an integrated, broad-scale view of ecosystem functions and services.

Continuing Education

The two days immediately preceding the 2009 Annual Conference of the Alaska Chapter (November 1–2) are once again being devoted to continuing education opportunities for members to brush up on their skills and knowledge or delve into new areas of interest. The Continuing Education Committee is seeking your input on what courses and subjects you would like to see taught. We also welcome inquiries from anyone who has a course they would like to teach.

One suggestion is to fill the two days with a diversity of short (2–4 hr) courses, allowing participants to select several sessions from topics in three broad areas: 1) communication, such as speaking or writing, cross-cultural communication, or working with the media; 2) science, including any interesting biology or biometry topic; and 3) technical tools, including introductions or updates on any useful software or technology application. Please contact Jan Conitz (*jan.conitz@alaska.gov*; work 465-4125) or Tammy Hoem (*tammyhoem@yahoo.com;* cell 687-4584) with your ideas and suggestions.

Douglas B. Molyneaux Receives Certificate of Recognition from the Alaska State Legislature

In April of 2009, Doug Molyneaux was presented with a Legislative Certificate of Recognition by the State of Alaska for his many years of dedication to Kuskokwim River fisheries. The certificate was sponsored and signed by Senator Lyman Hoffman and Representative Bob Herron, signed by Speaker of the House Mike Chenault and President of the Senate Gary Stevens, and cosponsored by the remaining 54 Alaska State legislators.

Doug Molyneaux has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Commercial Fisheries Division as Kuskokwim Area Research Biologist since 1989. During this period he has established comprehensive fishery research and monitoring projects along the Kuskokwim River, which supports the largest Chinook salmon subsistence fishery in the state. However, his largest contribution has been pioneering an inclusive fishery management system of partnerships with local community members and organizations, and State and Federal Agencies for the management of fishery resources through the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. The working group serves as a body where biologists, managers, and local stakeholders work together to find solutions to often difficult fisheries issues. Doug was also instrumental in expanding the Alaska Natives Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska to include Biology degrees, for which he received a Baleen Award in January of 2009.

His passion has been to serve the people of Alaska and to make a difference [in fisheries] on the Kuskokwim River. Reserved and respectful, but persistent and unyielding to his principles, his passion has touched and earned the respect of people throughout Kuskokwim River drainage. We are happy to see him receiving this well-deserved award and losing his usual demure at the celebration party. Congratulations, Doug!

Plan to Attend the Chapter Meeting

Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference:
"Celebrating Professional Diversity within Alaska Fisheries"
November 3–5, 2009

Meetings and Events

6th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions

August 24–27, 2009: This meeting, sponsored by ICES and the National Sea Grant College Program will be held in Portland, OR. For more information see *http://www.clr.pdx.edu/mbic/index.html*.

Fourth International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application.

August 23–28, 2009: To be held in Monterey, California. See *https://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/ios/* for more information.

139th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

August 30–September 3, 2009: The 2009 AFS parent society meeting will be held in Nashville Tennessee. The theme is "Diversity, the foundation of fisheries and the American Fisheries Society; are we gaining ground?" For more information visit *http://www.fisheries.org/afs09/*.

2009 ICES Annual Science Conference

September 21–25, 2009: This symposium will be held in Berlin, Germany. For more information visit: *http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2009/index.asp*.

ERF 2009 Meeting

November 1–5, 2009: The biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation meeting will be held in Portland Oregon. The theme is "Estuaries and Coasts in a Changing World." For more information, please visit: *http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/*.

ICES/PICES/UNCOVER Symposium 2009

November 3–6, 2009: This symposium on "Rebuilding Depleted Fish Stocks - Biology, Ecology, Social Science and Management Strategies," will be held in Warnemünde/Rostock, Germany. For further information, please see *http://www.uncover.eu/index.php?id=180*.

Western Society of Naturalists

November 12–15, 2009: This meeting will be held in Monterey, CA. Abstracts will be accepted through October 9 and registration will begin September 1. Visit: *http://www.wsn-online.org/meeting.shtml*.

2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting

February 22–26, 2010: The annual Ocean sciences meeting of ASLO will be held in Portland, Oregon. Abstracts will be accepted through October 15. Visit *http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/*.

Aquaculture 2010

March 1–5, 2010: The Triennial Meeting of the National Shellfish Association will be held in San Diego, CA. Abstracts are due August 31, 2009. Visit *http://shellfish.org/*.

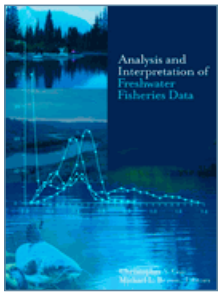
Climate Change Effects on Fish and Fisheries: Forecasting Impacts, Assessing Ecosystem Responses, and Evaluating Management Strategies

April 26–29, 2009: This symposium will be held in Sendai, Japan. For more information see: *http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2010/cc_effects_fish/default.aspx*.

New Titles from AFS

To purchase either of the books below or other offerings from AFS, please visit the online bookstore at *http://www.afsbooks.org/*.

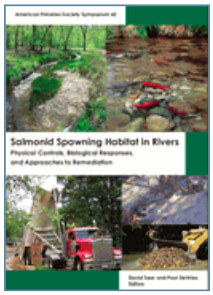
Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data



Edited by Christopher S. Guy and Michael L. Brown, this long-awaited text, published in September of 2007, is an excellent companion to AFS's Fisheries Techniques because it provides a frame of reference for appropriate sample design, analysis, and interpretation of freshwater fisheries data. The chapters are organized by fish and fisheries data types, including recruitment, mortality, biotelemetry, habitat, and predator-prey interactions, within major topic areas, such as population dynamics, fish biology, and community assessment.

This book is appropriate for advanced undergraduate and graduate students and is a practical resource for fisheries professionals. It includes a subject index.

Salmonid Habitat in Rivers



This timely volume, edited by David A. Sear and Paul DeVries, presents recent research on the interactions between physical habitat and the ecology of salmon. Salmon habitats have been under increasing pressure from catchment management and river management activity, resulting in a decline in available habitat.

North American and European scientists review the processes that control habitat availability, explore the issues impacting the quality of this habitat, and assess the biological factors affecting habitat use and the interaction between habitat quality and salmon reproductive success.

National AFS Meeting:
"Diversity, the Foundation of Fisheries and of AFS: Are We Gaining Ground?"

The 139th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held in Nashville in August 30–September 3, 2009. Our meeting also will be diverse, serving up course after course of fisheries science and management to a horde of fisheries professionals hungry for information. AFS is as diverse as the fields we study, from fisheries law to population genetics, from socioeconomics to physiology; there will be something in the program for everyone. Best of all it will be served up by an incredibly diverse group of fisheries professionals united in the common purpose of generating and disseminating science-based information focused on the sustainable use of marine and freshwater fisheries resources.

Many continuing education courses will be offered: Natural Channel Design: Instream Structures for Habitat Enhancement; Instream Habitat Modeling using MesoHABISM; Basic/ Intermediate GIS for Fisheries Biologists; Introduction to Instream Habitat Modeling using MesoHABSIM; Side-Scan Sonar; Effective Speaking; Advanced GIS for Fisheries Biologists; Leadership at All Levels in AFS; An Introduction to Programming in R for Fisheries Scientists; Designing Natural Channels Using Principles of Geomorphology; Science, Tools and Information Resources on Upstream Fish Passage; Street Smarts: Getting Them to Say "Yes" to Conservation; and an Acoustic Technology Workshop among others.

There will be numerous socials, including a Welcome Social with country music entertainment, Trade Show social, Student Social, a Wednesday Night Social at Smiley Hollow featuring southern comfort and barbecue food, hay rides, putt-putt golf, horseshoes, and country music, and a Thursday night "Goodbye Nashville–Hello Pittsburgh" social.

The program features symposia and sessions on Student Papers, Genetics, Pacific Cod, Bycatch Reduction, Headwater Streams, Sustainable Global Fisheries, Lake Trout, Striped Bass Management, Fish Passage, Stock Assessment: Environmental Factors, Mapping Distributions of N. Am. Freshwater Fishes, Contaminants and Toxicology, Fish Culture, Freshwater Fish Ecology, Marine Fisheries Management, Fish Conservation, Habitat and Water Quality, Physiology, Fish Health and more.

TO STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

A reminder that applications for the Cultural Diversity Travel Award to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting are due by September 25, 2009. 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 Secretary

Here are two great opportunities for you to get involved, work with a great group of people, learn new skills, and give something back to your professional society. Nominations are being accepted for Alaska Chapter vice president and secretary. 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 EXCOM; and assisting the president-elect in organizing the annual meeting. The gradual increase in responsibility over the 4-year term provides valuable experience in working in a non-profit, using Robert's Rules, putting on a large meeting, and enhancing organizational and leadership skills. The time requirements generally consist of a teleconference every 4–6 weeks with occasional extra time following up on correspondence, phone calls and emails.

The secretary serves a two-year term and is the Chapter's official record keeper, generating minutes of the annual business and EXCOM meetings, and acting as a voting member of the EXCOM.

This is your 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 join us now. 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-k/procedures/2007_procedures_manual.html*. If you are interested in serving, contact Past President Bert Lewis or President Hamachan or another EXCOM member.

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