



ONCORHYNCHUS

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Andy Seitz tags a Pacific Halibut with a pop-up satellite tag. Photo courtesy of Rob Ames.

Pop-up Satellite Tagging of Pacific Halibut

Andy Seitz

The Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) is one of Alaska's most magnificent fish. Because of its large size, firm flesh, and relatively high abundance, it has supported important sport, subsistence and commercial fisheries for several decades. Commercial landings of Pacific halibut have averaged approximately 70 million pounds, worth approximately \$170 million dollars, annually, while aggregate landings from sport, Community Development Quota, tribal, and subsistence fisheries have averaged 5.5 million pounds annually.

Despite its importance, little is known about the behavior and seasonal movements of Pacific halibut. It is generally assumed that adults feed in shallow, nearshore areas during the summer, undertake a spawning migration to deeper water during the winter, and return to their summer grounds in the spring. Additionally, it is assumed that these fish belong to a single, fully-mixed population extending from California through the Bering Sea, in which adult fish disperse randomly throughout their range during their lifetime. The concept of a fully-mixed stock implies that Pacific halibut from several feeding areas, including the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska, mingle on common spawning grounds. However recent evidence, including genetics and differential catch-rates among several areas, indicates that this single population paradigm may be simplistic. We hypothesized that at the largest scale, the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska contain discrete spawning components of Pacific halibut that do not intermingle on common spawning grounds. Traditional fisheries research methods have not been able to address this hypothesis because the commercial fishing season is closed during the winter to protect spawning adult fish.

To investigate the seasonal dispersal and behavior of Pacific halibut, my collaborators and I externally tethered Pop-up Archival Transmitting (PAT) tags to adult Pacific halibut. These tags have three electronic

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The President's Corner

Lisa Stuby

I look forward to serving as President of the Alaska Chapter of AFS for 2010. During the first week of November, we had our 36th Annual Chapter Meeting in Fairbanks. The theme for this year's conference, "Celebrating Professional Diversity in Alaska Fisheries" was inspired by a lecture I attended by Nobel prize-winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann. His lecture was on the Santa Fe Institute (SFI), which is devoted to creating a new kind of scientific research community that emphasizes multi-disciplinary collaboration in pursuit of understanding the common themes that arise in natural, artificial, and social systems. This will also be the theme for the Alaska Chapter during my presidency.

During Hamachan's presidency, he encouraged communication and information sharing through our listserv, akchap@lists.fisheries.org. I plan to continue sharing information about upcoming classes, seminars, job openings, etc. I will especially be on the lookout for fish-related information that is a little out of the norm for traditional fisheries science. I encourage members to use the listserv to share any interesting events with the rest of the membership.

I've been a member of AFS since 1996, and an active member of the Alaska Chapter since 2002, when then-President Carol Kerkvliet invited me to become a co-chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee. Over the years, I have found most people I've worked with within the Alaska Chapter to be enthusiastic about their professions, their workplaces, the Alaska Chapter, and just plain nice! This was once again reflected in all the help I received in organizing this year's meeting. Per two old sayings, "There are two ways of spreading light—to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it" (Edith Wharton), and "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless" (Sherry Anderson).

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Lisa Stuby, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

Pop-up Satellite Tagging, continued

sensors that measure ambient water temperature, depth of the tag, and ambient light. The ambient light data are used for estimating daily latitude and longitude of the fish. At a user-specified date and time, the PAT tag actively corrodes the pin to which the tether is attached, releasing the tag from the animal. The tag then floats to the surface and transmits summarized data records via the Argos satellite system, which also determines the tags' endpoint positions. If the fish is captured and the tag retrieved before the pop-up date, then the full data record can be obtained.

To date, we have deployed nearly 350 PAT tags on Pacific halibut ranging from 106 to 176 cm in both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. Data records from these tags span 8–670 days. One fish was located nearly 3,000 km from its release location, while several fish were located at their release locations when their tags popped-up. The shallowest and deepest depths visited by any fish were 0 and 844 m, while the coldest and warmest temperatures encountered were 0.2 and 13.6°C.

The PAT tags provided no evidence that Pacific halibut moved between the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska during the mid-winter spawning season, supporting the concept that these regions may contain separate spawning populations of adult fish. Additionally, all of the Pacific halibut tagged near the central and western Aleutian Islands displayed residency near the islands where they were tagged, with their movements likely restricted by deep passes along the Aleutian Island chain. This behavior suggests the presence of localized sub-populations along the Aleutian Island chain. Two previously unidentified (Attu Island and Middle Canyon) Pacific halibut mid-winter aggregation areas (assumed to be spawning grounds) were described; one was approximately ~1,000 km west and the other ~600 km north of the nearest documented spawning areas. By keeping PAT tags attached to the fish until summer, they have also been used to document summer feeding site fidelity and homing of Pacific halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. The PAT tags indicate that approximately 60% of Pacific halibut actively home to their summer grounds after spending winter

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President's Corner, continued

In this spirit, I have numerous people to thank, way too many for this column! First, I wish to thank the 2008-2009 Alaska Chapter EXCOM, including Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner, who registered everyone with a smile; President Hamachan Hamazaki, who was always forthcoming with advice and kept telling me "don't worry, be happy;" Secretary Karla Bush, who took all the EXCOM meeting notes; Student Subunit Representative Shelley Woods, who helped consolidate student travel; Past President Bert Lewis, who was also a good source of advice; and Vice President Audra Brase, who reminded members to renew their memberships, and worked with Lee Ann to formulate a policy for Alaska Chapter life members. AFS committee members have also helped to make the meeting, and 2009, a success. Gretchen Bishop edited the *Oncorhynchus*; Ray Hander chaired the Finance Committee; Cecil Rich chaired the Environmental Concerns Committee, and kept abreast of issues like the Pebble Mine; Theresa Tanner, our new Awards Committee Chair, helped rally individuals during the Alaska Chapter meeting to judge student papers and posters; Ted Otis continued to chair the Wally Noerenberg Award Committee; Laurel Devaney chaired the Fisheries Communication and Education Committee; Hal Geiger chaired the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee; Allen Bingham, our long-time web guru, chaired the Electronic Communications Committee and kept the Alaska Chapter website up to date; Bill Bechtol is another long-time chair of the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee; Sara Gilk chaired the Cultural Diversity Committee; and Jan Conitz and Tammy Hoem co-chaired the Continuing Education Committee and coordinated many excellent continuing education courses. Finally, thanks are due to Jim Reynolds, Bill Templin, Chris Habicht, Judy Daxootsu Ramos, Elaine Abraham, Laurel Devaney, and Erik Anderson, who either coordinated or led a continuing education course. I also wish to thank the 2009 Alaska Chapter Meeting plenary speakers, including Jennifer Nielsen,

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Pop-up Satellite Tagging, continued

in deep offshore water, as opposed to simply remaining near their tagging location throughout the winter. This observation suggests that summer feeding site fidelity and homing are likely general characteristics of Pacific halibut and they provide another strong mechanism for establishing and maintaining population structure.

PAT tags have also provided an unexpected and fortuitous finding about the spawning behavior of Pacific halibut. While examining depth records in the early stages of our research, one fish displayed a conspicuous routine where it gradually moved to greater depth, abruptly ascended up to 170 m, quickly descended, and then gradually ascended. These abrupt "rises" occurred on seven separate occasions, each approximately 65 hours apart, during the spawning season of Pacific halibut. These rises and the regular time interval between them closely parallel the behavior of other spawning flatfish directly observed by humans using SCUBA. Therefore, we hypothesized that this conspicuous routine was spawning behavior of Pacific halibut. Indeed, after recovering additional PAT tags, several more fish displayed these spawning rises. We have used the occurrence of these spawning rises to improve our understanding of Pacific halibut spawning timing (late January to early March), and spawning depths (275 to 600 m). Furthermore, we have learned that some large, likely to be mature, individuals do not demonstrate visitation to spawning depths or spawning rises, suggesting that up to 25% of adult Pacific halibut skip spawning each year.

The use of PAT tags has resulted in great improvements to our understanding of Pacific halibut life history. We are able to ensure tag returns during the winter closed fishing season, and to gain valuable biological and ecological information, even if fish migrate large distances or to unexpected locations. This information is critical for management of Pacific halibut. If there are indeed separate spawning populations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, their dynamics may vary. Accounting for unique population dynamics within the range of a species is necessary for predicting how populations will respond to fishing pressure and changes in environmental conditions. ?

President's Corner, continued

who delivered the keynote address, and Trent Sutton, Bill Wilson, Denny Lassuy, Fred DeCicco, Jim Reynolds, and Mark Wipfli. The meeting never would have happened without the myriad of great speakers and posters and I wish to thank all of the speakers and the session chairs who helped to coordinate them. Lastly a special thanks goes to all of our student volunteers, the great staff at the Fairbanks Westmark Hotel, all those who donated items to the student auction, and anyone else I may have forgotten on this list, but will remember afterward. Of course, special thanks to my office for their support and encouragement.

Lastly, I wish to welcome three new members to the AFS Alaska Chapter EXCOM for 2009-2010. Trent Sutton is our new vice president, Julie Bednarski is our new secretary, and Sara Miller is our new student subunit representative. The 2010 Alaska Chapter Conference will be held in Juneau from November 3–5 with continuing education classes on November 1–2. Please contact Audra Brase if you wish to get involved, audra.brase@alaska.gov. We look forward to a good 2010! 🐟

Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference Awards

Theresa Tanner

There were two changes of significance for the Awards Committee in 2009. First, Cheryl Anderson stepped down as committee chair after 3 years of service. Cheryl did a wonderful job heading this committee; her time and commitment is much appreciated.

The Awards Committee is responsible for selecting among Chapter members a recipient for the Meritorious Service Award, Alaska Chapter Service Award, Almost Darwin Award, and among presentations made at the annual Chapter meeting for the Best Student Paper Award and Best Student Poster Award. The Committee did not receive any

nominations for the 2009 Meritorious Service Award, Alaska Chapter Service Award, or the Almost Darwin Award.

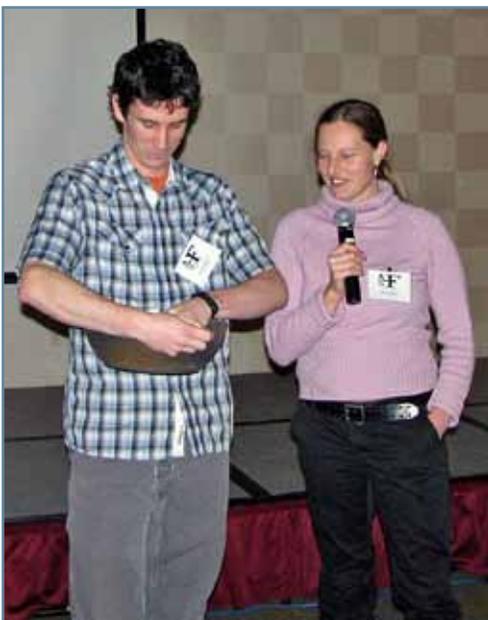
Fourteen members volunteered to judge and select the Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster at this year's annual meeting.

The Best Student Paper was awarded to Jason R. Neuswanger for his presentation entitled "Improved 3-D analysis for underwater video, with applications to wild juvenile Chinook salmon foraging behavior," and the Best Student Poster was awarded to David R. Roon for "Ecological effects of introduced bird cherry on salmonid food webs in Anchorage streams." Both are students with the Alaska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I commend all of the 2009 student presenters for sharing their work.

Lastly, I am soliciting for new Committee members. 🐟



President Hamachan, Hamazaki presents the AFS Alaska Chapter President's gavel to incoming President Lisa Stuby.



New Student Subunit President Sara Miller and Patrick Barry pulling tickets and announcing door prize winners at the Banquet at the Annual Meeting.



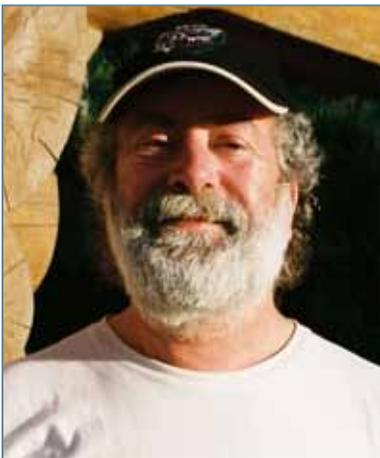
AFS Alaska Chapter 2009 Excom, from left, Vice President Audra Brase, President Lisa Stuby, Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner, Past President Bert Lewis, and immediate Past President Hamachan Hamazaki.

Wally Noerenberg 2009 Award

Ted Otis

The Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence is the highest award bestowed by the Alaska Chapter. It honors an individual's lifelong achievements in a career affecting Alaska's fisheries.

This year, the WNA Committee received one nomination prior to the historical July 31 deadline. After thoroughly reviewing the nomination and supporting materials, the WNA Committee voted unanimously to recommend Dr. Terrence J. Quinn II for the WNA. Their recommendation was taken up by the Executive Committee during their August 25th meeting and they too voted unanimously to approve Terry as the 15th recipient of the Wally Noerenberg Award.



Dr. Terry Quinn, recipient of the 2009 Wally Noerenberg Award of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Over the course of his distinguished and ongoing career, Terry has made many outstanding contributions to Alaska's fisheries. Even before completing his Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 1980, Terry began contributing to the sustainable management of Alaska's fisheries while working as a young biometrician for the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Thirty years later, he still serves the Commission as a member and sometimes chair of its Science and Statistical Committee. Terry has also served as a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council, and as an Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. As a professor at the University of Alaska,

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Wally Noerenberg 2009 Award, continued

Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS), Terry continues to educate and mentor a long line of graduate students who excel at developing innovative methods for advanced theoretical and computational population assessment. Terry's leadership in the field of quantitative fish dynamics extends well beyond Alaska's borders. He has published dozens of papers in peer reviewed journals and has edited or co-authored four books, including the internationally renowned reference officially titled "Quantitative Fish Dynamics," but also affectionately referred to by his students and colleagues as "The Bible".

During this year's Alaska Chapter AFS meeting, Terry was on sabbatical in South Africa, ten time zones and many degrees Celsius distant from Fairbanks. Although he was not available to receive his award in person, Terry got up early to participate in a live video feed with everyone attending the Awards Banquet. On behalf of the Chapter and his many admiring colleagues, I'd like to congratulate Dr. Terrance J. Quinn II for receiving the Alaska Chapter's most prestigious award, the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fisheries Excellence. 🐟

Who's the man behind the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fisheries Excellence?

Bill Hauser and Ted Otis

Who was Wally Noerenberg?

Wallace Huntington Noerenberg grew up in the State of Washington and served as a combat fighter pilot in Europe during World War II. Like many from his generation, Wally took advantage of the GI Bill to pay for his college education. He graduated from the University of Washington (UW), and continued to work with UW's Fisheries Research Institute as a salmon biologist on Kodiak Island. Wally became a member of the American Fisheries Society in 1955.

Wally transferred to Cordova around 1950 and dedicated himself to a comprehensive inventory of



A photo of Wally Noerenberg taken in the early 1970s.

Prince William Sound's abundant salmon resources, logging thousands of hours walking the area's streams to assess spawning habitat and run strength. During his tenure in the Sound, he also mentored and tutored younger biologists, while establishing lasting friendships and working relationships with local fishermen and residents. Anthony Novotny, then a young field biologist, who worked with Wally during the summer of 1953, said of him, "If you are in the fisheries field, and you're as lucky as I was, at least once in your lifetime you will meet or work with someone who is so inspiring that you never forget him." Wally was one of those people.

After statehood in 1959, Wally worked for the newly formed Alaska Department of Fish and Game, eventually serving as Commissioner from 1969–1972. During his tenure as Commissioner, the Department formed the Fisheries Rehabilitation and Enhancement Division (FRED) to help restore the state's salmon resources, which were in decline. Upon retiring from the Department, Wally returned to Prince William Sound to help found the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) in 1974, becoming its first Executive Director. Along with Armin F. Koernig, Wally was

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Wally Noerenberg, continued

instrumental in developing Alaska’s private, non-profit regional aquaculture organization, which was intended to protect fisheries from cyclical weaknesses in wild salmon returns, and to help supplement wild salmon stocks to provide for an increasing world demand for fish protein.

Wallace H. Noerenberg was recognized by his peers as one of the best and most dedicated salmon field biologists to ever walk a stream in Alaska. He cared deeply for Alaska’s fishery resource and for the people who relied on it for their livelihood. After he passed away in 1981, the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society honored his substantial contribution to Alaska’s Fisheries by establishing the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fisheries Excellence. Wally posthumously became the first recipient of his namesake award in 1982. Since its inception 28 years ago, only 15 individuals have received the WNA (Table 1).

How do I nominate someone for the WNA?

If you know an inspiring individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Alaska’s fisheries, nominate them for the Wally Noerenberg Award. Nomination forms can be found online at http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards_scholarships.htm, or contact Ted Otis, chairman of the Wally Noerenberg Award Committee, at ted.otis@alaska.gov. The NEW deadline for nominations is January 31. Effective nomination packages include several letters of support from individuals or organizations attesting to the nominee’s contributions to Alaska’s fisheries.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Randy Brown and Anthony Novotny for providing background material and to Nancy Long, ADF&G, for the Commissioner’s photo of Wally Noerenberg.

Student Writing Contest

The Student Writing Contest recognizes students for excellence in the communication of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (i.e., journalistic style). The winning article will be published in Fisheries.

Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. The papers will be judged according to their quality and their ability to turn a scientific research topic into a paper for the general public and will be scored based upon a grading rubric.

Check the AFS web site on the main awards page at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html> for the grading rubric. For examples of past winning papers, see Fisheries 32(12):608&609 and Fisheries 34(1):39. The submission deadline is May 5, 2010. For more information, contact: Tom Lang at toml@wp.state.ks.us.

Table 1. Past recipients of the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fisheries Excellence.

Year	Meeting location	Meeting dates	Recipient
1982	Sitka	Nov. 15–18, 1982	Wally Noerenberg
1986	Anchorage	Nov. 3–7, 1986	Armin Koerning
1988	Juneau	Nov. 14–17, 1988	Robert Armstrong
1989	Anchorage	Sept. 5–8, 1989	Clem Tillion
1990	Homer	Nov. 13–16, 1990	Steven Pennoyer
1991	Ketchikan	Nov. 18–22, 1991	Jim Branson
1992	Valdez	Nov. 17–19, 1992	Jim Reynolds
1994	Sitka	Nov. 15–17, 1994	Ole Mathisen
1995	Wasilla	Nov. 13–16, 1995	Ken Roberson
1997	Juneau	Nov. 18–22, 1997	John H. Clark
2002	Girdwood	Oct. 21–24, 2002	A.J. Paul
2003	Fairbanks	Nov. 3–6, 2003	Alex Wertheimer
2004	Sitka	Nov. 16–18, 2004	Lance Trasky
2006	Fairbanks	Nov. 14–16, 2006	Bill Wilson
2009	Fairbanks	Nov. 1–5, 2009	Terry Quinn

New AFS Student Subunit Representative

Sara Miller graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 2007 with a Masters degree in Fisheries. Her thesis was entitled, "Estimating Movement with a Spatially Explicit Stock Assessment Model of Eastern Bering Sea Walleye Pollock, *Theragra chalcogramma*."

Although Sara grew up on Lake Michigan in eastern Wisconsin, and earned an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, she spent her college summers in Bristol Bay. There she worked as a quality control and roe specialist at a salmon processing plant. This piqued her interest in fisheries management and biological aspects of fish.

After college, she worked as a Student Conservation Association Intern at the Bureau of Land Management in Eugene, Oregon collecting information on riverine fish habitat and salmonid presence.

Sara is currently working towards her Ph.D. in Fisheries at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in Juneau. She will be testing the influence of physical mechanisms on pink salmon survival in the coastal Gulf of Alaska environment, using samples of hatchery and wild juvenile pink salmon. 🐟



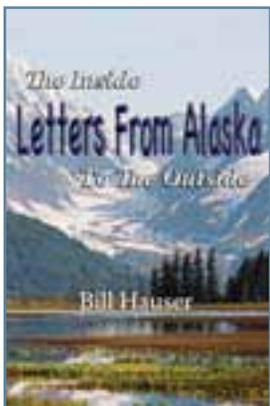
Sara Miller, the new student subunit representative to the AFS Alaska Chapter Excom.

AFS Past President Publishes Memoir

Letters from Alaska: The Inside to the Outside, presents a unique view of the Last Frontier. The reader is treated to a tour of Alaska with the author, Bill Hauser, as he mixes first-hand, personal experiences with entertaining bits of Alaskana and vivid word pictures.

Travel vicariously with him to all parts of the state as he lives, works, and recreates for nearly three decades. Empathize with his tribulations and join in his elations through his on-the-spot observations while you go bear watching, hunting for Dall sheep, moose and caribou, and fishing for king salmon, halibut, and Dolly Varden. Snow machine on the Iditarod Trail and go on backpack hikes and camping trips with his family. You will learn about the flora and fauna, the landscapes and water bodies, and the people and places that are Alaska—the Great Land!

This book, written by AFS Past President Bill Hauser is available online at http://www.publicationconsultants.com/title_1.htm#Letters%20From%20Alaska. 🐟



Wood Block Prints from Annual Meeting Cover Art Available

Sara Tabbert, the artist who did the cover wood-block print of "Ice Fisherman with Burbot on the Tanana River," has two prints left (5/6 and 6/6) and they can be purchased for \$100 apiece.

If you are interested in acquiring a print, please contact Sara at stabbert@hotmail.com. 🐟

Committee Reports

Continuing Education

Jan Conitz and Tammy Hoem, Committee Co-chairs

Continuing education and training is important to the careers of fisheries and natural resources professionals, and Chapter members continue to ask for courses focused on technical skills, people skills, new tools, and new fisheries knowledge. The new Continuing Education Committee responded to two requests for winter/spring workshops in 2009. The first was for a workshop on using the Automatic Differentiation Model Builder (ADMB) software. This course was taught by Jim Ianelli of the NMFS Alaska Science Center and took place in Juneau in April. Sixteen people participated in the four-day workshop, which covered basic concepts, background computer languages, and also more advanced statistical modeling and approaches using AD Model Builder, with hands-on exercises. The second course that was requested was Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM); this had to be postponed due to impending spring and summer field season schedules.

The Continuing Education program is also an exciting part of each annual Chapter meeting. Thanks to those who volunteered to teach or came forward with good ideas for courses, the Committee was able to offer five outstanding half-day workshops for the 2009 meeting in Fairbanks; these covered a broad range of topics of interest to fisheries professionals in Alaska. The Monday courses were well attended and included "Power-based Standardization in Electrofishing," "Genetics Basics for Alaska Fisheries Professionals," and "Cross-cultural Communication and Alaska Native Perspectives on Fishery Resources." The Chapter thanks all the instructors for sharing their time and knowledge. Unfortunately, due in part to reduced travel budgets, two courses scheduled for Sunday did not meet minimum enrollment and were

cancelled. However, those courses may be offered again in the future. For those with an interest in sharing their fisheries knowledge, the "Fisheries Education" course will likely be offered again at the 2010 meeting in Juneau. And since meetings are such an important part of most natural resources professionals' jobs, the course "How to Have More Productive Meetings" can be scheduled this winter or spring, and tailored to specific workplace or agency needs. Please contact your Continuing Education Committee about these or other courses you would like to see offered in the coming year.

In order to help plan future courses, including those for next year's annual meeting, the Continuing Education Committee is asking members to take a few minutes to complete an online survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UpMljN5quVEQBxpyll94LA_3d_3d. This link will also be sent out to the Chapter email list. Anyone who has an idea for a course they would like to teach, or one they would like to take is encouraged to contact Continuing Education Committee chairs Jan Conitz (465-4125) and Tammy Hoem (687-4584).

Cultural Diversity

Sara Gilk, Committee Chair

The Cultural Diversity Travel Award helps fund entry-level applicants who are involved in the natural resource field to attend the annual AFS, Alaska Chapter conference. The Committee selects the top candidate(s) and then tries to get as many recipients to the meeting as possible, depending on the meeting location and where the candidate(s) reside. The main goal of this committee has been to help diversify our Chapter membership and get young upcoming people active with AFS.

For the 2009 meeting in Fairbanks, I solicited applications from around the state, and received applications from three highly qualified individuals. After scoring applications with a panel of anonymous judges, we were able to fund two candidates, Alissa Joseph and Jessica Davila.

Alissa Joseph is currently a student under the Alaska Native Science and Engineering program, working towards a Biology Engineering Degree at UAF in Bethel. She has been inspired by her grandfather, who was actively involved

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ONCORHYNCHUS

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Deadline for materials for the spring issue of *Oncorhynchus* is March 10.

Committee Reports, continued

in subsistence issues in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and who instilled in her an appreciation of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence and commercial use. She has completed internships with British Petroleum and with ADF&G, radio tagging coho salmon on the Kuskokwim River. Alissa is currently working with the Natural Resource and Environmental Program at Orutsararmiut Native Council in Bethel. She is interested in finding ways to bridge science and culture for sustainable fisheries management in Western Alaska.

Jessica Davila is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Southeast's Ketchikan campus where she is seeking an Associate Degree in Fisheries Technology; she plans to continue her education by pursuing an online fisheries degree from Oregon State University in the fall. Jessica has worked for the Forest Service in Ketchikan at a remote salmon rearing site at Bakewell Lake as part of the Student Temporary Employment Program. Additionally, she has worked for the Fisheries Department of the University of Alaska Southeast, assisting with a study on invasive species and with the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Partnership. Jessica has also volunteered at the Deer Mountain Tribal Hatchery in Ketchikan. Her career goals are to work as a biologist for the Forest Service, working on habitat monitoring, and enhancement in the Tongass National Forest.

Sara Gilk and Miranda Plumb took over the chairmanship from Lisa Stuby and Jerry Berg in 2008. However, Miranda has since taken a position out-of-state and is no longer available to serve as co-chair. If anyone you know might be interested in serving as co-chair of this committee, please let Sara know (sara.gilk@alaska.gov).

Electronic Communications

Allen Bingham, Committee Chair

This committee was established at the 1995 annual Chapter meeting in Wasilla; its main purpose is to maintain and keep current the Alaska Chapter website and 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 have conducted voting entirely through email during the past few years, and e-balloting is expected to be used in one form or another this year and 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. As for the last two years, the newsletter was distributed primarily by email, with hard-copies sent only to some non-members, libraries, and members without email (or who requested a hard copy).

The website of the Student Subunit of AFS is maintained by the Electronics Communications Committee as a portion of our site. Their website address is <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/student>; it includes postings of officers, meetings, and special event announcements for each of the active Campus Groups. These consist of Fairbanks-UAF (University of Alaska Fairbanks); and Juneau-UAS (University of Alaska Southeast), as the Anchorage Campus Group is currently inactive. Also note that the Fairbanks Campus Group maintains a blog site independently online at <http://uafafs.blogspot.com>.

The Committee continued to maintain an email distribution list for Chapter members. The distribution list was used successfully to get the word out about Chapter activities such as the 2009 Annual Conference, elections, the newsletter, and other items of interest. In 2006, the parent Society re-implemented support for our Chapter's listserv, and all Chapter members with an email address can choose to subscribe to that list. Subscribed

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Your AFS membership may be renewed online at
<https://secure.fisheries.org/source/Members/JoinAFS.cfm>

Committee Reports, continued

members can post email to the list at akchap@lists.fisheries.org, making sure that they post from the same email address that they used to subscribe to the list.

The list is moderated by yours-truly to reduce SPAM messages sent out and to control for mistaken “Reply-to-All” responses to posted messages; these I filter out before allowing transmission to subscribed Chapter members. Membership in the list is contingent upon membership in the Chapter, however postings from non-Chapter members have periodically been posted to the list.

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 the website is: allen.bingham@alaska.gov.

Environmental Concerns

Cecil Rich, Committee Chair

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 will formulate, through consensus, a Chapter position on such issues for review by the EXCOM. Such positions should 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 will be by the EXCOM.

In 2009, there were no issues brought to the Committee for consideration. The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society at their 2009 annual meeting approved a resolution on the Pebble Mine Project, recommending a formal independent scientific review and survey of potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay watershed (see, pages 7–11 in the following document on the Western Division’s website: [Report to the WDAFS Executive Committee](#) MSWord document).

If you would like to become involved with the Committee on issues of concern, please contact Environmental Concerns Committee Chair, Cecil Rich at cecil@gci.net.

Financial

Ray Hander, Committee Chair

As of March 2009, all of the Chapter’s financial assets were transferred from UBS Financial Services (UBS) to Wedbush Morgan Securities (WMS) because of disagreements about UBS investment and management practices. We were able to retain Todd Fletcher’s (Senior VP for Investments) services after he moved from UBS to WMS.

The Chapter’s WMS investment portfolio gained approximately \$39,130 since 31 December 2008, with individual account gains ranging from 8 to 60%. This does not include the WMS checking account that fluxes with Chapter spending needs. These gains are due to the ongoing stock market improvement. The Chapter’s WMS portfolio is invested using a moderately conservative strategy with an investment horizon of 7 to 10 years as determined by the Finance Committee members in consultation with the WMS investment representative. The Chapter’s strategy is for long-term growth and we weathered the recent financial volatility with losses similar to or slightly better than the stock market.

During the past year, the Wally Noerenberg and Cultural Diversity Funds dropped below the \$15,000 level (the principle amount), but are now above that level and can be used to supply funds for part of the awards. At present, we are experiencing returns in the 10% range, while remaining moderately conservative.

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Feel free to contact

Executive Committee members.

**Your 2010 Alaska Chapter Officers
are listed on the final page of each
issue of the *Oncorhynchus*.**

Committee Reports, continued

The Finance Committee has met quarterly with the Chapter’s WMS representative, Todd Fletcher, to receive portfolio status updates and conduct maintenance of accounts as needed to conduct

Chapter business. Lee Ann Gardner is in frequent contact with WMS as she conducts day-to-day Chapter business and informs Finance Committee members on an as-needed basis.

Table 1. Summary of Alaska Chapter investments.

WMS Accounts	\$ Gain (+) or Loss (-) Since 31 Dec. 2008*	Percent Gain (+) or Loss (-) Since 31 Dec. 2008*	Investment Type
Fund A	+\$6,550	+8%	Equities – 1/3
Wally Noerenberg	+\$3,560	+27%	Fixed Income – 2/3
Cultural Diversity	+\$4,240	+32%	Fixed Income
Molly Ahlgren			Fixed Income
Scholarship ⁺	+\$24,770	+60%	Fixed Income – 3/4
Total	+\$39,130		Mutual Funds – 1/4

* amounts rounded to the nearest \$10 and percentages to the nearest whole percent.

⁺ increase includes donation contributions

Fisheries Communication and Education

Laurel Devaney, Committee Chair

Laurel Devaney and Erik Anderson of ADF&G developed the workshop “Environmental Education Tips and Techniques,” for the 2009 AFS meeting, but it was cancelled due to low enrollment. We plan to offer the workshop again next year hoping for better enrollment. Laurel Devaney made the presentation “Including Youth in Habitat Restoration Projects,” as part of the “Habitat Restoration in Interior Alaska” session at the 2009 meeting.

The goal of this committee is to increase the knowledge and skills of AFS Alaska Chapter members so that they can develop and implement outreach and education programs about their projects and Alaska’s fisheries. The ultimate goal is to develop respect and stewardship of our unique fisheries and aquatic resources among all Alaskans. If you have any ideas for workshops, future session topics, or other products or services that this committee can produce to benefit the Society, or would like to join this committee please contact Laurel Devaney at laurel_devaney@fws.gov.

Membership

Audra Brase, Committee Chair

The membership statistics during the usual June–July reporting period were somewhat lower

for 2009 than for 2008 (Table 1). However, this may be because the Committee got a late start sending out reminder letters, as membership roles were similar by September of 2009. The statistics listed for “Other State/Province” in Table 1 represent the number of different states or locations outside of Alaska where we have members, and the “Other” membership category for 2009 included only the “Young Professional” membership category (in the past it may have included Hutton, and Honorary members, or other special memberships that do not occur every year).

A total of 140 reminder letters were “snail” mailed on September 3 to folks who owed both parent Society & Alaska Chapter dues. It was thought that a hard copy letter might get a better response rate, as we are all deluged with emails every day and AFS information may get lost in the electronic shuffle. The next Committee Chair (Trent Sutton) should consider assessing the effectiveness of those mail-outs, i.e. was there a spike in membership renewals after the letters went out?

The other notable action of the Membership Committee this year was to work with the EXCOM to develop a Chapter Life Membership category. All Life Members of AFS can now also become

Continued on next page

Committee Reports, continued

Lifetime Alaska Chapter members for a one-time fee of \$100. Unfortunately, this option will not be listed on either the 2010 printed forms, (as those were already prepared prior to the resolution being passed during our business meeting on November 4) or the online form at the National AFS website (due to the extent of programming). Those National Life Members of AFS who want to become an Alaska Chapter Lifetime Member this

year need to mail their renewal form and payment to AFS, writing in “Alaska Chapter Life Member,” for the category.

Please address any questions about this process to Eva Przygodzki, AFS Membership Coordinator eprzygod@fisheries.org, or jflick@fisheries.org. Next year this new membership category will be listed on the printed forms from the National AFS office.

Table 1. AFS membership summary, 2004 to 2009.

Year Month (of report)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
	Jun	Jun	Jun	Jun	Jul	Jul	Sept
Active	267	288	347	210	205	191	216
Life	32	23	30	26	24	19	20
Retired	9	9	11	8	9	8	10
Student	54	60	41	43	45	49	52
Other	34	36	20	32	27	17	19
Total	396	416	449	319	310	284	317
Owes Parent AFS dues	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Recent delinquent (paid Parent AFS through previous year)	96	105	226	242	135	156	128
Owes Chapter	20	10	60	9	37	34	40
Other State/Province	16	13	13	11	15	10	10

Molly Ahlgren Scholarship

Hal Geiger, Committee Chair

The Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee met several times through e-mail in the last year. We selected Matt Catterson to be this year’s winner of the Molly Ahlgren scholarship. Matt earned a BA in Architecture from Hobart College in 2003, but after coming to Alaska he decided to pursue a different career path. Since 2007, he has been pursuing a BS in Fisheries from UAF. He has one more year of coursework to complete this second degree. He has a 3.9 GPA over the last three years, including in graduate level coursework. Matt has been involved in Alaskan fisheries outside the classroom as well. He has worked as a fisheries technician for ADF&G or USFS for the past six summers, based out of Yakutat. He volunteered last year for NOAA Fisheries to work on the

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Matt Catterson, 2009 Recipient of the AFS, Alaska Chapter Molly Ahlgren Award prepares to release a nice Situk River steelhead. Photo by Nate Catterson.

Committee Reports, continued

“whole earth” project. He is pulling together worldwide fisheries data to project on the large globe that sits in the entryway to the Ted Steven Marine Research Institute in Juneau. Matt’s faculty advisor wrote, “In my opinion, Matt embodies both Molly Ahlgren’s intellectual curiosity as well as love of Alaskan organisms. As Molly once told me, ‘Science is art’. Matt’s interest and background both in Architecture and Fisheries fully represent this duality.”

Newsletter

Gretchen Bishop, Committee Chair

The *Oncorhynchus* serves as a medium to distribute information to Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The editor, Gretchen Bishop compiles articles submitted by Chapter members, following the AFS style conventions described at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/styleguides.html>. Each issue includes a front-page feature article and one or more photos solicited from a volunteer by the editor. An effort is made to distribute opportunities to write the feature article between agencies and regions of the state. Submissions of articles for inclusion in the newsletter are solicited quarterly via the AFS Alaska Chapter listserv; photos are encouraged. Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing designs, and lays out the issue. Prior to publishing the newsletter, the current President, and Allen Bingham make final edits. Electronic Communication Committee Chair Allen Bingham forwards an electronic copy to Chapter members and posts it to the web. During the past fiscal year, five electronic issues

were printed, one at the beginning of each calendar quarter and a special election edition to provide a ballot which was mistakenly omitted from the fall issue.

This is the second year of fully electronic distribution for the *Oncorhynchus*, although paper copies continue to be archived and sent to subscribing libraries and to any members who so prefer. This has permitted the distribution of a lengthier newsletter for less cost. The Committee began consideration of moving to a web-based newsletter this year, but after some discussion with the EXCOM, it was decided to table the idea for the present. As this will be my last year of editing, the EXCOM initiated the search for a new editor in the fall issue of *Oncorhynchus*. Newsletter submission deadlines are the 10th of March, June, September and December. If you have a newsletter contribution, please submit it to Gretchen at Gretchen.Bishop@alaska.gov.

Past President

Bert Lewis, Committee Chair

The Committee successfully recruited two new officers who will serve the Chapter well. They are Trent Sutton from UAF for vice president and Julie Bednarski from ADF&G for secretary. Last year the past presidents discussed the most effective way to proceed with an external funding offer for a salmon straying workshop while maintaining the support of hatcheries and hatchery supporters. After several unsuccessful attempts to engage other entities to partner for that workshop, the EXCOM elected not to pursue the idea further.

Treasurer

Lee Ann Gardner, Committee Chair

The primary treasury-related efforts in 2009 were to 1.) develop a spending plan for 2009, 2.) complete and file a federal income tax return for the tax year from 12/1/2007 through 11/30/2008, 3.) serve on and provide support as needed to the Chapter’s Finance Committee and the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee, and 4.) assist in developing a proposal for an Alaska Chapter Life Membership category. Current Alaska Chapter account balances, and 2006–2009 annual Chapter meeting registration, continuing education attendance, and revenues are provided in Tables 1–4 below.

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Call for Award Nominations

American Fisheries Society 2010 Awards

- Award of Excellence – May 10
- Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award – April 16
- Distinguished Service Award – January 31
- Excellence in Public Outreach – May 5
- Honorary Membership – May 1
- Meritorious Service Award – May 7
- President’s Fishery Conservation Award – May 10
- Ricker Resource Conservation Award – May 10

Currently online at

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

Committee Reports, continued

Table 1. AFS Alaska Chapter account balances, as of October 30, 2009.

WMS Account	Value
Checking	\$33,534
Fund A	\$87,913
Wally Noerenberg	\$17,628
Cultural Diversity	\$16,677
Molly Ahlgren Scholarship	\$65,990
Total WMS Assets	\$221,742
1st National Bank AK Checking	\$377
Sales & Auction (est.)	\$755 (\$655 t-shirt sales, \$100 silent auction)
Total Alaska Chapter Assets	\$222,874

Note: The Checking account is inflated at this time since most 2009 annual meeting bills are still outstanding. The student travel fund balance is included in the Checking account and will be calculated after 2009 student travel expenses are incurred and this year's silent/audible auction and t-shirt sales are completed.

Table 2. Annual meeting registration counts.

Category	2009 (est.) (Fairbanks)	2008 (Anchorage)	2007 (Ketchikan)	2006 (Fairbanks)
Students	39	37	21	48
Member 3-day	80	93	73	85
Non-member 3-day	22	33	32	22
Member 2-day	4	15	2	6
Non-member 2-day	5	8	5	1
Member 1-day	1	18	8	5
Non-member 1-day	4	41	16	8
Others	6	14	14	7
Total	161	259	171	187

Table 3. Continuing education student counts.

Class	2009 (est.) (Fairbanks)	2008 (Anchorage)	2007 (Ketchikan)	2006 (Fairbanks)
Genetics	24			
Electrofishing	11			
Cross-cultural communication	21			
Totals	56 (3 classes)	182 (7 classes)	38 (4 classes)	15 (1 class)

Table 4. Gross revenues for 2006 through 2009 annual AFS Alaska Chapter meetings.

2009 (est.) (Fairbanks)	2008 (Anchorage)	2007 (Ketchikan)	2006 (Fairbanks)
\$32,070	\$65,800	\$30,000	\$30,000

140th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

September 12–16, 2010: The 140th annual meeting of AFS, themed “Merging our Deeper Currents,” will be held at the Westin Hotel and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh is one of the top travel destinations in the world, renowned for its arts, entertainment and recreational opportunities.

Sporting opportunities are diverse. Pittsburgh is home to Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers, Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins and the Pittsburgh Pirates. On the water, enjoy fishing along Pittsburgh’s river banks for bass and other game fish. Explore beyond the city. You will find solace in the mountains of western Pennsylvania for hiking or native brook trout fishing. Try white water rafting in the rapids of the Youghiogheny River. With so much to see and do, you’ll find Pittsburgh is a city with a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



The meeting will include a trade show, and numerous social events, including a Welcome Social on Sunday September 12, Student Social on Tuesday, Grand Social at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History on Wednesday and a Farewell Social on Thursday evening.

The deadline for symposia has been extended to January 31 and “Contributed Paper” session abstracts are due February 5. Check out the website at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs10/index.php>.

Meetings and Events



Remote Sensing and Fisheries International Symposium

February 15–17, 2010. This meeting will be held in Kochi, India. Visit <http://www.geosafari.org/kochi/>.

2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting

February 22–26, 2010: This meeting is jointly sponsored by AGU, the Oceanography Society, and ASLO and will be held in Portland, Oregon. Visit <http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/>.



2010 Oregon Chapter of AFS Meeting

February 23–26, 2010: The annual meeting of the Oregon Chapter of AFS will be held in Eugene, Oregon. Visit www.orafs.org for more information.



Aquaculture 2010: NSA Triennial Meeting

March 1–5, 2010: This triennial joint meeting of the National Shellfish Association, World Aquaculture Society, and AFS Fish Culture Section, will be held in San Diego, CA. For more information, please visit <http://shellfish.org/>.



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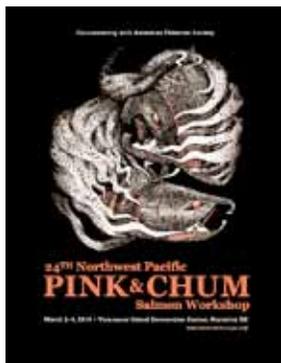
Meetings and Events, continued

2010 WA-BC Chapter AFS Annual Meeting



March 2–4, 2010: This meeting, with its theme of “New research and applied science to meet

fishery management needs,” will be held in Nanaimo, British Columbia at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Visit <http://www.wabc-afs.org/agm2010/> for more information. The meeting is being co-convened with the Pink and Chum Salmon Workshop this year. The workshop website is at <http://pinkandchum.psc.org/>. Abstracts for both meetings are due January 15.



2010 AFS Western Division Annual Meeting

April 19–23, 2010: The annual meeting of the Western Division of AFS, themed “The Future of Aquatic Resources in the West: Science, Management, and Politics,” will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit <http://utahafs.org/wdafs2010/>.



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

ICES/PICES/FAO Symposium on “Climate Change Effects on Fish and Fisheries: Forecasting Impacts, Assessing Ecosystem Responses, and Evaluating Management Strategies.”

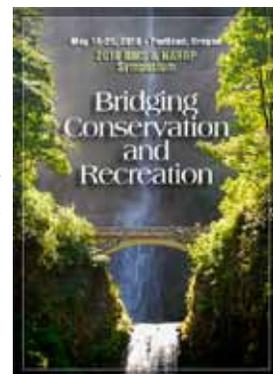
April 26–29, 2010: This meeting will be held in Sendai, Japan. For more information, please visit http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2010/cc_effects_fish/default.aspx.

16th Western Groundfish Conference

April 26–30, 2010: The biennial Western Groundfish Conference will be held in Juneau. Abstracts are due March 26. For more information please visit <http://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/>.

2010 RMS & NARRP Symposium

May 18–20, 2010: This joint meeting of the River Management Society and the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners, will be themed “Bridging Conservation and Recreation,” and held in Portland Oregon. For more information please visit <http://www.river-management.org/symposium-2010/home.htm>.



34th Annual Larval Fish Conference

May 30–June 3, 2010: This meeting, organized by the AFS Early Life History Section, will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Visit <http://larvalfishcon.org/>.



ASLO 2010 Summer Meeting

June 6–11, 2010: This joint meeting with the North American Benthological Society will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Abstracts are due February 12. For more information, please visit <http://aslo.org/meetings/santafe2010/>.

International Crustacean Congress

June 20–25, 2010: The 2010 annual meeting of The Crustacean Society will be held in Qingdao, China. Visit <http://www.crustacea.org.cn/7th/index.html>.



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Meetings and Events, continued

ASIH Annual Meeting

July 7–12, 2010: The annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held in Providence, Rhode Island. Proposals for Symposia are due on March 1. Visit <http://www.asih.org/annualmeetings>.



ESA Annual Meeting

August 1–6, 2010: The annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The theme is “Global Warming: The legacy of our past, the challenge for our future.” Abstracts are due February 25. Visit http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/call_contributed_opa.php.

ICES/PICES/FAO Symposium on the Collection and Interpretation of Fishery Dependent Data

August 23–26, 2010: This meeting themed “Making the Most of Fisheries Information Underpinning Policy, Management and Science,” will be held in Galway, Ireland. Abstracts are due on February 10. For more information, please visit <http://www.marine.ie/fisherydependentdata/>.



2010 ICES Annual Science Conference

September 20–24, 2010: This symposium will be held in Nantes, France. Session proposals are due August 14 see: <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2010/index.asp>.



Wild Trout Symposium

September 28–30, 2010: The Wild Trout Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn in Yellowstone, MT. Abstracts are due April 1. For more information, please visit <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/>.

Ecosystems 2010: Global Progress on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management

November 8–11, 2010: This meeting, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant, will be held in Anchorage at the Hotel Captain Cook. For more information, please visit <http://seagrants.uaf.edu/conferences/2010/wakefield-ecosystems/index.php>.

2010 Alaska Chapter Officers

President

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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Past President

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Student Subunit Representative

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members