



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society
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Nutrient and Prey Fluxes across Ecosystem Boundaries Sustain Freshwater Fishes

Mark Wipfli

Stream fish habitat has traditionally been viewed largely from the perspective of physical habitat, e.g., large wood abundance and distribution, vegetation cover, flow, pool size and frequency, water temperature, and space. Food resources within the confines of this physical habitat have received far less attention.

However, because fish and other *Upper Chena River.*

biota require both shelter and nourishment, suitable habitat must also include reliable supplies of suitable food. In fact, recent studies in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest have shown that food abundance and quality may in part drive salmonid populations and productivity in freshwater ecosystems.

Over the years we've been taught that benthic production in streams almost exclusively supports the fishes that live there. Nutrients (primarily N and P) drive primary production, both on land and in streams. In turn, plant litter that falls into streams and in-stream algal production feeds the next trophic level—stream invertebrates. These invertebrates have been thought to provide the main food supply for riverine fishes. However, we've recently learned that marine, terrestrial, and freshwater systems

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The President's Corner

Lisa Stuby

Well, this may be the spring issue, but it's still -21°F here in Fairbanks and I've barely gotten used to writing 2010 on my checks. As usual, time just seems to be flying by. So, here are some of the things that the Alaska Chapter has been up to since the fall 2009 meeting in Fairbanks.



Lisa Stuby, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

As the current Chapter President, one of my duties is as a voting member of the Western Division AFS (WDAFS) Executive Committee. One of my recent tasks has been to reiterate, in a formal letter to the WDAFS and Parent Society, the Chapter position of neutrality in regards to a WDAFS letter requesting a third-party review of the Pebble Project. We have maintained a position of neutrality due to the fact that the Pebble Partnership has not yet released a project plan, nor applied for permits that would provide the Chapter something to comment on. Also, because of the importance of this issue, the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM) decided that any Chapter action should be presented to the full membership for a vote. This would require a Request for Action (ROA) per our Bylaws and Procedures. (Section 10 of the AKAFS Bylaws and in our Procedures Manual, both of which can be found at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/aboutus.html>.) Our immediate past President Hamachan Hamazaki wrote a nice summary on bringing forward an ROA in the spring 2009 *Oncorhynchus*. Advocacy is an essential function of AFS where there is a clear and imminent conservation concern. However, as a professional society, we must always be mindful of our credibility and professional reputation. Our credibility is rooted in objective scientific review. This is why both the Parent Society and our Chapter have developed bylaws and procedures for evaluating individual advocacy issues. We remain engaged with Pebble Mine issues and are waiting for the release of fisheries information that would be appropriate for review and comment (EIS, etc.).

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Nutrient and Prey Fluxes, continued

interact to drive complex trophic linkages that sustain stream and fish productivity.

Every year, literally millions of tons of marine-derived nutrients (MDN) are deposited in fresh water when anadromous fishes return to spawn. Energy and nutrients from dying and dead adult salmon stimulate stream microbial and invertebrate communities, boosting existing benthic production, and contributing to the benthic food base. Multiple MDN effects on riverine ecosystems have been documented throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Eggs from spawning salmon and fragments of flesh from rotting, post-spawning salmon are also food for young salmon and other fishes, and augment growth and condition of fishes that feed



Fly maggots quickly transform dead salmon into insect biomass, which in turn are prey for fishes.

on these subsidies from the ocean. Further, salmon carcasses hauled out of streams by scavengers, or washed ashore during floods, are oviposited upon by adult flies. Their maggots quickly devour the rotting salmon tissue, and many are flushed into streams and consumed by fishes. Not only is this subsidy from the ocean predictable in time and space (less so in magnitude), but the quality of the food is very high. As stream primary production appears to be largely nutrient-limited throughout Alaska, suppressed salmon runs reduce energy and nutrients available to freshwater food webs and fishes.

We've also recently learned much about how riparian forests 'feed' streams, particularly small salmonid rearing streams. Working in coastal and interior Alaska, and in parts of the eastern

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President's Corner, continued

In other news, as I type this, "Pacific Salmon: Ecology and Management of Western Alaska's Populations," the new proceedings of an American Fisheries Society Symposium (sponsored by the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative) sits next to me. I attended this meeting and enjoyed the wide variety of talks on Western Alaska salmon. I also remember having badly

cramping hands as I tried to, but couldn't, write down everything I wanted to record.

Our new President Elect, Audra Brase, is busy with preparations for the 37th Annual Meeting. She provides more detail and contact information for those interested in chairing a session later in this newsletter. We look forward to another fun and informative meeting. ☺

Nutrient and Prey Fluxes, continued

Cascade Range, we've found that a wide range of terrestrial insects (including bark beetles, aphids, hoppers, and sawflies) fall, or are washed or blown into streams, and are consumed by stream fishes. Drift-feeding salmonids, in particular, capitalize on this resource. In many cases, terrestrial prey comprise more than half of what young salmon eat, particularly late in the growing season when aquatic-born prey are more scarce. Interestingly, terrestrial invertebrates appear to be far more important for stream food webs and fishes in Alaska than other places (e.g., New Zealand).

Alder, a species that was viewed not too long ago as a pest that interfered with conifer regeneration, is now recognized as a 'repair' species that helps sustain stream and riparian function and productivity. In addition to providing nutritionally valuable leaf litter to riparian and stream habitats, alder forests produce more invertebrates than pure conifer stands, supplying more prey to stream and riparian invertivores, including fishes. Stream productivity may be threatened by the removal of alders or by their displacement by invasive species with less nutritious leaf litter. The spread of introduced European birdcherry along salmon streams around Anchorage appears to be reducing invertebrate prey abundance there.

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Terrestrial insects inhabit riparian forests and fall prey to stream fishes.

ONCORHYNCHUS

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

Arctic Grayling T-Shirts Still Available Online

The 2009 Arctic Grayling t-shirt is blue and features the Arctic grayling on the shirt back and the Alaska Chapter logo on the front. These t-shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton and machine washable. Sizes M, L, and XL are currently available. ALL proceeds will go to fund student travel to Alaska Chapter meetings. Ordering instructions can be found at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/> under Memorabilia.

Nutrient and Prey Fluxes, continued

Additionally, fishless headwater tributaries, typically high gradient and small, and often less than 1 m wide, are a year-round source of detritus, nutrients, and invertebrate prey for food webs and consumers farther downstream. Even though these channels contain little or no suitable fish habitat, they seem to be crucial from a watershed perspective, affecting larger aquatic systems into which they flow.

Environmental variables such as climate, stream flow, and temperature, can greatly influence production, prey abundance, and the foraging ability of stream fishes. Current research in parts of the Yukon River drainage suggests that environmental variability affects food resources for juvenile Chinook salmon. See www.chenakings.org for more information.

Finding effective ways to incorporate these findings into management actions remains challenging. Although we now understand that nutrient flux and food abundance and quality play important roles in sustaining aquatic productivity, we don't yet know how much alder along streams or how many returning adult salmon are needed to sustain a given level of fish production. Until then, simply knowing that these physical and biological processes sustain freshwater systems is a big step. 🐟

Nominations for Oscar E. Sette Award

The Oscar E. Sette Award Committee of the Marine Fisheries Section seeks nominations for the 2010 Oscar E. Sette Award for "sustained excellence in marine fishery biology through research, teaching, administration, or a combination of the three." For further information, please visit http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/mfs/index_files/Sette_Award.htm. Nominations should include a statement of up to several paragraphs in length and a CV of the nominee. Nominations should be sent to Desmond M. Kahn, Chair, Oscar E. Sette Award Committee desmond.kahn@state.de.us. 🐟



Alaska SeaLife Center President and CEO, Ian Dutton, poses with Dr. Gordon Kruse after presentation of the Marine Research Award for 2010 at the Alaska Marine Gala on January 17, 2010, with 575 people in attendance.

Dr. Gordon Kruse Receives 2010 Marine Research Award

Alaska Chapter AFS member Dr. Gordon Kruse was presented with the Marine Research Award for 2010 at the Alaska Marine Gala in Anchorage, on January 17, 2010.

This inaugural award, hosted by the Alaska SeaLife Center, is awarded to a scientist, team of scientists, or an institution, that is acknowledged by peers to have made an original breakthrough contribution to any field of scientific knowledge about Alaska's oceans. In presenting the award, the Awards Committee recognized Gordon's work on mathematical models and fisheries data analysis that has shaped harvest management policies in Alaska. 🐟

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.

Call for Symposia and Session Proposals, 2010 Annual Alaska Chapter Conference: "Alaskan Fisheries in a Changing World"

Audra Brase

The 37th Annual Alaska Chapter Meeting will be held in Juneau at the Centennial Hall Convention Center from November 3–5, with continuing education classes on November 1 and 2. The theme of this year's conference is "Alaskan Fisheries in a Changing World." This theme may be broadly interpreted as our world is experiencing shifts in economics, ecosystems and climate which will directly and indirectly affect the biology and management of our state's fisheries.

Preliminary Session Topics

Halibut

Session Co-Chairs: Andy Seitz (acseitz@alaska.edu) & Julie Nielsen (j.nielsen@uaf.edu)

This session will include state & federal regulations, and European farming effects.

Fisheries Enforcement & Fish Sustainability

Tentative Session Chair: Raymond Reichl (raymond.j.reichl@uscg.mil)

Salmonid Smolt Studies

Session Chair: Andy Seitz (acseitz@alaska.edu)

Rockfish & Groundfish

Session Chair: Jamal Moss (Jamal.Moss@noaa.gov)

This session will include biology & management.

Genetics

Session Chair: Megan McPhee (mvmcphee@alaska.edu)

Crab & Shrimp

Session Chair: Ginny Eckert (gleckert@alaska.edu)

Telemetry Techniques for Fishery Scientists

Session Chair: Lisa Stuby (lisa.stuby@alaska.gov)

Aquatic Habitat / Stream Restoration

Session Co-chairs: K. Koski (K.Koski@noaa.gov) and Neil Stichert (neil_stichert@fws.gov)

Poster Session

Session Chair: Brendan Scanlon (brendan.scanlon@alaska.gov)

In addition to the above, we still need energetic folks to chair (or co-chair) additional sessions on: "Hatchery & Wild Salmon Interactions," "Native Trout Populations," "Changing Use Patterns in Traditional Fisheries," "Miscellaneous Invertebrates Fisheries" (sea cucumber, sea urchin, geoduck, etc.), "Advances in Fisheries Technology," "Marine Ecosystems," "Fisheries Economics," "Aqua and Mariculture" (family tracking, preventing disease, triploidy, new hatchery technology), and "Contributed Papers." If you are interested in leading one of these sessions, or have a suggestion for a new session, please contact Audra Brase at 459-7244, or audra.brased@alaska.gov. The deadline for symposia and session proposals is May 31. Detailed descriptions of each session and abstract submission deadlines will be published in the summer issue of *Oncorhynchus*. ☺

Parent Society AFS, Call for Award Nominations

The American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations and applications for several 2010 awards. These are: the Award of Excellence, (May 10, 2010 deadline), the Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award (April 16, 2010 deadline), the Excellence in Public Outreach (May 5, 2010 deadline), Honorary Membership (May 1, 2010

deadline), Meritorious Service Award (May 7, 2010 deadline), Outstanding Chapter Award (June 1, 2010 deadline), President's Fishery Conservation Award (May 10, 2010 deadline), William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award (May 10, 2010 deadline). To help your deserving colleagues achieve recognition, visit <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html>. ☺



Alex Wertheimer was recently awarded a Distinguished Career Award for "Outstanding pioneering research on the role of marine ecosystems in the development and preservation of wild and hatchery salmon stocks in Alaska."

UAF to Build New Research Vessel

Excerpted with permission from <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/arro/>

The Alaska Region Research Vessel, R/V *Sikuliaq*, pronounced [see-KOO-lee-auk], will be a 254-foot oceanographic research ship capable of bringing scientists to the ice-choked waters of Alaska and the Polar Regions. When complete, the vessel will be one of the most advanced university research vessels in the world and will be able to break ice up to 2.5 feet thick. Currently under construction at Marinette Marine Corporation, a shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin, the *Sikuliaq* will be ready for unrestricted science operations in 2014 and will be home ported in Alaska, at UAF's Seward Marine Center in Seward.

The vessel will be owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as part of the U.S. academic research fleet. It will be used by scientists in the U.S. and international oceanographic community through the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

The *Sikuliaq* will allow researchers to collect sediment samples directly from the seafloor, host remotely operated vehicles, use a flexible suite of winches to raise and lower scientific equipment, and conduct surveys throughout the water

column and sea bottom using an extensive set of research instrumentation. The ship will also be able to transmit real-time information directly to classrooms all over the world. The vessel design strives to have the lowest possible environmental impact, including a low underwater radiated noise signature for marine mammal and fisheries work. The *Sikuliaq* will have accommodations for up to 26 scientists and students at a time, including those with disabilities. 🐧



Marine Architects rendering of the R/V Sikuliaq, currently under construction for the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Student Subunit Update

Sara Miller

The AFS Alaska Chapter, Juneau Student Group has been busy this semester! Just prior to the holiday break, they had two movie nights at the new University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Lena Point facility; *Terminator Salvation* and *Elf* were shown. The group recently joined the Adopt-a-Highway program for the road near the Lena Loop building. They have had one successful street clean-up and plan to do more as the weather improves. The big annual event is the AFS Student Symposium, where students get a chance to present their current research and practice talking in front of an audience. Local judges grade the talks and a Best Presentation Award, is made the following week. The name of the winner is engraved on a plaque hanging in the UAF Lena Center conference room.

In March, six students volunteered to judge the Southeast Regional Science Fair: Katie Palof, Andrew Eller, Cindy Tribuzio, Pat Barry, Ryan Kovach, and Scott Vulstek. One member, Joel Webb, mentored one of the high school science fair students, Esra Siddeek. Her project was entitled, "How size-difference affects cannibalism between paired juvenile red king crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*."



Molly Fox Zaleski and Katie Palof pick up trash with the Juneau student group as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program.

In Ketchikan, University of Alaska, Southeast students Jessica Davila and Tommy Sheridan are working together to form a new student group. Interest has been shown and new AFS student members have joined in 2010. For more information email jbeechler@hotmail.com.

The Fairbanks Student Group began the semester by inviting two speakers from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Klaus Wuttig and Audra Brase, to speak regarding their experiences since leaving academia. The session was informal and informative, spurred by numerous questions from the largely graduate student audience.

In March, two members, Jason Stolarski and Jesse Coleman, volunteered to judge the Alaska High School Statewide Science Symposium. Jason and Jesse judged the Macroinvertebrate Zoology Section, and awarded a \$100 scholarship for "Research Excellence in the Field of Aquatic Sciences" to Emily Magnuson on behalf of the Fairbanks Student Group. Emily is a senior at West Valley High School in Fairbanks and the following day her research, "Mercury Contaminants in Humpback Whitefish and Least Ciscoes," was selected as the overall winner of the symposium—Congratulations, Emily!

Later this month, the Fairbanks Student Group will participate in the Juneau Student Group's AFS Student Symposium. They are currently preparing for an end of the year banquet, and for the election of new officers. ☺



Jason Stolarski awards a \$100 scholarship to Emily Magnuson at the annual Alaska High School Statewide Science Symposium.

Habitat Restoration Workshops

Dean Hughes and Amber Bethe will be presenting several Habitat Restoration Workshops in May and June. These two day workshops cover several aspects of riparian habitat restoration including construction materials, hydraulics, plant materials and construction techniques. Case histories will be presented and we will visit local restoration sites. On the second day, workshop participants will complete a hands-on installation of a restoration project. Workshops are scheduled in four locations and times: Kenai, May 12–13; Juneau, May 26–27; Palmer, June 1–2; and Fairbanks, June 16–17. For more information please contact Amber Bethe at amber.bethe@alaska.gov.

Fish Passage Workshops

Two workshops, on fish passage design at culverts, are being offered by the American Water Resources Association, in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kenai Watershed Forum, Municipality of Anchorage, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The first will be held May 7, and 8, 2010 in Anchorage, and the second May 9, 2010 in Soldotna.

These workshops are designed to provide state-of-the-art information regarding design and construction of embedded culverts to simulate stream conditions and maximize fish passage. Stream simulation is a recognized design technique developed by the Forest Service and other agencies with partial funding from the Federal Highways Administration. A draft design manual is in development and current information is available at <http://www.stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/> and click on “Multimedia.”

The Anchorage Workshop will provide an overview of culvert design using stream simulation techniques with assessment, design, and case study presentations. The Soldotna Workshop provides an opportunity to visit recent stream simulation culvert installations to conduct an evaluation of their design and construction. These workshops are targeted at Project Managers, Engineers, Biologists, and Resource Managers. For more information, including a detailed supply list, please visit http://state.awra.org/alaska/fish_workshop.html or contact William Rice, at 271-1798, or william_rice@fws.gov.

Meetings and Events



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/>.

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. 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. For more information, please visit <http://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/>.



Ecological Interactions between Wild & Hatchery Salmon

May 4–7, 2010: This meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Visit the conference website at http://www.stateofthesalmon.org/events/portland_spring2010.html.

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AFS memberships may be renewed online

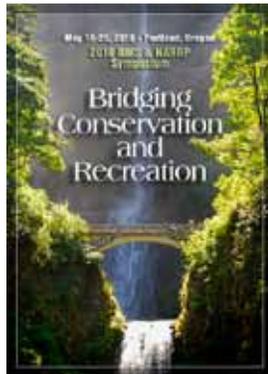
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html>

Click here to renew now!

Meetings and Events, continued

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>.



2nd International Winter Limnology Symposium



May 29–June 2, 2010: This meeting, with symposia on Climate Change, Physics, Plankton and Biogeochemical Cycles, Microbiology, and Fish

Biology, will be held in Liebenberg, Germany. For more information, please visit <http://wl.igb-berlin.de/>.

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. For more information, please visit <http://larvalfishcon.org/>.



2010 Coastwide Salmon Genetics Meeting: Genetic Adaptation of Salmonids

June 1–4, 2010: The annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter of AFS will be held at the Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho. For more information, visit http://www.idahoafs.org/meeting_coastal.php.



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. 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. The website is at <http://www.crustacea.org.cn/7th/index.html>.



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. 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.” For more information, please visit http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/call_contributed_opa.php.

2010 Joint Statistical Meetings

July 31–August 5: This meeting, the largest gathering of statisticians in North America, will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Visit <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/>.



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. For more information, please visit <http://www.marine.ie/fisherydependentdata/>.



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Meetings and Events, continued

AFS 2010

September 12–16, 2010: The 140th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Westin Hotel and David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Please visit <http://www.fisheries.org/afs10/>.



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, Montana. For more information, please visit <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/>.

Alaska Chapter ASA Annual Meeting

October 20–22, 2010: The annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association will be held in Kodiak. The speaker at this meeting will be Dr. Richard Davis of Columbia University who will give a 2-day short course on Time Series. For more information, please email david.barnard@alaska.gov.



PICES 2010 Annual Meeting

October 22–31: This meeting, themed: “North Pacific Ecosystems Today, and Challenges in Understanding and Forecasting Change,” will be held in Portland, Oregon. Visit <http://www.pices.int/meetings/annual/PICES-2010/2010-background.aspx>.



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

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members