



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

Vol. XXXIII

Summer 2013

No. 3

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*Trawl cod end full of pollock aboard a factory processor off Alaska. Photo by Diana Stram.*

## MSC Certification and What it means for Alaska?

*James Browning*

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC; <http://www.msc.org/>) started in 1997 as a partnership between Unilever, Inc., the world's largest food producer, and the World Wildlife Fund. The MSC separated from both entities in 1999 with independent governance and funding while developing its fishery standard. After developing a draft standard based on international fishery policy, nine workshops were held globally to solicit input on the draft. Following contributions by over 300 people across two years, the basic standard still exists today. That standard addresses fish stock health, ecosystem impacts, and effective fishery management systems.

As a fledgling organization with little global recognition, the MSC sought high profile fisheries to add to the list of successfully certified fisheries. Contacting the State of Alaska in 1998, MSC requested approval to certify the Alaskan salmon fishery. Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska at the time, responded that Alaska would approve salmon fishery certification, but that it would be "all or none," meaning that all Alaska salmon species, gear types, and state regions would receive the certification or none would. The MSC certified the Alaskan salmon fishery in 2000, the pollock fishery in 2005, and the sablefish and halibut fisheries in 2006, gaining recognition as the leader in sustainability certification.

Some information about the MSC structure and function is also needed for this story. The MSC operates a "third-party" certification program, meaning the MSC itself does not assess fisheries, decide sustainability, or receive any money from the certification; MSC simply defines the parameters (assessment tree) that will be evaluated to certify a fishery as "sustainable." Instead, certificates are issued by certifiers (there are currently nine; <http://www.accreditation-services.com/archives/standards/msc>) who are independently accredited to perform assessments of fisheries and decide if a fishery meets MSC's standards. Note that an additional process exists to validate chain of custody of fisheries products certified as sustainable.

The MSC standards consist of three principles: (1) stock status of the target species (i.e., not overfished or in danger of being overfished);

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## The President's Corner

Mark Wipfli

Hope you are all enjoying the beautiful summer weather and getting out on the water often! I'd like to provide some brief updates on developments relevant to Alaska Chapter AFS members.

### AFS parent society conference bid for Alaska.

As you may recall from the spring *Oncorhynchus* newsletter, I described the conference for the AFS parent society being possibly proposed for Alaska in 2017. While the AFS Western Division was supportive of our bid for 2017, the parent Executive Committee indicated there were two other bids placed for 2017, from southern states in which the national meeting is scheduled to cycle through in 2017. The AFS Western Division will be able to submit a bid for 2019, when the meeting is slated to take place in western US. We'll look forward to submitting our Alaska bid, again, for a possible 2019 conference in Alaska.

Letter to legislature concerning SB26. As Chapter president, working with Bill Hauser and Cecil Rich, I recently submitted a letter of environmental concern to the Alaska Legislature regarding bill SB26. The issue, raised by Bill Hauser (who drafted the letter), was focused on protecting freshwater fish habitat, and reservations of fresh water, to help ensure the long-term health of the ecosystems that support commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries. As drafted, SB26 was interpreted as being likely, with fewer groups eligible to apply for instream reservations, to provide fewer instream flow reservations to protect fish and fish habitat. The proposed changes also aimed to relax requirements for the periodic reassessment of instream water needs, from the current 10-year requirement to the discretion



Mark Wipfli, AFS Alaska Chapter President. Photo by A. Bersamin.

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## MSC Certification, continued

(2) the fishery impacts on the environment with negative impacts, if documented, managed for and minimized; and (3) the management structure, including managing for principles 1 and 2 and having external review of the structure. Based on the three principles, an assessment scores a fishery based on 32 performance parameters. The assessment team usually includes three people, chosen by the accredited certifier as having an expertise in at least one of the three principles.

The Alaska Fishery Development Foundation (AFDF; [www.afdf.org](http://www.afdf.org)) was chartered in 1978 under language in the 1976 Fisheries Conservation and Management Act that, among other aspects, asserted fisheries management jurisdiction to 200 miles offshore. The act authorized formation of regional fisheries development corporations to build infrastructure for the newly claimed fisheries resources. The AFDF began in earnest to "Americanize" the groundfish fishery off Alaska's shores, and also to "Alaskanize" the processing of those resources by bringing the harvested resources ashore in order to maximize benefits to the state of Alaska.

In 2005, AFDF received a federal grant to conduct a cost/benefit analysis of obtaining MSC certification for the Pacific cod fishery. At that time, the At-sea Processors Association, the client for MSC certification for Alaskan pollock, was experiencing difficulties with the certification process, and the AFDF board of directors opted to postpone the feasibility study. In 2006, groundfish fishery representatives requested that the feasibility work be initiated. At that time, the pollock fishery certification had been completed. The MSC had allowed one company to initiate certification for Pacific cod for four freezer longline vessels in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) management area only. Although the certification language requires that the client make the certification available to other participants with reasonable compensation, this basically created a monopoly for Pacific cod from that company and gear type. So, AFDF began the process seeking to certify all legally caught Pacific cod from all trawl, longline, pot, and jig gears in the BSAI and the Gulf of Alaska (GOA).

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### The President's Corner, continued

of the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. As the letter pointed out, watersheds are dynamic and change, as do distribution and spawning locations of fishes, an aspect especially germane in the face of climate change. The letter also highlighted that periodic review helps ensure up-to-date environmental circumstances are considered when electing to continue or modify water reservations, thus increasing the likelihood that streams important for fishes will be protected. The bill didn't make it to a floor vote, but was relegated to the Senate Finance committee and awaits revival in the coming session.

Tongass National Forest salmon stream protection. Trout Unlimited (TU) developed a proposal called the "Tongass 77" which seeks to gain legislative, watershed-scale protection for 77 high value, salmon and trout watersheds across the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska. These watersheds are presently protected administratively through the Roadless Rule, and their riparian corridors are congressionally protected through the Tongass Timber Reform Act. But owing to the particularly high productivity, largely intact nature, and the presence of development that could circumvent current protections for these

watersheds, TU asserts that broader, permanent legislative standards for protection should be applied. Working with The Nature Conservancy, ADFG harvest and weir data, and input from fishery managers and stakeholders, TU narrowed and refined the "Tongass 77" list to represent a subset of the best fish watersheds on the Tongass that "are not currently protected at the watershed scale." By spreading the word about the proposal, TU hopes to garner broad support to convince lawmakers in the U.S. Congress that these watersheds deserve higher conservation status. For further information, visit [www.americansalmonforest.org](http://www.americansalmonforest.org).

2013 Fairbanks Alaska Chapter conference. The upcoming Alaska Chapter meeting, being planned by President-Elect Phil Loring and the Program Committee, is shaping up to be another great meeting. They're planning lots of Alaska-relevant special sessions, some very interesting socials and tours, including tours through the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska Fairbank, and geothermal production greenhouses and natural hot springs at Chena Hot Springs. I'll not delve into the specifics here, but please read more about the conference in the article by Phil in this issue and online at [www.afs-alaska.org](http://www.afs-alaska.org). 🐟

### MSC Certification, continued

With a working group representing all four gear types, AFDF requested a quote for a confidential pre-assessment from five accredited certifiers, ultimately selecting Moody Marine International (MMI). A confidential pre-assessment of a fishery gets the certifier's confidential feedback and recommendation regarding the likelihood of the fishery gaining eventual certification. The pre-assessment resulted in an August 2006 recommendation to proceed toward full certification for all four gear types in both the BSAI and the GOA, basically eight separate certifications. The cost of the pre-assessment was approximately \$14,000. Given the MMI recommendation, focus shifted to defining a cost allocation mechanism that satisfied all working group participants. With an MMI quote for the eight assessments of \$188,000, and AFDF expenses calculated at \$52,000, the total was \$240,000. The accompanying spreadsheet was distributed to the working group to show the cost allocations by management area, gear type, and sector/subsector used to calculate pro rata shares for the participating companies. Cost shares were apportioned not only by management area and gear type, but also across industry subsectors within area-gear combinations (e.g., catcher processors versus shored-based catcher vessels).

Also in 2006, AFDF submitted a proposal to the Sustainable Fisheries Fund in Sacramento, California to fund certification of the Alaska Pacific cod fishery. A \$50,000 grant was received with the stipulation that the grant be used "only for non-trawl gear types." From late 2006 through late 2007, AFDF struggled

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## MSC Certification, continued



*The Pacific cod fishery received MSC sustainability certification in 2010. Photo by Bill Bechtol.*

to get a sufficient number of working group members to commit payment of their pro rata share of certification costs; without the full \$240,000 pledge, MMI could not be approved to begin the certification process. As part of a meeting on research and development issues in fisheries off Alaska, the commitment to Pacific cod certification from a major processor resulted in the subsequent support and commitment to pro rata shares across the full working group.

In early 2008, AFDF worked with MMI to identify the following assessment team: Dr. Robert Mohn (DFO Atlantic Canada), Dr. Geoff Tingley (CEFAS), and Dr. Susan Hannah (OSU). During May 2008,

the assessment team and an MMI representative reviewed parameters of the Pacific cod fishery with Alaska Fisheries Science Center staff in Seattle, and then met in Kodiak with Alaska Department of Fish and

Game biologists to review state waters management of the Pacific cod fishery. The assessment team met once more to score the performance indicators for the three principles. The next 20 months involved MMI and the assessment team reviewing the scores and writing up the draft assessment report. Scores below a specified level are identified as “conditions,” and AFDF drafted an action plan to respond to the total of 29 conditions in the eight assessments. These conditions focused on five specific areas across gear types and essentially requested additional information including: further evidence that the fishery had not caused a change in reproductive capacity of the stock; more information on seabird bycatch, including identification to the species level; stock status of bait species used in the pot and longline fisheries; evidence of external review of the state-waters management structure; and additional information on the amount of lost gear for trawl, longline, and pot fisheries and the potential for ghost-fishing. The AFDF “action plan” identified conditions needing more information, aspects requiring a potential change in fishery conduct, and the industry’s role in providing fleet information.

The certification was completed and awarded to AFDF by MSC on January 25, 2010, four years after forming the working group and requesting the pre-assessment in January 2006. The AFDF subsequently completed Annual Surveillance Audits (ASA) in May of 2011, 2012, and 2013 to address the conditions and to prepare for recertification in 2015 through 2020. Because the MSC eco-label is such a significant



*The F/V Topaz, a relatively small trawler that fishes off Alaska. Photo from American Seafoods Company.*

component of fish sales in the European Union and United Kingdom markets, companies with markets for Alaska Pacific cod in these markets now have a premium (third-party certified) product, worth a higher price that generates additional value to participants across the fishing industry.

One observation: it has been difficult to document positive impacts from consumer-driven sustainability awareness related to MSC or other certification programs.

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## MSC Certification, continued

Financial contributions for the MSC certification of Pacific cod off Alaska as apportioned across the fishing industry subsectors, the Sustainable Fisheries Fund, and the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

Gear Type	% of Harvest	Preliminary Industry Apportionment	Sustainable Fisheries Fund	Net Industry Contribution
<b>Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area</b>				
Trawl	37.8	\$65,016	\$0	\$65,016
Shore-based	22.1	\$38,000		\$38,000
Head & Gut CP	13.4	\$23,050		\$23,050
AFA CP	2.3	\$4,000		\$4,000
Longline	49.9	\$85,828	\$31,700	\$54,128
CP	48.7			\$53,825
Shore-based	1.2			\$1,300
Pot	10.9	\$18,748	\$6,900	\$11,848
Shore-based	9.4			\$10,225
CP	1.5			\$1,630
Jig	1.4	\$2,408	\$908	\$1,500
Total	100.0	\$172,000	\$39,508	\$132,492
AFDF Grant				\$20,000
Area Total			\$39,508	\$192,000
<b>Gulf of Alaska Area</b>				
Trawl	29.7	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000
Shore-based WG	7.7	\$3,300		\$3,300
Shore-based EG	19.5	\$8,600		\$8,600
Head & Gut CP	2.5	\$1,100		\$1,100
Longline	17.2	\$7,000	\$2,425	\$4,575
CP	6.2			\$1,650
Shore-based WG	0.3			\$100
Shore-based EG	10.7			\$2,900
Pot	48.7	\$21,000	\$6,800	\$14,200
Shore-based WG	25.2			\$7,400
Shore-based EG	23.2			\$6,800
CP	0.3			\$100
Jig	4.4	\$2,000	\$650	\$1,350
Shore-based WG	1.1			\$300
Shore-based EG	3.3			\$1,050
Industry Total	100.0	\$43,000	\$9,875	\$33,125
AFDF Grant				\$5,000
Total			\$9,875	\$48,000
<b>Financial Contributions Pooled Across Sectors</b>				
Trawl				\$78,016
Longline				\$58,703
Pot				\$26,048
Jig				\$2,850
Sustainable Fisheries Fund			\$49,350	\$49,350
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation				\$25,000
Grand Total				\$240,000

Notes: Indented gear categories show subsectors.

CP = Catcher-Processor; WG = Western Gulf of Alaska; EG = Eastern Gulf of Alaska

## MSC Certification, continued

Certification organizations need funding from private foundations, and some documentation of positive impact is needed to encourage continued funding. In Alaska, management strategies in both state and federal waters groundfish fisheries, including Pacific cod, has been noteworthy by most standards around the U.S. and the world. These strategies have continued to evolve, particularly following Alaska statehood and the formation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1959, and formation of the Regional Council regulatory system contained in the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976. As a result, questionnaires circulated throughout the fishing industry in Alaska and elsewhere often fail to identify any real improvement or positive impact due to certification because Alaska was already managing its fishery resources according

to Title VIII of the Alaska Constitution, “in a sustainable manner.” However, the certification of sustainability provides, among other things, third-party testimony to the positive aspect of sustainable resource management.

In addition, an increasing number of seafood markets in areas such as the European Union now require certification by MSC or similar organizations.

*James Browning worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game involved with sport and commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay, Prince William Sound, and Cook Inlet for 25 years beginning in 1977. Since 2005 Mr. Browning has worked with the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, serving as Deputy Director from 2005 and Executive Director since 2008, in a role promoting Alaska’s seafood resources into the realm of fisheries, biology, politics, and business that world fisheries represent.*

## Alaska Chapter AFS 2013 Continuing Education Workshops

*Tammy Neher*

We have two great workshops lined up so far for this year’s meeting that take advantage of the great laboratory facilities at UAF. So, make your plans to come enjoy a little Fall color in Fairbanks and take advantage of the great expertise offered at UAF! Please contact Tammy Neher ([tammy.neher@noaa.gov](mailto:tammy.neher@noaa.gov)) with ideas or suggestions for Continuing Education workshops.

**GIS Applications in Freshwater Habitats**, October 7, Instructor: Dave Verbyla (UAF). This one-day, hands-on workshop is for students and professionals currently applying ArcGIS 10.1 at an intermediate level for freshwater fisheries and habitats. Topics to be covered include delineating, querying and mapping stream reaches, determining stream reach gradient and sinuosity, mapping stream-lake connectivity, delineating watershed polygons and stream orders, and working with temporal data, 3D GIS data, and raster applications. The workshop will consist of seven hands-on ArcGIS exercises. For more information, email Dave Verbyla ([dlverbyla@alaska.edu](mailto:dlverbyla@alaska.edu)).

**Microchemical Analysis of Fish Otoliths: Hands-on!**, October 7–8, Instructors: Christian Zimmerman (USGS), Karen Spaleta (AIL-UAF), and Ken Severin (AIL-UAF). This two-day workshop is intended for people who are beginning or considering applied research involving microchemical analysis of fish otoliths. Participants will experience hands-on applications in sample preparation and laboratory analytical techniques. Day one of the workshop consists of a morning theoretical discussion of the applications of microchemistry, the two primary analytical techniques employed, and also some important considerations when using these tools in fishery science. During the afternoon session, participants will work through preparation of their own (or provided) samples for each of the analytical methods (LA-ICPMS or electron microprobe) available at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory. Day two of the workshop consists of two sessions in each of the instrument laboratories. Participants will review operation of the two instruments, view how data is collected, observe analysis of prepared samples, and review data output. The day will conclude with a discussion of data reduction techniques and further processing methods. Participants should contact Chris Zimmerman ([czimmerman@usgs.gov](mailto:czimmerman@usgs.gov); 907.786.7071) by September 21, 2013 to discuss project and sample needs.

## Call for Abstracts

### The 40th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Philip Loring

Please join us in planning and celebrating the 40th annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, to be held October 7–11, 2013 at the Princess Fairbanks Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska! **Abstract submission is currently open.** We will accept abstracts for papers and posters on any topic, but expect that concurrent sessions will include:

- Freshwater Ecology
- Estuarine and Coastal Marine Ecosystems
- Crab Biology, Ecology, and Management
- Salmonid Biology, Ecology, and Management
- Fish Movement and Distribution
- Stock Assessment and Management
- Evolutionary and Genetic Perspectives
- Human Dimensions of Fisheries
- Advances in Fisheries Science and Technology
- North Slope Fisheries, Fish Populations, and their Habitats

The theme of the 40th meeting of our membership is: “The Practice of Fisheries: Celebrating All Who Work Toward Sustainable Fisheries in Alaska”

This theme was chosen in celebration of the many varied peoples who contribute to the health and sustainability of Alaska’s fisheries and fishing communities, whether as biologists, fisheries managers, students, artists, and so on. This theme will be exemplified through a broad array of sessions, including keynotes, contributed oral sessions, and a poster session, and a long list of social activities and tours.

Abstracts for both papers and posters should be clear, concise, and no more than 250 words. To

submit an abstract, visit the website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AFSALASKA2013>.

The tentative meeting schedule includes continuing education workshops and organized tours to be held on the first two days of the meeting (October 7 and 8) and a welcome reception on Tuesday evening, October 8. The keynote address and plenary session will be the morning of Wednesday October 9, followed by concurrent oral sessions, with a poster session, social, and open mic / fisher-poet event that evening. Concurrent sessions will continue Thursday and Friday, October 10 and 11, with the banquet Thursday evening along with entertainment and a live, fundraiser auction. The annual business meeting for our chapter will be held late Friday morning, after which student awards will be presented before the meeting adjourns. In addition to the open mic night, new elements for this year’s meeting will include: a poster trivia challenge with prizes during the banquet; and 20-minute “learning studios” in which experts will offer mini-lessons on fisheries-related topics such as resilience theory, satellite remote sensing, and environmental justice.

If you have questions or recommendations, or are interested in helping with meeting planning, social activities, or local arrangements, please contact Chapter President-Elect and Program Committee Chair Philip Loring (ph: 907-474-7163; email: [ploring@alaska.edu](mailto:ploring@alaska.edu)). Again, abstract submission closes August 30.

Hope to see you all in Fairbanks this fall!! 🐟

## Alaska Sport Fishing Regulation Cover Photo

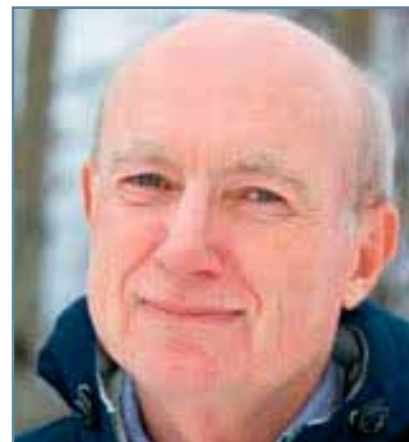
Each year, the Aquatic Education Program for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division sponsors a cover contest for the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary booklets for Southcentral, Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Southeast, and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim/Upper Copper-Upper Susitna. A memorable image of your child or children fishing in Alaska could be on the cover next year! To be considered for the cover, the primary person in the photo must be under the age of 18 when the photo was taken, and the photo must have been taken in Alaska. The photo should represent what sport fishing means to young people and their families. Both the youth and the photographer will be credited inside the cover. Only hook and line/rod and reel photos will be considered for the cover. Entries must be received at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or e-mailed no later than 5 p.m. November 1. A signed Photo/Model Release from the parent or legal guardian will be required for the winning entries to be used. For additional information contact: Nancy Sisinyak ([nancy.sisinyak@alaska.gov](mailto:nancy.sisinyak@alaska.gov)) for Interior Alaska; Jay Baumer ([jay.baumer@alaska.gov](mailto:jay.baumer@alaska.gov)) for Southcentral Alaska, Kodiak, and Bristol Bay; and Patricia Dearing ([patricia.dearing@alaska.gov](mailto:patricia.dearing@alaska.gov)) for Southeast Alaska. 🐟

## Chuck Crapo Retires from UAF

Chuck Crapo, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) professor and seafood technology specialist, recently retired after 30 years of teaching, research, and extension work. Crapo's expertise in handling, chilling, freezing, processing, and product development of Alaska's wild fish made a major contribution to the Alaska seafood industry.

As an active researcher, Dr. Crapo taught seafood quality and safety to hundreds of commercial fishermen and seafood processing workers, and he assisted small and large seafood industry businesses and industry regulators while at UAF. During his career in seafood technology, Crapo authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and 50 technical/extension bulletins on seafood quality and product development.

Crapo was honored by his colleagues at the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center last month, with tales of his accomplishments and adventures, a slide show, and gifts. Now that he is retired, Crapo looks forward to splitting his time between Kodiak and Southeast Asia. 🐾



*Chuck Crapo, UAF professor and seafood specialist, retires after 30 years. Photo from UAF.*

## Student Subunit Happenings

*Kari Fenske*

The Student Subunit would like to extend our thanks to the AK AFS Chapter for their generous support of the Student Symposium, which was held Friday, April 26.

Thirteen students in Fairbanks and Juneau gave presentations about their research. A new addition to the symposium this year was a video category, which included five videos ranging from

humpback whales feeding on newly released hatchery fish to a glimpse into life at a remote northern field camp. Congratulations to students Thaddaeus Buser and Rachael Blevins, whose respective presentations won first and second place for Best Student Presentation.

The Fairbanks-led Chena River project is still  
*Continued on next page*



*Juneau students jump in to clean up the Auke Recreation Area. Photo by Kari Fenske.*



## Student Subunit Happenings, continued

underway and students have been sampling the river with minnow traps. The most recent sampling yielded three juvenile Chinook. A short documentary, titled “Cold Fingers,” was made about the club project and is available at <https://vimeo.com/65178918>.

The Juneau students hosted an Earth Day beach clean-up at the Auke Recreation Area followed by a bonfire and social. The event was a huge success and students removed several bags of trash from the beach, as well as larger items like bicycles and metal scraps.

Fairbanks has elected new student officers. We welcome new President Stacy Vega, Vice President Kevin Fraley, Treasurer Kurt Heim, Secretary Ben Gray, Social Coordinator Rachel DeWilde, and Project Coordinator Trevor Haynes.

## Alaska Students Recognized by Division as Outstanding Student Subunit

The Alaska Chapter Student Subunit is proud to announce that they have been named Outstanding Student Subunit by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society! The subunit was presented with the award at the April 2013 meeting of the AFS Western Division in Boise, Idaho.

The subunit includes students from Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, and Kodiak. Each campus has unique events at the local level, and the whole subunit comes together to participate in group events such as helping with the Alaska Chapter annual meeting and organizing the Student Symposium. The award is given to a Western Division student subunit that exhibits a commitment to the mission of the American Fisheries Society, through activities and the membership’s dedication to achieving the goals of the AFS strategic plan. To apply for the award, subunit leaders Kari Fenske (current Student Subunit President), Emily Lescak (Anchorage leader), Kurt Heim (Fairbanks leader), and Karson Coutré (Juneau leader) collaboratively summarized the group activities occurring between March 2012 and February 2013. Going through the process of examining past activities was a great way to see the depth and breadth of events we undertook as a group, and even led us to generate more ideas for future activities.

In the past year, the student subunit helped sponsor the annual Student Symposium, hosted a job panel, planned and implemented a subunit-led research project, participated in several outreach activities in our local communities, and many other activities to help our members network and grow professionally. Because of the structure of our subunit governance, many of these great events were organized by past subunit leaders, including Thomas Farrugia, and dozens of actively participating students. Thank you to all of our great student members whose involvement and enthusiasm has made the Alaska Chapter Student Subunit outstanding! 🐟

Finally, congratulations to the following fisheries students (pursued degree in parenthesis) who successfully defended their thesis or dissertation this spring: Nick Smith (MS) — “Seasonal movement patterns and habitat occupancy of Kotzebue region inconnu;” Ellen Christine Martinson (PhD) — “Growth of chum salmon in relation to population abundance and climate in the eastern North Pacific Ocean and the recruitment of pollock in the eastern Bering Sea;” Elizabeth Calvert Siddon (PhD) — “Ecology and energetics of early life stages of walleye pollock in the eastern Bering Sea: the role of spatial variability across climatic conditions;” and Adam Zaleski (MS) — “Effects of organohalogen contaminants on Steller sea lion survival and female reproduction in the Russian Far East.”



*Newly elected president of the Fairbanks AFS subunit, Stacy Vega, congratulates Thaddaeus Buser on his award for Best Student Presentation at the Spring 2013 Student Symposium. Photo by Kurt Heim.*

## Meetings and Events

### 143rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Symposium



September 8–13, 2013: This meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas with the theme “Preparing for the Challenges Ahead.” For more information, visit <http://afs2013.com/>.

### ECSA 53: Estuaries and Coastal Areas in Times of Intense Change

October 13–17, 2013: This conference, co-sponsored by the Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association, will be held in Shanghai, China. For more information, visit <http://www.estuarinecoastalconference.com/>.



### 40th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter

October 7–11, 2013: This meeting will be held in Fairbanks, AK with the theme “The Practice of Fisheries: Celebrating All Who Work Toward Sustainable Fisheries in Alaska.” The meeting chair and program contact is Philip Loring ([ploring@alaska.edu](mailto:ploring@alaska.edu)).



### Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit V

December 10-12, 2013: This conference, sponsored by the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, will be held in Anchorage to provide future fishing leaders with training to run a successful commercial fishing business. More information is at [www.marineadvisory.org/ayfs](http://www.marineadvisory.org/ayfs).



### Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Western Division

April 7–12, 2014: This meeting will be held in Mazatlán, Mexico with the theme “Rethinking Fisheries Sustainability: The Future of Fisheries Science.” For more information, please visit <http://www.wdafs.org>.



### ONCORHYNCHUS

*Oncorhynchus* is the quarterly newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Material in this newsletter may be reprinted from other AFS websites.

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

## 2013 Alaska Chapter Officers

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**Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members**