



ONCORHYNCHUS

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*Bering Sea region where the World Wildlife Fund works on fisheries issues.
Figure from Heather Brandon.*

World Wildlife Fund - Working from Alaska to Russia

Heather Brandon

As my jet landed in Kamchatka, Russia, I could see the smoking fumaroles of Koryakskiy volcano. Passengers disembarked and stood on the tarmac, smoking, chatting, and waiting for buses to take us to the terminal. Military personnel in full camouflage, including female guards in high heels, watched from the crowd perimeter. The ground crew piled our luggage on a large military surplus truck, and stray dogs chased the truck as it maneuvered towards the terminal. The whole scene seemed unlike Alaska, until I saw an art installation of swimming salmon on the terminal wall. I thought to myself – if nothing else, we have salmon in common.

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii, the main city on the Kamchatka Peninsula, hasn't always allowed foreigner visitors. Under the Soviet regime, Kamchatka was closed to Americans and certainly excluded from the global market. Because of this, many salmon-bearing rivers and riparian forests are untouched by conventional development. Along with western Alaska, Kamchatka is a salmon stronghold – an area needing careful stewardship, not restoration. But as in Alaska, there is intense and growing pressure to extract non-renewable resources, like oil in the Sea of Okhotsk and natural gas and minerals on the Kamchatka Peninsula. There is also a threat uncommon to Alaska: illegal harvest of salmon on an industrial scale. Poaching on Kamchatka rivers has been called a “slaughter in a maternity ward” because the roe is stripped from female salmon before they can spawn; carcasses are left to rot. This crime, while sometimes perpetrated by locals with no other livelihood, more often involves armed, organized criminals. Locals seeing poaching feel helpless to stop the crime and to protect their local salmon resource.

To address these threats, World Wildlife Fund (WWF, known in Russia as World Wide Fund for Nature) is working in Kamchatka to engage community members, managers, scientists, the university, local

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The President's Corner

Phil Loring

I spend a lot of time thinking about the future of Alaska's fisheries. It keeps me up at night. But of all the threats that concern me, and the many aspects of management



that can be improved, there

Phil Loring AFS Alaska Chapter President.

is one thing that gives me hope—that we have the best people in the world addressing these challenges. I was reminded of this at our fall meeting in October. It was a modest meeting, and we missed greatly the fellowship of our federally-employed colleagues. Nevertheless, the meeting was a great success, and I think this was indicative of the character and passion of our membership for being stewards of Alaska's fisheries. Sure, the challenges facing us are great and many, but to me they seemed a bit more manageable while I was in all of your company.

So, how do we as a membership move forward on these challenges? We all agree that the need for new, cutting edge, and, in many cases, interdisciplinary science is necessary. Yet, many of the challenges facing Alaska's fisheries, such as climate change and large-scale mining, are politically freighted, to put it lightly. As such, they can be difficult or even intimidating to engage with, given that even the slightest intonations of advocacy can become ammunition for those politicking on anti-science (or for those opposing one's promotion and/or tenure). Yet, I believe that the best policy is to trust in our training and tradecraft – we've all chosen an inherently applied field, and I have no doubt that none of us would prefer that policy decisions regarding water quality, resource development, or catch levels are made with no scientific input whatsoever. Sure, fisheries scientists cannot tell society whether, ultimately, to develop a mine or how to allocate

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World Wildlife Fund, continued

leaders, and the fishing/private sector in solutions to the poaching problem, and training salmon managers of the future in sustainable management concepts. In partnership with The Wild Salmon Center, WWF created a local salmon council in the Ust-Bolsheretsk region, an area with a fishery-dependent economy and lifestyle. This salmon council is comprised of local government leaders, and commercial and subsistence harvesters. The Ust-Bolsheretsk Public Salmon Council increased local pride in salmon by starting an annual Salmon Festival and supporting a telephone hotline where anonymous callers can safely report poaching. The Council also proposed additional regulations to protect spring king salmon in the Bolshaya River, the biggest river in western Kamchatka. The Council's regulations were adopted and implemented by the governmental Anadromous Fisheries Commission. While such activity may seem familiar to Alaskans working with the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, having regulations recommended by a Russian citizen group with no authority is uncommon. The Ust-Bolsheretsk Public Salmon Council is now in its third year of operation and two other Kamchatka areas have taken similar steps to create Public Salmon Councils.

On another front, WWF is assisting the Kamchatka State Technical University (KTSU) in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii with updating its

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Spencer Woods, Stanford Univ., lecturing on ecosystem services. Photo by Melissa Foley.

The President's Corner, continued

a fishery among user groups, but we can make clear the parameters, risks, and likely outcomes of the various scenarios.

I value engaged science, and I also value well designed, hypothesis-driven, transparent, and open science that adds to our collective understanding. These are not mutually exclusive goals. An interdisciplinary challenge that we continue to negotiate, however, is how to reconcile many natural scientists' quests for impartiality with many social scientists' assertions that human rights and human dignity are universal, and that promotion of these values enhances rather than detracts from the institution of science. A further challenge is that many social and natural scientists still do not really understand each other. I believe that I am the first social scientist to hold the position of Chapter President; as such, I feel particularly motivated to attend to this cross-cultural divide. My motivation, driven of course by a goal of building stronger relationships with and among all of you, is the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries and fishing communities. Like I said, it keeps me up at night. "Not on my watch" has become a mantra, of sorts, one that I hope will be taken up by many of you as well.

A few notes on the annual meeting. We had 62 oral presentations accepted, as well as 24 posters.



Newly installed Chapter President Phil Loring (right) receives the meeting gavel from outgoing President Mark Wipfli during the Alaska Chapter conference in Fairbanks. Photo by Courtney Pegus.

Of these, 29 and 12 were by students, respectively. The best student paper award went to Emily Lescak for her talk "Genomic Patterns of Rapid Evolution in 50 year old Alaskan Threespine Stickleback Populations on Uplift Islands." The best poster award was shared by Bryce Mecum, "An In-Season Run Timing Prediction Model for Yukon River," and Kevin Fraley, "Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis as a Measure of Energy Density in Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*)." Congratulations to them!

Before I close, some acknowledgements are in order. Firstly, returning to the matter of the annual meeting, I want to thank Tom Garber, Ratana Chuenpagdee, and Carmel Finley for joining us in Fairbanks and for bringing with them good humor, great energy, and new ideas and perspectives. I believe that cross-pollinations are an essential component of effective science, and these three did not disappoint. Secondly, I must acknowledge our Chapter Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner, who is the steam engine who drives the entire AFS Alaska enterprise. The service that she gives to this Chapter is simply tremendous. Thirdly, I want to thank the Chapter Student Subunit members, who were a tireless workforce. And finally, thank you to everyone else who contributed, whether by chairing a session or carrying a box. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

This is my first of four columns in *Oncorhynchus* as Chapter President. As many of you know, I recently took a faculty position at the University of Saskatchewan, but trust that despite my new land-locked home, my attention is still fully focused on my research in Alaska and my responsibilities to our Chapter. You can always reach me at ploring@alaska.edu if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to a productive year, with many great events on tap! The annual meeting of the AFS Western Division will be in Mazatlan, Mexico this year, from 7–11 April. Hopefully many of you can make it to what should be an amazing event.

And next October, we're happy to say, our Chapter meeting will be in Juneau. More on that to come. 🐟

World Wildlife Fund, continued

fisheries curriculum. In addition to translating and sharing course syllabi and degree requirements from several US and Canadian fisheries degree programs, WWF annually brings lecturers to KTSU. When KTSU fisheries professors were asked about topics of greatest use to their students, selected topics included: salmon management in Alaska; hatcheries and ecological impacts; bioeconomic modeling; fisheries oceanography; fish population dynamics; climate change; marine ecosystem dynamics; and marine diversity, conservation, and management. We are seeking guest lecturers who have an expertise in one of these fields, can speak in a dynamic and compelling manner (in English, and WWF will provide interpreters), and wouldn't mind traveling to Kamchatka. Contact me (Heather.Brandon@wwfus.org) if you have something to offer Kamchatka's fisheries managers of tomorrow! Although it might be difficult to measure, the impact of sharing knowledge and making connections across the Bering Sea should not be underestimated.

The biggest fishery on both sides of the Bering Sea is pollock. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Russian Sea of Okhotsk mid-water trawl pollock fishery involved WWF as a stakeholder from the beginning of the process. In February 2013, WWF filed an objection to the initial recommendation for MSC certification, followed by negotiations between WWF and the Russian Pollock Catchers Association (PCA). These negotiations resulted in fishery improvements to occur during the five-year certification period. The PCA committed to increased enforcement monitoring and observer coverage on trawl vessels to provide more robust data on the volume of fish caught, bycatch of



Making bird avoidance streamers for the Kamchatka longline industry. Photo by Heather Brandon.

The Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certificate of sustainability requires a fishery to be judged by an independent third party and meet a minimum score under the three MSC Principles concerning: (1) Stock Health; (2) Ecosystem Impacts; and (3) Fishery Management. The score for each of these Principles comes from a suite of performance indicators and scoring criteria, ranging from a minimum score of 60 to a maximum of 100 for each indicator. A certified fishery can score <80 on some indicators provided the average score of each Principle is 80 and no indicators score <60. However, any indicator scoring <80 will have a condition for improvement which must be met within a time frame specified as 1 to 5 years or the fishery risks losing the certification. Not having the MSC certification can make it more difficult to sell seafood into markets that place a high value on sustainable seafood. The Sea of Okhotsk pollock fishery passed with an average score of 81.8, with several performance indicators scoring less than 80. This means the fishery must improve in specific areas identified during the certification process.

*Editor's note – Additional information on MSC certification is found in the Summer 2013 issue of *Oncorhynchus*.*

juvenile pollock and other species, and interactions with endangered and protected species (e.g., Steller sea lions and seabirds), and to provide more transparency and traceability. Because this data collection will improve overall fishery management, WWF believes that within two years the fishery will make considerable progress

towards sustainability according to MSC standards. The WWF subsequently withdrew its objection. Now that the Sea of Okhotsk pollock fishery is MSC certified, WWF will work with the PCA and the Russian Federal Fishery Agency through an Observer Working Group to recommend

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improvements. We are also working internationally to improve the MSC process for assessing and minimizing habitat impacts in all fisheries.

In 2011, government agents in Seattle seized an illegal import with a load of crab valued at \$2.75 million. The NOAA fisheries agents in Juneau, who have an excellent working relationship with Russia's Border Guard, compared the harvester vessels listed on the paperwork and the pounds of crab being imported against Russian records of legal-catch quotas and permitted vessels. What

they found was an enormous inconsistency. The Russian harvester vessels, authorized for 13.5 metric tons of king crab, were delivering 112 metric tons. However, preventing illegal seafood from entering the U.S. is not always this obvious.

Although illegal crab harvests are difficult to estimate, the McDowell Group estimated illegal Russian king and snow crab harvests totaled almost 80,000 metric tons in 2009, double the legal allowable catch. In other words, in 2009, two out of every three crab harvested in Russia were illegal. The threat to conservation of Western Bering Sea crab is severe. Crab pulled illegally from Russia's Bering, Barents, and Okhotsk Seas generally go to Asia for consumption or re-packaging for end markets, typically America or Japan. The end consumer could be your relatives in the U.S. midwest or a Tokyo family. It's not the consumer's fault for purchasing this crab, as few tools exist for consumers to verify their seafood origin.

Creating a system for verifiable tracking (traceability) is critical to understanding illegal,

unreported, and unregulated (IUU) harvests of seafood. Traceability provides independently confirmable documentation that crab or other seafood, was legally harvested and not mixed with



Assorted products at a Kamchatka fish stand. Photo by Heather Brandon.

illegal product during processing, re-packaging, or cold storage. Such documentation allows the food industry to charge premium prices for clearly legal products, reduces export markets for illegal products, and will reduce illegal crab harvesting. Working together, conservation groups, management agencies, and the fishing industry can achieve a conservation goal, and at the same time level the playing field for Alaska's crabbers.

A project to document the flow of seafood from Russia to Asia, involves WWF offices in Russia and China. A contingent of Chinese seafood officials will visit Alaska in the spring of 2014 to understand traceability and its role in ensuring sustainability. This is a first step towards the ultimate goal of closing all markets to illegal seafood products.

What can you do with a bunch of orange surgical tubing attached to a line? The answer, of course, is "scare hungry birds away from baited fishing hooks!" In the late 1990s, Ed Melvin of Washington SeaGrant, together with Alaska's longliners, found that streamers, which are pieces of plastic lines, are

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World Wildlife Fund, continued

a simple solution that can save tens of thousands of birds annually from diving after baited hooks and becoming bycatch. Studies showed that deploying a pair of streamers behind longline vessels reduced seabird ensnarement by 80% to 100%. Based on Alaska's success, WWF started talking to Russian longliners about streamers, and hired a Russian ornithologist to study the economic impact of using streamers. He showed fishing with streamers was more successful because bait stayed on hooks and more hooks captured fish instead of birds. The Kamchatka longline fleet was losing \$840,000 (U.S. dollars) per year by not using streamers! One Russian longline company started making their own streamers for use on their vessels (importing streamers from the U.S. was incredibly difficult).

However, the majority of the Russian longline fleet remains unaware of streamers.

One North Pacific seabird getting a lot of attention is the endangered short-tailed albatross, occasionally caught by Bering Sea and Sea of Okhotsk longliners. Only an estimated 2,500 short-tailed albatross are left after a century of heavy hunting for feathers. The breeding ground for this bird is an active Japanese volcano prone to erosion and periodic disturbance. While scientists are working on translocating breeding pairs to increase the number of breeding sites, the only human impact that can be stemmed is incidental fisheries takes. According to Dr. Yuri Artukhin, WWF's seabird expert and Senior Ornithologist with the Pacific Geographical Institute, annual mortality by

Russian longliners is around 20,000 seabirds among all species! The clear path to reduce bycatch of short-tailed albatross and other seabirds is to get all longline vessels to use streamers. Increased outreach in Kamchatka and expanded communication with the Vladivostok longline fleet will forward this cause.

I hope to return to Kamchatka in 2014 to work on WWF's projects, such as establishing fisheries lecture exchanges between Kamchatka State Technical University and American universities. I will, of course, take a fresh look at the swimming salmon art at the airport.

Heather Brandon has an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Oregon, a Master's of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, and attended the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. Heather has worked on ecosystem-based management for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as the Ocean Policy Coordinator for the State of Alaska, and for the Pacific Fishery Management Council on rights-based management (catch shares). Heather now serves as the Senior Fisheries Officer for the WWF Alaska Field Office, and lives in Juneau, Alaska with two sons, two dogs and one husband.



Heather Brandon at the WWF office in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii, Russia. Photo from Heather Brandon.

Student Subunit Happenings

New Student Subunit Representative

Emily Whitney started working on a Fisheries M.S. degree at the Juneau campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the summer of 2013. She is using diet and stable isotope analyses to examine species composition and feeding ecology of fishes in Juneau estuaries. Emily has a B.S. in biology from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. Prior to moving to Juneau, Emily worked with the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee conducting conservation, restoration, and education projects in the Puget Sound area. She is excited to be continuing her education in such a beautiful location.



Emily Whitney, graduate student and new Student Subunit representative.

Student Subunit Events

Fall 2013 was once again a busy season for the Alaska Chapter Student Subunit. Students from each of the subunit groups attended the Alaska AFS Chapter meeting in Fairbanks in October. The Student Subunit extends their thanks to the Alaska Chapter for providing support for 28 students to attend the meeting. These students presented posters and papers on their research and volunteered with meeting activities. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for students to meet one another and network with fisheries professionals.

At the October meeting, the Fairbanks group of the Student Subunit presented their study of the overwintering ecology of juvenile salmonids in Chena River in Fairbanks. This student project involved collaboration between graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The group is now beginning work on a project investigating the population dynamics of blackfish in Fairbanks ponds and lakes.

The Juneau group had a successful fundraiser at a First Friday event in December held at the Silverbow Bakery. The fundraiser coincided with the “Art Meets Science” photography exhibit sponsored by the



One of the stations to introduce students to fisheries science at an event for Big Brother Big Sisters. Photo by Anne Beaudreau.

UAF Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in Arctic and Subarctic Program. A keg was donated by Alaskan Brewery and half of the proceeds went to support student travel for the Alaska Chapter of AFS. A group of Juneau students is also working with local educators to bring graduate students into classrooms to support science curriculum and share their own research. In December, a group of students held an event for Big Brother Big Sisters that featured stations to introduce students to fisheries science, including fish dissections, microscope work, and an identification game. Additionally, the Juneau group welcomed Anne Beaudreau as their new faculty advisor this past fall.

The Anchorage group continues to meet regularly, but with no additional updates to report at this time. 🐟

2013 Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award

Ray Hander, Committee Chair

In 2013, the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee (MASC) updated the application process to allow documents to be electronically submitted through an email account (*akafs.ahlgren.award@gmail.com*) managed by the MASC. The MASC met and recommended that two \$4,500 awards be given; the recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee. The application was sent out on 27 August 2013 to various distribution outlets such as financial aid offices, scholarship coordinators, and professors at the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University, as well as the Chapter web site and Student Group representatives. Items to be completed by the MASC after the ceremonial award is given are: (1) confirming disbursement of award funds to the recipient's university account in time for their upcoming term; and (2) submitting a letter to the Ahlgren family reporting on the 2013 award.

"Chayo" Rosario Fuentes, Marine Biology Undergraduate, Alaska Pacific University

I am very grateful to have been chosen as a recipient for the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship in Fall 2013. It means a lot to my family and me to have been recognized in this way. I am currently a junior studying marine biology at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. As part of the scholarship, I was flown to Fairbanks to attend the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society conference. While there, I heard many people who were excited about the work they were doing and I found them to be great resources. For instance, I enjoyed the screening of *Alaska Gold*, which I'm planning to introduce to our S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violating the Earth) Club during one of our upcoming events. There was also a talk about bringing blackfish into the classroom from which I gleaned tips that I will pass on to my mother who teaches fourth grade in California.

During my time at the conference, it became evident that Molly Ahlgren meant a lot to a great number of people. It's humbling to receive this scholarship in honor of someone who was so loved and admired. I'd like to thank Molly Ahlgren's family and the awards committee. I'll strive to do Dr. Ahlgren's memory justice. 🙏



Rosario Fuentes, recipient of the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award at the 2013 Alaska Chapter meeting. Photo by Courtney Pegus.

2013 Cultural Diversity Award

Sara Gilk-Baumer, Committee Chair

The Cultural Diversity Travel Award helps fund entry-level applicants who are involved in the natural resource field to attend the annual Alaska Chapter conference of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). 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 encourage young professionals to be active with AFS.

Applications were solicited from around the state and were received from four highly qualified individuals. After applications were scored by a panel of anonymous judges, we were able to fund two candidates for the 2013 meeting in Kodiak: Allyson Olds (Juneau) and Lauren Divine (St. Paul Island).

Allyson Olds, the top-scoring applicant, is an M.S. student at UAF. Her research focuses on run-timing and abundance of eulachon in Southeast Alaska. She presented a paper at the 2013 meeting in the "Estuarine and Coastal Marine Ecosystems" session.

Lauren Divine is a Ph.D. student at UAF. Her research focuses on snow crab in the Alaskan Arctic. She presented a paper in the "Food webs" session.

Allyson Olds, University of Alaska Fairbanks graduate student, Juneau

Allyson Olds yoo xat duwasáakw dleit kaa xéinax. Koosk'aa yoo xat duwasáakw Lingít xéinax. My name is Allyson Olds, and my Tlingit name is Koosk'aa. I am a member of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, and I am pursuing a Master's of

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2013 Cultural Diversity Award, continued

Science degree in Fisheries through the University of Alaska Fairbanks facility in Juneau.

I was honored to receive the Cultural Diversity Award to attend the 41st annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Fairbanks in 2013. I have been involved with AFS since 2011. However, this is the first time I have attended the Chapter meeting. My graduate research examines trends in run timing and abundance of anadromous eulachon smelt, *Thaleichthys pacificus*, in the Chilkat and Chilkoot rivers in Southeast Alaska. The opportunity to attend the Alaska Chapter meeting allowed me to present a subset of my thesis research to other scientists. My oral presentation communicated the roles that eulachon have in the local and indigenous cultures near the Chilkat and Chilkoot

rivers. I am grateful for the opportunity to share the cultural importance of eulachon to a broad audience of meeting attendees. Attending and presenting at the annual meeting was a beneficial experience for my graduate program and professional development. Interacting with other attendees strengthened my communication skills, especially in regards to explaining my thesis research. This conference allowed networking with professionals in many fisheries fields and learning about diverse research in Alaska and other regions. I look forward to attending future meetings of the AFS Alaska Chapter.

Gunalchéesh (Thank You) to the AFS Alaska Chapter for support and for honoring me with a Cultural Diversity Award to attend the 41st annual meeting. 🐟

2014 Call for Chapter Award Nominations

Theresa Tanner and Kenneth Gates

The Alaska Chapter is currently soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA), the Almost Darwin Award, and the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence. We encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and to submit nominations for these awards. Please use the form at <http://www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships> to make your nominations. Award presentations from this call will occur at the 2014 Chapter Annual Meeting. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2014.**

Nominations for the MSA can be based on an outstanding contribution in any area of Alaska fisheries, including research, management, education, planning, industry, and policy development. Nominations do not have to come from AFS members, nor do nominees need to be active members. The contribution or accomplishment of the candidate must be recent and not the result of many years of effort; recognition of career-long contributions is more appropriate for the Wally Noerenberg Award. The Awards Committee will select winners based on the strength of the nomination and the accomplishment.

The CSA was established to award outstanding service to the Alaska Chapter of the American

Fisheries Society. These candidates have been involved in some or all of the following activities: active participation in standing or ad hoc committees; made important contributions to advance the current objectives, long-term goals or stature of the Chapter and fisheries professionals; contributed a significant amount of time to Chapter activities; improved public awareness of the Alaska Chapter and Chapter activities; encouraged development of students as fisheries professionals through recruitment and involvement as Chapter members; and recruited fisheries professionals as Chapter members. Submit MSA and CSA award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Theresa Tanner, USFWS, 605 W 4th Ave., Rm G-61; Anchorage, 99501, 271-1799, theresa_tanner@fws.gov.

The Almost Darwin Award recognizes the most humorous and outrageous fisheries faux pas of any fisheries professional. The nominees must have committed the faux pas within the last calendar year. Please include a photo as proof along with the story. Submit award nomination stories and photos to Theresa Tanner at the above address.

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor on individuals who have made great and outstanding contributions

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2014 Call for Chapter Award Nominations, continued

to Alaska fisheries. This award was established in 1981 by resolution of the membership. The membership has also set, by resolution, specific guidelines for the Wally Noerenberg Award Committee. Nominee contributions may include scientific research; technological development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing, or marketing; academic and fishery education; or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Submit Wally Noerenberg Award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Ken Gates,

USFWS, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, 43655 K-Beach Road, Soldotna, AK 99669, 260-0126, kenneth_gates@fws.gov.

Rewarding excellence is an enjoyable but challenging task and finding judges is a challenge too. The Chapter is seeking members for the Awards Committee. If you are interested in helping on this committee, please contact Theresa Tanner at theresa_tanner@fws.gov or 271-1799.

The application form for the 2014 Chapter awards is available online via the "Awards" link at <http://www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships>. ?

Did You Know? – The Yukon River Wild Stock Resolution and Advocacy

Randy Brown and Bill Bechtol

The AFS Alaska Chapter has a Resolutions and Bylaws Committee as a standing committee with the primary purpose of reviewing proposed resolutions and bylaw changes and making recommendations to the Executive Committee (ExCom). Resolutions are formal expressions of the Chapter's views and serve as a way for the Chapter to focus attention on relevant issues affecting Alaska's fishery resources. Every resolution submitted to the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee must be considered and discussed by the Chapter provided: (1) an individual or subcommittee serves as a resource to provide technical information; (2) a DRAFT cover letter of distribution is also submitted; and (3) a list of distribution addresses is submitted with the draft resolution.

Many of the criteria associated with Chapter Resolutions and Chapter Advocacy were a response to a resolution originally submitted during the business meeting at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter at Ketchikan in November 1991. The resolution urged the governments of Canada, Alaska, and the United States to manage the Yukon River as a Wild Stock Management Zone with a number of specific management criteria. This was a highly contentious issue and members at the 1991 meeting voted to table the resolution and obtain greater membership input by publishing the proposed resolution, including background material, in the Winter 1992 issue of *Oncorhynchus* (Vol.

XII, No. 1). Comments from Chapter members were submitted to a Resolutions Committee. Concurrently, the committee drafted language to guide the resolution process. Member comments, summarized as paired pro-and-con points, were published in the Summer 1992 *Oncorhynchus* (Vol. XII, No. 3). However, both the resolution author and members offering comments remained anonymous after expressing concerns over professional consequences if their opinions on the issue were known. The resolution was returned to the floor at the business portion of the November 1992 Chapter meeting in Valdez. After being amended slightly, the resolution was passed by those present through secret ballot, again to protect people's positions on the issue. A vote at the same meeting approved language to amend the Chapter Bylaws to include, among other things, a section on the Resolution process. Although the resolution had been passed, the President's Corner of the Spring 1993 *Oncorhynchus* (Vol. XIII, No. 2) indicated the ExCom struggled with how to distribute the adopted resolution. Ultimately the ExCom compiled a cover letter and distributed the resolution to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. State Department, and the governments of Alaska, Canada, and Yukon Territory. Lessons learned through this process played heavily in further refining procedures for Chapter resolutions and also in development of the Chapter's Advocacy Policy (see the Chapter Procedures Manual). ?

2013 Committee Reports

Financial Assets Oversight

Ray Hander (Committee Chair), Tim Joyce, and Lee Ann Gardner

Guidance to the Financial Assets Oversight Committee (FAOC) is provided in the Chapter's Procedure Manual. The purpose of the FAOC is to oversee, advise, and make recommendations for directing the financial assets of the Chapter by way of tracking the Chapter's monetary holdings that are invested through financial or banking institutions.

In 2013, the FAOC met quarterly with the Chapter's Wedbush Morgan Securities (WMS) representative, Todd Fletcher, to receive portfolio status updates and conduct account maintenance. Lee Ann Gardner, Chapter Treasurer, is in frequent contact with WMS as she conducts day-to-day Chapter business and informs FAOC members with information as-needed. 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.

Awards from the following Chapter endowments are only paid from earned interest, and contributions to individual endowments are added to their respective principals.

Wally Noerenberg Fund (WNF) - The WNF principal is \$15,000 and the account balance on 21 August 2013 was \$17,680. The 2012 award recipient generously donated the funds (\$1,000) back to the Chapter to support student travel.

Cultural Diversity Fund (CDF) - The CDF principal is \$15,000 and the account balance on 21 August 2013 was \$15,880. The CDF is generally spent down to the principal amount each year to support CDF recipients.

Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund (MASF) - The MASF principal is approximately \$115,000 and the account balance on 21 August 2013 was \$125,081. The total scholarship amount for 2013 was \$9,000. The FAOC is revising the guiding principles of the MASF based on surpassing the fund balance goal of \$100,000. The goal of the revision is to provide clear direction on the disbursement of the endowment's earnings to

meet the purpose of the fund, and the protection and long term sustainability of the fund. Under the revised guidelines, the MASF principal will increase from additional contributions and 10% of annual earnings calculated on August 1. Remaining earnings, rounded down to the nearest \$1,000, will be disbursed as scholarships. Earnings left after rounding will be added to scholarship disbursement(s) the following year. Annual contributions (2004–2012) to the MASF have been approximately \$12,260, with the greatest share coming from the Ahlgren family.

Endowment values from June 2012 to June 2013.

Fund	Begin Quarter	Value (\$)	End Quarter	Value (\$)
WNF	June 2012	18,739	June 2013	18,658
CDF	June 2012	16,525	June 2013	15,864
MASF	June 2012	110,384	June 2013	124,226

Chapter Investment Fund A (Fund A) was valued at \$54,563 in June 2013. Annual gains are generally from payments on net earnings from the annual meeting, continuing education, membership dues, and interest. Interest earned from Fund A may be used for travel and scholarship awards and special projects. Unexpended annual earnings were reinvested into the Fund A principal.

The interest-bearing money market checking (MMC) and First National Bank Alaska cash accounts (CA) fluctuate annually due to annual meeting and continuing education expenses and income. Following the annual meeting, online sales from the CA are transferred to Fund A or the MMC while leaving a balance of approximately \$500 for petty cash.

In summary, the Chapter is experiencing modestly positive investment returns while maintaining a moderately conservative investment portfolio. Realized portfolio gains are due to the Chapter's portfolio asset allocation leaning heavily towards bonds that continued paying modest returns while market volatility has continued over the past year.

Continued on next page

2013 Committee Reports, continued

Oncorhynchus Newsletter

Bill Bechtol, Editor

The *Oncorhynchus* serves as a medium to distribute information to AFS Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter is produced by editor, Bill Bechtol, who compiles articles submitted by Chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. Newsletter formatting generally follows style conventions described for AFS journals at <http://fisheries.org/>. Prior to finalizing the newsletter, the Alaska Chapter President, the Electronic Communications Committee Chair, and other individuals make final edits.

Submissions of articles for inclusion in the newsletter are solicited quarterly via the Alaska Chapter list-serve; high-resolution photos are encouraged. Newsletter submission deadlines are the 10th of March, June, September, and December. Each issue includes a front-page feature article, including two or three photos. An effort is made to distribute feature article authorship

among organizations. Feature articles, by issue, in 2013 were: Winter (Vol. 33 No. 1) “CO₂, pH, and Anticipating a Future under Ocean Acidification” – Robert Foy, et al.; Spring (Vol. 33 No. 2) “The Alaska Chinook Salmon Production Enigma... What’s Going On?” – Joe Orsi; Summer (Vol. 33 No. 3) “MSC Certification and What it means for Alaska” – James Browning; and Fall (Vol. 33 No. 5) “Threespine Stickleback – Small Stature Yields Rich Biological Data” – Emily Lescak.

During 2013, the four issues were each published near the beginning of each calendar quarter; a fifth issue, listing only Chapter officer candidates, was distributed in late August. All issues were largely distributed electronically, although 65 paper copies of each issue were printed with most mailed to subscribing libraries or per individual request, and the balance retained for Chapter archival. Total newsletter publication and distribution costs for 2013 were \$1,991.19 (including estimated costs for issue 5).

If you have a newsletter contribution, please contact Bill (299-6146, bechtolresearch@hughes.net).

Vol. (Issue)	Hard-copies mailed to AK Chapter member	Hard-copies mailed to libraries, Parent AFS officers, AK congressional members, etc.	Email distribution*	Total distribution
33 (1)	9	37	500	546
33 (2)	14	36	500	550
33 (3)	8	36	500	544
33 (4)	8	36	500	544
33 (5)	8	36	500	544

* Email distributions based on estimates made in September 2013.

2013 Wally Noerenberg Award

Kenneth Gates

The Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence is the highest award bestowed by the Alaska Chapter. It honors an individual’s life-long achievements in a career focused on Alaska’s fisheries. Contributions may include, but are not limited to: fisheries research; technology development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing or marketing; academics or fisheries education; and involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. The award was created in 1981,

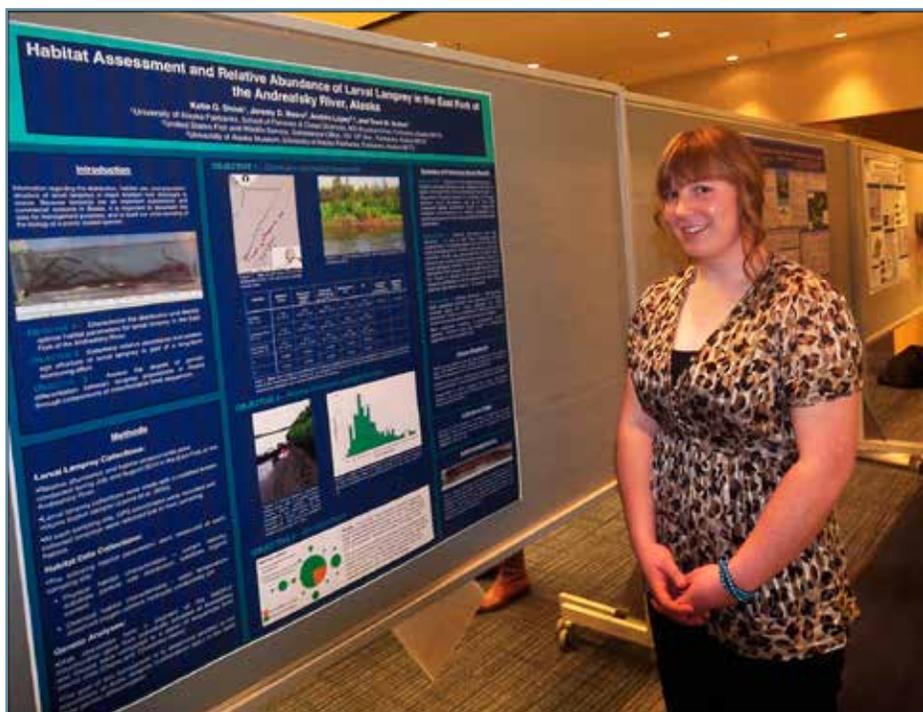
and in 1982 was awarded posthumously to its namesake, Wally Noerenberg. Since then, there have been seventeen other recipients.

The WNA is administered by a committee comprised of three Chapter past-presidents and a committee chair that cannot be a past president. Committee members serve a staggered three-year term such that only one position becomes vacant and is refilled each year. Historically, the immediate past-president was automatically seated on the WNA committee following each year’s annual

Continued on next page

2013 Committee Reports, continued

Chapter meeting. In 2006-2007, the WNA Committee Procedures Manual was modified so that new committee members are randomly selected from a list of past-presidents still active in the Alaska Chapter. The 2013 WNA committee consisted of Jim Reynolds, Bill Bechtol, and Hal Geiger, whose 3-year term ended at the 2013 Fairbanks meeting. Peggy Merritt was randomly selected to take Hal Geiger's position on the committee beginning after the 2013 Fairbanks meeting. At this time, the availability of Peggy has not been confirmed. An alternative random selection will be made if Peggy is unable to serve as a committee member.



This year, the committee received no WNA nominations. The committee decided in 2012 that a nomination should be considered for the award no more than two years in a row, the initial nomination year and the following year. Because no new nominations were received in either 2012 or 2013, the WNA was not awarded in 2013 at the Fairbanks Chapter meeting.

Katie Shink at the AFS Alaska Chapter conference in Fairbanks presents a poster on her research project. Photo by Courtney Pegus.

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25-Year Members

The American Fisheries Society issues commemorative pins to recognize individuals that have been members for 25 years or more. The following AFS Alaska Chapter members have belonged to the American Fisheries Society for at least 25 years and were newly recognized at the October 2013 Alaska Chapter meeting. Congratulations!

25-Year Member	City	Joined
David Daum	Fairbanks, AK	1988
David Erickson	Fritz Creek, AK	1988
Christopher Habicht	Anchorage, AK	1988
Kenneth Morgan	Valdez, AK	1988
Jennifer Nielsen	Duvall, WA	1988
David Wiswar	Fairbanks, AK	1984

The Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship

This fellowship was created by AFS in 2007 to honor the memory of Steven Berkeley, a dedicated fisheries scientist with a passionate interest in integrating the fields of marine ecology, conservation biology, and fisheries science to improve fisheries management. Berkeley was a long-time AFS member and on the first Board of Directors for the Fisheries Conservation Foundation. The fellowship comprises a competitively based \$10,000 award to a graduate student actively engaged in thesis research relevant to marine conservation. Research topics may address any aspect of conservation; a focus on fisheries issues is not required. Electronic applications and recommendations must be received no later than **February 1, 2014**. For more information see http://sfrc.ufl.edu/mfs/index_files/Berkeley_Fellowship.htm.

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 March 10.

Ladd Macaulay Graduate Fellowship in Salmon Fisheries Research

The Ladd Macaulay Graduate Fellowship in Salmon Fisheries Research is funded through a donation from Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC), a private non-profit salmon enhancement organization based in Juneau, Alaska. The fellowship will support a graduate student fellowship, beginning as early as Fall 2014, for an M. S. in Fisheries at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean

Sciences. Funding is for an incoming (prospective) graduate student and will cover standard graduate stipends, tuition/fees, and health insurance for up to three years; second and third year funding is conditional on successful annual progress. Applications must be submitted by 5 PM Alaska Time on 15 January 2014. For more information contact Gabrielle Hazelton (796-5441; gdhazelton@alaska.edu).

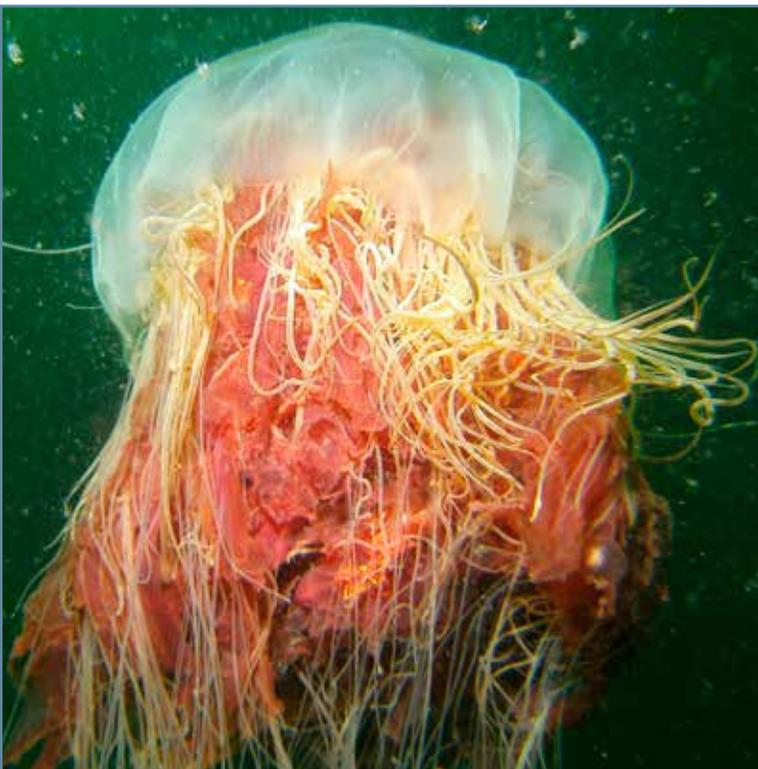
Ecologists Without Borders

Starting with three cofounders – Larry Dominguez, Cleve Steward, and former AFS Alaska Chapter member Eric Knudsen – Ecologists Without Borders (EcoWB) shares a vision of harnessing the expertise, creativity, and altruistic impulses of scientific colleagues to solve environmental problems around the world. The most egregious impacts often occur in countries lacking the resources to address the problems. Decisions are often made, actions taken, and opportunities foregone without the benefit of ecological expertise and input. As fisheries scientists with international consulting experience, the cofounders were aware of the intractability of many of these problems. They believe that a healthy environment is key to

reducing poverty and strife, ensuring food security, enhancing livelihoods, and improving the quality of life of the earth's inhabitants. Many people would like to lend a hand, but may not know where or whom to help, or may be unprepared to deal with the logistics of working overseas. Thus, EcoWB was developed as a non-profit organization with the following summarized goals:

- Increase awareness of ecological integrity, or harmony, as essential for economic, social, and environmental sustainability;
- Provide expert ecological services to areas of the world that face environmental problems stemming from natural or human causes;
- Create an international network of volunteer ecologists able to provide technical assistance, training, and hands-on support;
- Promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources to ensure the sustenance, economic viability, and welfare of the community over the long-term;
- Provide educational opportunities that foster environmental stewardship and informed, ecologically sensitive decisions; and
- Engage and collaborate with scientists, resource managers, community leaders, social workers, conservationists, other organizations, governments, NGOs, and local communities to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

The intent is to facilitate the transfer of ecological knowledge and expertise to developing areas of the world ... one ecologist at a time! If you have an interest in sharing your knowledge and expertise, please visit <http://ecowb.org/>, or contact Eric Knudsen directly at eericknudsen@gmail.com.



Lion's Mane.

Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

Alaska Sea Grant is recruiting graduate students for the 2015 National Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. The application deadline is February 14, 2014 for the fellowship beginning in February 2015. This unique fellowship provides students enrolled in a graduate or professional program from any discipline with a year of paid experience in Washington, D.C. Fellows work on ocean issues with U.S. Congressional offices or with an executive branch, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the National Science Foundation. The fellowship has been a great launching pad for hundreds of students to careers in government, education, business, and nonprofit enterprises. For more information, see <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/knauss.html>.

Questions and Answers about Fish Drugs

Jim Bowker, Fishery Biologist, USF&WS, Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program

Here is a link to an article written by staff at the U. S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) entitled “FDA Answers Your Questions about Fish Drugs” that we encourage you to read (<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B43dblZIJqD3b2RMTGtFX11ZRFk/edit?usp=sharing&pli=1>).

The article was drafted following a meeting between the American Fisheries Society and CVM leaders to discuss the AFS Policy Statement on the Need for an Immediate-Release Anesthetic/Sedative for Use in the Fisheries Disciplines (adopted December 2011). There continues to be considerable confusion and misinformation among fisheries professionals regarding the legal use of fish drugs, particularly sedatives, and how these essential tools are applied in the field, hatchery, or lab setting. The article contains quite a bit of useful information, including a description of the difference between a drug and an active ingredient, and the use of AQUI-S®20E (a potential immediate-release fish sedative) was used as an example. Here’s an excerpt from the article: “The active ingredient in AQUI-S®20E is eugenol, but the food use authorization granted under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife’s INAD exemption program has a very narrow and specific scope and doesn’t cover all eugenol-containing products. Although clove oil contains eugenol, clove oil isn’t the same as AQUI-S®20E. Clove oil is not part of the food use authorization nor is it approved.”

We hope that this article will help to alleviate some of the confusion regarding fish drug use and help to ensure that fisheries professionals are using fish drugs legally. We believe that better understanding the legalities of fish drug use (knowing what’s legal and how a drug can be used, and knowing that FDA can monitor use to ensure compliance with federal law) will help us make better decisions going forward. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Jim Bowker (jim_bowker@fws.gov) or Jesse Trushenski (saluski@siu.edu).



Lisa Stuby reads an original poem at the open mic night during the AFS Alaska Chapter conference in Fairbanks. Photo by Phil Loring.

Meetings and Events



Alaska Marine Science Symposium

January 20–24, 2014: This meeting will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, please visit <http://www.alaskamarinescience.org/>.

Alaska Forum on the Environment, 2014

February 3–7, 2014: This meeting will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, please visit <http://www.akforum.com/>.



Meetings and Events

Community-Based Monitoring: Observing Alaska's Coasts and Oceans

April 1–2, 2014: This workshop to identify and address common issues for CBM in Alaska will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, visit <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2014/community-based-monitoring/>.



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>.

Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium

April 22–25, 2014: This meeting, to be held in Kodiak, AK, will focus on research to understand how Kodiak’s marine environment and resources function, change, and affect people’s lives. For more information, please visit <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2014/kamss/>.



7th Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference and Forum

April 24–25, 2014: This meeting, to be held in Kotzebue, AK with the theme “Science of a Cold Place in a Warming World,” will focus on the impact of global warming on the lives of residents of Arctic Alaska. For more information, please visit seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/waisc/.



Fisheries Bycatch: Global Issues and Creative Solutions

May 13–16, 2014: This 29th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium in Anchorage. More information is at <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2014/wakefield-bycatch/index.php>.



International Congress on the Biology of Fish

August 3–7, 2014: This meeting will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland. For more information, visit <http://icbf2014.sls.hw.ac.uk/>.



144th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Symposium

September 17–21, 2014: This meeting will be held in Québec, Canada with the theme “From Fisheries Research to Management: Think and Act Locally and Globally.” For more information, see <http://afs2014.org/>.



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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members