



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society  
Vol. XXXX Summer 2020 No. 2

**Editor's Note:** Due to aspects related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a spring 2020 edition of the Alaska Chapter newsletter *Oncorhynchus* was not issued.

## In this issue:

[President's Corner](#)

[Chapter Speaks Out](#)

[New Chapter Vice President](#)

[Student Happenings](#)

[Meetings and Events](#)

and more ...



## Bristol Bay Sockeye 1919

### The Salmon Collapse and Fishing Regulations after World War I

*Bob King*

After setting harvest records the previous two years, salmon canners sailed into Bristol Bay in 1919 only to discover the near collapse of its Sockeye Salmon runs. A five-year debate over fishery science and management followed, leading to a major rewrite of Alaska fishing regulations that, while lacking, were a first step toward development of the well-managed fisheries we have today.

The Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery began in 1884 and production grew to 25 million salmon in 1917 and 1918, the peak for the next 60 years. In 1919, the catch of Sockeye Salmon fell 60% to just 7 million. That mirrored a drop in the catch of all salmon species throughout Alaska from a record 100 million in 1918 to 59 million in 1919. While the steps later involved all Alaska salmon fisheries, here I focus on Bristol Bay, the territory's most valuable fishery and a driving force in scientific developments.



*Fish cannery operating up the Naknek River by the Arctic Packing Company (APA); headlands at river mouth in background. Photo from Moser (1902) provided by Bob King.*

In 1919, however, much salmon biology was misunderstood. Biologists at the time rejected the idea that salmon returned to their natal streams or migrated more than 20 to 40 miles in their lifetime. Fishery management was lacking in Bristol Bay in 1919, with the few laws passed by Congress largely ignored. The first federal salmon act, passed in 1889, had prohibited weirs that blocked salmon streams. The 1906 Alaska Fisheries Act, while not making many substantive management changes, imposed taxes and was followed by over

40 proposed Alaska fisheries bills. These proposals followed two models: Alaskans wanting local control and the ability to ban traps, versus canners wanting traps and limited competition on the fishing grounds. Proposed compromises pleased no one. New legislation defined traps, gillnets, seines, and other gear, but didn't restrict their use. A mandatory 36-hour weekly closed period for escapement exempted Bristol Bay, where bad weather was assumed to allow adequate salmon escapement.

*Continued on next page*

## The President's Corner



*Stephanie Quinn-Davidson,  
AFS Alaska Chapter President.*

Hello Alaska Chapter! Apologies for the delayed introduction and newsletter – COVID-19 certainly threw us for a loop this spring. As your new Chapter President, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Stephanie Quinn-Davidson and I'm the Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission with Tanana Chiefs Conference. I moved to Alaska in 2011 to start a fisheries biologist position with Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the Yukon River and have been working on Yukon fisheries ever since. I've also been involved in statewide salmon issues through my discussions as an Alaska Salmon Fellow (a leadership program through the Alaska Humanities Forum) and my involvement as one of the citizen sponsors of the Stand for Salmon campaign. I also currently sit on the interim board of the Certified Seafood Collaborative – a newly formed foundation that is taking over Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute's Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program. But I spend most of my professional days working with Tribes along the Yukon River to promote conservation and advocate for a seat at the management table.

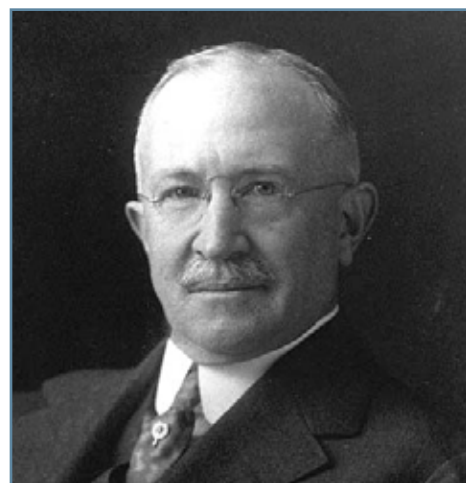
Before moving to Alaska, I was a professor in the Biology and Environmental Studies departments at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. I enjoyed introducing students to ecological research. Just this year one of the first undergraduates I taught and conducted research with at St. Olaf accepted a position at my doctoral alma mater program (Limnology!) at the University of Wisconsin. Talk

*Continued on next page*

## Bristol Bay Sockeye 1919, continued

Sent to study the 1919 run failure, Stanford biologist Charles Henry Gilbert issued a warning: "The present administration of the fisheries appears

based on the expectation that men will hold back their hands where a further profit can be made. It is witless to expect them to do so. So long as the present policy is maintained,



then the day after." That November, over 100 canners, attorneys, fishery agents, and biologists gathered in Seattle. Among them was Alaska Governor Thomas Riggs, who admitted, "I have been studying the question of salmon for nearly two years now, and the more I study it, the more I find out I know absolutely nothing about salmon." The same could be said about biologists. Testimony in Seattle showed biologists believed—erroneously—there was no mixing of Bristol Bay and other salmon at False Pass.

*Charles Henry Gilbert, Stanford biologist sent to study the 1919 Bristol Bay run failure, began tagging Sockeye Salmon at False Pass in 1922 to better understand migration patterns. Photo provided by Bob King.*

A few weeks later, George Grigsby, then Alaska's congressional delegate, introduced a four-sentence bill to repeal all federal salmon laws and put management under the territorial government. Grigsby's bill went nowhere. A month later, Seattle salmon canners, scientists, and attorneys released a five-page draft bill to reject territorial control over fisheries, but otherwise offered few substantive changes; that proposal also went nowhere.

Despite the snub to Alaska, in early 1921 Governor Riggs asked the Territorial Legislature to draft a proposal to Congress that traps to be a mile apart, limit fishing licenses to Alaska residents,

*Continued on page 4*

## President's Corner, continued

about feeling old! While I enjoyed teaching and research, I wanted to be in a place where I could work more closely with Tribes on natural resource issues and be someone who was able to take the science that everyone else was doing and use it or communicate it to the public. And that is how I ended up in Alaska on the Yukon. I am originally from a small town in Wisconsin where I grew up hunting and fishing with my family and am an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation.

As all of you know, our annual Alaska Chapter meeting in Fairbanks was derailed due to COVID-19 concerns. I want to thank the Program Committee (Vanessa von Biela, Katie Howard, Emily Lescak, Caroline Brown, Stacy Vega, Donny Arthur, Peter Westley, and Aaron Martin) for their work in helping organize the meeting and then their leadership in deciding to cancel the meeting out of health and safety concerns. Don't worry, Fairbanks – we'll swing back through with our annual meeting in a few years!

The parent society hosted a virtual meeting for every chapter/division that had canceled meetings this spring. The Alaska Chapter kicked things off with nine Alaska members giving talks online to an audience of over 200 people from around the country. Many thanks to Chapter members who stepped up and were willing to try this new format. The talks can be viewed at: <https://fisheries.org/events-page/virtual-spring-conference/>.

As we've all learned to use distance technology this spring, it's highlighted to me that we could use these technologies to engage more as a membership throughout the year. We could be hosting seminars and workshops via these videoconferencing formats throughout the year, rather than relying only on the annual meeting to come together. Stay tuned as the Chapter Executive Committee considers this more, and definitely reach out if you have ideas of how we can stay connected and more engaged throughout the year.

Planning for next year's meeting is already in the works. The meeting will be held in Homer, Alaska, March 22-25, 2021 – contingent on health and safety, of course. The meeting chair, Sue Mauger, can be reached at [presidentelect@afs-alaska.org](mailto:presidentelect@afs-alaska.org) if you have any questions.

The Alaska Chapter Executive Committee and Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DEI) Committee

joined the Western Division and the parent society of AFS in issuing statements about racial justice and equity. The statement from the Alaska Chapter is provided in this newsletter. As a Chapter, we are committed to the important and shared work towards equity, diversity, and inclusion in the field of fisheries. I encourage everyone to examine their own biases and work to diversify your professional networks and promote inclusivity. Our field and our world will be better for it. If you have suggestions on how the Chapter can improve in our endeavors to improve diversity, inclusion, and equity, please do not hesitate to reach out to me ([president@afs-alaska.org](mailto:president@afs-alaska.org)) or the DEI Committee Chair, Sara Gilk-Baumer ([sara.gilk@alaska.gov](mailto:sara.gilk@alaska.gov)).

Our Chapter membership numbers have been dropping in the past few years and the Executive Committee will be discussing how to address the needs of fisheries and aquatic professionals in Alaska. State budget cuts have impacted our meeting attendance, which tends to drive memberships. As part of my time as President, I want to hear more from our membership about how we, the Executive Committee, can best serve you. What ideas do you have for engaging more effectively and bringing more people to our Chapter membership?

In closing, I want to thank Jeff Falke as he departs the Executive Committee in moving on from his post as Past-President. I know that I've learned a lot from Jeff over the past couple of years and appreciate all the work he's done for our Chapter. And I'd like to welcome new Executive Committee members Megan McPhee (Vice President) and Elizabeth Hinkle (Student Representative). I am excited to have them on board and look forward to working with them in the next couple of years. I don't know if you've noticed, but our Chapter Executive Committee is now made up of predominantly women! I wish this wasn't an anomalous statistic we have to point out, but let us celebrate the strides our Chapter is making to be more diverse and inclusive.

I know many of you out there have been navigating a new way of communicating, working, and doing science. And I know that it has not been necessarily easy. I hope that everyone has found a stride that works for them and is adapting as best they can. Stay safe and healthy this summer. 🐻



**Bristol Bay Sockeye 1919**, continued

and a 60-hour weekly closed period. Later that year, Maine Representative Wallace White, chair of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries committee, proposed limiting fishing to within three miles of the mouths of any salmon stream. Newly appointed Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover proposed giving fishery management authority to the Commerce Secretary, assisted by an advisory committee. A cannery lawyer argued for retention of cannery fishing rights. Another packer suggested harvesting be allowed wherever, whenever, and however. The Alaska Native Brotherhood argued for home rule with fishing licenses given only to bona fide Alaska residents. William Paul, Alaska's first Native attorney, said, "We certainly can do no worse than the Bureau of Fisheries, and we might do better."

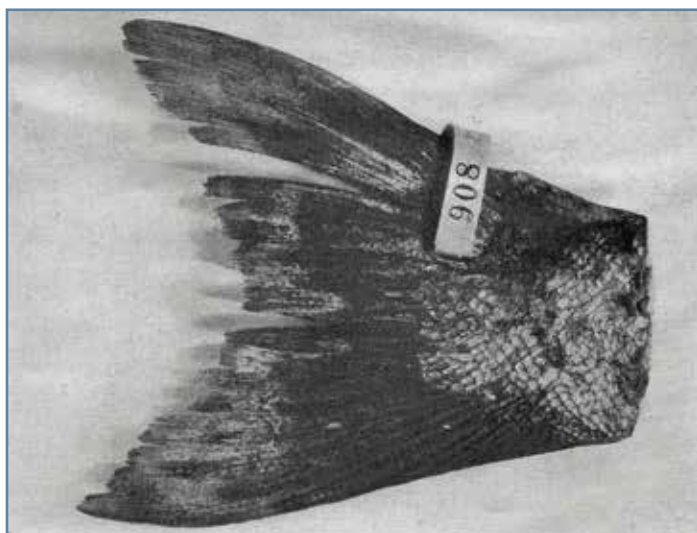
While the 1919 collapse generated much talk, developments in 1922 forced action. The claim at the Seattle conference that False Pass Sockeye were unrelated to Bristol Bay raised a logical question. If true, where did the False Pass Sockeye Salmon come from? Seeking an answer, C.H. Gilbert tagged 4,000 salmon in nearby Ikatan Bay in 1922. Many were caught in nearby traps, but others showed up 300 miles away in Bristol Bay, and one reached the Kuskokwim River. Gilbert returned in 1923, tagging 10,000 salmon. The fish returned to Bristol Bay, the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers, Chignik, Kodiak, and Cook Inlet, with one tag returned from

Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, 1,400 miles away. These tagging efforts rewrote salmon science.

Also in 1922, commercial fishing in the Yukon River closed after a dispute over subsistence, which affected Carlisle Packing that operated a floating cannery near Emmonak. Carlisle went to Bristol Bay where another company that had failed to find a suitable onshore cannery site converted



*"Fighting Dan" Sutherland, Alaska's congressional delegate who argued for local control of fisheries management in Bristol Bay. Photo provided by Bob King.*



*Example of tags applied by C.H. Gilbert to explore migration of salmon tagged at False Pass. Photo provided by Bob King.*

the motorship *Santa Flavia* into a floating cannery. The two floating processors relied on power boats that fished with purse seines. Neither power boats nor purse seines had been used before in the bay, but both were still allowed by law, and were very successful. The *Santa Flavia* captain said, "We had two purse seine boats and intercepted the salmon 20 to 30 miles offshore. Our boats would make one haul of the net and load both boats, which carry about 30,000 salmon." Carlisle boasted, "One day, one boat caught 65,000 salmon in a single haul." That salmon filled up the three boats.

Combined, seiners caught so many salmon that many had to be packed by shore-based canneries,  
*Continued on next page*

**Bristol Bay Sockeye 1919**, continued

not going unnoticed. That fall, the shore-based Alaska Packers Association (APA) called on Congress to limit the number of Bristol Bay canneries, and to ban floating processors, purse seines, and power boats. “Can you conceive what that means?” asked Alaska’s newest Congressional delegate, “Fighting Dan” Sutherland. “It means they are the great monopolists of Bristol Bay.”

The issue came to the attention of the White House, and President Warren G. Harding created the Southwestern Fisheries Reservation. The reservation idea was used elsewhere, but this was a broader application that encompassed Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Bristol Bay. The reservation, while not limiting the number of packers or banning floating canneries, banned power boats and purse seines. Carlisle and the *Santa Flavia* had success in the bay’s outer waters, but seines never worked in shallow nearshore waters. While power boats were common elsewhere in Alaska, Bristol Bay canneries had depended on sailboats and lacked fuel and repair facilities. Fighting Dan took his case to the media, at a time when a labor union press described the reservations as the “looting of Alaska.” The packers dismissed monopoly accusations, siding with Harding that his reservation idea was the only way to save the fishery. “The complexity, variety, and constant changes in conditions make regulation by an act of Congress impracticable.”

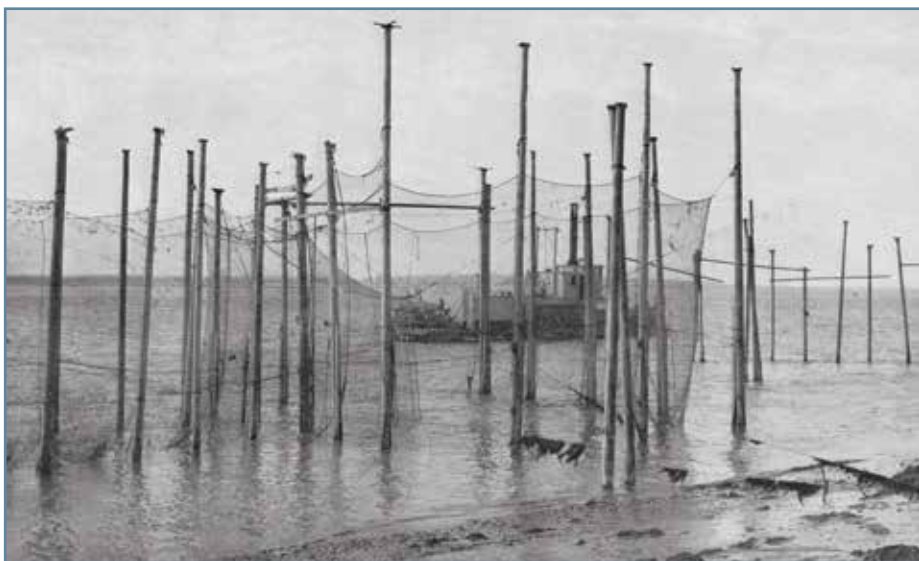
The Southwestern Reservation was implemented, and the 1923 Bristol Bay season produced 18 million sockeye. As the season came to an end, Warren G. Harding became the first president to visit the Alaska, territory. Stopping in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Fairbanks, and driving a spike in a railroad line, Harding predicted Alaska would soon be granted statehood. On Harding’s way home, during a stop in San Francisco, Alaska’s newest and highest-ranking supporter suddenly died. Press reports wrongly suggested President Harding was poisoned by bad seafood.

The U.S. Commerce Department moved to extend the reservation

concept to 1924 and issued cannery permits for the coming year. Representative White had bigger ideas to expand fishery reservations through all Alaska waters. Fighting Dan saw this as expanding cannery control in Alaska, and increased pressure in Congress and the press. Some newspapers attacked Alaska canneries based on working conditions: “Sixty percent of the men who can Alaska salmon are drug addicts. Men are released from Seattle jails with the understanding they must go to Alaska, pack salmon, and are guaranteed a steady ration of drugs. Crime and filth, and an ignorant, vicious and criminal class are prevalent in the canning camps.” *Pacific Fisherman* called it the “most scurrilous and libelous attack” on the industry. A trade association asked, “Can any sane person imagine an industry with an investment of \$37 million employing 10,618 drug addicts?”

Amid the furor, Representative White’s reservation bill stalled in Congress. A redrafted version tried to eliminate the monopoly threat: “no exclusive or several right of fishery shall be granted.” The House even included a provision by Sutherland to limit fish traps throughout the territory. Cannery still opposed the bill, and the Senate removed Sutherland’s territory-wide language, but retained the Bristol Bay trap ban. That didn’t significantly affect Bristol Bay, which had only seven traps compared to 640 across

*Continued on next page*



Example of fish trap used in Alaska prior to passage of the White Act in 1924. Photo from Moser (1902) provided by Bob King.

### Bristol Bay Sockeye 1919, continued

the territory. After years of debate and a new fishing season about to begin, *Pacific Fisherman* sided with the latest version, while still opposing the 36-hour weekly closed period and the 50% escapement requirement. However, “none of these considerations should carry much weight compared to the need of the fisheries for increased protection.”

Passed in June 1924, the White Act codified regulations specific for Alaska fisheries and defined discrete management areas we know today: Southeast, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, the Alaska Peninsula, and Bristol Bay. This act allowed the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to limit fishing in any territorial waters.

Within Bristol Bay, fishing districts were established similar to today. The act limited fishing to gillnet gear defined by length, depth, and mesh size, and closed fishing in all rivers. The salmon season would open June 25, close July 25, and fishery agents could limit fishing

time based on a 50% escapement requirement. Along with banning fish traps, the legislation banned purse seines. Most notably, the White Act banned power boats, famously limiting the Bristol Bay fishery to sailboats for the next 35 years. The White Act, while still seriously flawed, was a step toward conservation-based management. Regulations would be changed almost every year, as scientific knowledge of salmon increased, and as industry responded to changing economics. While imperfect, the White Act helped turn the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and the industry toward a more science-based approach to fishery management that evolved—albeit slowly—into one that led to the sustainable fisheries Alaskans enjoy today.

*Bob King is a former Bristol Bay journalist who later worked in the offices of an Alaska governor and U.S. Senator on media and fish issues. Now retired, he is hunkered down in Juneau where he writes about the history of Bristol Bay and other Alaska fisheries.* 🐟

## New Chapter Vice President

*Megan McPhee*

Greetings! I am an Associate Professor of Fisheries at the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at UAF. I grew up mostly in Naches, a little town in the Yakima Valley, WA. My paternal grandparents were orchardists, and my maternal grandparents built and sold houses. My father is the one who got me into science – he was a polar oceanographer – but for me it was always biology. It wasn’t until my second year at Stanford, miserable in a biology program geared towards pre-med, that I realized my true passion was fishes (maybe I got that from my grandfather, an avid steelhead fisherman). Transferring to the fisheries program at the University of Washington, where I spent four summers in Bristol Bay



*Megan McPhee was recently elected AFS Alaska Chapter Vice President*

working for Don Rogers, was probably the best career move I ever made! After earning a B.S. in Fisheries, I shifted to a P.D. in Biology at the University of New Mexico, working on conservation genetics of freshwater fishes (suckers!) from desert streams. But salmon and steelhead, with their amazing life history diversity and beautiful montane habitats, drew me back up to Alaska, moving here in 2010. My research, conducted primarily with graduate students and often in collaboration with ADF&G and NOAA, focuses on growth, life history, and population structure of Pacific salmonids. I live in Juneau with my husband (NOAA research fisheries biologist and former AFS Alaska Chapter president Jamal Moss), my eight-year-old daughter Phoebe, and a 14-year old Chihuahua named Mojo. When not editing thesis chapters and writing proposals, I enjoy hiking, biking, tide pooling, fish watching, reading novels, and enjoying Alaska’s amazing seafood. 🐟



## **AFS Alaska Chapter Speaks Out Against Discrimination, Racism, and Violence**

*Stephanie Quinn-Davidson (President), Sue Mauger (President-elect), Megan McPhee (Vice President), Elizabeth Hinkle (Student Representative), Scott Ayers (Secretary), Lee Ann Gardner (Treasurer), Joel Markis (Past President), and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee members Sara-Gilk Baumer, Cheryl Barnes, Janessa Esquible, Jesse Gordon, Elisabeth Fox, and Lauren Divine*

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society denounces the horrific killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the pervasive discrimination, systemic racism, and violence against Black, Indigenous, and people of color in our country. As a Society of fisheries professionals - a predominantly White-led discipline - we must hold each other accountable to stand up and speak out when we see racial injustices. We must examine our own biases and work to diversify our professional networks and promote inclusivity. To our Black community members: We see you. We hear you. We commit to speaking up and doing more to make fisheries and our communities equitable places for all.

The Alaska Chapter has recently made significant strides to create a safer and more welcoming environment at our annual meetings, championed by our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. But our efforts should not and do not stop there. We will continue the important and shared work towards equity, diversity, and inclusion. If you have suggestions on how the Chapter or our fisheries community can improve in this endeavor, please reach out to the Chapter President ([president@afs-alaska.org](mailto:president@afs-alaska.org)) or the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee ([sara.gilk@alaska.gov](mailto:sara.gilk@alaska.gov)). 🗨️

### **Sherry Tamone Retires**

Dr. Sherry Tamone recently retired from the Division of Natural Sciences at the University of Alaska Southeast. With a biochemistry B.S. from San Francisco University and a Ph.D. in Endocrinology from the University of California, Davis, Tamone maintained a strong desire to understand biological and physiological processes driving productivity in aquatic ecosystems. She applied this both above and below the water surface, having been a scuba diver and a member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences since 1988. After working as a researcher and lecturer in biology and physiology at several California universities, Tamone transitioned to the University of Alaska Southeast as a Professor of Biology in 1999 and ultimately served as the Natural Science Department Chair. She continued research and teaching, most notably continuing to develop our understanding of physiology driving crab molting, but also exploring species such as kelp, Steller sea lions, Pacific Cod, and Pacific octopus. Throughout her tenure, and in addition to research and teaching, Tamone participated in regional science fairs to promote future scientists, and also worked to improve university faculty and staff conditions by serving on grievance committees and also as faculty senate president.

With retirement, Sherry and her husband Bob will transition to Washington State, but maintain their Juneau residence for remaining projects and as a stepping stone to other Alaska destinations. 🗨️

### **AFS Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting**

**SAVE THE DATE!** – The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society encourages you to set aside March 22–25, 2021, for our next annual meeting in Homer, Alaska. Meeting information, including calls for symposia, continuing education workshops, and abstracts, will come out in the following months. Please get those travel requests in and plan to join us on the shores of Kachemak Bay!

If you are interested in serving on one of the meeting committees, please contact meeting chair, Sue Mauger ([presidentelect@afs-alaska.org](mailto:presidentelect@afs-alaska.org)).

(Note: We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 health advisories and develop contingency plans for a virtual meeting, if necessary.) 🗨️

## Student Subunit Happenings

*Donnie Arthur and Elizabeth Hinkle, Student Subunit Representatives*

Fisheries students from across Alaska endured a spring unlike any other. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a wrench was thrown into everyday student life. Campuses were closed, and students were left without access to their labs and offices, essentially cut off from their research. Spring events were cancelled or postponed across the board, including the Alaska Chapter of AFS Annual Meeting and the beloved AFS Alaska Student Symposium. Several Alaskan fisheries students were stuck out of state when the outbreak began, and it was not clear when they could return. For all students, it was a time of unprecedented uncertainty. Now, as activities and campuses begin to slowly reopen, it is very clear that fisheries students did not just survive the COVID-19 pandemic, they thrived. Students defended their theses or dissertations via Zoom meetings, committee meetings were held via teleconferences, and fisheries research carried on remotely. Students gained new skills in virtual communication due to the inability to communicate face-to-face. This reminds us of the fall 2019 Student Happenings article which mentioned that Alaska fisheries students are incredibly resilient in response to the state budget crisis, and now that statement has never seemed truer than with COVID-19.

This will be my last Student Happening entry, as Elizabeth Hinkle transitions into the position of Student Representative. With that, I want to say that I am proud to have represented the Alaska fisheries student body. I would like to thank the AFS Alaska Chapter Executive Committee and fisheries students across Alaska for the opportunity to serve.

The AFS parent society supported state chapters by hosting a virtual meeting in lieu of canceled annual meetings. Alaska Chapter members presented on April 16 at the society's AFS Virtual Spring Conference. For the Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) student group had originally prepared a progress report on the ongoing student project on mercury accumulation in Burbot. Taylor Cabbage, a UAF fisheries student beginning in fall 2019, stepped up to present the student research on Burbot to a national virtual audience of over 200 people. She did an amazing job representing the Student Subunit and the Alaska Chapter! The presentation is still available on the AFS website (<https://fisheries.org/events-page/virtual-spring-conference/>). Because of campus COVID restrictions, the Burbot project has slowed to a crawl. Nonetheless, the project is persevering as participants continue to analyze data and draft manuscripts from afar. The student

group hopes to have a manuscript submitted for publication and share results with stakeholders by early fall.

Students continued to maintain a sense of community despite the COVID situation. The student group hosted a "Building Maps in R" workshop on May 20 led by Dr. Janet Prev y, a Research Ecologist with the USGS Fort Collins Science Center. Students learned to develop mapping skills within the R coding framework. By the end of the workshop, students were able to generate everything from simple topographical maps to more complex maps that incorporated spatial data. The workshop was recorded and can be viewed online; for access information contact Eric



Image from Matt Callahan's "virtual" thesis defense. Photo from Donnie Arthur.

*Continued on next page*



### Student Subunit Happenings, continued

Walther at [ejwalther@alaska.edu](mailto:ejwalther@alaska.edu). Students from the Juneau campus have also started a virtual R companionship club, where students bring data and coding problems from their own projects and work together as group to solve the problems. The R companionship club is open to all students and meetings occur biweekly. For more information on these meetings, contact Lia Domke at [lkdome@alaska.edu](mailto:lkdome@alaska.edu). Even though students are unable to meet in person, they continue to get together to build skills and camaraderie.

The AFS Alaska Chapter would like to acknowledge those students who graduated this spring and wish them luck in their future endeavors: Kristin Brown (M.S. Fisheries), Michael Knutson (M.S. Fisheries), Rachel Lekanoff (M.S. Oceanography), Fletcher Sewall (Ph.D. Oceanography), Lauren Wild (Ph.D. Fisheries), Christine Ann Zinkann (Ph.D. Marine Biology), Kate Ariola (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Dennis Barril (B.S. Fisheries), Heidi Ingram (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Noah Khalsa (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Kelsie Maslen (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Justin Ming (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), and Deidra Neeley (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences).

We would like to congratulate the following students for successfully defending their theses or dissertations: Benjamin Meyer (M.S., UAF) - "Influence of climate change on juvenile salmon

growth in the Kenai River watershed"; Alyssa Frothingham (M.S., UAF) - "Age, growth, and movement dynamics of Arctic Cod (*Boreogadus saida*) in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas"; Matthew Callahan (M.S., UAF) - "Temporal and ontogenetic patterns in juvenile Sablefish energy allocation and diet"; Justin Priest (M.S., UAF) - "Long-term shifts in community structure, growth, and relative abundance of nearshore Arctic fishes: A response to changing environmental conditions"; Marcus Gho (Ph.D., UAF) - "Bristol Bay dual permit operations, vessel heterogeneity, and the migration of Alaskan permit holders"; Lauren Wild (Ph.D., UAF) - "Diet and movement of depredating male sperm whales in the Gulf of Alaska"; Duncan Green (M.S., UAF) - "Impacts of climate change on juvenile Broad Whitefish *Coregonus nasus* in Arctic Alaska: Bioenergetics model development and application"; and Danielle Siegert (M.S., UAF) - "Trophic structure of rocky intertidal communities in contrasting high-latitude environments". Congratulations on achieving such incredible milestones and best of luck as you move forward in your aquatic careers! With that, I pass the torch to the new student representative, Elizabeth Hinkle. You may contact her at [student@afs-alaska.org](mailto:student@afs-alaska.org). Everyone enjoy your summers and best of luck with your field seasons. Stay Safe! Tight lines, Donnie and Elizabeth. 🐟

### New Student Representative

My name is Elizabeth Hinkle and I am pleased to continue my involvement with the AFS Alaska Chapter as the new student representative. As I shift into position, I am mindful that I am following my lab-mate and colleague, Donnie Arthur, who has been a beacon of perseverance and tenacity, especially during the COVID era. Donnie has always been an enthusiastic and encouraging leader and I look forward to emulating his energy!

I am a relative novice in the Alaska Chapter, but not new to fisheries or stream ecology. I grew up in the Midwest where I spent my summers on the Meramec, Jack's Fork, and White rivers of Southern Missouri and North Arkansas. I have always loved

*Continued on next page*



Elizabeth Hinkle was recently elected as Student Representative to the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee.

**New Student Representative**, continued

rivers and fish ecology, but it took me a while to realize that my appreciation for aquatic life could grow into a livelihood. My experience in the field of fisheries started during my undergrad at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where I worked as a technician studying population genetics of Indo-Pacific gobies. Soon after graduation, I moved to Alaska to work as a shellfish observer on the Bering Sea. The science of putting theory into practice was thrilling and I was committed to getting more experience. The following three summers, I worked as a fisheries technician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and became determined to have a larger role in fisheries research.

In 2018, I completed my Master's in Biology at the University of Texas at Tyler where I studied the host fish and life history characteristics of endangered freshwater mussels. While there, I became more involved in the Texas Chapter of AFS and served as Vice President of the student

subunit Biologists of Tyler Texas. Inspired by a combination of astounding mentors, encouraging peers, and the deeper ecological aspect of fisheries, I decided to seek out a doctorate at the University of Alaska and relocated to Fairbanks to begin my Ph.D. with Jeff Falke, researching the effect of wildfire on freshwater ecosystems.

Ever since my migration north, I have been active with the Alaska Chapter. I served this past year as Treasurer with the Student Subunit, have volunteered at public outreach events, coordinated fundraising opportunities, and have pushed to cater our club activities in a more student-centric direction. I have also been involved with the Student Subunit's Burbot project and look forward to sharing more of my ideas to help foster future research experiences for students. I look forward to my continued and increasing involvement with AFS and appreciate the opportunity to serve as Student Representative. 🐟

### **Kruse First Recipient of Terry Quinn Award**

Dr. Terry Quinn was an active member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) Scientific and Statistical Committee from 1986 until his death in 2019. Dedicated to the Council process of scientists, managers, and the public collaborating to achieve sustainable fisheries management while balancing conservation, economic, and social concerns, Terry was known for his expertise in population dynamics, stock assessments, and his ability to provide practical scientific advice. As a University of Alaska professor, he provided guidance and encouragement to many students who became successful scientists and fishery managers in the North Pacific. The NPFMC created the Terry Quinn II Distinguished Scientist Award in Terry's honor to recognize an individual who, over many years, made outstanding contributions in fishery science or related fields, and remained dedicated to ensuring that fishery science and management in the North Pacific are the best in the world.

At the January 2020 meeting in Seattle, the Council announced Dr. Gordon Kruse as the first recipient of this award. Dr. Kruse is a well-known and highly esteemed fishery researcher in



*Gordon Kruse receives the inaugural presentation of the Terry Quinn II Distinguished Scientist Award from Council Vice-Chair Bill Tweit. Photo from NPFMC.*

Alaska, a professor emeritus and mentor to young professionals, a dedicated and longtime member of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, and, as noted by Council Vice-Chair Bill Tweit, "exceptionally worthy of this special honor."

*Continued on next page*

## Kruse First Recipient of Terry Quinn Award, continued

In accepting the award, Kruse thanked the Council for establishing an award that memorializes Terry Quinn's contributions to fishery science and management. Dr. Kruse commented, "I am very humbled to receive this award that honors Terry. The Council has been a huge part of my professional career and I always try to make a positive difference in fisheries management. This means the world to me."

*Editor's note – The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the AFS Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor on individuals who have made great and outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries and was presented to Terry Quinn in 2009 and to Gordon Kruse in 2015.*

## New Alaska Sea Grant Fellows

Alaska Sea Grant welcomes four incoming fellows to the Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship program. The year-long program recruits talented young professionals from within Alaska and across the country for marine science and policy-related professional opportunities in Alaska.

### Nicole LaRoche

Nicole LaRoche starts her fellowship with the National Park Service in Anchorage in August. She will focus on mapping and modeling coastal erosion, and benthic habitat mapping. Nicole is finishing her M.S. in fisheries from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she studied diets of recolonizing sea otters.



### Hannah Wilson

Hannah Wilson, based in Juneau, started in June with Alaska Sea Grant as a mariculture fellow. During her fellowship year, Hannah will provide information to prospective shellfish and seaweed farmers and increase awareness of Alaskan mariculture products. Wilson graduated this spring from the University of Montana School of Forestry and Conservation with an M.S. focused on natural resource conflicts and management challenges in the Tongass National Forest.

### Angela Moran

Angela Moran will base in Anchorage with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. She will work with biologists and economists to analyze fisheries management issues in Alaska. Moran completed her M.S. in marine affairs from the University of Washington, with research efforts focused on Gulf Alaska groundfish fisheries.



### JoMarie Alba

JoMarie Alba will work with NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Juneau to research and advance Alaska's shellfish aquaculture industry. Alba graduated from Walla Walla University with an M.S. in biology, where she studied changing environmental effects on octopus predation strategies.

The Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship program's 6th year. Program alumni went on to work at state, federal, tribal and academic institutions. Host institution applications are accepted in December, with fellowship applications due in February. For more, including information for prospective hosts and fellows, and

bios of alumni, visit the [Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship program website](#).



## ADF&G Regulation Cover Photo Contest

Are you sport fishing with your family or relatives this summer? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, annually sponsors a photo contest for the cover of the Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary booklets. For consideration, the primary person in the photo must be under age 18 when the photo was taken and the photo must have been taken in Alaska. Photos should represent what sport fishing means to young people and their families, and should be limited to hook and line/rod and reel photos. Entries must be received at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or e-mailed no later than 5 p.m. October 31. For more information go to <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=FishingSportFishAK.photoContest>.

## Amazon Smile

The AFS Alaska Chapter is enrolled as a charitable organization in [AmazonSmile](#). Anyone who shops online at Amazon can support the Chapter financially, at no additional cost! Simply shop through [AmazonSmile](#) and the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases to the Alaska Chapter. This option provides an ongoing contribution for supplemental income that can be used to support Chapter projects.

## Meetings and Events

### 150th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

September 14–25, 2020. This meeting will be a virtual meeting. For more information, go to <https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>.



### American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter

March 22–25, 2021. The 47th annual meeting of the AFS Alaska Chapter will be in Homer, AK. More information will be posted at <https://afs-alaska.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.

Editor Bill Bechtol Bechtol Research P.O. Box 3426, Homer 99603-3426 Phone 299-6146 <a href="mailto:bechtolresearch@hughes.net">bechtolresearch@hughes.net</a>	Production Connie Taylor Fathom Graphics P.O. Box 200448, Anchorage 99520-0448 Phone/Fax 272-3305 <a href="mailto:Connie@FathomGraphics.com">Connie@FathomGraphics.com</a>
---	---

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

## Alaska Chapter Officers

**President** Stephanie Quinn-Davidson,  
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission;  
Ph: 328-8088;  
[president@afs-alaska.org](mailto:president@afs-alaska.org)

**President-Elect** Sue Mauger,  
Cook Inlet Keeper; Ph: 399-2070;  
[presidenelect@afs-alaska.org](mailto:presidenelect@afs-alaska.org)

**Vice President** Megan McPhee,  
University of Alaska Fairbanks;  
[vicepresident@afs-alaska.org](mailto:vicepresident@afs-alaska.org)

**Immediate Past-President** Joel Markis,  
University of Alaska Southeast,  
1332 Seward Ave., Sitka 99835;  
Ph: 747-7760;  
[pastpresident@afs-alaska.org](mailto:pastpresident@afs-alaska.org)

**Treasurer** Lee Ann Gardner  
PO Box 670346, Chugiak 99567-0346;  
Wk: 688-1400, Fax: 688-1405;  
[treasurer@afs-alaska.org](mailto:treasurer@afs-alaska.org)

**Secretary** Scott Ayers,  
[secretary@afs-alaska.org](mailto:secretary@afs-alaska.org)

**Student Subunit Representative**  
Elizabeth Hinkle,  
University of Alaska Fairbanks;  
[student@afs-alaska.org](mailto:student@afs-alaska.org)

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.