



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

Vol. XXXXI

Summer 2021

No. 3

In this issue:

[President's Corner](#)

[AFS Alaska Chapter Meeting](#)

[Student Happenings](#)

[Decadal Climate Update](#)

[Hart Receives Award](#)

[Environmental Concerns](#)

[Fish of the Week](#)

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

[Committee](#)

[New Student Representative](#)

[Meetings and Events](#)

and more ...



Yelloweye Rockfish over vase sponge observed during ROV survey off Southeast Alaska. Image from ADF&G.

ADF&G Statewide Rockfish Initiative: A Story of Teamwork and Conservation

Jan Rumble and the Statewide Rockfish Initiative Working Group

Currently there are no overarching management or assessment strategies for Black Rockfish *Sebastes melanops* or Yelloweye Rockfish *S. ruberrimus* across the Gulf of Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) management of these species has been largely area- or region-specific and has not been explicitly coordinated across fishery divisions or fisheries. Guideline harvest levels are used for managing commercial fisheries; however, these are applied to management areas rather than populations and are primarily based on levels of historical harvest. Sport fisheries are similarly managed to constrain regional- or area-specific harvest levels (e.g., bag or annual limits), but typically without an adequate understanding of how those harvest levels translate to exploitation rates of populations. Because rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.) are known to be particularly vulnerable

to exploitation, and harvests are believed to be increasing in recent years, proactive measures are needed to ensure long term sustainability of these fisheries.

In 2017, ADF&G initiated the Statewide Rockfish Initiative (SRI): an interdivisional, statewide working group focused on developing long-term management and assessment strategies for Yelloweye and Black rockfishes, which comprise the most significant portion of rockfish harvests and removals throughout the Gulf of Alaska across all fisheries. A core group of approximately 25 ADF&G staff biologists from both Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries divisions meets biannually to work on these issues. Within this group, subgroups were formed to take on specific

Continued on next page

The President's Corner



*Sue Mauger,
AFS Alaska Chapter President.*

Fish and fisheries are everywhere this time of year: on the radio and social media channels and in the newspapers. From the record-breaking Bristol Bay Sockeye run to the generally disappointing Chinook and Chum returns, fisheries professionals are front and center in the stories that matter to Alaskans. Our Chapter is full of the past, present, and future managers and researchers who keep the dream—and reality—of catching the bounty that feeds our families and local economies alive. Our Chapter also includes the geneticist, weir operators, boat crews, and habitat specialists who collect the data needed to understand trends, build models, and protect critical habitat areas. We are fundamental to what makes fishing and living in Alaska possible and so special.

Although the headlines can often be all about salmon—and rightly so with some of the last wild salmon runs left on the planet—we know that fisheries in Alaska encompasses so much more. And just like salmon, these other species are facing some of the same challenges: warming temperatures, ocean acidification, overharvest, and habitat degradation. In fact, based on the latest Alaska Wildlife Action Plan, we have 58 fish species categorized as having the greatest conservation need in Alaska. These species include Pacific Razor Clam, Yelloweye Rockfish, Burbot, and Eulachon to name a few. In many cases, the greatest conservation need is more data to understand distribution and critical habitats for these species. And that, of course, takes money.

Continued on next page

Rockfish Initiative, continued

tasks which include: Leadership Plan Team, Research and Assessment, Communications and Outreach, Data Compilation, Special Publication, and Regional Groups (Southeast, Kodiak, and Southcentral). In addition, Sarah Campen was hired as a facilitator to help guide the SRI group and ensure the group's objectives are met in an effective and timely manner. Her efforts include organizing meetings and overseeing logistics for the committees. Ms. Campen developed agendas, recorded and distributed meeting notes, and has basically been the glue that has held the entire group together with a positive attitude and intelligent guidance.

The SRI effort also involved coordinated outreach and communication with outside experts from the Pacific coast who deal with high-level management decisions and policy related to rockfish stocks. The SRI met with rockfish managers from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia to learn about their history with rockfish, their challenges with management, and research. These managers have had to develop strategies to conserve certain rockfish species and helped guide the SRI in the beginning, with their knowledge and experience.

Even before the SRI was formed, ADF&G was conducting innovative and informative rockfish stock assessment projects. Two of those projects have included using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in Southeast Alaska and employing hydroacoustic surveys in Kodiak. The ROV is used to assess the Yelloweye Rockfish population in Southeast Alaska to produce density and abundance estimates, and ultimately set harvest levels. During these annual surveys, other rockfish species, as well as Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongates*) and Pacific Halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*), are also documented and enumerated. The [Federal Fishery Management Plan \(FMP\) for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska](#) delegates management authority for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) in the Southeast Outside Subdistrict (SEO) of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska to ADF&G. Yelloweye Rockfish compose over 95% of the commercial harvest from the DSR species complex. The ROV is used to sample approximately 30 1-km line transect dives in suitable Yelloweye Rockfish habitat per

Continued on page 4

President's Corner, continued

That's why on behalf of the Chapter, I submitted a letter to Alaska's Representative Don Young to encourage him to co-sponsor the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. You can learn more about this issue in our new "Environmental Concerns Corner" feature in this newsletter issue. Each newsletter will highlight issues the Chapter has or is considering acting on. If you have an issue in your region or related to your fisheries work where the Chapter could be impactful, [please reach out to me](#) and [Joel Markis](#). As co-chairs of the Environmental Concerns Committee, we want to bring the voice of our Chapter into the conversations where our expertise has the greatest value.

As Chapter President, I get to participate in Western Division monthly meetings. Most recently, the Western Division has been looking into ways to support chapters as they strive to increase diversity in leadership roles. Our own DEI Committee has been actively engaged in helping the Western Division tackle this and other diversity, equity, and inclusion issues that need attention at all levels of the fisheries society. Based on a short survey, Western Division found that, just like the Alaska Chapter, most chapters use word of mouth and annual meetings to recruit new executive committee members and nominations are sought by sitting officers. Although the Alaska Chapter has found success in recruiting enthusiastic and qualified candidates using this process, we are no doubt missing many potential leaders who may not be in our own professional networks. The Executive Committee will discuss our current recruitment process in the coming months and seek input from

the Western Division and our DEI Committee. Please reach out and let us know your ideas on ways our Chapter can hold the doors open to everyone in our fisheries world.

Just as maintaining healthy fisheries requires a team effort, the same is true for our Chapter. For the last 15 years, Lee Ann Gardner has been a key player on our Executive Committee and a welcoming presence to Chapter members at all past annual meetings. She has been a treasure of a Chapter Treasurer. We are sad to see her go as she steps away from fiduciary oversight of all Chapter activities. Thank you, Lee Ann, for your commitment to the Chapter and keeping our books in great shape!

And, the election results are in—we are pleased to announce that Trent Dodson will be our new Chapter Treasurer. Thank you, Trent! We are happy to welcome you onto the Executive Committee and appreciate you working with Lee Ann to ensure a smooth transition.

Summer in Alaska is a time to celebrate the work all of us in the Chapter do to ensure present and future Alaskans can share in healthy fisheries and economies. I hope you will talk up the Chapter to your colleagues as you sit side-by-side in the field or lab. Please share what you learned from the last issue of [Oncorhynchus](#) or in the [Fisheries Magazine](#). Tell them about the excellent plenary you heard at the virtual meeting this March. Get them excited to be at the 2022 Chapter meeting in Juneau. The Chapter grows from your enthusiasm; you are the best ambassadors and your influence will help our Chapter grow and thrive. 🐟

AFS Alaska Chapter Meeting—Save the Date!

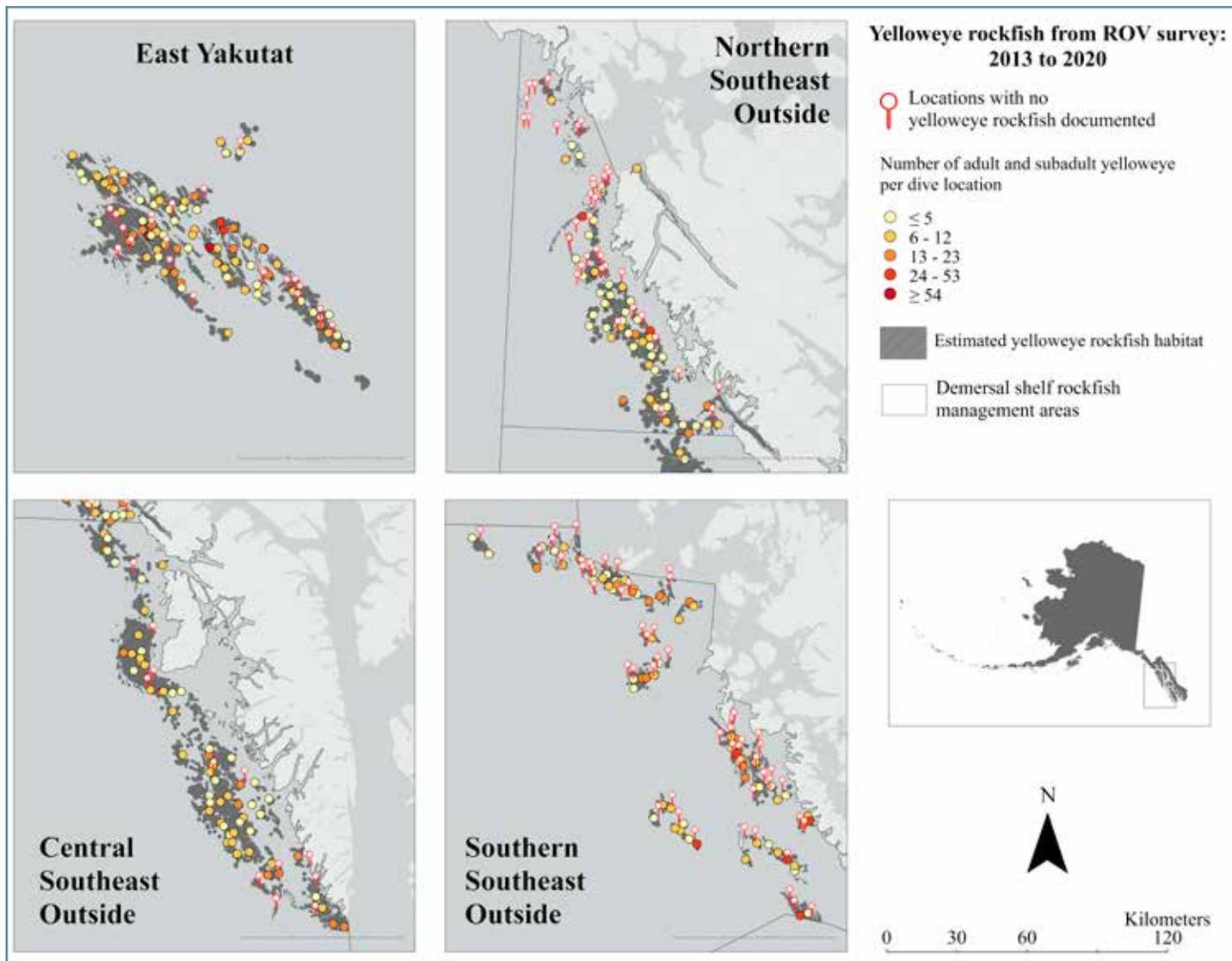


The next AFS Alaska Chapter annual meeting is being planned for February 28–March 3, 2022, in Juneau, AK. We are currently planning for an in-person meeting—potentially with some additional virtual offerings—but we are keeping an eye on federal, state, and local guidelines with respect to emerging covid variants. (If you haven't been vaccinated yet but are eligible, now is the time!)

Hopefully you have already completed the [short survey about the upcoming meeting](#), but if not please take 5 minutes to do so.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the annual meeting, please email [Megan McPhee](#).

Rockfish Initiative, continued



Counts of Yelloweye Rockfish during ROV transect surveys off Southeast Alaska, 2013-2020. Figure from ADF&G.

management area. As funding allows, a survey is conducted and alternates among four management areas in SEO to collect data on Yelloweye Rockfish density and size composition. The density estimate from the ROV survey, average weight from the commercial fisheries (directed and incidental), and the area of estimated habitat are used to calculate a biomass estimate for each area. Biomass estimates obtained for specific management areas are used as indices to update the SEO-wide biomass estimate, the acceptable biological catch (ABC), the total allowable catch (TAC), and the federal Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report; all are reviewed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Survey data, commercial fishery catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE),

and age, length, weight, and maturity information are considered in management decisions. The resulting harvest level is then allocated to three fishery sectors that are defined by ADF&G: subsistence, commercial, and recreational.

In Kodiak, long-term hydroacoustic surveys of Black Rockfish were initiated as a stock assessment tool to understand the distribution and abundance of Black Rockfish and help inform management decisions. These surveys are focused in the Kodiak Area within seven management districts. The hydroacoustic system is used to count individual fish and a drop video camera system is used to speciate the fish in selected survey stations. The goal is to annually assess the abundance for the fished

Continued on next page

Rockfish Initiative, continued

population of Black Rockfish. Currently, there are 11 years of survey data collected in the Northeast district. With all the challenges in 2020, five districts were surveyed in the Kodiak Area: Afognak, Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, and Westside districts, which are also scheduled for 2021 surveys. This survey platform has expanded to other regions, where an initial hydroacoustic survey was conducted in the North Gulf Coast for Black Rockfish in 2019, with hopes for more surveys in the future. To supplement the ongoing hydroacoustic surveys, a stereo camera system was developed to estimate the length of individual Black Rockfish within the survey areas. In the future, fish lengths will be used to generate fishery-independent average weights for Black Rockfish that are, in turn, used to calculate biomass estimates, rather than the fishery-dependent average weights that are currently used. The newest camera system uses a pair of twin stereo cameras (four cameras total), each oriented on opposite sides of a carrier apparatus, allowing stereo image pairs both 'in front' and 'behind' the carrier and provides a live video feed to the vessel from these cameras. The apparatus is deployed by hand and is suspended in the water column via a tether cable from the vessel at the surface. The images, processed through a program developed by Kresimir Williams and others at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), generate output parameters such as species identity, the length of individual fish, and the total number of fish encountered. Over two million images have been collected in this effort to date!

The department has ongoing port sampling programs in both divisions that have been active since the 1990s. Port samplers collect information on rockfish species, size, and sex, and collect otoliths to determine age. In recent years, genetic and reproductive life history studies have been conducted throughout the state on both Yelloweye and Black rockfish. Other research projects include jig and longline surveys for both species.

Communication with stakeholder groups about the SRI and rockfish in general was identified as a



The ROV used by ADF&G to assess Yelloweye Rockfish off Southeast Alaska. Photo from Joshua Mumm.

priority as soon as the SRI was formed. Outreach has included presenting information at meetings such as the American Fisheries Society, Kachemak Bay Science Symposium, Alaska Board of Fisheries, and advisory councils. The SRI also produced a publication rich with information about rockfish life history, rockfish management, and research in the different regions of Alaska. In addition, the SRI produced a deck of cards which included detailed life history information for many of the rockfish species that inhabit Alaskan waters. The SRI communications committee is developing a webpage which will be available this summer within the ADF&G webpage; the rockfish link will include a diversity of information about rockfish research and management, and efforts under the SRI to advance the department on multiple fronts. Facebook and Twitter have also been used as platforms to disseminate information about rockfish and the SRI.

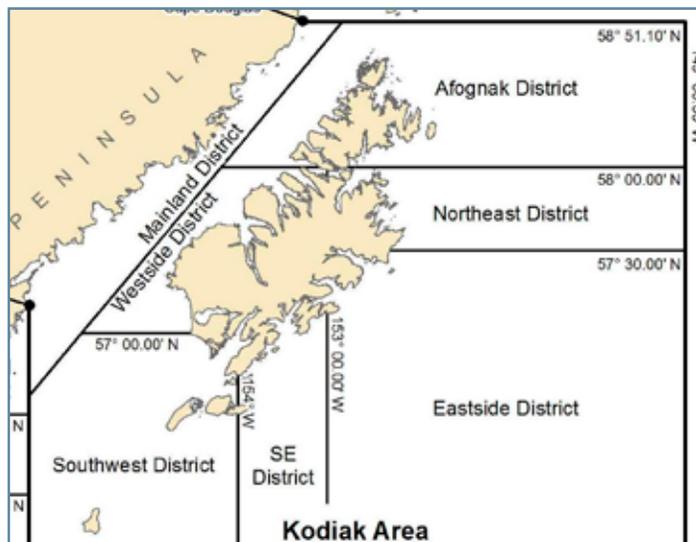
The SRI realized from the onset that a good stock assessment model for these species needed to be pursued. To start, the SRI formed a data compilation group to standardize data between the two State divisions. Historical harvest reconstruction was undertaken to understand Black and Yelloweye rockfish total removals through time, expressed in common units of currency focusing on weight.

Continued on next page

Rockfish Initiative, continued

In addition, ADF&G employed the help of two well renowned fishery stock assessment analysts to aid with the development of Black and Yelloweye rockfish stock assessment models for Alaskan fisheries. Drs. Josh Nowlis (NOAA contractor) and Jason Cope (NOAA) brought several modeling tools to the SRI to use to guide our stock assessment. One such tool ([FishPath](#)) uses a framework that draws on the expertise of global experts from eight countries and over ten organizations and includes three components: 1) the online FishPath tool; 2) the FishPath stakeholder engagement process; and 3) the FishPath Network that connects scientists and practitioners involved in small-scale and data-limited fisheries across the world. The Simple Stock Synthesis Data Limited (SS-DL) is another stock assessment platform used to develop the models, and the MSE Lite tool, which incorporates management-based decisions into the stock assessment, is being rolled out this summer. Cope and Nowlis have been available for beta test venues, to address questions on a monthly basis, and have attended parts of the larger SRI meetings and workshops.

The department is proud of the progress by the SRI in recent years. A core group of biologists—managers, researchers, and leadership supervisors—has been consistently involved through the SRI work. Using the MSE Lite tool, in combination with all of the stock assessment work that has been done, will help to develop an overarching strategy to manage Black and



Kodiak management districts for Black Rockfish. Figure adapted from ADF&G.

Yelloweye rockfish, including establishing harvest control rules. In addition, this work sets the groundwork and has implications for similar advancements to management for the other species of rockfish. Both divisions will continue to dedicate personnel and resources to continue this important work, ensuring healthy rockfish populations and sustainable fisheries in Alaska.

Jan Rumble is the ADF&G Area Management Biologist for commercial groundfish and shellfish fisheries in Southcentral Alaska and serves as part of the Statewide Rockfish Initiative Working Group that includes researchers and managers from across the state. 🐟



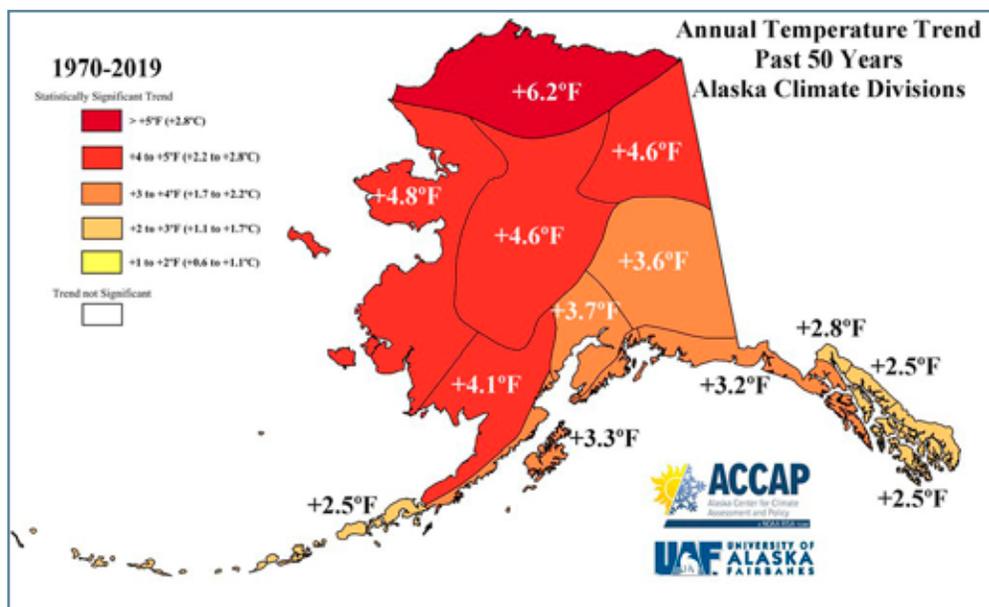
Underwater photo of a Black Rockfish school during a Kodiak hydroacoustic survey. Photo from ADF&G.

Decadal Climate Update

The [U.S. Climate Normals](#) are a large suite of data products that provide information about typical climate conditions for thousands of locations across the U.S., including 25 stations in Alaska. Normals serve as a baseline to compare today’s weather and tomorrow’s forecasts, and as a predictor of future conditions. Official Normals are calculated for a uniform 30-year period, and include annual/seasonal, monthly, daily, and hourly averages and statistics of temperature, precipitation, and other climatological variables. The National

Center for Environmental Information generates official U.S. Normals every 10 years, consistent with requirements of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and National Weather Service (NWS). The 1991–2020 U.S. Climate Normals are the latest in a series of decadal Normals first produced in the 1930s. Normals for Alaska were updated July 16, 2021.

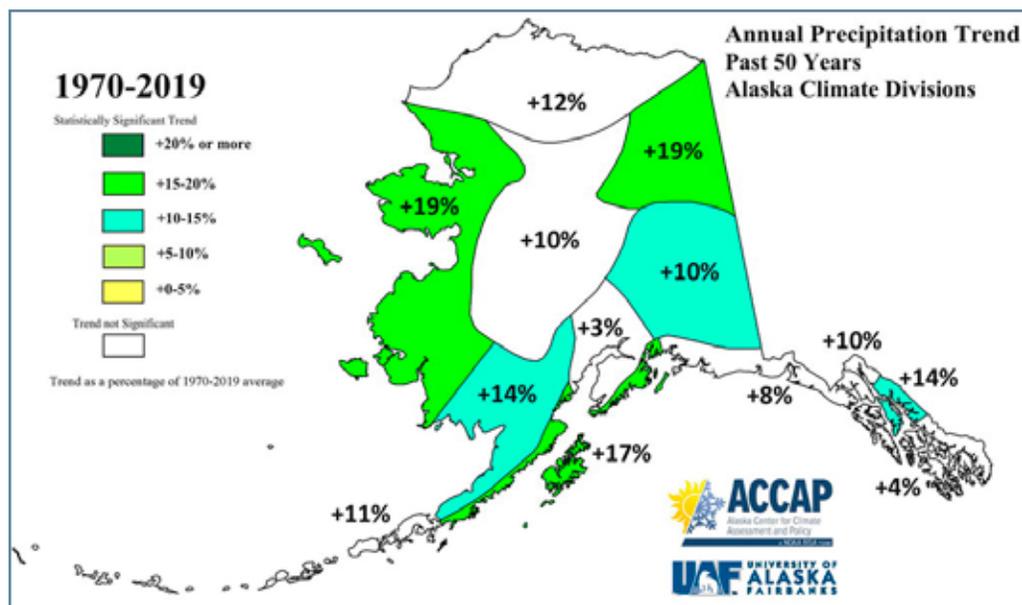
Air temperatures averaged across Alaska have risen by almost 1°F since 2010, although changes



Changes in annual air temperature across Alaska climate divisions during 1970–2020. Figure from ACCAP.

vary by region with larger changes generally in more northern areas. In contrast, average temperatures have risen about 0.5°F in the continental U.S.

In addition, the [Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy](#) (ACCAP) is one of 11 Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA) programs funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct interdisciplinary and regionally relevant research to inform resource



Changes in annual precipitation across Alaska climate divisions during 1970–2020. Figure from ACCAP.

management, planning, and public policy, and to build Alaskans' capacity to prepare for and adapt to climate change. The ACCAP analysis of air temperature trends across Alaska over the past 50 years (1970–2020) shows patterns of increasing temperature across the state with temperatures increasing by 2.5°F in southern areas and larger increases of 6.2°F in northern regions.

Another consideration is the change in average precipitation. Overall, precipitation has increased

Continued on page 8

Hart Receives AFS Western Division Award

Deborah Hart of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership received the 2021 Award of Special Recognition during the AFS Western Division meeting in May 2021. The Partnership works to promote cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems across Southeast Alaska, including the dynamic watersheds and waterways that make up the Alexander Archipelago.

The Partnership's priority conservation goals are to: (1) protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore-marine areas in Southeast Alaska; (2) maintain water quality and quantity in those areas; and (3) restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas. In the

process of promoting the message of fish and the critical importance of fish habitat across all areas, Debbie has been instrumental in organizing film festivals at several Alaska Chapter, Division, and Society meetings over the past five years. 🐟



Debbie Hart, AFS Alaska Chapter member, recipient of the 2021 AFS Western Division Award of Special Recognition. Photo from AFS Western Division.

Environmental Concerns Corner

The Alaska Chapter recently sent a letter to Representative Don Young to express our support for H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This bill would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by state fish and wildlife agencies. This bipartisan legislation, introduced in Congress in April 2021, has 79 co-sponsors and would dedicate \$1.4 billion annually for state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes to implement proactive, voluntary, and incentive-based conservation of imperiled species.

In Alaska, funds to support proactive conservation—not just restoration—are critical for fish and wildlife, and this funding will also support jobs for Alaska's fisheries professionals to enact

long-term programs to protect our great state's imperiled aquatic resources. You can learn more about the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) and add your name to the list of scientists supporting this bill. And you can send your encouragement to Rep. Young to become a cosponsor of H.R. 2773 at <https://donyoung.house.gov/contact/>. 🐟

Decadal Climate Update, continued

from 5% to almost 20% in various regions across the state, although some of these changes are not significant due to the large degree of annual variability. In general, the most significant changes occurred in eastern and western Alaska. Areas where precipitation changes were not significant often had less snow in the fall and more in the winter/spring, leading to shorter winters. 🐟

New Members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) for the AFS Alaska Chapter welcomed three new members following the annual Chapter meeting in March. We would like to thank Tyler Dann, Katie Russell, and Keenan Sanderson for volunteering to help make the AK Chapter more accessible, equitable, and inclusive!

We would also like to recognize Jesse Gordon for service over the past year and a half. Jesse donated a great deal of time and effort to develop a new mentorship program for underrepresented identities, including facilitating Picture a Scientist screenings and discussions for the membership. Jesse brought much energy and expertise to the DEIC. The AK Chapter and our committee are better because of Jesse's contributions and we wish the best of luck in moving to new pursuits.

Tyler, fisheries geneticist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage, AK, has been a member of AFS since 2004, has served the AK Chapter as a volunteer judge, and assisted with registration logistics for several annual meetings. As a member of the DEIC, Tyler is motivated to strengthening connections between AFS and Alaska Native communities.

Katie, a fisheries biologist with the Orutsararmiut Native Council based in Bethel, AK, is particularly interested in making fisheries more accessible to women and Alaska Natives, especially in rural communities. Through her work with the DEIC, Katie hopes to improve mentorship opportunities for students and young professionals whose identities are not well represented in our field.

Keegan received the Alaska Chapter's 2018 Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award. Among other efforts, Keenan serves as Vice Chair of the Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council based in Ketchikan, AK. Keenan intends to encourage indigenous youth to become stewards of Alaskan fisheries and support the pairing of traditional ecological knowledge with western science. 🐟



New members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the AFS Alaska Chapter are (top to bottom) Tyler Dann (he/him), Katie Russell (she/her), and Keegan Sanderson (he/him). Photo from DEIC.

Back issues of *Oncorhynchus* can be found online

<http://www.afs-alaska.org/newsletter>

Student Subunit Happenings

Taylor Cabbage, Student Subunit Representatives

The spring and early summer of 2021 brought auspicious signs of a return to normalcy for students, with the COVID vaccine rollout, outdoor and socially-distanced graduation events, and approved travel to summer research stations. While the coming fall semester promises more in-person classes and activities, I am somewhat grateful that the pandemic instilled newfound skills in virtual communication that will help Alaska's fisheries students increase connectivity in the future. For example, our student subunit meetings throughout last year were available via Zoom and shared on social media platforms, allowing for student participation from Juneau, Anchorage, Homer, Sitka, Nome, and Fairbanks. In fact, our new student subunit officers for the 2021–2022 school year reside across Alaska (contrasting with students only from one area, which has been the standard), and they look forward to providing both physical and virtual meeting spaces at their respective locations to increase fisheries student involvement. Madeline Lee, a new M.S. Fisheries student located in Homer, AK, was elected our president, Ph.D. Fisheries student Garrett Dunne resides in Anchorage and was elected vice president, and M.S. Fisheries student Kevin Fitzgerald of Juneau was elected social media coordinator. We look forward to what the coming school year brings as we combine both in-person and virtual elements for student subunit meetings.

Considering what a unique and challenging school year it has been, we would like to congratulate the following students who have defended their theses/dissertations and graduated from the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in spring 2021: Ashley Bolwerk (M.S. Fisheries, Juneau)—“The rocky shores of Prince of Wales, Alaska: intertidal ecology, abalone, and community sustainability,” Kyle Gatt (M.S. Fisheries, Fairbanks)—“Assessing the long-term growth response and age estimation precision for arctic whitefishes in a rapidly changing nearshore environment,” Sonia Ibarra (Ph.D. Fisheries, Juneau)—“Addressing a complex resource conflict: humans, sea otters and shellfish in Southeast Alaska,” Nina Lundstrom (M.S. Fisheries, Juneau)—“Environmental drivers

of fish communities and food webs in Gulf of Alaska estuaries,” Eric Walther (M.S. Fisheries, Fairbanks)—“Salmonid distribution models to support restoration planning across the fragmented Chehalis River Basin, WA,” Christopher Latty (Ph.D. Marine Biology, Fairbanks/Seward)—“Sources and effects of strontium in waterfowl eggs,” Katie McCabe (M.S. Marine Biology, Fairbanks)—“Influence of environmental attributes on intertidal community structure in glacial estuaries,” Channing Bolt (Ph.D. Oceanography, Fairbanks)—“Utility of trace element studies for improving our understanding of geochemical processes within the Arctic Ocean environment,” Dmitry Brazhnikov (Ph.D. Oceanography, Fairbanks)—“Investigation of variability of internal tides in the Tasman Sea.” Many defenses were recorded via Zoom, so if you would like access to them, [please email me](#) and I can put you in contact with the graduate. Congratulations to the following bachelor's degree students as well: Hannah Hellen (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Nana Matsui (B.S. Fisheries and Ocean Sciences), Eric Rowe (B.A. Fisheries Business and Social Science), and Tazia Wagner (B.A. Fisheries: Rural and Community Development). Congratulations and good luck in your future aquatic endeavors!

As we resume postponed field and lab work and safely visit family and friends we haven't seen in ages, I hope you all have a productive summer packed with experiences to fuel the coming academic year. 🐟

Fish of the Week

Join us every Monday for our Fish of the Week podcast! We get to know all the fish—how they live in Alaska, what habitats they use, what they eat, and where they go and why. Everything you need to know to appreciate and conserve fish and be a successful angler. We've got lots of fish stories. <https://www.fws.gov/alaska/pages/fish-of-the-week> 🐟

New Student Representative

Greetings AFS Alaska Chapter, my name is Taylor Cabbage and I thank you for supporting me as the Chapter Student Representative for 2021-2022! I'm fortunate to have two previous Student Representatives, Donnie Arthur and Elizabeth Hinkle, as lab-mates and colleagues, and I plan to follow in their dedicated footsteps of connecting the Alaska AFS membership with fisheries students and their activities.

You could say I was exposed to fisheries biology early, tagging along to fish Texas' saltwater marshes with my avid angler of a father before I could even walk. It was the amazing diversity of sea life and interest in our impacts on that diversity that led me to attend Texas A&M's Galveston campus to study marine biology. While I enjoyed the coursework, it was my undergraduate research experiences that solidified an interest in fish physiology. I spent the summer of 2018 studying how hypoxia reduces the fertilization success of Atlantic Silverside at a National Marine Fisheries Service lab, while my senior thesis at A&M focused on how pharmaceuticals impact the swimming performance of Sheepshead Minnows. Using both field and analytical lab work to uncover how these factors affected fish physiology was a thrilling conclusion to my undergraduate education, and it left me excited for the next opportunity.

My first position out of college was as a seasonal technician in Yellowstone National Park, combating invasive Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake. Here I learned how invasive species management applies



Taylor Cabbage collecting Northern Pike in Minto Flats for her thesis research. Photo by Stephen Klobucar.

fisheries research in a meaningful way, through understanding the invaders' biology, physiology, and behavior, and utilizing fisheries management and stakeholder engagement. The dedicated fisheries biologists I worked with, and the evidence of rebounding native Cutthroat Trout populations, piqued my interest in invasive species research with management applications, and this led to my current master's candidate position at UAF in Dr. Jeff Falke's freshwater ecology lab. I'm fortunate to be studying physiological factors influencing

the invasion success of Northern Pike in Southcentral Alaska, as well as pike leaping abilities to determine if artificial barriers may prevent the spread of pike into critical salmon habitat.

I've been supported by many insightful mentors who pointed me towards the American Fisheries Society early on, and I have been a parent society and state chapter member since 2017. From scholarships, networking, and presentation opportunities at annual meetings, to student involvement with the University of Alaska's AFS student subunit, this organization has supported my career in fisheries from the start. My favorite hobby is capturing aquatic organisms and their ecosystems through painting, and donating my fish-themed artwork to AFS meeting auctions is the perfect way for me to give back to this organization. I am excited to continue growing my involvement with AFS through the role of Alaska Chapter Student Representative this year. 🐟

2022 Community Based Marine Debris Removal Funding

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) has announced the annual availability of funding for [community-based debris removal grants](#). This opportunity provides funding to support projects to create long-term, quantifiable ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources, with priority consideration for efforts targeting derelict fishing gear, abandoned and derelict vessels, and other medium- and large-scale debris. Typical awards are expected to range from \$150,000 to \$350,000 for projects lasting 1-3 years. The highest program priorities for this solicitation are the detection and removal of derelict fishing gear, abandoned and derelict vessels, and the removal of medium- to large-scale marine debris that have a negative impact on NOAA trust resources and important habitat areas. Two-page pre-proposals (Letters of Intent) are due September 24, 2021. 🐟



New Chapter Treasurer

Trent Dodson was recently elected to the position of AFS Alaska Chapter Treasurer. Trent spent time shadowing Lee Ann Gardner with her treasurer duties. In his other life, Trent serves as Production and Operations Manager for the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association. He is President of the Kodiak Maritime Museum and chairs the Information and Education Committee for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee.

AFS Alaska Chapter Meeting

February 28 – March 3, 2022

Meetings and Events

American Fisheries Society AFS2021



November 6–10, 2021. The 151st meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be in Baltimore, MD. More information is available at

<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>.

American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting

February 28–March 3, 2022.

The 48th annual meeting of the AFS Alaska Chapter will be in Juneau, AK. More information



will be posted at <https://afs-alaska.org/>.

American Fisheries Society Western Division Annual Meeting

August 21–25, 2022. The next AFS Western



Division meeting, cohosted with the Society meeting, will be in Spokane, WA. More information will be posted at <https://wdafs.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>.

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 bechtolresearch@hughes.net	Production Connie Taylor Fathom Publishing P.O. Box 200448, Anchorage 99520-0448 Phone/Fax 272-3305 Connie@FathomPublishing.com
---	---

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

Alaska Chapter Officers

President Sue Mauger,
Cook InletKeeper; Ph: 399-2070;
president@afs-alaska.org

President-Elect Megan McPhee,
University of Alaska Fairbanks,
presidenelect@afs-alaska.org

Vice President Erik Schoen,
University of Alaska Fairbanks,
vicepresident@afs-alaska.org

Immediate Past-President
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson,
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission;
Ph: 328-8088;
pastpresident@afs-alaska.org

Treasurer Trent Dodson
Kodiak Regional Aquac. Assoc.;
Ph: 486-6555;
treasurer@afs-alaska.org

Secretary Scott Ayers,
secretary@afs-alaska.org

Student Subunit Representative
Taylor Cubbage,
University of Alaska Fairbanks;
student@afs-alaska.org

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.