



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society
Vol. XXXVI Winter 2016 No. 1

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NSEDC Fisheries Research & Development crewmembers Fred Jay Ivanoff and Renae Ivanoff plant Chinook eggs in the South River, near Unalakleet. Figure from NSEDC.

NSSEDC — Supporting Community Fisheries in Western Alaska

Laureli Ivanoff

Renae Ivanoff, like many Alaskans, grew up in the fishing culture. She learned how to process and preserve all varieties of salmon from her mother, Yvonne, who was originally from St. Mary's. Raised in Unalakleet, a community highly dependent upon ocean resources for subsistence and commercial use, Renae was immersed in a connection to her surrounding resources. After high school, Renae earned a biology degree with a minor in fisheries from the University of Idaho. While attending college, she received financial support in the form of a scholarship from the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) each semester. During her summer breaks from college, Renae returned to Unalakleet to work as a Fisheries Technician for NSEDC, gaining experience working on the Chinook acoustic tagging project and a Coho and Chinook smolt project on the very river her family depends upon for salmon and sustenance.

Looking at Renae's career path, one realizes how NSEDC's mission in the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region supports and enhances a

vibrant lifestyle. Renae now works as a Fisheries Biologist for NSEDC's Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development (NSFR&D) program. The NSFR&D bases its operations in Nome and Unalakleet with projects spread throughout the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. With seven adult salmon enumeration projects, a Salmon Lake Sockeye Salmon restoration project, Red King Crab and Hanasaki King Crab research, support of stock assessments, and a marine stewardship project, NSFR&D's impact hits every community in the region.

Renae currently supervises salmon counting tower projects on the North, Shaktoolik, and Inglutalik rivers. She also participates in the South River Chinook Salmon Rehabilitation project, collecting adult Chinook Salmon from the upper Unalakleet River, incubating the eggs, and planting the eggs in the South River, a tributary on the lower Unalakleet River. "I take pride in knowing the projects I now supervise assist in the management of the subsistence and commercial fisheries my

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The President's Corner

Mary Beth Loewen

The 2015 AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer last November was a great success, due to the efforts of the Program Committee, amazing Local Arrangements Committee, and the 228 attendees who presented posters and talks in 18 different sessions.



Mary Beth Loewen, AFS Alaska Chapter President.

Session focuses ranged from Wild Alaska Salmon and Ecosystem-Based Management, to Invasive Species and Advances in Fisheries Technology. We introduced a "Retiree" rate for the meeting, had our first Speed Talks session, and introduced our new Facebook page to the world of social media.

Our three plenary speakers, Jim Lichatowich, Stephanie Schmidt, and Jim Magdanz represented different facets of fisheries conservation and management, bringing long-term, broad-view perspectives and presenting specific examples from fisheries management, subsistence, and habitat. The PDFs of these talks are available on the website, and we encourage you to continue discussions initiated at the meeting. Because, with so many great concurrent speakers, it was impossible to see all the presentations you were interested in, we are working on archiving all talks presented at the meeting, and once those are securely online, meeting attendees will have access to PDFs of the talks in order to further facilitate discussion among presenters and their audience.

The first Women in Fisheries session was a huge success, with nearly 100 attendees working with our six mentors: Diana Stram, Hilda Sexauer, Erin Harrington, Courtney Carothers, Stephanie Schmidt, and Sara Gilk-Baumer. Look for opportunities to continue this

Continued on next page

NSEDC, continued

entire family takes part in," Renae said. "Without the projects I implement and supervise, fisheries managers would not have the data necessary for solid decision making. This is important work for our residents, solely managed and staffed by our residents." Renae's expertise and dedication help to fulfill NSEDC's mission, providing meaningful contributions to the region. "And that's the best part. I was able to return home using my talents and passion in a way that improves the place that will always be home," she said.

Renae's work in the NSFR&D program is just one glimpse into the programs and services NSEDC provides to its member communities. Being one of six western Alaska Community Development Quota groups, NSEDC serves 15 communities and more than 8,700 people in the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. The mission of NSEDC is to "participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities." The participation in the fisheries is the catalyst that allows NSEDC to operate projects like those implemented by the NSFR&D program. Revenue that NSEDC receives through participation in Bering Sea fisheries is reinvested into four main areas, impacting each of the 15 communities that NSEDC serves:

- 1) Fisheries Research & Development: promotes and implements scientific research in the Norton Sound region with an emphasis on supporting local fisheries.

- 2) Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP): provides support for, and serves as the primary buyer, processor, and retailer for, regional commercial crab, salmon, halibut, herring, and finfish fisheries.

- 3) Community Benefits: provides financial assistance programs for community sustainability and development.

- 4) Education, Employment & Training (EET): invests in residents' education and career goals.

The implementation of programs in each of these departments is directed by residents living in the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. Each department and program holds stories like that of Renae – an individual whose talents, strengths, and

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The President's Corner, continued

session with a work group in the fall of 2016, and stay connected with people you may have met during the session. This topic continues to be on our minds as we're trying to keep momentum towards future gains for Women in Fisheries. The action items from the session, generally, were that more focus is needed on developing mentoring relationships, and a request for a continuing education course at the next meeting on Work/Life Balance. A Facebook page has been established; people should feel free to join/use it for sharing their interests; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1518457478474155/>.

The Awards Banquet recognized Henry Masters as the Cultural Diversity Travel Award recipient, and Maggie Schaffer as the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship recipient. Gordon Kruse was recognized with the Chapter's highest honor, the Wally Noerenberg Award, for his outstanding lifelong contributions to Alaska fisheries. Over \$4,600 was raised for Student Travel at the outcry and silent auctions, and the Chapter supported 32 students fully or in part to participate in the meeting.

Outside of the many great talks and meetings, we found time to sample oysters and beer, learned to curl at the Kevin Bell Arena ice rink, watched displays of the aurora over the Pratt Museum Tuesday night, and participated in a 5K fun run on Thursday. Results from the 5K run can be found at: <http://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=56566>. A big Thank You to the Kachemak Bay Running Club for the bibs and timing equipment! You can still get a 2015 Lump sucker t-shirt, pint glass, or the great stainless steel mugs online if you missed them at the meeting. These items provide great holiday, birthday, or other celebration gift ideas, and all proceeds go to support our students! And of course, you can still offset your carbon footprint from traveling to the meeting at <https://www.youcaring.com/carbon-offset-2015-AK-AFS>.

A huge Thank You to our meeting sponsors - UAF, ASMI, Kintama Research, St. Hubert Research Group, Cook Inletkeeper, LGL Alaska, Matt Nemeth and Mari Reeves, Icicle Seafoods,

R2 Research, and Cook Inlet Aquaculture—and also to everyone who solicited and donated items for the auctions. And of course, to our host, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. If you have comments or suggestions on how to improve any aspect of the meeting, from the call for abstracts to registration to session planning, please let me know!

Important changes are afoot for the Alaska Chapter. During the Chapter business meeting, attendees approved a motion to move our annual Chapter meetings to the spring. This will bring the Alaska Chapter more in line with other Western Division AFS Chapters, allow presenters more time to analyze results from recent field seasons, and move the meeting further from the federal fiscal year deadline, which should allow more of our federal members to attend. The next meeting will be in spring 2017 with the meeting location and date to be announced later this winter. Chapter officers transitioned at the Chapter meeting as Karson Coutre was elected as Chapter Secretary, Jeff Falke elected as Vice-President, and Aaron Martin became President-Elect, Jennifer Stahl moved to Past President, and I became President.

Other big news is that Alaska will be hosting the 2018 Western Division AFS meeting. This meeting will be held concurrently with our regular Chapter meeting, in Anchorage in the spring of 2018. Anyone interested in helping with the development of the 2018 meeting, please let Mary Beth Loewen know, as the Program Committee will be developing soon! It will be a great opportunity to showcase the wonderful fisheries and aquatic science work being done in Alaska, as well as make connections with fisheries professionals beyond our normal Chapter boundaries.

Thanks again to all who made the Homer meeting such a success. It was a great time in a fun town, and as solstice approaches, with its promise of increasing daylight, I hope you are all healthy, enjoying the fruits of last season's labors, and looking forward to new projects and adventures in 2016! 🐻

NSEDC, continued



connectedness provide meaningful contributions to NSEDC’s 15 member communities.

The NSSP program operates: processing plants in Unalakleet, Nome, and Savoonga; buying stations in Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, and Shaktoolik; and a fleet of seven tender vessels. The NSEDC’s investment toward NSSP’s infrastructure and operations provides consistent and strong markets for residents’ commercial catches of crab, salmon, halibut, and herring.

The commercial fisheries are unlike any in the world with through-the-ice winter crab fishing from Nome to Unalakleet, and

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Communities served by NSEDC. Figure from NSEDC.



Processors filet Coho Salmon at the southern NSEDC Norton Sound Seafood Products processing plant in Unalakleet. Figure from NSEDC.



Students at the Martin L. Olson School in Golovin celebrate installation of the NSEDC-funded playground. Figure from NSEDC.

NSEDC, continued

hand-line halibut fishing off the shores of St. Lawrence Island. Customers of the NSSP program not only purchase quality, wild products, but contribute to a way of life unique to the Norton Sound region. The NSEDC is very proud of the dedicated individuals who harvest and deliver valued products to NSSP and the world.

The Community Benefits department handles a wide variety of community support programs that make tangible impacts on every individual in the region, whether it is support of a youth basketball league, construction of a community facility, or a personal donation at a time of duress. Finally, EET provides scholarships to those seeking vocational or post-secondary education. The department also connects residents with training for fisheries-related jobs, preparing individuals for positions with our industry partners in the Bering Sea, along with partnering with regional organizations to provide a wide range of training directly in our member communities.

Operations of NSEDC in the Norton Sound region pump more than \$10 million annually in wages to full- and part-time employees. But the real story lies in the nearly 600 individuals who are hired and who contribute to, and provide benefits for, the region they call home.

Based in her hometown of Unalakleet as NSEDC's Communications Director, Laureli Ivanoff is an award-winning journalist and mother of two. She enjoys tea, boating, and hilarious people. ☕

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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 next issue of *Oncorhynchus* is March 10.

Kate Wynne and Ray RaLonde

On October 1, 2015, Kate Wynne and Ray RaLonde, both long-term, driving forces for Alaska Sea Grant, undertook a new adventure ... retirement. Wynne has served as a marine mammal specialist since 1989. Now based in Kodiak, she is internationally known for her work on marine mammals and fisheries. She is the author of Alaska Sea Grant's three best-selling marine mammal identification guidebooks covering all U.S. coasts. Her most recent book, *Guide to Marine Mammals and Turtles of the U.S. Pacific*, won the 2015 National Outdoor Book Award in the Nature Guidebook category.

As an aquaculture specialist, RaLonde worked steadily to support shellfish farming to diversify Alaska's economy; Ray has worked with Alaska aquaculture since 1978 and with Alaska Sea Grant since 1991. He built bridges between the industry and the Alaska State Legislature that eased the permitting and site selection process. RaLonde also monitored and educated hundreds of Alaskans about PSP risks and harmful algal blooms. Alaska Sea Grant faculty and staff honored Wynne and RaLonde for their many accomplishments at an annual meeting in Nome in September. 🐟



Kate Wynne and Ray RaLonde recently retired from Alaska Sea Grant. *Photo by Dawn Montano.*

Student Subunit Happenings

New Student Subunit Representative

Cheryl Barnes, a native of California, earned a B.S. in Marine Biology from San Diego State University. After working in the nonprofit sector for several years, she began pursuit of an M.S. in Fisheries and Conservation Biology through Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. While working on her Master's thesis, which investigated biogeographic effects on California Halibut life history, Ms. Barnes served as a program representative for California Sea Grant and was lead scientist for the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program. Cheryl moved to Alaska to begin working on her Ph.D. at the Juneau Fisheries Division (University of Alaska Fairbanks [UAF]) in January 2015. Under the direction of Dr. Anne Beaudreau, Cheryl is making progress on two projects funded by the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center. One project involves calculating an index of predation for Walleye Pollock for use in the Gulf of Alaska stock assessment and the other focuses on evaluating the potential for resource partitioning between Pacific Halibut and Arrowtooth Flounder. Cheryl is looking forward to getting to know everyone a bit better over the next few years and is excited to be a part of the AFS Alaska Chapter.



Cheryl Barnes, new student subunit representative. *Photo from Cheryl Barnes.*

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Student Subunit Happenings, continued

Recognitions

The AFS Alaska Chapter student subunit would like to recognize the following students for defending their M.S. thesis or Ph.D. dissertation during the fall semester:

Rachael Blevins (Ph.D, UAF) — “Sound and human impacts on Beluga Whales in Cook Inlet, Alaska”

Zachary Hoyt (Ph.D., UAF) — “Resource competition, space use, and forage ecology of Sea Otters, *Enhydra lutris*, in southern Southeast Alaska”

Sabrina Larsen (M.S., APU) — “Policy, management, and production strategies to reduce the risks of hatchery-wild interactions in Alaska salmon hatcheries”

Chris Manhard (M.S., UAF) — “Environmental, biological, and genetic factors influencing local adaptation of Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbushca*) in Auke Creek, Alaska”

Student Subunit Events

A lot has happened for the student subunits this past season. A total of 54 students attended the annual meeting in Homer, AK. Registration fees were waived for 32 students and 17 of these were awarded travel support. The student subunit would like to sincerely thank both the AFS Alaska Chapter Executive Committee and Alaska Chapter members for continually making it possible for students to present their work, network with various professionals within their field, and receive valuable feedback from meeting attendees. Winners for best student talks went to Bill Deacy (University of Montana, first place) and Sarah Laske (UAF, second place). Best student poster presentations were awarded to Ben Meyer (UAF, first place) and Michelle Stratton (UAF, second place). Lastly, the Cultural Diversity Travel Award went to Henry Masters (University of Alaska Southeast [UAS]) and the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship was awarded to Maggie Schaffer (Alaska Pacific University [APU]).

The UAF winter sampling season for the Alaska Blackfish project will be underway within the next few weeks. This project attempts to characterize annual Blackfish population dynamics in ponds throughout the Fairbanks area. The Juneau Fisheries Division (UAF) is currently exploring the feasibility of a subunit project of its own in the near future, with hopes of collaborating with undergraduates from UAS. Additionally, the

Bryce Mecum (M.S., UAF) — “Forecasting stock-specific upriver migration timing of Chinook Salmon in the Yukon River”

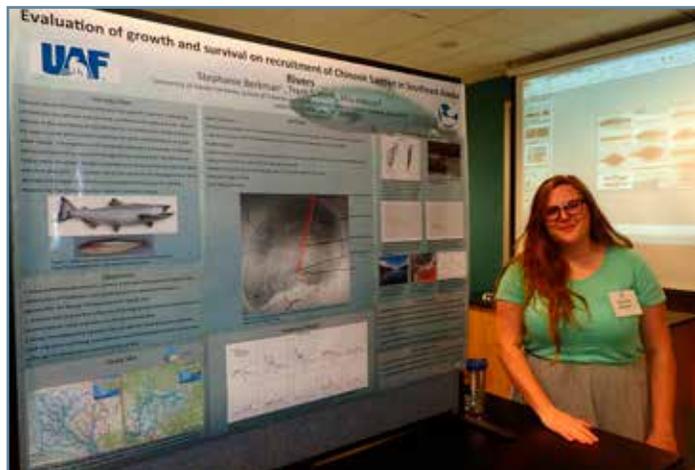
Josh Mumm (M.S., APU) — “A bathymetric-based habitat model for Yelloweye Rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) on Alaska’s outer Kenai Peninsula”

Andrew Olson (M.S., UAF) — “Spatial variability in size at maturity and investigating reproductive timing for the Golden King Crab (*Lithodes aequispinus*) in Southeast Alaska”

Natura Richardson (M.S., UAF) — “Feeding ecology of juvenile Sockeye Salmon in Afognak Lake, Alaska”

Juneau Fisheries Division is starting to organize the AFS Alaska student science symposium, which will be held on April 1, 2016.

Finally, there have been numerous changes to our subunit representation. The following shows our current student leaders (by campus): UAF Fairbanks - President Stephanie Berkman, Vice President Colin McKenzie, Secretary/Treasurer Chelsea Clawson, Social Coordinator Morgan Sparks, Project Coordinator Trevor Haynes; UAF Juneau - President Casey McConnell; University of Alaska Anchorage - President Molly McCarthy; APU - President John Hagen; Vice President Aileen Nimick. ?



UAF student Stephanie Berkman presents her research during the poster session at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer. Photo from Randy Brown.

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports

Continuing Education Committee

Sara E. Miller and Katie J. Palof, Co-Chairs

This year we offered four continuing education classes and the University of Alaska Southeast offered two classes. We ended up cancelling the *Power Based Standardization in Electrofishing* and the *Communicating Science through Video* classes, but hope to try again next year with these classes. Even though we didn't make the minimum enrollment, we decided to hold the *Introduction to Website Development* since it was during the conference week and we thought more individuals would likely drop in. With a little extra advertising, we were able to meet the minimum enrollment to hold the *Water Egress* course; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service paid for all their instructors' travel costs, so this was a money maker (although small) for the Chapter. The AFS Alaska Chapter also hosted the NPRB lunchtime speaker Brendan Smith who talked on the outreach aspect of the North Pacific Research Board process. This free lunchtime seminar filled up fast and was a great addition to the meeting since the state is in such a budget crisis and individuals are looking for other funding sources for projects.

Cultural Diversity Committee

Sara Gilk-Baumer, 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 get young up-and-coming people active with the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS).

In 2015, we solicited applications from around the state and received applications from five highly qualified individuals. After much deliberation, we decided to give the award to Henry Masters. Henry is an undergraduate biology student at UAS in Juneau. It is unusual to give this award to an undergraduate, but we felt that Henry had already shown great maturity, aptitude, and interest in

fisheries and natural sciences. His mentors not only glowed about his abilities, but also expressed that receiving this award would benefit him greatly in his career path. He has worked with a variety of researchers affiliated both with the university and with ADF&G. Henry plans to present a poster at the conference about his recent research project studying invasive Brook Trout in the Salmon Creek watershed near Juneau.

New for 2015 was the addition of two committee members: Lauren Divine, a MESAS Fellow with UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences; and Lisa Fox, a Fisheries Biologist with ADF&G in Kodiak. Sara Gilk-Baumer had been the sole committee member since Miranda Plumb moved out of state in 2010. With the additional committee members, we are planning on finding ways to both improve the award process and to extend the role of the committee in diversifying chapter membership. Our first task will be to solidify the award process, which has not been formalized up to this point. The committee will be convening at the Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer to begin this work.

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Jim Magdanz, one of the plenary speakers at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer, talks about his 30 years of studies and participation in the subsistence life of rural Alaska. *Photo from Randy Brown.*

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued

Electronic Communications Committee

Bert Lewis – Chair, Hamachan Hamazaki - Communications Lead, Audra Brase - Webmaster

Hamachan successfully migrated the AFS Alaska Chapter listserv from a central system to our own email distribution process. The Chapter expanded the AFS Alaska Chapter listserv membership to anyone. New Alaska Chapter members who are not currently subscribing to the listserv will be added every 6 months based on updates from the AFS Parent Society membership database. Information about the listserv, including subscription instructions and posting guidelines, is posted on the Chapter website. Hamachan suggests that the page be moved to a permanent web page.

Audra worked with Sundog Media (contracted for \$400) on the April upgrade of the Chapter website to make it “mobile friendly.” Due to issues the last two years with outdated code and compatibility issues on the online registration page, Audra is recommending that Sundog Media be hired to redo this portion of the website and make it easier to update annually. People are reminded to send Audra photos from the Homer Chapter meeting and any new officer information (*audra.braser@alaska.gov*). All members of this committee intend to continue in their current roles for the next year.

Financial Assets Oversight Committee

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

Guidance to the Financial Assets Oversight Committee (FAOC) is provided in the Chapter’s Procedure Manual under the Chapter Financial Plan within the Chapter Investments section. 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 2015, the FAOC met quarterly with the Chapter’s Wedbush Securities (WS) and, subsequently, Wells Fargo Advisors (WFA) representative, Todd Fletcher, to receive portfolio status updates, consider investment options, and conduct maintenance of accounts as needed to conduct Chapter

business. When conducting day-to-day Chapter business, Chapter Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner is in frequent contact with Mr. Fletcher and informs FAOC members with information on an as-needed basis. The transition from Wedbush Securities to Wells Fargo Advisors was prompted by Mr. Fletcher’s dissatisfaction with the management of the Anchorage-based WS office. The FAOC informed the Chapter Executive Committee about the transition on December 15, 2014 and unanimously recommended that the Chapter retain Mr. Fletcher as its investment representative. The transition from WS to WFA was a no-cost process. Wells Fargo Advisors offers similar investment products and investment tools to those offered by WS.

The Chapter’s WFA portfolio is invested using a moderately conservative strategy with an investment horizon of 7 to 10 years, as determined by the FAOC members in consultation with the WFA investment representative.

Endowment Funds - All awards from each endowment may only be paid out of interest earned. All contributions to individual endowments were added to their respective principals. The FAOC made a general process decision to change the date when the balance of a fund is calculated for disbursement purposes from July 31 to June 30 to match the end of a quarter. The following fund balances are rounded to the nearest \$100 (Table 1).

Wally Noerenberg Fund (WNF) - The WNF principal amount is \$15,000 and the account balance as of June 30, 2015 was \$19,000 (Table 1).

Cultural Diversity Fund (CDF) - The CDF principal amount is \$15,000, and the account balance was \$16,200 on June 30, 2014 and \$15,000 on June 30, 2015 (Table 1). The CDF is generally spent down to the principal amount each year to support CDF recipients.

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Fund	Begin Quarter	Value (\$)	End Quarter	Value (\$)
Wally Noerenberg	June 2014	19,400	June 2015	19,000
Cultural Diversity	June 2014	16,200	June 2015	15,000
Molly Ahlgren Schol.	June 2014	138,560	June 2015	127,800

Table 1. Approximate endowment fund values from the quarters ending June 2014 to June 2015 (rounded to the nearest \$100).

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued



Incoming Chapter President Mary Beth Loewen after receiving the gavel from outgoing President Jennifer Stahl at the AFS Alaska Chapter business meeting in Homer. Photo from Randy Brown.

Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund (MASF) - The MASF principal amount is approximately \$127,000 and the account balance as of June 30, 2015 was \$127,800 (Table 1). The MASF principal increases from additional contributions to the fund, including 10% of the annual earnings calculated as of June 30. The remaining earnings, rounded down to the nearest \$1,000, will be disbursed as a scholarship(s). The remaining earnings balance after rounding will be added to the following year's scholarship(s). Using these guidelines, a single scholarship amount for \$2,000 was available in 2015.

Contributions to the principal increase the MASF's potential for generating increased interest and greater amounts available for scholarship distribution. Annual contributions (2004–2014) to the MASF have been approximately \$12,000. The greatest share of the annual contributions has come from the Ahlgren family. In June 2015, Isabel and Clifford Ahlgren notified the Chapter that their contribution level is subject to change as they have turned their financial resources over to their son.

The Chapter Investment Fund A (Fund A) was valued at \$40,300 in June 2014 and

\$41,000 in June 2015. The Fund A balance remained flat during the period because of low investment returns and modest income from the 2014 annual Chapter meeting. Generally, annual income is from payments made from general funds such as earnings from the annual meeting, continuing education events, membership dues, and interest. Interest earned from Fund A may be used for expenditures such as travel and scholarship awards and special projects. Unexpended annual earnings from Fund A are reinvested into the Fund A principal.

The interest bearing money market checking account (MMC) and the 1st National Bank Alaska cash account (CA) fluctuate annually during August through December due to annual meeting and continuing education expenses and income. The CA houses petty cash and online income such as meeting registration and continuing education fees. 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 during January to July.

In summary, the Chapter's portfolio is experiencing flat to declining investment returns while maintaining a moderately conservative investment strategy. Our investment strategy asset allocation, approximately 2/3 bonds and 1/3 equities, lessens the volatility impact relative to greater equity exposure. Considering the recent market volatility, our assets have performed comparatively well and we remain positioned to take advantage of improved market conditions when possible, e.g., increased equity exposure. The Chapter weathered the extreme market volatility of 2008 and we have similar expectations for the current situation while maintaining our investment strategy.

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Banquet at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer. Photo by Courtney Pegus.

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued

Fisheries Communication and Education Committee

Katrina Liebich (Mueller), Chair

This year the Fisheries Communication and Education Committee organized the “Using Education and Communication to Improve Fisheries Management and Conservation” session and recruited speakers from within and outside Alaska. The committee chair remains active in cooperating with others to organize other communication forums, including the annual Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium and a similarly themed symposium at the AFS Parent Society conference in Portland, Oregon this past August. If you would like to join the committee, contact Katrina Liebich (Mueller): 907-786-3637, katrina_mueller@fws.gov.



The Women in Fisheries session at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer. Photo from Mary Beth Loewen.

Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee

Ray Hander (Chair), Lee Ann Gardner, Hal Geiger, Tim Joyce, Carol Kerkoliet, and Brenda Norcross

In 2015 the Alaska Chapter, on recommendation from the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee (Committee), offered one \$2,000 Scholarship. The application was sent out September 16, 2015 to various distribution outlets such as financial aid offices, scholarship coordinators, and professors at the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University, the AFS Alaska Chapter website, and student group representatives.

The application deadline was October 9. The applicant selection process by the Committee, including Executive Committee approval, was completed by October 14. The 2015 Scholarship recipient was Maggie Schaffer, attending Alaska Pacific University. Items to be completed by the Committee, after the ceremonial certificate is presented, are confirming disbursement of award funds to the recipient’s university account in time for their upcoming term and sending a letter to the Ahlgren family from the Alaska Chapter reporting on the 2015 award.



Hilda Sexauer, AFS Western Division Immediate Past President, discusses Western Division activities during a presentation at the AFS Alaska Chapter business meeting in Homer. Photo from Randy Brown.

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Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued

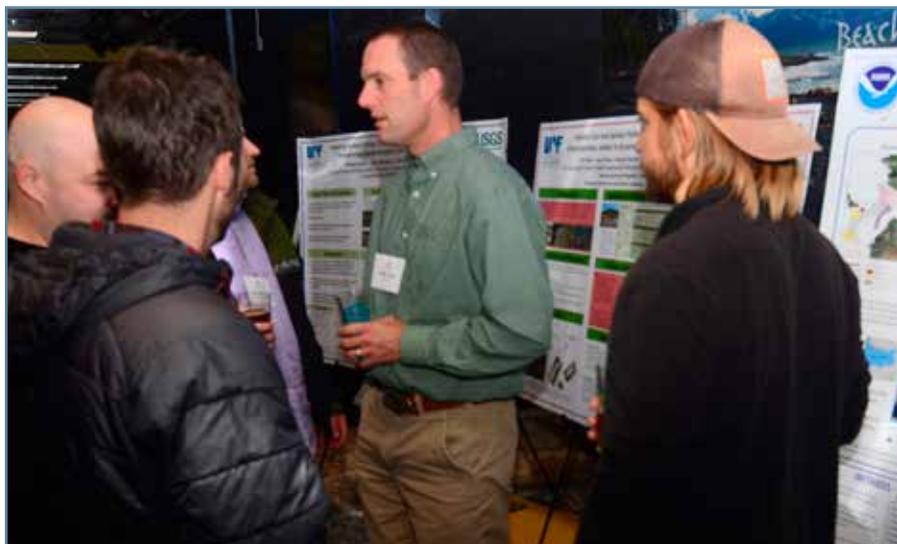
Maggie Schaffer

I am extremely honored and grateful to get such a prestigious scholarship in the memory of such a remarkable woman and scientist. When I got the call saying I was the recipient of the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship, I could not believe I was the chosen one. I have worked so hard in my fisheries career that receiving this scholarship meant the absolute world to me. I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a marine biologist. It wasn't until I came to Alaska that I realized I wanted to be in fisheries and study Pacific salmon. I had the amazing opportunity of attending the Alaska Chapter meeting this year in Homer, AK and being there really opened my eyes. I received a lot of helpful advice and a couple of job opportunities that will further my career in fisheries. I'm very excited to see where my career will go from here and I hope to do great things with this scholarship. I would like to personally thank Molly's family and the awards committee for this amazing opportunity. I will strive to do my absolute best and follow in Molly's footsteps.

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 for layout and mailing of hard copies.



Andy Seitz at the poster session at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer discusses research. Photo from Courtney Pegus.

Electronic copies are posted to the Chapter listserv. The AFS style conventions described at <http://fisheries.org/books-journals/writing-tools/style-guide/> are generally followed. Prior to finalizing the newsletter, draft issues are sent to the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee and various article contributors for review.

Submissions of articles for inclusion in the newsletter are solicited quarterly via the Alaska Chapter listserv; 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 and efforts are made to distribute feature article authorship among organizations. Feature articles by issue in 2015 were: Winter (Vol. 35 no. 1) "Great Land Trust – A Focus on Salmon Habitat Conservation – Phil Shepherd; Spring (Vol. 35 no. 2) "Resident Freshwater Fish Ecology in Arctic Alaska: Understanding Beaded Streams" – Kurt Heim"; Summer (Vol. 35 no. 3) "Fisheries in the Peace Corps with Tilapia, War Zones, and Ebola - An Alaskan's Tributary off the Main Stream" – Joe Sullivan; and Fall (Vol. 35 no. 4) "Declines in Size and Age of Chinook Salmon in Alaska" – Bert Lewis, W.S. (Stew) Grant, Hamachan Hamazaki, and Richard Brenner.

The issues were published near the beginning of the calendar quarter. All issues were largely

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Vol. (Issue)	Hard Copies ^a	Electronic distribution ^b	Total distribution	Cost
35 (1)	70	480	550	\$399.66
35 (2)	65	480	545	\$352.30
35 (3)	65	480	545	\$279.22
35 (4)	65	480	545	\$294.50

^a Hard copies are mailed to Chapter members, libraries, Parent AFS officers, Alaska congressional members, and retained for archival purposes.

^b Electronic distribution estimates are approximate and do not include website downloads.

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued

distributed electronically, although 65–70 paper copies of each issue were printed and mailed to subscribing libraries and individuals requesting hard copies, or retained for Chapter archival.

Total newsletter publication and distribution costs for 2015 were \$1,325.68. If you have a newsletter contribution, contact Bill Bechtol (299-6146; bechtolresearch@hughes.net).

25- and 50-Year Members

The American Fisheries Society issues commemorative pins to recognize individuals that have been members for 25 years and 50 years. The following AFS Alaska Chapter members were recognized at the October 2015 Alaska Chapter meeting. Congratulations!

25-Year Member	City	Joined
Dave Cannon	Aniak, AK	1/24/1990
Robert McClean	Fairbanks, AK	10/4/1990
Robert Meyer	Ketchikan, AK	12/7/1990
50-Year Member		
Bill Hauser	Anchorage, AK	1/1/1965



Putting an auction prize to use at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting banquet in Homer. Photo by Courtney Pegus.



Bob Shavelson at a networking social sponsored by Cook Inletkeeper during the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Homer. Photo from Courtney Pegus.

Alaska Chapter Committee Reports, continued

Resolution and Bylaws Committee

Toshihide “Hamachan” Hamazaki (Chair), Lisa Stuby, and Bill Bechtol

In the 2014–2015 Chapter year, no proposed resolutions or bylaws changes were submitted for the committee to review. Nor did the committee receive any proposed changes for the Chapter Procedure Manual from the Chapter Past President or any committee chairs or members. The Chapter

Bylaws were last revised in 2010, and the Chapter Procedure Manual was last revised in 2011. The committee strongly encourages the Past President and Chapter Executive Committee, and committee chairs and members, to review these documents for potential revisions as may be appropriate.

Wally Noerenberg Award Committee

Kenneth Gates, Chair

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 17 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. The 2015 WNA committee was comprised of Mark Wipfli, Carol Kerkvliet, and James Reynolds. Trent Sutton was randomly drawn as a new committee member and is scheduled to replace James Reynolds whose term expired at the 2015 Homer AFS Meeting. Trent was contacted by phone and has accepted the position.

During 2015, the committee received one WNA nomination. The committee met and unanimously selected the nomination of Dr. Gordon H. Kruse as the 2015 WNA recipient.

Two questions/topics were proposed to the WNA Committee Chair during 2015 regarding the WNA: (1) whether a lifetime Chapter membership should be provided to WNA recipients; and (2) whether the WNA committee should have the ability to identify its own recipient if no nominations were forwarded to the committee. These topics were identified as having previously been discussed by the Chapter Executive Committee and would likely result in a change to bylaws. No final action has taken place to date regarding these topics. 🐟



Ken Gates presents Gordon Kruse the Wally Noerenberg Award at the AFS Alaska Chapter banquet. Photo from Courtney Pegus.

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing the disciplines of fisheries science, marine biology, and STEM related fields. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. "Hutton Scholars" receive a \$4,000 scholarship and are matched and mentored with a fisheries professional in an 8-week fisheries science summer experience.

Mentors and their organizations can impart a positive effect on the life of a high school student, and also receive assistance with important summer projects and may even discover a potential future employee! The American Fisheries Society (AFS) simplifies the mentor's involvement by providing guidance and administrative support.

For more information on how students apply for an internship, or information on serving as a mentor, please contact AFS Educational Program Coordinator, Cynthia Oboh at coboh@fisheries.org and visit <http://hutton.fisheries.org>.

Training Opportunities for Acoustic Tag and Hydroacoustic Assessments

Several short courses in acoustics will be presented through HTI and the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. *Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish*, offered from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on February 4–5, 2016, will address aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course will include hands-on-operation and a variety of applications.

Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment is offered from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on February 11–12, 2016. The hydroacoustics course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, including basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, and data collection and processing; split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed.

These courses are available on-site or online, with tuition discounts up to 50% for university students and staff, non-profit, and tribal organizations. To reserve a seat or ask a question, email HTI at support@HTIsonar.com, or go to <http://www.HTIsonar.com>.

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, 2016**. For more information see: http://mfs.fisheries.org/?page_id=155.

Meetings and Events

Alaska Marine Science Symposium

January 25–29, 2016: This symposium will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, visit <http://amss.nprb.org/>.



Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit VI

January 27–29, 2016: This meeting is designed to provide information and opportunities to harvesters under age 40 or in the business less than five years. For more information contact Torie Baker (torie.baker@alaska.edu).

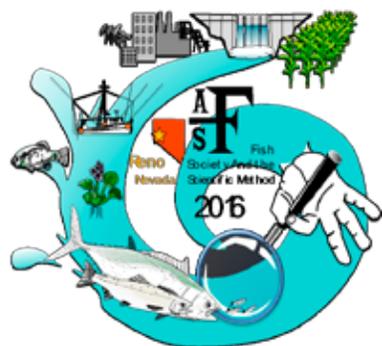


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Meetings and Events, continued

Alaska Forum on the Environment

February 8–12, 2016: This meeting will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, visit <http://www.akforum.com/>.



41st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Western Division

March 21–24, 2016: This meeting will be held in Reno, NV with the theme *Fisheries, Society, and the Scientific Method: Challenging Our*

Perception of Science, Policy, and Management. The abstract deadline is January 21. For more information go to <http://wd2016.fisheries.org/>.

17th Salmon Ocean Ecology Meeting

March 29–31, 2016: This meeting will be held in Juneau, AK. For more information contact Andrew Gray at andrew.gray@noaa.gov.



ComFish Alaska 2016

March 31–April 2, 2016: This trade show and assorted forums will be held in Kodiak. For more information go to <http://comfishalaska.com/>.



World Fisheries Congress

May 23–27, 2016: This, the 7th World Fisheries Congress, will be held in Busan, South Korea. For more information, go to http://www.wfc2016.or.kr/english/main/index_en.asp.



146th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

August 21–25, 2016: This meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO. For more information, see <http://2016.fisheries.org/>.



Aleutian Life Forum

August 16–20, 2016: This meeting will be held in Unalaska, AK. For more information go to <http://www.aleutianlifeforum.com/>.



2016 Alaska Chapter Officers

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.