

## In this issue:

AFS Unit Survival Manual  
 Award Nominations Wanted  
 Cultural Diversity  
 Travel Award Winner  
 First Call 2000 Annual Meeting  
 Fish Talk for Kids  
 Moving On  
 Student Writing Contest  
 WDAFS Annual Meeting  
 Walleye Pollock Meeting  
 And more . . .



## Annual Meeting Recap

Over 90 people attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society's Alaska Chapter during November 9-11 in Kodiak. The meeting theme of "Today's Technology for Tomorrow's Resources" was intended to foster discussion on research and management techniques to guide long-term, sustainable use of our aquatic resources. To this end, the setting of Kodiak certainly delivered. Kodiak, where the fishing industry is the cornerstone of the local economy, is consistently listed as one of the Nation's top ports for seafood deliveries, and the expanding recreational fishing industry provides diversity to the community.

The meeting opened with an orientation by Program Chair Bill Bechtol followed by welcoming remarks from Western Division President Ken Hashagen. Several representatives of local user groups then offered suggestions on ways that scientists and industry might work better together. The meeting featured eight sessions, including a poster session.

The eight presentations in the session "Hydroacoustic Application and Horizons," continued on page 3



Setting pots to sample spot shrimp in Prince William Sound, October 1999.

## Spot Shrimp in Prince William Sound

Mandy Lindeberg

The commercially important spot shrimp (*Pandalus latyceros*) inhabits the subtidal (30-250m), nearshore benthic ecosystem and ranges from San Diego, California, to Unalaska Is., Alaska. Spot shrimp are protandric hermaphrodites as are most other pandalids. Each individual progresses through four distinct life stages: larval, juvenile, male, and female. Larvae are released into the water column in late March, and juveniles settle into the shallow subtidal region by late August or September. The juveniles migrate to deeper waters at about 2.5 to 3 years, where they become mature males. At 3 to 5 years, the mature males change to females and reproduce for an additional 3-5 years.

The commercial harvest of spot shrimp in Prince William Sound (PWS) was first documented in the 1950s. The fishery expanded in the late 1970s and peaked at over 110 tonnes in 1986. After rapidly declining harvests and the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the fishery was closed in 1992 and remains closed. Annual surveys of spot shrimp abundance in western PWS were initiated in 1989 by ADF&G and show a continued decline in catch per unit effort (CPUE) through 1998.

In 1999, the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill Trustees funded a 4-year cooperative project involving NMFS and the Valdez Native Tribe to augment the current ADF&G spot shrimp surveys in PWS. The purpose of this project is to broaden the geographical coverage and increase the amount of replication within the ADF&G survey, and thereby provide more comprehensive information on spot shrimp abundance and population structure in PWS. The first season of sampling was completed in October 1999 and will provide data on spot shrimp abundance (CPUE), size/sex composition, and fecundity. The same sampling procedure will be repeated in October 2000. The additional information provided by this project will enhance our understanding of PWS spot shrimp population dynamics and ultimately aid ADF&G in developing a management plan when the population recovers. ☺

## The President's Column

Bill Bechtol

On To The Future While working on this President's Corner, I found myself reflecting on last November's Alaska Chapter meeting in Kodiak and how the presentations spoke to changes in our technology and our abilities. I think everybody realizes we are at a dynamic milestone in our lives, our culture, and our society. The Millennium is upon us! This turning point offers cause to reflect both on where we have come from, and where we are going. We have observed highs, and lows, in fisheries production. We will see future peaks and valleys in production, as we can also anticipate issues of resource allocation and struggles to balance short-term yield against long-term biological production.

Yet, amidst the political and jurisdictional boundaries is a group of individuals with an interest in Alaska's aquatic resources. Young, old, retired, students, a mix of agencies, organizations, sexes, and cultures, you are the future. Through the years and into the new millennium, you provide the continuity in resource stewardship because you care. Webster's defines vocation as "the function or career toward which one believes himself to be called." You are here because the aquatic resources are your vocation. You are here for the fish and also for the habitat that supports aquatic production this year, next year, and the year after.

If somebody asked me to describe the function, or "calling" that defines AFS, I would narrow my response to three points. AFS: (1) provides for the exchange of data and techniques across organizational boundaries; (2) provides training opportunities for aquatic professionals to improve their skills; and (3) provides for the development and expression of scientifically based positions using expertise available in a variety of disciplines. Implicit in this purpose is the understanding that AFS is committed to the sound research and management of aquatic resources through the shared expertise of individuals, namely you, from a variety of agencies and organizations.

To this purpose, this is your Chapter, your Division, and your Society. As we step, no swim, into the new millennium, it falls upon you to define how we proceed as stewards of the resource. How will we use our collective experience, knowledge, and skills, and how will we enhance these skills, to affect fisheries research and management throughout Alaska, and the Nation?



With your participation, I would like to spend part of the coming year in a review of who we are and where we are going. In particular, we are overdue for an update of the living documents that guide the business of being a Chapter within our professional society. The process of updating the Procedure Manual and the Strategic Plan will require committees to look in the mirror.

We also need to look at our membership and how we recruit members. I am a firm believer that we should not expand membership for membership's sake, but instead, for the services we can offer as a Chapter and as a collective organization of fisheries professionals in Alaska. Students are our future, and the recruitment of students will bring new energy to the Chapter, as well as hone the skills of future professionals. Another opportunity is available through the mentorship program proposed by President-Elect Carol Ann Woody. This program will help fledgling biologists develop as fisheries professionals through AFS membership and the support of an AFS mentor.

Finally, Continuing Education courses provide the opportunity to refine your skills to do your job better. But, it takes input from you and other fisheries professionals on which courses you would like to see offered. Please contact Continuing Education Chair Pat Hansen or myself with your suggestions.

I am seeking your participation and suggestions to help the "collective we" define our Chapter, and our fisheries society, for the next millennium. I'll reiterate that this is your Chapter. You are the aquatic resource experts that make this Chapter happen. As a group, you have a base of knowledge and experience that cannot be equaled. But it is up to you to develop and use that knowledge. Please share your expertise, your skills, and your support to take our society, and the public resources, into the next Millennium. ☺

## Cultural Diversity Travel Award Winner

Cheryl Dion

I had the privilege of being the recipient of the Cultural Diversity Travel Award that enabled me to attend the 1999 Annual Meeting in Kodiak. My reasons for wanting to attend this meeting were to expand my knowledge about Alaska fish and fisheries, as well as to meet and talk with fisheries professionals. The meeting far exceeded my goals. I was impressed by the technological advancements in hydroacoustic methods and the importance of hydroacoustics in fisheries stock assessment in Alaska. I enjoyed learning about the various fish species and projects that biologists are involved in, from genetic diversity to restoration. The session on shellfish research and management was especially interesting to me since I do not get the opportunity to learn much about shellfish, being a freshwater fisheries student. Meeting and socializing with fisheries professionals was particularly important to me since I plan to make my career in Alaska. I was also able to tour the Fishery Industrial Technology Center to learn about their operations, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to learn about their current projects. Thank you AFS and the Cultural Diversity Award Committee. I had a wonderful time. ☺

### ONCORHYNCHUS

Oncorhynchus is the quarterly newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Material in this newsletter may be reprinted from *AFS Diary* and *Western Division*.

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Deadline for materials for the winter issue of *Oncorhynchus* is March 10.

**Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address**

**<http://www.alaska.net/~fishak>**

## First Call 2000 Annual Meeting

Carol Ann Woody

Planning for next year's meeting in Fairbanks, November 13-17, 2000, is now underway. I don't have a theme yet but I bet a good one evolves. If you have ideas for a session, a paper, a poster, a workshop, etc., now is the time to start planning. E-mail Carol\_Woody@usgs.gov if the light bulb goes ON.

Gordon Kruse had an epiphany and will be putting together a session on the effects of bottom fishing on fish habitat. Dave Cannon had a great idea to bring in a speaker on the psychological aspects of resource management. For example, humans are terrestrial and, with the exception of scuba divers and snorkelers, have

little or no empathy for aquatic species. It is much easier to empathize with the extinction of panda bears vs. the snail darter. Anyway, this bias affects the public, resource managers, biologists, policy makers, and aquatic species.

Dave also thought it might be interesting to invite a local photographer who makes underwater videos to share his work and give us tips on capturing the species we work with in action. I thought it would be great to have a session for students to share their work or proposals to do research. So, brainstorm, write down your ideas and send them. I would be very happy to hear from you. ☺

### Annual Meeting Recap, continued from page 1

chaired by Debby Burwen, covered both marine and riverine applications, addressing small- and large-scale problems and successes. Issues ranged from the common concern of sonar aiming to more recent technological advances, such as the new sonar system being developed and field-tested on the Wood River. The presentation "*Correcting for Two Sources of Position-Related Bias in Estimates of Acoustic Backscattering Cross-Section*," by Steve Fleischman and Debby Burwen, received the meeting's Best Paper Award.

Within Alaska, the issue of subsistence and management of resources for customary and traditional uses has become significant, and somewhat contentious and full of misunderstandings. Tom Kron and Jerry Berg (USF&WS) co-hosted the session "*Subsistence Fisheries and Dual Management in Alaska*." The session's five presentations summarized the history of subsistence use and the current regulatory structures, including the federal regulatory structure being implemented. Mr. Kron's presentation described how subsistence technology has changed over time, but resource harvesting for subsistence uses remains a significant component of people's lives in the rural Alaska's Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

The five presentations in the session titled "*Telemetry for Y2K and Beyond*," chaired by Doug Palmer, described some of the developments and revelations of radio telemetry. Of note to many was the application of telemetry as an independent means to determine exploitation rates.

The seven presentations in the session titled "*Potentialities and Limitations of Applying Gene Detection Techniques for the Conservation of Highly Exploited Fishes*," chaired by Jim Seeb, summarized the use of genetic techniques to define stock structure. The presentation by Jennifer Nielsen provided an informative description on the patterns of isolation in steelhead trout in Southeast Alaska as indicated by likelihood in gene flow.

The Alaska Chapter has attempted to increase Chapter diversity by encouraging greater participation by professions in marine disciplines. Dan Urban and Gordon Kruse met that challenge with an excellent session titled "*Advances in Shellfish Research and Management*." The

session's nine presentations summarized recent developments in shellfish research and some implications for management of long-term sustained yield of this important resource. Not only did the presentations describe innovative approaches to resource assessment, such as computer-based imaging, time-lapse video techniques, and laser line scanning, but the presentations themselves were also technologically advanced, including a variety of computer-generated graphics, videos, and GIS displays.

The five presentations in the final session, "*Fisheries Conservation, Reserves, and Holistic Ecosystem Approaches*" chaired by Eric Knudsen, outlined the continuum of approaches being applied to ecosystem management, including the variety of regulatory structures. The subsequent discussion helped clarify the potential for greater understanding of ecosystem processes through the variety of techniques that are becoming available.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, a number of opportunities were provided for networking and training. The day before the start of the meeting, the Chapter hosted a 1-day workshop on Resource Selection and GIS Applications. An evening pre-registration social offered an opportunity for early arrivals to renew acquaintances.

Robert Ourso coordinated the poster session on the evening of November 9. The sixteen posters, one of the largest poster displays ever exhibited at a Chapter Annual Meeting, covered a wide range of research and management disciplines in aquatic resources. A social during the poster session gave attendees ample opportunity to discuss thoughts with the poster authors.

The Chapter banquet on the evening of November 10 featured speaker Kate Wynn, a marine biologist specializing in protected species. Her presentation on population changes in marine mammals and monitoring of those changes was a reminder of our lack of understanding of ecosystem processes.

By all accounts, this was another highly successful meeting for the Alaska Chapter. Members of the program committee and the local arrangements committee, including local arrangements chair Jim Blackburn, are to be commended for a fine job! ☺

## Membership Report

The Chapter has 358 members as of December 14, 1999. Memberships include 268 active, 48 life, 7 retired, and 35 student. Twenty-seven of these members reside outside Alaska in 10 different states or provinces, and pay Chapter dues to receive the newsletter. Twenty-eight institutions, offices, and fisheries newsletters receive complimentary copies of the newsletter.

A total of 280 members have paid their 1999 Parent Society dues, while 30 have paid through 2000, and 48 have paid for life membership. A total of 294 members have paid their 1999 Chapter dues, while 31 have paid through 2000. Recently dropped from membership were 69 people who had only paid Parent Society dues through 1998. Additionally, a total of 33 members are delinquent on their Chapter dues (1998 or before). They will be contacted by the Membership Committee.

Check your mailing label. The four-digit number at the right of the top line tells if you're paid up. The first two digits are Parent Society dues; the second two are Chapter dues. The year is the year "paid through," and was updated from Parent AFS information in November 1999, and from recent renewals and/or new members from the Chapter Annual Meeting in Kodiak. Please note that for life members the Parent Society dues are denoted by the digits "99." If your records disagree with ours, contact Allen Bingham, PO Box 221804, Anchorage 99522-1804; [Allen\\_Bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:Allen_Bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us). Otherwise, to renew your membership or bring it up to date use the membership application form on the back of this newsletter. ☺

## Walleye Pollock Meeting

Walleye pollock play a significant role in marine ecosystem processes, both inside Prince William Sound (PWS) and in offshore waters outside of PWS. The directed fishery for pollock in PWS dates only to 1995. Studies to explore the relationship of pollock in PWS to pollock in the greater Gulf of Alaska have been inconclusive. A meeting on the assessment and management of pollock in PWS will occur at the ADF&G office in Anchorage on Wednesday, January 5, 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. It is an opportunity to exchange ideas on recent assessment data and future survey and management strategies, with a focus on pollock in PWS, but also incorporating summaries of pollock assessment in adjacent federal waters. Of particular interest are ways to refine our understanding of pollock ecology, especially approaches that represent cooperative efforts among state and federal agencies, the fishing industry, and environmental groups. The meeting follows previous meetings in 1997 and 1998. For more information, contact Bill Bechtol, ADF&G, 235-1741, fax: 235-2448, [bill\\_bechtoll@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bill_bechtoll@fishgame.state.ak.us).

## Moving On

Dr. Makoto Matsuoka accepted a post-doc position at the University of Wisconsin upon his graduation in fall 1998. His new address is 3909 N Sherburn Pl #103, Shorewood, WI 53211; [makoto@csd.uwm.edu](mailto:makoto@csd.uwm.edu). ☺

## Winners at Kodiak

Participants at the Chapter meeting in Kodiak were entertained and enlightened by a series of excellent presentations and posters. The Awards Committee, which chooses the best paper and poster presentations at each Annual Meeting, had the difficult job of singling out the best ones. Here are the awards and their recipients.

*Best Paper* - "Correcting for two sources of position-related bias in estimates of acoustic backscattering cross-section" presented by Steve Fleischman, coauthored with Debbie Burwen.

*Best Student Paper* - "Legal framework for marine protected areas" presented by Amy Browning.

*Best Poster* - "Site fidelity in Pacific halibut *Hippoglossus stenolepis*" by Philip N. Hooge with S. J. Taggart.

*Best Student Poster* - "Quantification of upwelling as a determinant of spawning site selection and quality for Yukon River chum salmon" by Scott H. Maclean with James E. Finn and Raymond F. Hander.

Carl Burger was chosen to receive the first Alaska Chapter Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the Chapter. Carl is a longstanding member of the Chapter and has held Chapter office, chaired several committees, served as Arrangements Chair, and chaired sessions and presented papers at Chapter meetings.

Congratulations award recipients for your excellent work. Thanks to paper judges Bob Piorkowski, Eric Knudsen, and poster judges Debbie Burwen and Dan Urban. ☺

## WDAFS Annual Meeting Call for Program Contributions

Next year's WDAFS Annual Meeting is set for Telluride, Colorado, July 16-22, 2000. The Program Committee has begun planning for a fun, interesting, and relevant meeting, but we'd like your help. After all, it is your meeting. The more ideas we get for workshops, symposia, and sessions, the better we can make the program for you. At this time we are informally soliciting your ideas. They don't necessarily need to be refined or finalized right now; we can do that a little later. What's important is that we hear your ideas for the Y2K meeting program.

If you have something in mind for next year's meeting, let us know. Remember, this is the first WDAFS meeting of the new millennium! Together we can make it the best. Send, call, or e-mail your contributions and ideas to Bill Bradshaw, Program Committee Chair, WGFD, PO Box 6249, Sheridan, WY 82801, (307) 672-7418, [Bbrads@missc.state.wy.us](mailto:Bbrads@missc.state.wy.us). ☺

## AFS Unit Survival Manual

The AFS Unit Survival Manual is now on-line at <http://www.fisheries.org/resource/unitsurv/contents.htm>. The manual is an essential road map to linking Units with AFS services and procedures. For more information, contact Laura Hutchcroft, AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110 Bethesda, MD 20814, (301)897-8616 ext 201; [lhutchcroft@fisheries.org](mailto:lhutchcroft@fisheries.org). ☺

## AFS Annual Student Writing Contest

The AFS is holding its annual writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job communicating the value of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (i.e., journalistic style).

Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. Most important is that students write their articles in a manner that the general public can understand so people can appreciate why the research is important and how it could help society and the fisheries resource.

The top three winners will be invited to the AFS Annual Meeting (at winner's expense), where their articles will be prominently displayed at the poster session. They also will be given a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winning articles will be published in *Fisheries*.

Deadline for articles is January 15, 2000. Please mail five copies of the articles to Laura Hutchcroft, AFS; 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110; Bethesda, MD 20814. If you have questions, contact Hutchcroft at 301/897-8616, ext. 201; [lhutchcroft@fisheries.org](mailto:lhutchcroft@fisheries.org).

## Fish Talk for Kids

*Bill Hauser and Mary Price*

Professional biologists are often invited to discuss fish biology with youngsters in schools or in other settings. This can often present a challenge in communication. Here is a method that can work well with elementary age groups.

Select a teaching aid, such as a fish-shaped pillow. If you don't have a fish pillow, you can use any familiar object (such as a pet dog, your coat, a pizza) to illustrate your points. To facilitate discussion of ecology and conservation concepts, create a series of familiar analogies with your object. To do this, ask questions to stimulate interactive responses and thinking. For example, using the fish pillow:

Question: Where do you find a pillow? Response: In a pillow store—not a grocery store. Association: Habitat. If you want a certain kind of fish, you must go to the right place.

Question: Want to make it bigger? Response: You need to put the right stuffing into it. Association: Growth. Fish need certain food items or they will not grow.

Question: Can't find your pillow? Response: Maybe it is in another room; but it goes back to the bedroom. It has migrated—like a fish. Or, some pillows are the same color as the bed sheet. These are camouflaged—like some fish. Association: migration and camouflage.

Question: Want more pillows? Response: Don't take too many. If too many people want pillows, there are no more. Association: limited resource. We must not take too many, so there will be enough for everyone and there will always be fish.

For more information about this tip, contact Bill Hauser.

## Award Nominations Wanted

The Awards Committee chooses the most deserving nominee for the Meritorious Service Award for recent outstanding contribution to Alaska fisheries. The Committee also awards contributions to the Alaska Chapter in the form of the Alaska Chapter Service Award. If you are interested in participating in any or all of the Awards Committee activities or refining the process by which awards are given by the Chapter – JOIN US! Judging forms used to select award recipients will be available on the Chapter website some time in the New Year. If you have suggestions or comments about them let us know or better yet – BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE! Chair: Nicky Szarzi ADF&G, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer, AK 99603 (907)235-8191, fax (907)235-2448, email [nicky\\_szarzi@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:nicky_szarzi@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Please complete the form below and attach a sheet listing the qualifications of your nominee, related to the award criteria, in as much detail as possible to help the Awards Committee make their choice.

### AWARD NOMINATION FORM

I/We nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Alaska Chapter's (please check only one award below)

Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for career-long outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries, or for the

Meritorious Service Award for recent outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries, or for the

Alaska Chapter Service Award for contributions to the Chapter through participation mentorship, membership and/or education.

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Feel free to submit any supportive documentation that may be of use to the award committees. This form along with a written summary describing why the recipient deserves the award related to the award criteria must be received (postmarks constitute receipt) by July 31 for consideration in this calendar year. Mail your form to either (WNA) Gordon Kruse, ADF&G Div. Of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau 99802-5526 or (MSA/ACSA) Nicky Szarzi, ADF&G, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer 99603.

## Committee Annual Reports

Following are highlights from annual reports of the Chapter's Committees. Full reports are on the Chapter web site.

### Aquatic Education Committee

*Laurel Devaney and Mary Price, Co-Chairs*

The goal of this committee is to impart knowledge and to stimulate respect and stewardship of Alaska's unique fisheries and aquatic resources. Mary Price, a Fishery Biologist at the Kenai Fishery Resource Office, and Laurel Devaney, the Education Coordinator with the Fairbanks Fishery Resource Office, are serving as Co-Chairs. The committee is compiling a guide of fisheries and aquatic education resources and materials available for other educators to use. A draft of this document will be available for comment in December 1999. The committee also worked to develop stronger ties between the AFS Education Committee and the Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association (ANROE), Alaska's statewide environmental education group.

Priority projects for 2000 will be updating the Directory of Fisheries and Aquatic Educators that was compiled years ago. We will attempt to strengthen communication and sharing of education resources between fisheries educators.

The Aquatic Education Committee held a meeting at the Chapter Annual Meeting in Kodiak, which was open to all members. Jeff Adams, James Beard, Bill Bechtol, Dave Cannon, William Hauser, Patrick Holmes, and Bob Piorkowski joined Mary Price to discuss direction for the coming year.

Several members agreed to submit articles to *Oncorhynchus* so that each issue would contain outreach-related tips and information. These articles will serve to remind us that we all have outreach roles, since each time we interact with members of the public (of any age), we have an opportunity for outreach. The committee also plans to update the Chapter's Directory of Fisheries and Aquatic Educators, which was first issued in 1996. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, but it should prove useful for those wanting to consult with others about outreach activities or programs. If you want to be included in this directory, if you know of someone who should be included (not restricted to AFS members), or if you have any comments or suggestions for the committee, please contact Co-Chairs Laurel Devaney (laurel\_devaney@fws.gov, 456-0558) or Mary Price (mary\_price@fws.gov, 262-9863).

### Awards Committee

*Nicky Szarzi, Chair*

This committee awards the best presentations at the Annual Meeting, including best paper, best student paper, and best poster. The committee also awards outstanding contributions to Alaska Fisheries with the Meritorious Service Award. Following are the award recipients in 1998.

The Best Student Paper. There were two award recipients in 1998. Robert Begich, ADF&G, Sport Fish, Kodiak, for "*Relationship Between Kelt and Spawner Abundance in Steelhead Trout of the Karluk River, Alaska;*" and Lisa Thompson, UBC Fisheries Centre, Vancouver,

BC, for "*Effects of Nutrient Additions to Kootenay Lake, BC on Kokanee Salmon: Density, Distribution and Diet.*"

Special Recognition to a High School Student. (First time this award was given.) David Fox, Takotna Community School and Training Center, Takotna, Alaska, for "*Return of a Lost Legacy: Takotna River Salmon.*" Co-authors were Gene Avey, Larry DuBois, and Douglas Molyneaux.

Best Poster. Eric Kretschmer, ADF&G, Anchorage, for "*Genetic Relationships Among Walleye Pollock in the Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.*" Co-authors were Sue Merkouris and Jim Seeb.

Best Paper. Phillip Mundy, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Lake Oswego, Oregon, for "*Principles and Criteria of Sustainable Salmon Management: The Salmon Fishery Evaluation Framework.*"

Meritorious Service Award. Gordon Kruse, ADF&G, Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.

The Awards committee is looking for members to help improve and update our reward process, judge nominees, and judge papers and posters at the Annual Meeting. Members can help with one or all of these activities. The Awards Committee members are Nicky Szarzi, Bob Piorkowski, Jim Finn, Debbie Burwen, and Eric Knudsen.

### Chapter Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Mike Murphy produces a quarterly newsletter with the help of many Chapter members who volunteer to provide articles. Mike edits the articles and sends them to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who does a great job in design and layout. Connie mails the completed newsletter to all recipients. Each issue includes a front-page article and photo supplied by a volunteer Chapter member. Everyone is welcome to submit an article to the editor to include in the newsletter. Deadlines for submitting articles are March 10, June 10, September 10, and December 10 each year.

### Continuing Education Committee

*Pat Hansen, Chair*

In 1999, the Continuing Education Section offered one workshop in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The workshop was entitled "Resource Selection By Animals: Applications for GIS Data" and was presented by Dr. Trent L. McDonald of Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. Twenty-one people registered for the course.

### Cultural Diversity Committee

*Kate Wedemeyer, Chair*

The Committee was organized in 1992 to increase the opportunities and active involvement of minorities and women in the Chapter. Committee members include Doug Molyneau, David Wiswar, Jim Reynolds, and Carol Kerkvliet. The Chapter EXCOM charged the 1999 Cultural Diversity committee with increasing outreach efforts to Alaska natives, giving a preference to Alaska Natives this year and adding financial need to the criteria for the travel award. The EXCOM announced that they will contribute an additional \$3,000 to complete the endowment of the Cultural Diversity Travel Award. The EXCOM suggested developing a second Travel Award endowment specifically for Alaska Natives to attend the Annual Meeting.

The committee effort centered on organizing committee records and increasing the outreach to Native Alaskans for the cultural diversity award. The announcement in *Oncorhynchus* offered mentoring to help applicants in the application process. Contacts included the local Native American Fish and Wildlife Association, Alaska Federation of Natives, the native coordinator for the USFWS and individual AFS members. We edited the application to emphasize the preference for Alaska Natives, to make the application more user friendly, and developed a reviewer's score sheet. Two people applied and the Travel Award was presented to Ms. Cheryl Dion. The committee also submitted a committee summary for the Outstanding Chapter Award.

### **Electronic Communications Committee**

*Allen Bingham, Chair*

This committee was established at the 1995 Annual Meeting in Wasilla. The main purpose of this committee is to maintain and keep current the Chapter web site on the internet. The committee is also responsible for routing and responding to e-mail sent to our chapter e-mail address. In 1999, the pages of the web site have been reformatted and further standardized to achieve cohesion and identity between pages. Links have been established between relevant topics among the pages. Each newsletter has been made available on our web site in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. Information about training courses and meetings has been posted. Most work the past year was accomplished by the previous Committee Chair, Norma Jean Sands. Norma has left Alaska for other employment. Her efforts will be missed.

This committee is also interested in hearing what members would like to see on our web site. The web site address is <http://www.alaska.net/~fishak/> (currently mirrored on our future site at: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>) and the e-mail address for sending comments about and contributions to the web site is [fishak@alaska.net](mailto:fishak@alaska.net).

### **Environmental Concerns Committee**

*Eric Knudsen, Chair*

The Alaska Chapter is involved in advocacy for protecting and conserving Alaska fish and fish habitat through the activities of its Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC).

*Limitations to State/Federal Cooperation.* In March of 1999, a letter to Alaska state legislators was drafted for EXCOM review, finalized, and distributed to all state legislators. At issue were two pending bills that would have precluded state biologists from interacting with federal biologists, thereby potentially compromising quality management of fish and habitat. The two bills did not pass in the legislature.

*Increased Gold Mining Camps on the Fortymile River.* In April, the Chapter commented on BLM's draft EA for long-term camping on the North Fork Fortymile River because of concerns about how this decision could impact fish and their habitat in the North Fork Fortymile River. The EA clearly indicated potential for increased negative impacts under the preferred alternative. The Chapter opposed any actions that deteriorate fish habitat or fish populations and encouraged BLM to reconsider several of the alternatives "considered but eliminated."

*Road from Juneau to Skagway.* In June, the Chapter EXCOM completed and signed a letter to Governor Knowles expressing the Chapter's concerns about the proposed road between Juneau and Skagway. The letter pointed out the possible destruction of fish habitat at the numerous streams crossing required if the road were to be built. The letter pointed out that most of the stream crossings were not even mentioned in the EIS. We also noted the numerous other impacts from road construction and subsequent impacts of vehicles and increased access.

*Letter Supporting Yukon Salmon Research and Management Funding.* In August, the ECC drafted and the EXCOM reviewed and approved a letter to the Alaska Congressional delegation supporting line items in the federal budget designed to increase federal funding to a number of agencies involved in research and management of Yukon River salmon populations. The funding remains in the appropriations bills although at this writing, the bills have not been signed by the President.

Eric Knudsen chaired the ECC during 1999. Numerous Chapter members were "deputized" as ad hoc committee members, but no formal committee structure exists otherwise. Eric is resigning as Chair because he is assuming new duties as Vice President of the Western Division AFS. There are a number of potential concerns that the ECC could become involved in, including logging effects on interior and south central streams, forage fish population declines in the North Pacific and Bering Sea, poor salmon returns to western Alaska, and effects of bottom trawling on the benthic ecosystem.

For the ECC to be effective, we need volunteers to become committee members. If you are interested in working on any of these issues, or have other environmentally oriented concerns that would be of Chapter interest, please contact President Bill Bechtol.

After the November Chapter business meeting Phil Mundy volunteered to chair the ECC. Phil can be reached at (907) 265-9332.

### **Fish Key Committee**

*Bill Wilson, Chair*

The Fish Key Committee was formed in 1990 to oversee production of a Key to the Fishes of Alaska, originally drafted by Rae Baxter, retired fishery biologist with ADF&G. The original project taken on by the Chapter was to assist Rae with technical editing and completion of his draft fish key. However, early in the project, Rae died, leaving three versions of the uncompleted draft. The Committee started a process for seeking funding and hiring a contractor to revise and complete the work begun by Rae. The Committee was endowed with funds to see the project through to completion through the efforts of Lyman Thorsteinson, USGS/BRD. For the past 8 years, our contractors, Point Stephens Research, of Auke Bay, Alaska, have meticulously gone through the key's hundreds of species accounts and dozens of family descriptions. They have consulted with experts throughout the world to ensure accuracy in all species descriptions and the most recent information on species range extensions. This effort has made the book a new document, updated and expanded beyond the initial projections. The late Norman Wilimovsky was an advisor during the early years of this

project and provided many fish illustrations heretofore unavailable to the public. Of interest is the fact that Wilimovsky's 1952 Alaska fish key was the basis for Rae Baxter's effort.

This past year, Kitty and Tony Mecklenburg of Point Stephens Research have completed compiling three major sections of the key. Remaining tasks include integration of peer review comments on the remainder of the book, and preparation of introductory sections. The Committee met with the Parent Society during the Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, to plan the remaining steps for publishing the book. We had hoped the publication process could have started in late 1999, but it appears the completion of this last step will occur in 2000. Currently several individuals with the publications section in the headquarters office of AFS are working with the Fish Key Committee in preparing for printing this book.

### **International Relations Committee**

*Fred DeCicco, Chair*

The International Committee is still organizing. Several people have volunteered for membership, including Fred DeCicco, Lou Carufel, Bill Hines, Mark Stopha, Nick Hughes, Ken Harper, and Jack Piccolo. Although the committee is considering acting as a clearing house for international exchanges and even sponsoring a trip, our activities this year have been limited to collecting back issues of fisheries journals and other reports to send to Fisheries institutes in the Russian Far East. So far, we have collected about 10 boxes of journals. Lou Carufel has been acting as the receiver for these materials, and he has been transferring materials to Fred DeCicco at ADF&G for storage and shipment. Fred has yet to find a dependable way to transport materials to Russia. The plan is to organize materials into sets and send them to the Institute of Biological Problems of the North in Magadan and to the Institute of Marine Biology in Vladivostok. We would like to thank the USFWS in Kenai and NMFS in Kodiak for donating old and duplicate journals for this purpose.

### **Membership Committee**

*Carol Ann Woody, Chair*

I have been unable to track the success of the membership work this year that consisted of letters and calls to members delinquent in their chapter dues. This information is difficult to track as some of the data comes from the Parent Organization and reporting appears to be inaccurate and not up to date. The next membership review should reflect a higher membership and fewer delinquents due to this work. The Mentorship Program has resulted in the sponsorship of three student members (Mentor Jim Beard USFS), and a biologist, Julie Meka of the USGS-BRD (mentor, Carol Ann Woody, USGS). I believe promotion of the Mentorship program, providing continuing education opportunities through AFS and providing great Annual Meetings to share ideas and findings will attract more people to AFS.

### **Past Presidents Committee**

*Peggy Merritt, Chair*

The Past President's Committee met in conjunction with the WDAFS/Sea Grant meeting in Anchorage in 1998, and Peggy Merritt was elected Chair for 1999. The

committee decided to have the outgoing Past President serve as Chair of the Past Presidents Committee. An initial charge from EXCOM to the former Stocks at Risk Committee to review the state's sustainable fisheries initiative was amended, when the Chair of the Stocks at Risk Committee (Alex Wertheimer) recommended that the Past President's Committee take this charge. The Past President's Committee accepted this task, and communications began in March 1999 to clarify the document to be reviewed, procedure for review, and who was interested in review.

The Deputy Commissioner of the ADF&G, Rob Bosworth, was informed that the Chapter was interested in providing review comments. Eighteen Past Presidents for whom I could readily find addresses were contacted, and of this group, nine eventually provided response. On August 25, 1999, the Deputy Commissioner sent the document, "Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy for the State of Alaska" for public review, and it was distributed to the subset of Past Presidents who had indicated an interest in providing comments.

Upon receipt of review comments, I synthesized and summarized the varied comments into a draft letter for review by EXCOM. A teleconference was held with the EXCOM to discuss the draft letter, after which the EXCOM provided written edits; these comments were incorporated into the draft letter. The letter was sent to the Chapter President, Cindy Hartmann, for her final approval and signature. Cindy then hand-carried the letter to the Commissioner's office by the October 13, 1999 deadline for public comment.

Buck Bryant will become the Past Presidents Committee Chair effective November 10th.

### **Resolutions and Bylaws Committee**

*Dennis Tol, Chair*

The committee was largely inactive during the past year. One change in the Chapter Bylaws was proposed and effected by a vote of the membership. This change reorganized the Bylaws for efficiency and to allow the EXCOM to set dues and fees through the resolutions process. No resolutions were submitted by the membership to the committee for review and processing. This appears to be a result of the Chapter's ultra strict and complicated advocacy rules.

### **Salmon Stock Status Committee**

*Alex Wertheimer, Chair*

The Chapter has reestablished the Salmon Stock Status Committee (formerly known as the Stocks at Risk Committee) to look at the feasibility and cost of extending the status review of Alaska salmon escapements. The Chapter previously undertook the review of Southeast Alaska escapements, and formed this ad-hoc Committee to oversee the project. In October 1996, as a result of the Chapter's efforts, the manuscript "Evaluation of Escapements of Pacific Salmon and Steelhead in Southeast Alaska" by T. T. Baker et al. was published in the AFS journal *Fisheries*. This project was funded through a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, and was originally intended to include the entire state. Because data sets were not centrally located for most of the state, limited funding

and time required us to narrow the focus to Southeast Alaska.

Since that time, NOAA has funded ADF&G to develop a statewide escapement database. That project is nearing completion, and information will now be more readily available for much of the State. There continues to be interest in a comprehensive look at the status of Alaska salmon. The extensive listing of threatened and endangered "evolutionary significant units" of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and California has increased concerns about the health of salmon populations throughout their range. An objective analysis of the available data would be a valuable contribution to Alaska and North American fisheries science, providing a benchmark of current status and identifying data gaps and priorities. For these reasons, the Chapter has charged the Salmon Stock Status Committee with the task of identifying analytical approaches, costs, and potential funding sources for a status evaluation.

The Committee has prepared a proposal for extending the status review to Southcentral, Interior, and Western Alaska. Under the proposal, the Stock Status committee will 1) define the criteria for status evaluation; 2) contract for a program manager through ADF&G to compile a database of catch and escapement data, and analyze the data according to the defined criteria; 3) review the contractor report; 4) produce a synthesis report in cooperation with the program manager for publication in the AFS journal *Fisheries*. The ADFG has developed and maintains the Status of Alaska Salmon Populations Geographic Information System (SASPop GIS), a database of georeferenced salmon escapement and harvest data. This information system will be the major data source for the status evaluation. By contracting through ADF&G, the Chapter will have access to and system support for SASPop. This approach also ensures access to the district biologists who are most familiar with the data sources and ancillary information on the resource.

The next step in this effort is to identify funding for the status review. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$123,000. The Committee is actively pursuing support, and has sent proposals to a number of funding entities. The Alaska Chapter and the Western Division have committed \$5,000 each towards this effort, and Gus Rasaam, executive director of AFS, is also looking for funding sources for the project.

Members of the committee are Alex Wertheimer, Chair, Tony Gharrett, Jim Reynolds, Hal Geiger, Tim Baker, and Rod Simmons.

### **Student Subunit**

*Lisa Mostella, UAF Student Subunit President*

The Student Unit has been active this past year. In Juneau, we currently have about 12 active members. One of the goals for this school year is to have all active members be full AFS participants, and we may use the mentorship program to accomplish this goal. Past year events in Juneau included a Fall social; a visual basics in Excel Workshop; a student symposium; helping with Sea Week at the NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory; and certification classes for members in First Aid, Adult CPR, Child/Infant CPR.

In Fairbanks, we currently have about 20 active members. One of our goals is to bring in more freshmen to junior level students, a group traditionally difficult to reach. Past year activities included two winter ice fishing sampling trips, monthly meetings with speakers, and assisting with Future Farmers of America Fisheries competition. For the entire Student Unit, five students from both campuses were able to attend the Chapter Annual Meeting with funding from the Chapter raffle. The ADF&G office in Kodiak also assisted by allowing us to use the bunkhouse. The FITC, part of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, allowed us the use of a van to transport people to and from the airport. Karla and I discussed a reciprocating agreement to help out with accommodations for students traveling to either Fairbanks or Juneau for Chapter Annual Meetings. Also, James Beard offered to sponsor three memberships for students, one from each campus in Alaska with a Fisheries program.

### **Wally Noerenberg Award Committee**

*Gordon Kruse, Chair*

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence is the highest award of the Chapter. It is bestowed as a special honor of an individual's life-long career achievements in fishery excellence. The award was created in 1981, and in 1982 was awarded posthumously to its namesake, Wally Noerenberg. Since then, there have been only nine recipients: Armin Koerning, Robert Armstrong, Clem Tillion, Steven Pennoyer, Jim Branson, Jim Reynolds, Ole Mathisen, Ken Roberson, and John H. Clark. 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.

No nominations were received by the July 31 deadline for this year's award. One nomination was received after this deadline, and this nomination will be considered for next year's award, along with other nominees received prior to July 31, 2000. A Chapter member who is not a Past President chairs the Wally Noerenberg Award committee. The Chair holds this position for 3 years. This is my second year as chair of the committee. Three Past Presidents serve on the committee, each with staggered 3-year terms.

As no nominations for the Wally Noerenberg Award have been received since it was last presented in 1997, the terms of all Past President members of the previous committee have expired. Given receipt of at least one nomination for next year, a new committee has been formed. The following Past Presidents have agreed to form the new Wally Noerenberg Award committee: Mason (Buck) Bryant (3-year term), Peggy Merritt (2-year term), and Kate Wedemeyer (1-year term).

The Wally Noerenberg Award committee will continue to seek nominations through advertisement in the Chapter newsletter, *Oncorhynchus*. Please reflect on fishery professionals who you know are deserving of this special honor, and consider submitting a nomination for the Chapter's most prestigious award. A nomination form is included in this issue of *Oncorhynchus*.

# Oncorhynchus

Allen Bingham  
P.O. Box 221804  
Anchorage, AK 99522-1804

# FIRST CLASS

**RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD**

### 2000 Alaska Chapter Officers

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**President-Elect** Carol Ann Woody, USGS/ Alaska Science Center, 1011 East Tudor Rd., Anchorage 99703, Phone: 786-3314, Fax: 786-3636, 248-4776 (h), [carol\\_woody@usgs.gov](mailto:carol_woody@usgs.gov)

**Vice President** David Wiswar, USFWS/FRO, 101 12th Ave., Box 17, Fairbanks 99701-6291, Phone: 456-0453, Fax: 456-0454, 457-2344 (h), [david\\_wiswar@fws.gov](mailto:david_wiswar@fws.gov)

**Treasurer** Sue Walker, USFWS, 3000 Vintage Blvd., Suite 201, Juneau 99801, Phone: 586-7240, Fax: 586-7154, 790-2602 (h), [susan\\_walker@fws.gov](mailto:susan_walker@fws.gov) or [eviesmom@aol.com](mailto:eviesmom@aol.com)

**Secretary** Lee Ann Gardner, P. O. Box 672302, Chugiak 99567, Phone/Fax: 688-1400, [rwjconsult@corecom.net](mailto:rwjconsult@corecom.net).

**Past President** Cindy Hartmann, PO Box 20686, Juneau 99802-0686, Phone: 586-7585, Fax: 586-7012, 789-3259 (h), [cindy.hartmann@noaa.gov](mailto:cindy.hartmann@noaa.gov)

**Student Unit President** UAF, Lisa Mostella, 728 Chena Ridge Road, Fairbanks, 99709. Phone: 474-7160.

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

## 2000 AFS Membership Application

Print or type applicant's name in full

Address

City State Zip Code

Nation Membership year\*

Please provide phone numbers for directory and Society use only:

Home Work

Fax

Employed by:  
 federal gov't.  state/prov. gov't.  industry  academia  self

Alaska Dues: \$10.00  Alaska Student Dues: \$5.00

Membership Dues (includes *Fisheries* and Membership Directory)

Regular: \$76.00 (Canadian \$83.50, other than U.S. \$87.50)

Student: \$38.00 (Canadian \$41.50, other than U.S. \$43.50)

Retired: (age 65 or over): \$37.50 (Canadian \$41.50, other than U.S. \$43.50)

Life: \$1,737.00 (includes *Fisheries* and one other journal of choice)

1 Prices are for AFS members only 2 Membership not required for subscription  
\* New members accepted Jan. 1-Aug.31 are credited to full membership for that year. (Back issues of Journals are sent.) Members accepted Sept. 1-Dec. 31 credited to full membership as of next Jan. 1, unless requested otherwise. Membership on calendar year only.

Kindly make checks payable to American Fisheries Society in U.S. Currency or Equivalent.

Please mail to Allen Bingham P.O. Box 221804 Anchorage, AK 99522-1804

Professional recruiting others (PROCLUB)

If applicant is a student as defined below, the teacher endorsing him signs here.\*\*

Name of institution where student is enrolled

Date

### Journal Subscriptions (Optional)

Transactions of the AFS<sup>1</sup>  N.A. Journal of Fisheries Management

\$38.00 Paper in U.S.  \$43.00 Paper other than U.S.

\$15.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet

Progressive Fish-Culturist<sup>2</sup>  Journal of Aquatic Animal Health<sup>1</sup>

\$33.00 Paper in U.S.  \$38.00 Paper other than U.S.

\$20.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet

**\*\* Bona fide students of fisheries subjects are eligible for Student membership (limited to 6 years). Persons employed full-time not eligible. Teacher endorsement required (see above).**

**NOTE: Retired membership for Active members upon retiring at age 65. Sustaining membership for commercial firms, conservation clubs, or others desiring to support the Society. Library Subscriptions include bimonthly *Transactions*, quarterly *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health*, quarterly *The Progressive Fish-Culturist*, bimonthly *Fisheries*, and Membership Directory.**