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Annual Meeting Recap

Carol Ann Woody

The annual meeting held in Fairbanks from November 13-16 was a surprising success. Over 40 people took Continuing Education courses, and over 200 people participated in the technical sessions. Expectations were for possibly 100-120 attendees, so we were unprepared and ran out of 150 programs by the second day. We made up for our mistake by printing 60 additional programs that were Goldstreaked by Thursday morning. In reviewing why the meeting was so successful, I think it was due to the diversity of sessions offered, the strong marine component, and the continuing education opportunities. If there was an aspect you really liked or disliked about the meeting, I would like to hear about it, carol_woody@usgs.gov. We would like to have an equally successful turnout next year.

Sessions included such topics as: effects of bottom fishing; marine protected areas; Yukon River issues; sustainable and subsistence fisheries; sport fisheries, and modeling. Featured speakers included Jeremy Collie from the University of Rhode Island who provided a meta-analysis of 39 fishing impact studies. He

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Beavers help create important over-wintering habitat for coho salmon. The coho parr has a freeze brand mark. Photo credit: Sandra Frost

Coho salmon "hotspots"

Beaver ponds, sloughs and fall floods in Southeast Alaska

Mark D. Lukey and Mason D. Bryant

Beaver activity in streams provides a unique example of a natural alternation to ecosystem structure and function. Transformation of streams into ponds alters riparian vegetation, traps sediment and modifies habitat that ultimately influences stream community composition and structure. The ability of beaver to alter ecosystems is apparent, as beaver ponds are common throughout southeast Alaska. Historically, beaver dams were perceived as barriers to juvenile salmon migration and were frequently removed. This may not be the case however, as results from our study show that beaver ponds provide critical over-wintering habitat for juvenile coho, and access to these habitats may occur during high water events in fall.

In 1998 and 1999, we examined populations of juvenile coho salmon in a beaver pond, slough, and a section of stream located within the Kadashan watershed on Chichagof Island. We collected information on total number, size and age of coho in early spring, mid-summer, and fall before high water flows. During fall, each fish was marked with a freeze brand that identified location of capture: main stream section, slough or pond. The following spring, soon after snowmelt, fish were captured in each location and examined for brands to assess movement. Additionally, in 1999, fish were sampled in November to determine movement after the first set of high water events.

We observed differences in seasonal use of the stream, slough and pond habitats by coho fry (age 0+) and parr (age 1+). Larger fish tended to leave the stream in search of more suitable over-wintering habitat as the season progressed. In fall 1999, less than 400 juvenile salmon were captured in the stream section, while nearly 3,000 juvenile salmon were found in the slough and beaver ponds combined.

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The President's Column

Carol Ann Woody



The annual meeting was a great success. Over 200 people attended and I attribute the turnout to the terrific cast of session chairs that recruited for and organized each session. I did notice that our membership has declined and few new recruits are in the wings to take advantage of the learning and networking opportunities that the Alaska Chapter offers. Fisheries biologists in Alaska often have the great fortune to work with young motivated individuals who are interested in a fisheries-related career. As supervisors, we can choose to have a purely employer-employee relationship with our young technicians, interns, and volunteers, or we can be MENTORS by creating an educational environment that offers opportunities for professional growth. A work environment that creates an apprenticeship toward a true partnership will teach young biologists to be professionals, and will facilitate their advancement to the next career level. This type of working relationship has mutual benefits, as the success and advancement of both parties contributes to the professional development of both.

Trust, communication, fairness, and professionalism are key elements characterizing a true mentorship. Because an imbalance in power exists, the apprentice must feel that the mentor has the individual's best interests in mind, and the apprentice must feel a sense of contribution to the supervisors "team." Clarification of expectations by both parties regarding work performance, ethics, scheduling, availability, support, and products (e.g. reports) will help establish a mutually beneficial trusting relationship. Through professional development opportunities such as public speaking, supervision, writing, problem solving, critical thinking, formal training, and interaction with other fishery professionals, aspiring biologists can develop critical skills for their professional future.

A good mentor will:

- Set an example
- Set high standards
- Build mutual trust
- Communicate frequently and openly
- Define expectations

- Define goals together
- Make yourself available
- Be fair
- Provide opportunities for professional growth

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society encourages established fishery professionals to identify and MENTOR promising young biologists. This program, currently informal, is open to everyone, but it may also serve as a vehicle to help diversify the membership to reflect Alaskan demographics by sponsoring underrepresented groups such as Alaskan Natives, African Americans, Hispanics, and women.

One way you can mentor an individual's professional development is by sponsoring a 1-year membership with the AFS. Many young technicians, students, and interns are unaware of AFS or are on a shoestring budget and consider annual dues prohibitive. If you sponsor a young person for a year they will receive Fisheries monthly, receive discounted member rates to attend annual meetings, and receive the annual AFS phone directory of fishery professionals, which is a terrific reference. Fill out the membership form with the individual's name and address and then send it in with the annual dues. Please inform me by e-mail (carol_woody@usgs.gov) of the person you are sponsoring. Your sponsorship will be recognized at the Annual Meeting and will provide dividends toward sustainable fisheries, long into the future. ☺

"Hotspots," continued from page 1

Over-winter movement data showed that more fish moved into the ponds and away from stream and slough habitats. Seventy-six stream fish moved through the slough to the pond from fall 1998 to spring 1999, whereas only two fish marked in the pond were recaptured in the stream. The slough, lying between stream and pond, serves as an intermediary stop for stream fish en route to the pond. This movement pattern, in conjunction with the Kadashan river hydrologic cycle suggests that fish movement is closely linked to the fall floods which temporarily connect the main stream to off-channel habitats such as beaver ponds and sloughs.

Results from this study show that beaver ponds provide important off-channel refuge that serve not only as significant over-winter habitat, but also provide habitat for juvenile salmon throughout the year. Furthermore, beaver dams located along the banks of the main channel are not barriers if seasonal freshets provide links to these areas.

Future studies will examine productivity of beaver ponds throughout the year and their influence on salmon and invertebrate production. Related studies will examine the role of seasonal flood events on the ecology of the ponds and the surrounding riparian habitat. These independent studies will help us understand how beaver ponds contribute to salmonid habitat across the landscape of southeast Alaska, and understand their significance to riparian management elsewhere. ☺

ONCORHYNCHUS

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Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>

Chapter Election Results

Results of the recent Chapter elections were announced at the business portion of the annual Chapter meeting in Fairbanks in November 2000. No, a recount is not anticipated! Please join me in welcoming the newest Chapter officers. In a close contest, Carol Kerkvliet was elected Chapter Vice-President over Cathy Coon. Carol, who holds an M.S. from the University of Alaska-Anchorage, has worked in fisheries since 1978 for ADF&G and several private consulting firms. Her experiences in a variety of fields have included sockeye rehabilitation, ballast water treatment analysis, herring research, a variety of salmon tagging studies, including radio telemetry work, and genetic population analyses. Carol has also been active in AFS through participation in a variety of committees, most recently coordinating evaluation of applications for the Cultural Diversity Travel Award. As Vice President, Carol also serves as chair of the Membership Committee through which she plans to work on expanding Chapter diversity by recruiting underrepresented groups.

Bob Ourso, running unopposed, was elected Chapter Treasurer, a 2-year term. Bob obtained an M.S. from Southwest Texas State University and is currently a stream ecologist with the USGS Water Resources Division. Since arriving in Alaska 2 years ago, Bob has collected and analyzed biological community data from streams in the Cook Inlet Basin. Bob has increased his participation in Alaska Chapter AFS, including serving as Poster Session chair at the 1999 Kodiak meeting. Bob's previous life as a business manager for the 10 years prior to becoming a biologist helped hone his skill for the position of Chapter Treasurer.

Based on a membership recommendation at the 1999 Chapter business meeting in Kodiak, the Fall 2000 election

Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

The AFS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Award of Excellence. The deadline is May 1, 2001. Guidelines that would describe a nominee and their work are:

- a. a monumental work
- b. original techniques or research methods
- c. new fresh ideas, viewpoints, or data which contribute remarkably to conservation
- d. a new successfully executed fishery research or management program of national or international importance
- e. imaginative and successful programs in fishery education
- f. important faunal or ecological discoveries
- g. research beneficial to mankind
- h. interdisciplinary research involving leadership in team efforts in the lab or field
- i. multiple successful efforts in a variety of fields such as biology, public understanding technical and popular writing, laboratory and field research, inspirational leadership, or enunciation of principles.

The recipient must be living at the time of the selection, and an award is not necessarily made each year. If you know of a nominee, contact Phil Mundy, 907-265-9332, phil_mundy@oilspill.state.ak.us.



Members of the Chapter Executive Committee (L-R): back row, Kalei Shotwell, Lee Ann Gardner, Carol Ann Woody, Cindy Hartman, front row, Bill Bechtol, David Wiswar, and Bob Ourso.

was the first time that the Chapter election included an option of voting electronically through the internet. Electronic balloting was well received as nearly 75% of all ballots received were cast electronically. However, the option of electronic balloting did not necessarily increase the proportion of members participating in the 2000 Chapter election; less than 10% of the total membership cast ballots among all voting means. As this was the first year of electronic balloting, it is anticipated that future election participation will increase as the membership becomes more aware of the option and ease of electronic voting. Please join me in expressing your appreciation to all candidates that ran for office in 2000 and in offering a hearty congratulations to your new Vice President, Carol Kerkvliet, and your new Treasurer, Bob Ourso! Regarding other Chapter officers, Lee Ann Gardner, the secretary is starting her second year of a 2-year term while other officers succeeded to the following positions: President-Elect David Wiswar, President Carol Ann Woody, and Past-President Bill Bechtol. Thanks again to Susan Walker and Cindy Hartman who recently completed terms on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Best Paper Awards

Best paper awards were presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting in two categories.

Best Paper - Ted Otis for *Reliability and performance of a remote video escapement recorder (RVER) for counting adult pink and chum salmon in an intertidal stream.*

Best Student Paper - Karla Granath for *Outbreeding effects of intercrossing three geographically separate stocks of southeast Alaska coho salmon.*

Annual Meeting Recap, from page 1

concluded that intertidal dredging and scallop dredging have a greater initial effect on intertidal biota and trawling has a lesser effect. Less stable unconsolidated sediments appeared less affected than stable habitats, which recovered more slowly from dredging impacts.

Jim Estes and Eliot Norse, both award winning marine conservationists, made dynamic presentations on marine ecosystems and their conservation. Jim Estes critiqued establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and indicated he did not think they were adequate to protect many species, while Eliot indicated that research demonstrates that MPAs can and do have substantial benefits toward protecting marine biodiversity.

Ray Hilborn, as irreverent and colorful as usual, reviewed the past, present, and future of modeling; predicting the death of P-values and the rise of likelihood and Bayesian methods as the future.

The two Continuing Education courses, "Bootstrap Data Analysis" taught by Joel Reynolds and "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Genetics But Were Afraid to Ask" taught by Jeff Olsen and Carol Kerkvleit attracted over 40 participants. Course participants gave high ratings to both courses and a formal course evaluation was sent out for the Bootstrap course. Joel Reynolds has volunteered to be Committee Chair of the Continuing Education Committee and he asks that anyone with suggestions or topics for Continuing Education courses, please e-mail him at joel_reynolds@fishgame.state.ak.us.

The Student Chapter members made a terrific showing at the meeting with excellent presentations. They livened up the banquet with good humor giving away raffle and door prizes including one of those weird "Billy Bass" singing fish, which lucky Buck Bryant won!

I would like to thank all the session chairs for their hard work in putting together such a great program and all those who volunteered time to make the meeting such a great success.

Finally, thanks to all the member and non-members who came and made for a thoroughly enjoyable time at the annual meeting. 🐟

Annual Meeting Student Recap

Kalei Shotwell, UAF-Juneau student subunit President

Nearly every aspect of the AFS November conference was educational. The Juneau AFS student subunit traversed the Yukon wilds for a grand total of 36 hours to arrive on Monday, Nov. 13. All students seemed ready and willing to learn through interaction with prestigious scientists in discussions, meetings, and socials. Of course, we were a bit more motivated on Tuesday, and with adequate recovery time, we enjoyed ourselves throughout the conference.

The student raffle was an enormous success. With the returns from our crafty endeavors to lure more people into buying tickets, we may have the ability to set up a long-term fund for student travel to relevant conferences across the country. There are also ideas for a student scholarship through AFS to allow for support in expenses incurred through traveling to meetings. The increasing ability for students to travel and learn current issues and research at conferences should have a great and positive influence on student participation and interest in future AFS functions.

This year we had 11 students attend the meeting and, returns from last year's raffle could not possibly support all of us. I applied for the Cultural Diversity Award with these factors in mind and because I qualified as a woman and minority in a fisheries related field who lived quite far from Fairbanks. I strongly believe that student travel to relevant conferences should not be as difficult as it was this year. Coordination of eleven students in a beloved van named Bonnie through the ferry system and on up to Fairbanks in the winter, is, as I said before, educational. However, it would be a great benefit if traveling funds were consistent enough so that those students desiring (or required) to attend meetings could do so in a reasonable, hassle-free manner.

This is not to imply that we did not enjoy our truly remarkable excursion. It is through this conference that I was able to understand that there are many willing to support students in travel expenses. Through development of the continuous student travel fund, we may have the means to use travel donations in a more efficient and feasible manner. Many of the students (myself included) were able to make excellent contacts for future research. In the end, we all learned a bit more about each other (a bit too much in some cases) and understand the value of conferences if only just to get out and meet people who have some great things to say! 🐟

AFS Internet Site

The AFS Internet site is an extremely helpful site to our members. You can catch up on the latest national AFS scene or see what's happening in your local chapter at www.fisheries.org. Additionally, here are some of the extensive set of resource links at the AFS site:

Publications, including the AFS Online Bookstore: <http://www.fisheries.org/Publications.shtml>

Certification: <http://www.fisheries.org/Certification.shtml>

AFS Mailing List Rental: <http://www.fisheries.org/Marketplace.shtml>

Public Policy, including AFS Policy Statements: <http://www.fisheries.org/PublicPolicy.shtml>

Meetings and Events: <http://www.fisheries.org/Calendar.shtml>

The AFS Jobs Center Online has become the resource for fisheries-related employment. If you are looking for a job, or have one to post, this site should be your first stop. Check it out at www.fisheries.org/jobs.html. Also, you can browse featured articles from the latest issue of Fisheries magazine at: <http://www.fisheries.org/fisheries/fishery.shtml>. 🐟

Updates Requested for the Anadromous Waters Atlas and Catalog

Most individuals working to identify potential impacts of human use upon habitats of anadromous fishes in Alaska are familiar with what is commonly called the anadromous waters catalog. This catalog and corresponding atlas identify specific habitats that are important to the rearing, spawning, or migration of anadromous fish species. Waters that are identified in the catalog and atlas are afforded protection under Alaska statute 16.05.870. Water bodies that are not "specified" within the Catalog and Atlas are not afforded the same regulatory protection. Copies of the catalog and atlas, last revised in February 1999, are available for review in most Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices. There are many areas of the state where information on the presence and distribution of anadromous fish is incomplete or has improved in recent years. ADF&G is now accepting nominations for revisions to the *Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* and its associated atlas, *An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*. The deadline for submittals is January 31, 2001. Nominations may be submitted for purposes of (1) adding new streams and lakes, (2) adding species to previously cataloged streams, (3) extending species distribution in cataloged streams, (4) deleting streams or parts of them, (5) updating survey data on cataloged streams, or (6) revising stream channels, labeling errors, or identifying barriers to fish movement. Comments are also welcome on the introductory text and how to make the Catalog and Atlas more user friendly. A blank nomination form and instructions can be downloaded and printed from the following web site: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/habitat/geninfo/anadcat/nomination.htm>. For more information contact Ed Weiss, ADF&G - Habitat Division, Anchorage, ph: 907-267-2305; e-mail: ed_weiss@fishgame.state.ak.us.



Cindy Hartman chilling off at the Annual Meeting in Fairbanks.

Alaska Salmon Fishery is Certified Sustainable

Juneau Empire, September 6, 2000

The Marine Stewardship Council, a London-based group concerned about depleted fish stocks, does an environmental review before allowing use of its label. Alaska's salmon fishery is the only one in the world to meet the group's standards, according to Gov. Tony Knowles' staff, which has sought the certification for 4 years. "While acknowledging that periodic weak runs can occur, this certification recognizes our ability to respond through sound salmon management policies and principles," Knowles said in a written statement. "We're looking forward to marketing MSC labeled products very soon," said Terry Gardiner, president of NorQuest Seafoods.

Atlantic Salmon Update

Catches and Sightings

Atlantic salmon continue to be a major mariculture focus throughout the world, including at facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Because Atlantic Salmon are nonindigenous to the Pacific Northwest, biologists are concerned about the potential effects that escaped Atlantic salmon may have upon native salmonid populations.

The Atlantic Salmon Watch Program, based at DFO in Nanaimo, British Columbia (BC), was established to monitor sightings of Atlantic salmon that have escaped. Below is an update of Atlantic salmon catches or sightings, as summarized through September 15, 2000:

- BC catch: 7,753
- BC freshwater adult recoveries or sightings: 29
- BC freshwater juvenile recoveries or sightings: 5
- Washington freshwater adult recoveries or sightings: 1
- Alaska marine catch: 65
- Alaska freshwater catch: 1

For more information contact Andy Thomson: ThomsonAn@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca, or visit the program website at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aqua/pages/atlsalm.htm>.

Successful Breeding

Conservation Biology 14(3):899-903

Atlantic salmon have now been documented as successfully breeding in at least one Pacific Northwest stream (Tsitika River, BC). Twelve juvenile salmon from two different year classes were genetically analyzed to confirm the observation.

If Atlantics are now breeding in the Tsitika River, they may be breeding in several other coastal watersheds. This scenario, which was predicted years ago (1980s) as a consequence of development of Atlantic salmon farm in the Pacific Northwest, adds a confounding dimension to Pacific salmon conservation and restoration.

Meetings and Events

International Conference on Restoring Nutrients to Salmonid Ecosystems

Update and Second Call for Papers

The International Conference on Restoring Nutrients to Salmonid Ecosystems (April 24-26, 2001, Eugene, OR) promises to define the cutting edge of information on the importance and use of nutrients in restoring salmon ecosystems. The program is robust with on-the-ground knowledge and experience assembled by the most insightful scientists on the subject. Plenary speakers include Jim Lichatowich (WA), Takeshi Murota (Kyoto, Japan), and John Stockner (BC, Canada). Session chairs include: C. Jeff Cederholm and Robert Bilby (WA), Robert Lackey and Bill Bakke (OR), Wayne Minshall (ID), Mark Wipfli (AK), and Tom Reimchen (BC). Co-sponsors include the following AFS chapters: Oregon, Greater Portland, North Pacific International, and Canadian Aquatic Resource Section. There is still space for contributed papers and posters relevant to the subject. A limited number of student travel awards are available. The registration form, student award applications, agenda, contributed paper criteria, and further information are available on the conference web page at: www.gpafs.org/confnutr/. Or you can contact Richard Grost at 541-496-4580 and rgrost@compuserve.com. If you are interested in the holistic restoration of salmonid populations and habitats, please plan to attend. ☺

ORAFS Watershed Restoration Workshop 2001

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will present an "updated repeat" of its popular watershed restoration workshop series "Integrating Practical Approaches", November 13-15, 2001 in Eugene, Oregon. This workshop will be similar to the 1999 workshop in Sunriver, where the limited space was rapidly filled and people had to be turned away. In Eugene, we have space for more people (400) and have secured government per diem room rates at the Hilton. The program will feature scientists from California to British Columbia, with diverse restoration expertise. The workshop will describe how to identify, prioritize, and integrate practical approaches to restoring watershed functions. Topics will span from theoretical concepts to on-the-ground planning, treatment, maintenance, and monitoring - and will address river geomorphology, soils, riparian forests, fish and wildlife, water quality, and social issues. Notebooks will be provided, and AFS Continuing Education credit will be offered. The agenda, registration form, and other details will be available early in 2001 via the conference web page www.osu.orst.edu/groups/orafs/wrw. For more information contact Richard Grost at 541-496-4580, rgrost@compuserve.com. ☺

2001 Alaska Hatchery Manager's Meeting

The meeting will take place at the Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood January 17-19, 2001. Please respond with a list of those that are planning to attend. Tell the hotel you are attending the Hatchery Managers Meeting and they will give you the contract price. Room fees are \$100 + tax per night for "run of the house" or "moderate double/king." That rate is extended to 3 days before and after the meeting for those that may want to ski. There is an extra \$25 charge per night for triple occupancy. Check-in time is 3:00 PM and checkout time is 12:00 noon.

There is a minimum number of rooms that have to be reserved, so get reservations early. Reservations are guaranteed only if they are made 30 days ahead. Note: the contract states you still have to pay for the room if you cancel. (Ask them how far in advance when you make reservations.)

Meeting functions begin January 17 at 7:00 PM with a cocktail reception. On January 18th, there is a continental breakfast at 7:30 AM and the meeting follows at 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; there is a lunch buffet at 12:00 Noon. Friday, January 19th there is a continental breakfast at 7:30 AM followed by the meeting from 8:00 to 12:00.

Please let Jack Christiansen, Jeff Milton, or Darrell Keifer (907-274-0065) know of any subjects or presenters you would like to see. We have several presentations lined up that emphasize physical plant requirements (variable speed pumps, HDPE info, and the latest in the war against total dissolved gas).

I hope to have some time for an innovations-session with short 15 minutes of show-and-tell for each idea. Let us know if you want 15 minutes of fame. Overhead and slide projectors should be available. We plan to have the fish feed vendors there and allow them a short time to update their latest offerings for us. Hatchery tours of Elmendorf and Fort Richardson will be offered. ☺

Alaska Salmon Workshop

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be hosting the 7th Alaska Salmon Workshop at the downtown Marriott in Anchorage February 21-23. The title of the conference is "Escapement and the Realities of the New Salmon Management."

Topics will include: escapement-policy and implementation, federal fisheries management, cooperative research projects, and attracting and retaining fishery managers.

If you have any questions or would like to pre-register please contact Carl Pfisterer at 907-465-6153 or carl_pfisterer@fishgame.state.ak.us. ☺

Meetings and Events

20th Northeast Pacific Pink And Chum Salmon Workshop

Second (& Final) Call for Papers

The 20th Northeast Pacific Pink and Chum Salmon Workshop will be held in Seattle, Washington, March 21-23, 2001. This notice solicits papers and posters for the workshop and provides additional details on the registration fee, tentative schedule, and information on abstract submission, as well as links to information on accommodations during the workshop. For future workshop details, we announce a website for the workshop www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pinkchum that you can refer to for information as it develops. If you forget everything else here, remember this web address. We will update the website's information periodically over the next several months.

This year's Pink and Chum Workshop will be held at the University of Washington in Seattle, in the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science's new Fishery Sciences Building auditorium (1122 NE Boat Street, room 102). The workshop will run from 1 PM Wednesday, March 21 to noon Friday, March 23, with a full day of talks planned for the intervening Thursday. We plan to have a social Wednesday evening at either the School or the University Inn, and — if there is sufficient interest — we will hold a poster session preceding the banquet Thursday evening at the Silver Cloud Inn (contact information for these hotels is provided below).

Registration for the workshop for payments made by February 15th, 2001 will be \$45 USD (\$68 CAD), with that for students \$22 USD (\$33 CAD). After February 15th, registration fees rise to \$52 USD (\$79 CAD), with students \$25 USD (\$38 CAD). For those interested in attending a banquet, we will post the fee on the website as soon as we can determine it. Please make out your checks to Jeff Hard and mail them to his address, given below. We plan to



Sue Walker at the Annual Meeting in Fairbanks.

have T-shirts (including a few from the last workshop in Juneau) available for sale at the meeting.

For those of you planning to give a presentation or poster, we are now asking for titles and abstracts. These should be submitted electronically to Jeff Hard (see contact information below). We will provide on the website a preliminary workshop agenda by the end of January. We are still seeking an additional 3-4 volunteers to be session chairs, so please indicate your willingness to serve in that capacity when you submit your abstract (i.e., no; yes; only if coerced). We anticipate slots for 30-35 papers (as of October 31, we have 6 submissions). A keynote speaker has not yet been identified, but this information will be posted on the website as soon as it is available (suggestions are still welcome). Session topics for the workshop will depend on the submissions, but tentatively they are:

- Life history and developmental and reproductive biology
- Population biology, genetics, and evolution
- Habitat
- Conservation
- Stock assessment and fishery management
- Marine research

We are in the process of confirming reserved blocks of rooms at both the Silver Cloud Inn at University Village (206-526-5200, 5036 25th Ave. NE, Seattle 98105, hotelguide.net/seattle/data/h100126.htm) and the University Inn (206-632-5055/800-733-3855, 4140 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle 98105, www.universityinnseattle.com). Block room rates are \$104 at the Silver Cloud Inn (reservations must be made by February 21st, 2001) (we are negotiating room rates with the University Inn and will put this information on the website when it is available).

Please inform your colleagues and students of this workshop and encourage them to participate. If you have any questions not answered here or on our website, would like to chair a session, or would like to contribute a paper or poster, please contact one of the workshop organizers: Jeff Hard, 206-860-3275, jeff.hard@noaa.gov; Kate Myers, 206-543-1101, kmyers@fish.washington.edu; or Orlay Johnson, 206-860-3253, orlay.johnson@noaa.gov in Seattle. We look forward to seeing your abstracts, and to seeing you in Seattle in March! ☺

First Call 2001 Annual Meeting

I know it has been only been a few weeks since we met in Fairbanks for our annual meeting but its time to start thinking about the 2001meeting. In keeping with the tradition of rotating the annual meeting's location around the state, next year the meeting will be held in Southeast Alaska in November. If you have ideas for session topics or are interested in giving a presentation please contact David_Wiswar@fws.gov. ☺

Committee Reports

Awards Committee

Nicky Szarzi and Andy Gryzka, Co-Chairs

Awards have traditionally been presented at the close of the Chapter's annual meeting. This committee awards the best presentations at the annual chapter meeting including: best paper, best student paper, and best poster. The committee also recognizes recent outstanding contribution to Alaska Fisheries with the Meritorious Service Award and outstanding service to the chapter with the Alaska Chapter Service Award. Participants at the 1999 Chapter meeting in Kodiak were entertained and enlightened by a series of excellent presentations and posters. The Awards Committee had the difficult job of singling out the best ones. The awards and their recipients were:

Best Paper - "Correcting for two sources of position-related bias in estimates of acoustic backscattering cross-section" presented by Steve Fleischman, co-authored 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 and 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, 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 Alaska 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 to the award recipients for your excellent work. Also, thanks to paper judges Bob Piorkowski and Eric Knudsen and poster judges Debbie Burwen and Dan Urban.

There were no Meritorious Service Award or Alaska Chapter Service Award recipients chosen at the meeting this year because we didn't have enough nominees.

The Awards Committee chooses the best paper and poster presentations from among the many excellent ones that are given at each annual Chapter Meeting. The committee also chooses the most deserving nominee for the Meritorious Service Award for recent outstanding contribution to Alaska fishery science. Finally, the committee awards contributions to the goals of the Alaska Chapter with 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 were made available on our website this year. If you have suggestions or comments about them, please contact one of our members or better yet - BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE! Contact: Andrew Gryzka, ADF&G, 1300 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99701, andrew_gryzka@fishgame.state.ak.us.

Continuing Education Committee

Pat Hansen, Chair

The Committee presented one workshop last year, "Resource Selection by Animals: Applications for GIS Data". The workshop was held in conjunction with the 1999 annual AFS meeting and was attended by 22 people.

Based on changes in the personal time commitments of the current chair, the Continuing Education Committee will be seeking a new chair to coordinate future educational opportunities for Alaska's fisheries professionals.

Cultural Diversity Committee

Carol Kerkvliet, Chair

The committee chair, Kate Wedemeyer, and members Doug Molyneaux, David Wiswar, and Carol Kerkvliet, met in the spring of 2000. The primary purpose of this meeting was to edit the committee's travel award application to emphasize the preference for Alaska Natives, to make the application more user friendly, and to develop a reviewer's score sheet. This work was lost when the committee chair was involved in an accident and unable retrieve her records. In October 2000, Chapter President Bill Bechtol contacted the committee members and asked for their help in making the cultural diversity award happen. The committee members updated the award application and solicited award applicants. Doug Molyneaux also coordinated with Allen Bingham to post the 1999 version of the application on the AFS home page. A record of three applications were received for the 2000 award. The 2000 Cultural Diversity Travel Award was presented to Kalei Shotwell (Juneau Student Subunit president). Currently the Cultural Diversity Committee chair is vacant and potential candidates need to be identified.

Electronic Communications Committee

Allen Bingham, Chair

This committee was established at the 1995 chapter annual meeting in Wasilla. The main purpose of this committee is to maintain and keep current the Alaska Chapter web site on the internet. The committee is also responsible for routing and responding to email sent to our chapter email address.

During this past year the structure of the web site has been reformatted and further standardized to achieve cohesion and identity between pages; links have been established between relevant topics among the pages; navigation bars have been added to all main pages of the web site; a simple search tool has been added to the site; on-line e-balloting for the 2000-2001 election was successfully implemented; each newsletter that has been put out this year has been made available on our web site in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format; and information about training courses and meetings have been posted. The web site was moved from a local independent Internet service provider (ISP) to a site hosted within the parent AFS web site.

The committee is interested in hearing what members would like to see on our web site. The web site address is <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak>, and the e-mail address for comments and contributions is fishak@alaska.net.

Committee Reports

Environmental Concerns Committee

Phillip R. Mundy, Chair

The Environmental Concerns Committee chair participated with the Chapter Executive Committee in considering action on two environmental issues in 1999-2000.

- A position of the Chapter was considered on the inclusion of Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests in a Forest Plan covering national forests in the contiguous United States. The decision of the Executive Committee was not to refer the matter to the ECC.

- A position of the Chapter was considered on the breaching of the lower four Snake River dams, as advanced by the AFS Western Division to the National AFS. The ECC provided background information on the matter for consideration by the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee was not to refer the matter to the ECC.

The ECC chair considered developing efforts to educate advertisers representing manufacturers of recreational vehicles about laws and regulations prohibiting the abuse of streambeds and riparian habitats. Advertisements for recreational vehicles often portray recreational vehicles operating in streambeds and on wetlands in situations that are violations of many state and federal regulations designed to protect fish habitat. Educating manufacturers and their advertisers about protection of fish habitats and asking them not to portray illegal acts in a positive manner may be actions that would benefit the Chapter and fit within its mission. The concept has not been further developed.

The Environmental Concerns Committee currently has no members other than the chair. Lack of a compelling issue this year, and unexpectedly heavy duties for the chair in starting a new program precluded further efforts. The chair recommends that a replacement be solicited who would be in a better position to identify environmental concerns and to lead the Chapter in developing them. The chair would be glad to serve on the ECC as a member, and to work with the new chair as an advisor, and to develop the letter to manufacturers of recreational vehicles for the Chapter.

Fish Key Committee

Bill Wilson, Chair

During the past 11 years, The Alaska Chapter has managed a time-consuming project the "Fish Key." This project has been overseen by a Chapter "Fish Key Committee" which was originally chaired by Lyman Thorsteinson and for the past 6 or 7 years has been chaired by Bill Wilson. This project has taxed the patience and durability of most who have been involved over these many years, and we are all happy to see light at the end of the tunnel.

The Fish Key Committee was formed in 1990 to oversee the production of a Key to the Fishes of Alaska, originally drafted by Rae Baxter, retired fishery biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The

original project taken on by the Alaska 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. Many agencies and groups contributed to the project over the years. Approximately 4 years ago, the Alaska Chapter of AFS was endowed with funds to see the project through to completion through the efforts of Lyman Thorsteinson, USGS/BRD. Throughout this period, 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 to integrate the most recent information on species range extensions or contractions. This effort has made the book a new document, updated and expanded beyond the initial projections.

This past year Kitty and Tony Mecklenburg of Point Stephens Research have completed the book. All peer review comments have been integrated into the book, and the final version of the book will be printed soon. Some minor loose ends still need completion, however. The Committee will continue to monitor the final preparations of the book for publication. We have received bids from the headquarters of AFS, who will publish the book, for costs to print the book. Decisions remaining to be made include the number of copies to be printed, issues associated with the type of printing and binding, and the allocation of proceeds from the sale of the book (Alaska Chapter and AFS headquarters).

Fisheries and Aquatic Education Committee

Laurel Devaney and Mary Price, Co-Chairs

Laurel Devaney, Education Coordinator, Fairbanks Fishery Resources Office, and Mary Price, Fishery Biologist, Kenai Fishery Resources Office, continue to serve as co-chairs for this committee. Our goals for 2001 are unchanged from 2000: 1) Distribute a list of available fisheries and aquatic education resources for other educators to use, 2) Update the fisheries educators list that was compiled years ago, and 3) Publish short education-oriented articles in each issue of *Oncorhynchus*. Material for the articles can be submitted by anyone to Laurel or Mary. If you have any questions or suggestions for the committee, please feel free to contact us: Mary Price, 907-262-9863, mary_price@fws.gov; Laurel Devaney 907-456-0558, laurel_devaney@fws.gov.

International Relations Committee

Fred DeCicco, Chair

A description of the following general duties of the committee was drafted for inclusion in the "Procedures Manual" for the Alaska Chapter of AFS.

Background and purpose: The International Relations Committee is an ad hoc on-going committee of the Alaska Chapter. It was established by the EXCOMM

Committee Reports

to serve as the Chapter's liaison with the international fisheries community, to provide a conduit for information sharing among chapter members and fisheries scientists from other countries, and to encourage the exchange of ideas and knowledge across political boundaries.

Composition: The President will appoint the Chair of the International Relations Committee. The chair will appoint an indefinite number of Alaska Chapter members as desired or deemed necessary to carry out the purpose of the Committee.

Duties: 1. Encourage and facilitate communication and exchange of ideas among Alaska Chapter members and members of the international fisheries community.

2. Widen the program at Alaska Chapter meetings by facilitating the inclusion of a foreign speaker from an Arctic or sub-Arctic region of the world to discuss fisheries related issues, programs, and problems from a different perspective.

3. Encourage participation of Alaska Chapter members in fisheries conferences, exchanges, and projects occurring in other countries.

4. Provide the President of the Alaska Chapter with an annual report of Committee membership, activities and accomplishments.

Activities have been limited to acquiring and sending old copies of donated journals to the Institute of Biological Problems of the North in Magadan, Russia. Unofficial activities have included arranging private sponsorship for the visit of Ron Greer (Scotland) to Fairbanks. Ron presented two talks while in Fairbanks. He spoke about the biology and fishing for the Ferox Trout, a large predatory brown trout inhabiting Scottish Lochs, to the Fairbanks chapter of Trout Unlimited, and about the environment of Scotland, its forests and fish and efforts to reestablish multi-species forests in Scotland at UAF.

Membership Committee

David Wiswar, Chair

There was a sharp decline of about 20% in membership over the past year, translating into a loss of 83 people. Fifteen of those 83 people were contacted and asked if they were willing to share their reasons. About half (7) had moved and three paid late. Other responses were that they lost interest, the cost was too high, and one person retired. Also, it should be noted that several names on the list were not members prior to 1998. The assumption is that they signed up at the joint meeting between AFS and the Lowell Wakefield Symposium and dropped their membership after a year. While the Chapter has added members through the Mentorship program, there has been a 37% drop in student membership from 1999.

Oncorhynchus Newsletter Committee

John Thedinga, Chair

The Oncorhynchus serves as a medium to distribute information to Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter was produced by the new editor, John Thedinga, this year. John edits and

compiles articles submitted by chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. Each issue includes a front-page article and photo supplied by a volunteer to the editor to include in the newsletter. Everyone is welcome to submit an article to John to include in the newsletter; photos are encouraged. During the past fiscal year, four issues were printed, one at the beginning of each calendar quarter. Submission deadlines are the 10th of the last month in each quarter. In addition, the Electronic Communication Committee has worked to archive back issues on the Chapter website. To date, electronic copies are available for issues from late 1995 to the present. If you have a possible newsletter contribution, please contact John Thedinga, Newsletter Editor at: 907-789-6025; *John.Thedinga@noaa.gov*.

Resolutions and Bylaws Committee

Dennis Tol, Chair

Several changes were made to the Chapter Bylaws in the past couple of years. The following changes were made, voted on, and approved by the membership: recognizing the student subunit and adding the president of Chapter subunits as a voting member of the executive committee; splitting the secretary and treasurer's position; reorganizing the bylaws to be more efficient; and adjusting the way Chapter dues are set. These changes were submitted to the Society Governing Board for approval. The Bylaws were also reviewed to evaluate the appropriateness of digital balloting through the internet. No resolutions were submitted to the Chapter or Resolutions and Bylaws Committee for action in 2000.

Retired Members Ad Hoc Committee

Bill Hauser, Chair

Alaska Chapter AFS president, Bill Bechtol established an ad hoc committee during the 1999 Business Meeting to investigate ways to retain interest and participation in the AFS by members after they retire from active employment.

PURPOSE: To investigate options to: retain participation in AFS by professional fish biologists who have become inactive after a career of participation in AFS; and provide a forum for formerly-active professional fish biologists to network with former colleagues and with younger professional fish biologists.

WHO: Non-working, formerly-active, professional fish biologists who have allowed their membership to lapse.

WHAT: How do we, as a chapter, tap the interest of retirees?

WHY: Benefit to all professional biologists, both active and inactive.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Contact and invite retirees to the Annual Meeting by mid-late summer, invite them to become involved, and provide incentives such as free newsletters, free banquet tickets, and free or student rate for meeting registration.

For information contact Bill Hauser, *bill_hauser@fishgame.state.ak.us*.

Committee Reports

Salmon Stock Status Committee

Alex Wertheimer, Chair

The Chapter has reestablished the Salmon Stock Status Committee (formerly known as the Stocks at Risk Committee) in 1999 to look at the feasibility and cost of extending the status review of Alaska salmon escapements.

The Committee has prepared a proposal for extending the status review from Southeast to Southcentral, Interior, and Western Alaska. Under the proposal, the Stock Status committee would: (1) define the criteria for status evaluation; (2) contract for a program manager to compile a data base 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. Estimated cost of the project exceeds \$100,000. The Alaska Chapter and the Western Division have committed \$5,000 each towards this effort. The Committee has actively pursued support, and has sent proposals to a number of funding entities, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Packard Foundation, the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council, the Royal Caribbean Settlement Fund, and the USFWS Subsistence Fisheries Proposal process. Unfortunately, the project has not been accepted for funding by any of these entities. Reviews have been generally favorable conceptually to such an effort, but the project obviously is not considered high enough priority among competing needs to be funded.

The Chapter needs to reexamine its commitment to this process. As more attention is focused on sustainable salmon fishery policy and causes of declining stock abundance of some species in areas such as Western Alaska, the need for comprehensive status reviews will become greater. But resources will probably be funneled into specific agency reviews driven by management mandates, such as subsistence management, petitions under the endangered species act, and the state sustainable salmon fisheries program, rather than into agency funding of independent third party assessments. The current Committee has made a concerted but unsuccessful effort to move ahead with a proactive approach to providing status reviews. The Chapter needs to decide whether to continue to try and compete for funds under such conditions, or whether it would be more effective and efficient to provide objective, science-based comments during the public review phase of future agency status reviews.

Student Subunit

Kalei Shotwell, UAF-Juneau student subunit President

Last fall and winter the Juneau students had two socials at nearby cabins, Blue Mussel and John Muir. The retreats were designed to encourage students to get to know one another and hopefully inspire each other to participate in future AFS meetings and conferences. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

During the fall and winter AFS student meetings, we brainstormed for projects to elicit funds from the

surrounding community for student travel support. We also began planning for the student symposium held the following April. A rather dynamic activity for funding was the fish printing party in February. Several students went diving for various marine creatures to aid in our creativity. Following the dive, the other AFS members gathered at one of our homes, and we ended up with 50 very individual t-shirt designs to sell at the upcoming symposium and later conferences. To date we have sold approximately 35 t-shirts.

In April, we had a student symposium. A booklet of abstracts was produced for those who attended. We also set up a brunch and snack for anyone willing to sit through all our talks. Many local fisheries biologists (ADF&G and NMFS) as well as the majority of our professors attended the meeting. The symposium went well and provided a nice opportunity for students to practice speaking about their research in front of a large audience.

Two students from our subunit attended the AFS Kodiak meeting, Karla Granath and Mike Byerly. These two were key in soliciting raffle tickets and made a decent sum for the following year's student travel. We also had a few people participate in the "Sea Week" program that occurs every year through NMFS.

Our officers this past year were: President, Karla Granath; Vice President, Mike Byerly; Treasurer, Dana Hanselman. We elected new officers at the beginning of May: President, Kalei Shotwell; Vice President, Jon Warrenchuk; Treasurer, Dana Hanselman. This next year should be very productive as we have a few more student subunit attendees and more of the students have become AFS members.

Wally Noerenberg Award Committee

Gordon Kruse, Chair

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence is the highest award of the Chapter and 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.

Two nominations were received for this year's award. No supportive documentation was provided for one candidate. For the second candidate, there was initially some uncertainty regarding the available level of documentation. Due to the level of honor bestowed upon this award, the Chapter ExCom felt that insufficient time was available to adequately evaluate the available data for this year's award. Therefore, there will be no Wally Noerenberg Award for 2000.

Oncorhynchus

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2001 Alaska Chapter Officers

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Student Unit President Kalei Shotwell, P.O. Box 33782, Juneau 99803, ftkss@uaf.edu

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

2001 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 (North America): \$76.00 (Other than North America, \$88.00)
- Student (North America): \$38.00 (Other than North America, \$44.00)
- Retired (North America): (65 or over): \$38.00 (Other than North America \$44.00)
- Life (All): \$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 AFS¹ N.A. Journal of Fisheries Management¹
 - \$38.00 Paper in North America \$43.00 Paper other than N.A.
 - \$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet
- North American Journal of Aquaculture² Journal of Aquatic Animal Health¹
 - \$38.00 Paper in North America \$43.00 Paper other than N.A..
 - \$25.00 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.