

In this issue:

Annual Meeting Highlights
 Atlantic Salmon in Alaska
 Award Nominations Wanted
 Ted Bjornn Passes Away
 Best Paper Awards
 Meetings and Events
 Business Meeting Minutes
 Why Should I be an AFS Member?
 Membership and Continuing
 Education Survey 
 And More . . .

Annual Meeting Highlights

David Wiswar

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of AFS was held in Sitka November 13-15, 2001 and was attended by 125 people. In conjunction with the meeting, the Continuing Education Committee offered a course titled Data Visualization which was instructed by Joel Reynolds of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and was attended by over 20 people.

The meeting began with a presentation by our guest speaker, Patricia Heiser, of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Ft. Richardson. Her research has focused on paleogeography, paleo-ecology, and the landscape dynamics of glaciated and unglaciated areas in Alaska. Her presentation was on the links between landscape dynamics and distribution of fish populations. Emphasis in Alaska was on watershed-scale records of changing salmon abundance and potential geologic and climatic drivers of change in fish populations.

Continued on page 4



An Atlantic salmon caught in southeastern Alaska.

Atlantic Salmon in Alaska

Glen Oliver

The transport and dispersal of introduced species, either accidentally or deliberately, beyond their native range grows increasingly common in a world of global trade and travel. At the same time habitat disruption due to population growth, over harvest of native species, and the extraction of natural resources provides opportunities for the establishment of non-native species.

Atlantic salmon were introduced to British Columbia and Washington State by net-pen farmers in 1984, but farming in Alaska is not allowed. The economic benefits of farmed over wild fish include a constant supply of fresh product of uniform size and consistent quality. Net-pens allow oxygen-rich sea water to flow freely through the nets. Currently there are about 100 farms located around Vancouver Island with a few as far south as Puget Sound. Farmed salmon have become B.C.'s highest value agricultural product with most being exported to the U.S. A typical salmon farm consists of about 20 pens each containing about 20,000 fish. Farms must be located where currents are adequate for water circulation and waste disposal, but sites that are too exposed may be damaged by storms.

Annually, thousands of farmed salmon escape in documented accidents usually when net pens are breached by storms, torn open by boat propellers or marine mammals, or fail due to unknown causes. The largest Atlantic salmon escape on record was 370,000 fish in 1997 in Washington State. Many undocumented escapes occur when small-mesh nets are replaced with larger nets as the fish grow. To avoid handling the fish the larger mesh nets are simply set up around the smaller and then the smaller net is removed. Some fish do not grow as quickly as others and these small fish simply swim away. This "leakage" may constitute 3% of the fish at each net change. Thus, changing the nets at a single farm

Continued on page 4



Ted Bjornn Passes Away

Ted Bjornn passed away November 3, 2001 after a courageous battle with a peritoneal infection. Born October 31, 1932 to Clarence R. and Evelyn Bjornn of Bountiful, Utah, Ted was a Fisheries Professor at the University of Idaho and employed by the US Geological Service. Ted was known throughout North America as an expert in Pacific Northwest salmon, steelhead and trout. He was honored by several professional awards including the University of Idaho, Alumni Hall of Fame this year. Ted served on numerous panels and management teams for Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead. He graduated from Utah State University (B.S.), University of Idaho (M.S.) and University of Utah (Ph.D.). He authored dozens of scientific publications on fisheries, including studies pioneering catch and release fishing regulations for trout streams. His career included service in the US Army, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Geological Survey. He was a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1953.

The President's Column

David Wiswar

Recently, while traveling, I read an article in one of those business magazines you often find in the seat pouch on airline seats in front of you about Fortune 500 companies.



According to the article, current business trends are moving away from individual corporate leaders to more of a team approach to managing organizations.

The idea is that with a team concept, by empowering your workforce, you receive greater organizational effectiveness through increased productivity and an enhanced working environment. The article went on to point out that teamwork can reduce worker alienation. I read this article shortly after hearing a report from our Alaska Chapter membership committee about why past members fail to renew their membership. Too often we hear that members fail to renew because they wonder "what can I get from AFS?" One of the short answers to that question is that AFS can offer its members the opportunity to work within the team concept, in this case a committee, and thus an opportunity for empowerment.

The Alaska Chapter has 15 committees as of last count. Committee issues range in topics from environmental concerns to aquatic education to international relations. Where our committees currently fall short is that they primarily consist of one person—the chair. You have heard the expressions "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" or "two heads are better than one."

What is needed is synergy within the system. A committee is often capable of producing higher quality work and better decisions that can an individual working alone. By becoming an Alaska Chapter committee member you could not only help the chapter become more effective, you could also help yourself succeed. For example, by becoming a committee member on the Continuing Education Committee, you have the opportunity to have a say in which continuing education courses will be offered. On the Environmental Concerns Committee, chapter members can gain valuable feedback and support on environmental issues that are important to them.

For more information about the committees within the Alaska Chapter check out the web page <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak>. You will find a list of the committees, the committee chairs, and a contact number. The committee chairs would enjoy talking to you about your concerns and ideas, and help in that direction. ☺

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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Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

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

Meetings and Events

Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes Meeting

This meeting will be held in Quebec City, August 15-20, 2002. Please note that the pre-registration deadline is January 15, 2002. If you are planning on attending the meeting, please complete the pre-registration form available on the web site, or upon request to veronique.theriault@giroq.ulaval.ca. This is for planning purposes and will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to those of you who have already pre-registered. Any news will be posted on the web site. Four mini-symposium subjects are posted for now:

1. Evolution of alternative reproductive strategies
2. The role of trophic polymorphism in the evolution of fish populations
3. The sensory environments and homing behavior of the larvae of coral reef fishes
4. Genetic basis, architecture, and determinants of fitness-related traits in fishes

Visit the web site for more information: <http://www.bio.ulaval.ca/CIRSA/EEEF2002/>.

AFS Western Division Meeting

The 2002 Annual Meeting of the Western Division of AFS (WDAFS) will be held April 27 to May 1, 2002 in Spokane, Washington. The conference, entitled "Toward Ecosystem-Based Management: Breaking Down the Barriers in the Columbia River Basin and Beyond", will provide a major international forum for exchanging information and engaging in technical debates on a variety of issues related to the management of fisheries, aquatic, and riparian resources in the Columbia River Basin and elsewhere in western North America. The agenda for this 5-day conference will include nearly 100 plenary, technical, and work group sessions, so there will be something for everyone (see www.fisheries.org/wd for a complete list of the sessions that will be convened at the conference).

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the conference by making a platform or poster presentation. Information on how to submit abstracts for platform or poster presentations is detailed on the Western Division website (www.fisheries.org/wd). Please note that the deadline for submitting abstracts is January 15, 2002, and the deadline for early registration is February 28, 2002. Registration forms are available on the Western Division web site. Here's hoping you can attend this very exciting meeting!

Symposium on Small Stream Channels and their Riparian Zones: Their Form, Function and Ecological Importance in a Watershed Context

This symposium will be held February 18-20, 2002 at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Recent developments have focused international attention on the disparate nature of our understanding and management of riparian zones along low-order streams within small drainage basins. Incomplete knowledge of the ecological functions of "headwater"

streams and riparian zones contributes to differences in riparian forestry practices and management among jurisdictions in the Pacific northwest. The lack of a strong scientific basis for operational prescriptions has led to difficulty in justifying various levels of riparian vegetation retention along small streams for the purpose of protecting streams, aquatic ecosystems, riparian wildlife and water quality. This symposium will provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge scientific research covering hydrology, geomorphology, and aquatic and terrestrial ecology, as they relate to small streams and their riparian zones. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.fcsn.bc.ca/conferences/riparian.html>. For Program information, contact Dan Moore (Program Chair, UBC) 604-822-3538; rdmoore@geog.ubc.ca.

Joint Meeting on the Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic and in the Baltic Sea

A Joint Meeting on the Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea will be held in Vancouver, Canada March 14-15, 2002. The symposium will be hosted jointly by NPAFC, NASCO, and IBSFC, and organized by the Organizing Committee and the NPAFC Secretariat. Abstracts for the poster presentation in English must be received at NPAFC Secretariat by January 15, 2002.

The focus of the meeting is to review new information on the causes behind recent changes in the ocean mortality of salmon. The meeting's objective is to compare the increased marine mortality of salmon stocks observed in recent years in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea. The goal of the meeting is that comparison of this information will lead to a better understanding of the mechanisms which have resulted in increased marine mortality in recent years, identify research priorities, and stimulate increased cooperation and exchange of information in the future. For more information go to <http://www.npafc.org>.

Symposium on the Ecology, Habitat and Management of Lake Trout in North America

The Yukon Department of Renewable Resources will host a 3-day international lake trout management forum at the High Country Inn in Whitehorse, Yukon, August 14-16, 2002. Management agencies, researchers, and interested individuals are invited to share their approaches and experiences with lake trout. For more information go to <http://renres.gov.yk.ca/laketr/index.html> or phone: 867-633-5063; email: laketroutr@gov.yk.ca.

Symposium on Effects of Fishing Activities on Benthic Habitats: Linking Geology, Biology, Socioeconomics, and Management

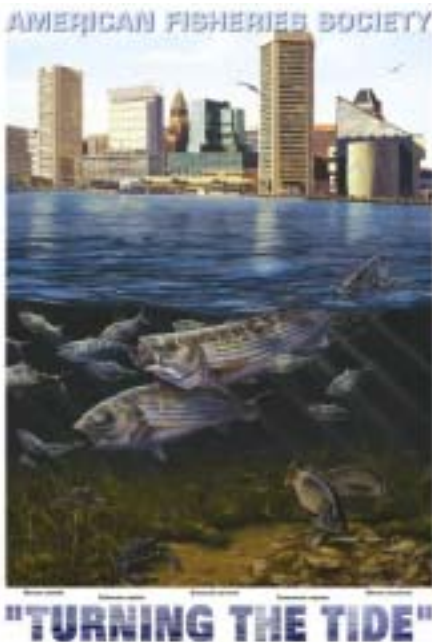
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the American Fisheries Society and the

Meetings, *continued from previous page*

Ecological Society of America, are convening a Symposium on Effects of Fishing Activities on Benthic Habitats. The Symposium is scheduled for November 12-14, 2002 in Tampa, Florida. For more information visit the Symposium web page at <http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/bh2002>. If you have questions, please send an email to benthic@esa.org.

Western Groundfish Conference 2002

The Western Groundfish Conference is a biennial event that presents a unique opportunity for fisheries scientists, students, and others to meet and share research conducted along the West Coast of North America. The conference will be held February 12-14, 2002 at Ocean Shores, Washington. For more information go to <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/groundfish/conference.htm>.



American Fisheries Society 132nd Annual Meeting

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will convene its 132nd Annual Meeting at the Baltimore Civic Center in downtown Baltimore, Maryland, August 18-22, 2002. The meeting's theme is "2002: Turning the Tide—Forging Partnerships to Enhance Fisheries." The theme addresses the future of our aquatic resources and society through Partnership, Diversity, Professionalism and Visibility. Nearly all fisheries across North America are faced with threats to population sustainability. Can we work together as fisheries science professionals to help sustain valuable fisheries resources and rescue some of our native fish populations? In many ways, scientists, managers, educators, and politicians must deal with problems such as human population growth and global climate change. The deadline for submitting abstracts is Jan. 21, 2002. For information go to: <http://www.fisheries.org/annual2002/>.

Atlantic Salmon, *continued from page 1*

with 20 pens containing a total of 400,000 fish might release 12,000 fish. Escaped Atlantic salmon are now commonly caught in both British Columbia and Alaska. The first reported catch of an Atlantic salmon in British Columbia occurred in 1987 with the catch rising to a high of almost 8,000 in 2000. In Alaska, from 20 to 160 have been caught annually beginning in 1990 with recoveries occurring as far north as the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

Due to numerous failed attempts to introduce Atlantic salmon to the Pacific in the early 1900s, industry proponents maintained that escaped Atlantic salmon could neither survive nor reproduce, but events have demonstrated otherwise. Recoveries of escaped adult Atlantic salmon have become common in freshwater, and at least three incidents of wild-born juvenile Atlantic salmon have been documented in British Columbia. Recently Atlantic salmon were found in freshwater in Alaska too. The first freshwater recovery occurred near Ketchikan in 1998 with subsequent recoveries near Yakutat in both 2000 and 2001. ADF&G is concerned that a moratorium restricting farms to southern B.C. may be lifted allowing farms to spread north. When B.C. salmon farming began, several catastrophic failures occurred due to unsuitable sites and inexperienced operators. Alaska is concerned that this may reoccur with new farm sites and operators. Furthermore, the seemingly inevitable escapes of nearby farmed fish increase the possibility of farmed fish colonizing Alaskan streams, competing with native stocks, and spreading disease.

Annual Meeting Highlights, *continued from page 1*

There were nine sessions with over 55 presentations and posters. The sessions included topics on invasive species, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), in situ aquatic research, arts and science of communication, marine invertebrate aquatic research, and environmental chemistry. The best paper award went to Larry Peltz, ADF&G, for his presentation "The great Alaska yellow perch invasion—is it over or just beginning?" Best student paper was awarded to Sara Gilk, UAF, Juneau campus, on "Tests of outbreeding depression in hybrids between spatially separated pink salmon populations." Scott Maclean received the award for best poster "Influence of intragravel environment on the survival of chum salmon eggs and alevins." The Cultural Diversity Award went to Iris O'Brien who is from Cordova and currently attending Oregon State University. This award made it possible for Iris to attend this year's meeting. I would like to thank all presenters and session chairs for their hard work that went in to this meeting program.

The 2002 Alaska Chapter meeting will be in southcentral Alaska. Carol Kerkvliet is the program chair and is looking for session chairs, topics, and presenters for that meeting. The dates and location will be announced soon. Carol can be contacted at 907-267-2379 or through email at carol_kerkvliet@fishgame.state.ak.us.



The Chapter Executive Committee members (L-R): Bob Ourso - treasurer, Tim Joyce-vice president, Carol Kerkvliet-president elect, Lee Ann Gardner-outgoing secretary, David Wiswar-president, and Bill Bechtol-chair, past presidents committee.

Business Meeting Minutes

[Condensed by Editor] Quorum was determined by head count; 21 members of the Alaska Chapter were present. The meeting was called to order by Carol Ann Woody at 3:35 PM, November 14. Carol Ann Woody, president, had attendees introduce themselves. Alaska Chapter EXCOM members present were: David Wiswar, president-elect; Carol Kerkvliet, vice-president; Bill Bechtol, past president; Bob Ourso, treasurer; and Lee Ann Gardner, outgoing secretary. Also present were past presidents Cindy Hartmann, Bill Hauser, Tom Kron, Bill Wilson, and Chuck Meacham, Western Division (WD) AFS president Eric Knudsen, and Joe Margraf, AFS Parliamentarian.

Eric Knudsen provided an update on WD activities. The only way the Alaska Chapter has representation at the Parent Society is through the WD. This past year, Carol

Ann Woody brought to the WD the ideas of having a reduced Young Professionals dues category for persons within 3 years of graduation and a program for current members to sponsor students. These Alaska Chapter proposals were taken to the WD EXCOM and then brought to the Parent Society governing board. The proposals were evaluated by the Membership Committee and then voted on and approved by the governing board. Eric Knudsen added that the WD is excited about the upcoming 2005 annual meeting in Anchorage and wants to participate as it did in the Phoenix Parent Society meeting. Last year's business meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Bob Ourso reported that the Chapter's total current assets were \$84,477.44 excluding the raffle proceeds. Assets included \$11,088.94 in the Cultural Diversity Award Fund, \$5,487.89 in the

Fishes of Alaska Checking account, \$28,099.91 in the Main Checking account, \$23,401.54 in a Market Rate Savings account, \$4,616.15 in a Raffle Checking account, and \$11,783.01 in the Wally Noerenberg Award Fund. There were 125 meeting registrants at last year's annual meeting; this exceeded expectations. The Continuing Education class on data visualization had 25 participants. At last year's meeting, we were able to accept credit cards and next year, Bob Ourso would like everything done on-line (i.e., registrations, payments, abstract submittals, etc.). The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

Aquatic Education Laurel Devaney reported that the Committee wants to increase the skills of AFS members to get the word out about fishery resources. The Committee has continued to work on the Education Resource guide, adding materials that educators, or persons wanting to start an education program could use. They will also get this information on the Chapter web site and make it more of a tools site (providing links to other useful sites on the web). The Committee also chaired a session at last year's annual meeting and plans to do additional sessions with an education theme. The plan for this year is to expand the focus of the Committee to address needs for other kinds of communication and therefore, plan to submit a committee name change to the EXCOM to reflect that change in focus.

Awards Andy Gryska reported that the Committee worked on improving the way papers are judged, including review of the judging criteria. They developed a six-person subcommittee to redesign the criteria. One meritorious service award nomination is still current and has been submitted to the Awards Committee for approval.

Chapter Historian Carol Ann Woody reported that Jim Reynolds would like to retire from the Committee Chair position and that members should let Carol Ann know if anyone is interested in tracking AFS activities.

Continuing Education Joel Reynolds reported that there were two short courses offered at last year's annual meeting; there were 25 attendees for a bootstrapping statistics course and 20 attendees for a genetics course. A survey of courses that AFS members would like to see offered will be made available on the Chapter's web site. Jud Monroe's technical writing class in April 2001 in Anchorage had 23 participants and feedback from participants was very positive. An additional writing class by Jud was just offered to 22 participants in Fairbanks, and a class is scheduled for next year in Juneau. Joel also indicated that he will have to step down as Committee Chair since he will be taking over the Alaska Statistical Chapter; please contact Joel if you are interested in chairing the Committee.

Cultural Diversity Jerry Berg reported that the Committee received five applications for the Cultural Diversity Award and that the award decision was a difficult one. The award recipient was Iris O'Brien.

Electronic Communications Allen Bingham, the webmaster and Committee Chair reported that during this past year the structure of the web site has continued to be reformatted and further standardized to achieve cohesion and identity between pages; links have been established

between relevant topics among the pages; on-line e-balloting for the 2001-2002 election was implemented successfully; 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. New features added to the web-site include files that serve as quick references to Chapter history (e.g., meeting locations, past Chapter officers, and past Award winners). Additionally, the Jobs page was substantially revised to provide access to a wider variety of resources located via the internet related to fishery-related employment, as well as some selected job listings provided by the Chapter. The committee developed an email distribution list for most Chapter members with email addresses in the Chapter's membership database. During this past year the Chapter relinquished their old internet account, resulting in the loss of a direct email address for the Chapter. In lieu of that address comments are sent directly to the committee chair.

Fishes of Alaska Chair Bill Wilson reported on progress of the Fish Key. The authors, Mecklenburg, Mecklenburg, and Thorsteinson hope to have the book done before the end of 2001. The hard cover book will be 1,110 pages, have 340 color plates, and have an initial press run of 2,000 copies. The estimated cost of the book to AFS members will be \$80 to \$90.

Membership Carol Kerkvliet reported that membership increased by 58 to 402 members in 2001. The increase primarily resulted from last year's meeting where membership was required to attend the meeting. They plan to send a survey to non-members (e.g., agencies, consulting firms) to let them know what AFS is and to also use their input to plan continuing education classes. Allen Bingham noted that members should check their newsletter label—if the last two digits on the label are not this year's, then your dues are overdue.

Past Presidents Cindy Hartmann reported that members at last year's Past Presidents' luncheon decided that the outgoing Past President would be the Chair of the Committee. The Committee discussed how to organize for the 2005 Annual Parent Society Meeting. Bill Bechtol is the new Chair of the Past Presidents' Committee.

Student Subunits Fairbanks Student Representative Theresa Tanner reported that last year was a time of rebuilding for the Fairbanks subunit. The subunit was without officers in the fall, but a few students started to get things back on track in the spring. Our officers at that time were Eric Symmes, President; Cheryl Dion, Vice-President; Brian Collyard, Secretary; and Theresa Tanner, Treasurer. Our activities in the spring included monthly meetings, an ice-fishing trip for burbot, and a spring social.

Jim Reynolds, our long-time student advisor, officially resigned his position in May 2001. Jim helped to start the Arctic Unit in 1987, and without his council, the Chapter may well not have the Student Unit. All of the students are thankful for Jim's time, energy, and wisdom that he shared. With Jim's resignation, Joe Margraf assumed the duties as the faculty advisor in Fairbanks. The officers

elected for this school year are Theresa Tanner, President; Brian Collyard, Vice-President; Carrie Robinson, Secretary; and Scott Maclean, Treasurer. Several goals were identified for this year including recruiting undergraduates into AFS; satisfying the diverse needs of the Fairbanks fisheries students from marine to freshwater; promoting volunteerism in our community through the USFWS, FFRO Education Coordinator, Laurel Devaney; and providing information on fisheries research through guest speakers, etc.

Juneau Subunit President Kalei Shotwell reported that last year, 11 Juneau students went to last year's AFS annual meeting and grossed nearly \$2,000 in funds from the raffle. Many of the students presented and did a great job. Karla Granath won the best student presentation. We had a few cabin socials throughout the winter and cultivated student awareness in fisheries and comradery. We adopted a stream in the Mendenhall Watershed program (Jordan Creek). In May, many students contributed their time to picking up garbage along the stream and the community was very pleased to see the effort.

Tim Joyce

I recently made a decision to become an active participant in the American Fisheries Society, which is the world's oldest and largest organization dedicated to the advancement of the fisheries profession and aquatic resources. I wasn't sure what I was getting into when I ran for vice president of the Alaska Chapter, but I knew that I been getting all of the advantages of the AFS without putting much into it.

One of the responsibilities of the vice president of the Alaska Chapter of AFS is being chairman of the membership committee. Noticing a steady decline in membership in the past few years, I asked myself why would membership be declining when fisheries jobs are abundant in Alaska? Maybe many former members or young professionals did not have a true feel for what the Society offered them and more importantly what could internally motivate someone to belong to their representative professional society.

The biggest motivator should be the interaction with colleagues in your field. Information exchange between professionals will often lead to new questions and new approaches in dealing with the issues and problems. Information exchange can be on a formal basis, such as peer-reviewed articles in AFS publications, or simply talking to others at AFS meetings. I do not know how many times I have heard people say that they got a problem-solving idea from talking to a colleague at a meeting. What better way to get professionals together than at AFS sponsored meetings?

Belonging to a professional society is an option, not a requirement. The AFS gives a person an opportunity for growth in leadership capabilities. If you have ever presented a paper in front of a large audience you know the feeling of relief after you have finished, but you also

This year, the first student meeting was in September, and our student symposium was held November 9th in Juneau. We also helped clean up another rather neglected stream, Montana Creek, in the Fall Watershed cleanup, and we propose a few cabin trips, hopefully one before the end of the term.

2005 Meeting Interim Chair Cindy Hartmann reported on plans for hosting the annual Parent Society meeting Sept. 11-15, 2005. The goal for the meeting is 2,005 attendees. People interested in assisting on the 2005 meeting should send Cindy your name, e-mail address, and phone number. It will take a lot of people to make it a successful meeting.

2002 Annual Meeting Carol Kerkvliet reported that the 2002 annual meeting will be held somewhere in Southcentral Alaska. The date for the meeting has not been set. Two sessions have already been identified: Research and Management (Chair Eric Knudsen) and Traditional Knowledge (Chair Dave Cannon). Carol is looking for meeting volunteers. ☺

Why should I be an AFS member?

have a feeling of self-confidence. The building of self-confidence is part of the process of becoming a leader.

I am sure you have asked what does the AFS do for you. Besides the personal motivators mentioned, did you know that as a member of the AFS you can get up to a 40% discount on the price of AFS books and 10% discounts for fisheries and related books issued by other publishers? You also obtain major discounts for registration at AFS sponsored meetings and symposia. As a student you are eligible to compete for research scholarships sponsored by AFS and for meeting attendance grants. Also, monthly you receive *Fisheries* magazine, which provides the latest details on fisheries science and resource issues, legislation, and professional development. You can receive special prices on AFS journals such as *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *North American Journal of Aquaculture* and *The Journal of Aquatic Animal Health*. You can access the AFS membership directory, which lists every AFS member worldwide and allows you to keep in contact with former colleagues or locate others in your profession. You will find current job openings in *Fisheries* magazine, on AFS list servers and at the society's Web site. You can also participate in the AFS certification program, which may qualify you for some employment benefits and certainly demonstrates your commitment to staying at the technical forefront of your career path in fisheries.

Membership in AFS is a small investment with big returns. If it is time for you to renew, do so now. For those of you just starting out in the fisheries profession the AFS has initiated a "Young Professional" category, which allows membership fees to remain at the student rate for the first three years after graduation. Become an informed member of your profession—join the AFS today. ☺

Best Paper Awards

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the Best Paper Awards from the Chapter's 28th Annual Meeting, 2001. The Awards Committee annually judges posters and papers presented at the Annual Meeting.

This year, the **Best Student Paper** was Sara E. Gilk's, University of Alaska-Juneau, "*Tests of Outbreeding Depression in Hybrids between Spatially Separated Pink Salmon Populations*". Sara's co-authors were I.A. Wang, C.L. Hoover, W.J. Smoker, S.G. Taylor, A.K. Gray and A.J. Gharrett.

The **Best Poster Award** went to Scott H. Maclean, U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division, for "*Influence of Intergravel Environment on the Survival of Chum Salmon Eggs and Alevins*". His co-author was James E. Finn.

The **Best Paper Award** went to Larry Peltz, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, for "*The Great Alaska Yellow Perch Invasion-Is it over or just beginning*".

Congratulations! 🐟

NOAA Investigates Giant Deep-Sea "Mystery Squid"

NOAA News

Many scientific discoveries begin with scientists asking, "Hey, did you see that?" This was certainly true when a group of researchers led by NOAA spotted a 21-foot-long squid, dubbed the "Mystery Squid," while conducting an undersea project. So named by the researchers until its true classification and naming is complete, the Mystery Squid is featured in an article in the Dec. 21 issue of the journal *Science*. Its taxonomy is under way by scientist Michael Vecchione of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services Systematics Laboratory at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The NOAA sighting of the Mystery Squid is the most recent of a string of eight sightings worldwide as described in *Science*, and took place during a National Undersea Research Program mission in the Gulf of Mexico last year.

While investigating gas hydrates at a depth of approximately 6,300 feet below the surface, a Mystery Squid drifted close to the submersible *Alvin*. "The scientists in the submersible got a good close-up look and saw tiny suckers along some of the arms," said Vecchione, a co-author of the *Science* article. While the squid at first did not seem to mind the presence of the submersible, it did move away after a few minutes, but not before the scientists were able to get some good images on video.

Vecchione, whose specialty is cephalopods, squids, octopods, and their relatives knew of sightings of strange, unknown squids from around the world. He arranged for scientists from eight institutions in four countries to pool their observations and document the worldwide occurrence of these unusual animals. Of the eight squid sightings noted in *Science*, the earliest is September 1988 off of northern Brazil. The Mystery Squid has also been seen west of Africa, in the Indian Ocean, and in Hawaii, at depths ranging from 6,300 to 15,390 feet. "These squids are not just a new species, they are very different from any squid ever seen before. None

of the squids had been collected, but they have the same characteristics, extremely long, slender arms and tentacles that have elbows, and very large fins extending beyond the

end of the body. One of the squids was estimated to be about 21 feet long and another was 13 to 16 feet long." Vecchione noted that scientists cannot be certain of the identity of these squids until specimens are captured. "They are very similar to the family Magnapinnidae, which has unusual slender tentacles and arms and very large terminal fins," Vecchione said in concurrence with the nine other co-authors of the article. He suggested that the Mystery Squid could be the never-before-seen adult of the squid family Vecchione and another of the co-authors recently described and classified from two juveniles and a larval-like specimen. "The open waters of the very deep ocean, at depths greater than about 3,000 feet, make up by far the largest but the least known ecosystem of the earth. From the number of sightings, it seems that these are fairly common large animals in very deep water. That they have not been previously observed or captured, indicates how little is known about life in the deep ocean," Vecchione said.



NOAA created an Office of Ocean Exploration this year to share ocean discoveries with the public and use new technologies to explore the ocean. One focus of Ocean Exploration is to facilitate the sharing of what is known and what is being discovered about the oceans. "The discovery of the Mystery Squid is one of the first fruits of the expanded outreach through the Office of Ocean Exploration," said Barbara Moore, NURP director. "While Dr. Vecchione had no direct connection to the expedition, he was able to see the images that were sent back almost immediately and incorporate them in his work instead of waiting possibly years for them to be published." 🐟

How can the Alaska Chapter of AFS best serve you?

Please give us your feedback by filling out the Membership and Continuing Education survey on the web (<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>). This survey is anonymous and is for members and non-members. Please encourage your co-workers to participate in this survey. The results will be summarized in *Oncorhynchus*. 🐟

Award Nominations Wanted

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA) and the Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence. There have been no recipients of any of the awards since 1999 (CSA), 1998 (MSA), and 1997 (WNA). Now that you have had plenty of time to reflect upon the accomplishments of your peers, I encourage all members to submit nominations for Awards. Send to Andrew Gryska, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701, 907-459-7339, *andrew_aryska@fishgame.state.ak.us*. Awards will be presented at the 2002 or 2003 Annual Meetings as appropriate.

Nominations for the MSA can be based on an outstanding contribution in any area of Alaska fisheries, including research, management, education, planning, industry, and policy development. Nominations do not have to come from AFS members, nor do nominees need to be active members. The contribution or accomplishment of the candidate must be recent and not the result of many years of effort; recognition of career-long contributions is more appropriate for the Wally Noerenberg Award. The Awards Committee will select winners based on strength of the nomination and their accomplishments.

The CSA was established to award outstanding service to the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. These candidates should have been involved in some or all of the following activities: active participation in standing or ad-hoc committees, made important contributions to advance the current objectives, long-term goals or stature of the Chapter and fisheries professionals, contributed a significant amount of time to Chapter activities, improved public awareness of the Alaska Chapter and Chapter activities, encouraged development of students as fisheries professionals through recruitment and involvement as Chapter members, and recruited fisheries professionals as Chapter members.

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor on individuals who have made great and outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries. This award was established in 1981 by resolution of the membership. The membership has also set, by resolution, specific guidelines for the Noerenberg Award Committee. Nominee contributions may include scientific research; technological development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing, or marketing; academic and fishery education; or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Please use the following form to make your nominations.

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

- Meritorious Service Award (MSA),
- Chapter Service Award (CSA), or the
- Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence

because of the following great and outstanding contribution(s) made by him/her/them to Alaska fisheries (WNA), the Alaska Chapter of American Fisheries Society (CSA), or because of some meritorious service (MSA) the nominee has performed in the field of Alaska fisheries.

Please summarize the salient points of why you feel the nominee is justified to receive the award (50 words or less):

Nomination submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please feel free to also submit any other supportive documentation that you think will be of use to our award committees. THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 31 FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. Send nominations to Andrew Gryska, ADF&G Sport Fish, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK, 99706 or *andrew_gryska@fishgame.state.ak.us*.

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

FIRST CLASS

RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD

2001 Alaska Chapter Officers

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

President-Elect Carol M. Kerkvliet, ADF&G/CF, 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage 99518-1599, Phone: 267-2379 (w), 248-3343 (h), Fax: 267-2442, carol_kerkvliet@fishgame.state.ak.us

Vice President Tim Joyce, USFS, PO Box 280, Cordova, AK 99574-0280, Phone: 424-4747 (w), Fax: 424-7214, tjjoyce@fs.fed.us

Treasurer Bob Ourso, USGS, 4230 University Drive, Suite 201, Anchorage 99508-4664, Phone: 786-7148, Fax: 786-7150, rtourso@usgs.gov

Secretary Alisa Abookire, NMFS/NOAA, 301 Research Ct., Kodiak, 99615-7400, Phone: 481-1735 (w), Fax: 481-1703, Alisa.Abookire@noaa.gov

Past President Carol Ann Woody, USGS/ Alaska Science Center, 1011 East Tudor Rd., Anchorage 99503, Phone: 786-3314, Fax: 786-3636, 248-4776 (h), carol_woody@usgs.gov

Student Unit President Theresa Tanner, American Fisheries Society, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 211 Irving I Building, Fairbanks 99775, fbafs@uaf.edu

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

2002 AFS Membership Application

Print or type applicant's name in full

Address

City State Zip Code

Nation Membership year*

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

Please provide phone numbers for directory and Society use only:

Home Work

Fax Email

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)
- Young Professional***: \$38.00
- 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.

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 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).

*** Within 3 years of graduation.
 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.