



# ONCORHYNCHUS

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*Corals are easily detached from the seafloor by passing fishing gear. This large bubblegum coral was found lying on the seafloor in Adak Strait and retrieved with the submersible Delta (background).*

## Deep-sea Corals in Alaska

*Robert Stone*

Deep-sea corals (also called deep corals or cold-water corals) are an important component of benthic ecosystems in Alaska. They have a broad geographical and depth distribution, largely due to the highly varied submarine geology, persistent water currents, and plankton-rich waters found in the region. Deep-sea corals differ from their tropical counterparts in that they are azooxanthellate—that is, they do not contain photosynthetic symbiotic algae in their tissues—instead they suspension feed on small plankton in the water column. Because they are not dependent on sunlight for growth, they can thrive in the cold, dark waters of Alaska. Deep-sea corals are also ahermatypic, or non-reef building, corals, but many provide 3-dimensional structure to the seafloor. The degree to which they do so depends on their maximum size, growth form, fine-scale distribution, and interaction with other structure-forming invertebrates.

The study of Alaskan corals is relatively new, but their widespread presence has been known for more than a century. With the exception of a few taxonomic studies, the corals were little more than a curiosity until provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act sparked a flurry of studies in the late-1990s on the effects of fishing activities on seafloor habitat. Additional information on corals was incidentally collected during State and Federal stock assessment surveys; and the examination of coral specimens collected as bycatch during the golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands prompted major taxonomic revisions and the publication of a field guide to assist fishery observers with onboard coral identifications (<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-146.pdf>).

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## The President's Corner

*Bert Lewis*

Congratulations, and welcome to the new officers of the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee. Lisa Stuby is the new Vice-President, Karla Bush is Secretary and Dona Eidam is the new Student Subunit President. Hamachan Hamazaki is now President-Elect and chair of the 2008 annual meeting, to be held in Anchorage. Lee Ann Gardner continues her attention to detail as Treasurer. Thanks go to Gretchen Bishop who is entering her third year as our newsletter editor. The Chapter also acknowledges Scott Maclean who finished his productive term on the EXCOM as Past President and Jamal Moss has taken over that position. The Chapter offers its thanks and support to all the campus groups of the student subunit. Many people are actively involved and committed to making a difference in fulfilling the mission of AFS.

This year's meeting in Ketchikan had 176 attendees and made close to \$3,000. The meeting generated \$24,000 from your registration fees and miscellaneous sales. I always wondered where my registration fees went. Well, after organizing this meeting I can tell you—our major expenses included guest speakers, printing programs, facilities, catering, and free beer for a total cost of \$21,000. The Chapter also had a student travel budget of \$9,500 allowing us to bring 16 students from across the state to the meeting. The students did such a great job economizing that they came in well under budget. This is a big step towards the AFS mission of advancing fisheries education and supporting the development of future fisheries professionals. The continuing education courses also had a big year, with over 30 people attending classes. The first two days of the meeting, classes were offered on Technical Writing, Public Speaking Skills and Robert's Rules of Order, and an Escapement Goals Workshop was held. All classes received glowing reviews from participants. The Chapter thanks Jack Erikson for helping to organize these classes.

The Alaska Chapter of AFS continues to voice its concern on various fisheries-related issues. While the Chapter is not an advocacy group, it selectively takes action—after review by the Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM)—as relevant issues arise. To keep our membership informed, all such correspondence will be included either on the Chapter website or in the *Oncorhynchus*. This past year, the EXCOM drafted a "letter of concern" to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regarding a proposed stocking of McDonald Lake. On another front, the Past Presidents are drafting a letter of concern to the Governor's office about the current incentives for employees to leave ADF&G. The Chapter is concerned that the uncompetitive salary and benefits the state is offering will ultimately lead to a decline in fisheries resource management quality. We are also evaluating two recent requests, one to provide an independent review of jet boat activities on the Chilkat River and another for amicus curiae briefing in litigation of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. To review letters that have been sent to date and the request for amicus curiae support, please see the Chapter website at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/committee/committee.html>. 🗨️



*Bert Lewis, AFS Alaska Chapter President*

## Deep-sea Corals in Alaska, continued

The First International Symposium on Deep-sea Corals, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2000, provided the first major forum for scientists, managers, and other stakeholders to share expertise, forge new collaborations, and prioritize early efforts to study and manage deep-sea coral ecosystems that were clearly threatened by human activities worldwide. In Alaska, the first major research effort was initiated in 2002 in the Central Aleutian Islands, where analysis of fisheries bycatch data indicated an extraordinary abundance and diversity of deep-sea corals. A team of NOAA scientists using the submersible Delta not only confirmed what the bycatch data had clearly indicated, but also revealed that there was a significant interaction between fisheries using bottom contact gear and coral habitat.

Three more expeditions to the Aleutian Islands followed during the next two years with teams of federal, state, and university scientists. The presence of coral gardens, a feature not observed anywhere outside of tropical ecosystems, sparked worldwide attention. Additional expeditions confirmed that other regions of Alaska support rich coral habitat. In particular, in the Gulf of Alaska, many seamounts support rich coral ecosystems and many regions of the continental shelf support dense thickets of red tree corals—the largest corals in the North Pacific Ocean.

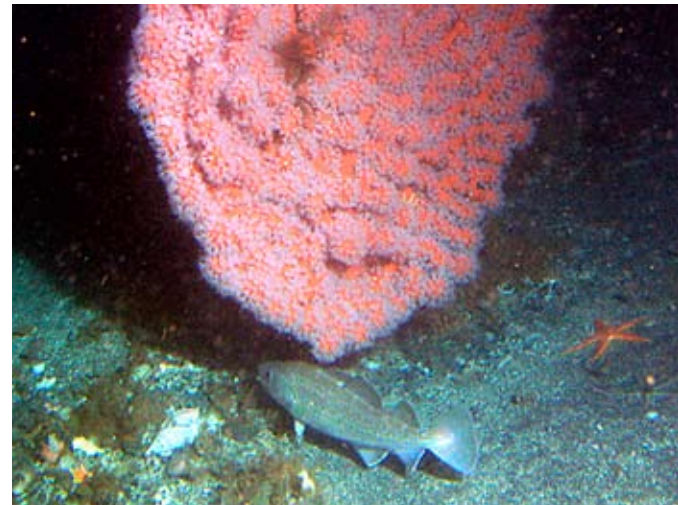
As a result of these recent expeditions, we now know that Alaska harbors one of the highest diversities of cold-water corals in the world—as many as 51 species may be endemic to the region—leading some scientists to speculate that it could be a center of evolutionary radiation for deep-sea corals. At least 141 coral species from six major taxonomic groups are found here. They range from the shallow waters of the glacial fjords in Southeast Alaska to

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**Deep-sea Corals in Alaska**, continued

the abyssal waters of the Aleutian Trench. We know that many species are slow-growing and long-lived, and that most reproduce quite differently than tropical corals. We know that many species of fish and invertebrates, especially juveniles, use coral habitat as refuge and as focal areas for other important life processes. In fact, most of the commercial species currently harvested in Alaska (approximately 85% of all managed species) spend all or part of their life cycle in habitat where deep-sea corals are potentially found. We also know that corals are extremely fragile.

Fishing gear that contacts the seafloor is presently the single largest threat to coral habitat in Alaska. NOAA Fisheries estimates that approximately 82 metric tons of coral are removed from the seafloor each year as commercial fisheries bycatch. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries have taken significant precautionary steps to address this interaction by recently implementing extensive closures specifically to protect coral habitat from disturbance caused by fishing activities. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area (AIHCA) is the largest bottom trawl closure in the U.S. and prohibits trawling in more than half of the fishing grounds previously targeted. One highlight of the AIHCA is the protection of six coral gardens in the central Aleutian Islands where the use of all bottom-contact gear is now prohibited. Recent closures to protect deep coral habitat also include bans on the use of all bottom-contact fishing gear around the summits of 16 seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska and in 5 small areas in the eastern Gulf of Alaska to protect dense thickets of red tree corals.



*Large corals such as this bubblegum coral provide shelter for many species of fish and invertebrates.*

habitat, has sparked worldwide interest in the conservation of deep-sea corals. As the world population continues to grow and the demand for seafood increases in the future, conservation of Alaska's deep coral resources will be a major challenge for managers striving to maintain sustainable fisheries. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 includes, for the first time, a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program that paves the way to achieve that goal. To learn more about Alaska's coral resources and current and planned research download a copy of the just released "The State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States: 2007" from <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html>.



*A biologist prepares gorgonian coral specimens for examination of their reproductive biology*

We still have much to learn about Alaska's deep-sea corals and many research priorities remain for the limited funds available. Planned research includes studies on the growth rates and reproductive biology of key species so that estimates of recovery rates can be made for coral habitat disturbed by human activities. Studies on the effects of specific fishing gear types on coral habitat need to be undertaken so that we can better understand the effects of certain fisheries on coral habitat. Reconnaissance submersible dives are planned in coral "hotspots" to assess their suitability as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. And finally, we need to understand how Alaska's coral resources will respond to increasing acidification of the North Pacific Ocean.

Recent emphasis on managing fisheries with an ecosystem approach, and protecting essential fish

A highly successful poster session was held at the 2007 Annual Alaska Chapter Conference.



Allen Bingham, AFS Electronic Communication Committee Chair and recipient of the 2007 Alaska Chapter Service Award.

Several members of the Ratfish Brothers perform at the banquet. Ray Troll, on the right, received the 2007 Meritorious Service Award.



## 2007 Chapter Awards

Cheryl Dion

The Awards Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting winners of the Meritorious Service, Chapter Service, and Almost Darwin Awards. The committee also coordinates judging and determination of the Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster at the annual Chapter Meeting. In 2007, the Committee selected Ray Troll for the Meritorious Service Award and Allen Bingham for the Alaska Chapter Service Award. No nominations were received for the Almost Darwin Award. The Best Student Paper and Poster award recipients selected from the presentations at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting in Ketchikan are listed in the side bar. 🗨️

**Congratulations award recipients  
for a job well done!**

### **Best Student Paper**

Becky Clausen "Global Biodiversity Decline of Marine and Freshwater Fish: A Cross-National Analysis of Social and Ecological Influences."

### **Best Student Poster**

Jennifer Marsh "Temporal and Ontogenetic Trophic Level Variability of Walleye Pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) in the Gulf of Alaska."

## 2008 Alaska Chapter Award Nominations

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Chapter Service Award (CSA), the Almost Darwin Award, and the Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence. I encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and submit nominations for these awards. Please use the form on the website at [http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards_scholarships.htm) to make your nominations. Award presentations will occur at the 2008 Annual Meeting. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 31, 2008.**

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 the accomplishment.

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. Submit MSA and CSA award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Cheryl Dion, USFWS, 605 W 4th Ave., Anchorage 99501, 271-2776, [Cheryl\\_Dion@fws.gov](mailto:Cheryl_Dion@fws.gov).

The Almost Darwin Award recognizes the most humorous and outrageous fisheries *faux pas* of any fisheries professional. The nominees must have committed the *faux pas* within the 2007 calendar year. Please include a photo of proof along with the story. Submit award nomination stories and photos to Cheryl Dion.

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. Submit Wally Noerenberg Award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Ted Otis, ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer 99603-8027, 235-1723, [Ted.Otis@alaska.gov](mailto:Ted.Otis@alaska.gov).

Rewarding excellence is an enjoyable but challenging task and finding judges is a challenge too. If you would like to help out, the Chapter is soliciting members for the Awards Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please contact Cheryl Dion. ☺

### AFS Award Nominations

The AFS parent society will soon begin to solicit nominations for a variety of awards. To obtain information on a nomination procedures, please visit the website at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html>.

Award recipients are honored at the Annual Meeting.

- Award of Excellence
- Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Excellence in Public Outreach
- Meritorious Service Award
- President's Fishery Conservation Award
- William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award

## Wally Noerenberg Award Committee Report

*Ted Otis*

The WNA committee is comprised of three Chapter past presidents and a committee chair that cannot be a past president. Several minor changes to the WNA committee procedures manual were adopted in 2007. Principal among them is the manner in which committee members are selected. Instead of the immediate past president automatically beginning a 3-year term on the WNA committee, new members are now selected randomly from a list of past presidents who remain active in the Chapter. The WNA committee members during 2007 were Carol Kerkvliet, Tim Joyce, and Bill Hauser (random selection), with Ted Otis taking over the chair from Doug Palmer.

The committee did not receive any nominations prior to the historical July 31 deadline, so the Wally Noerenberg Award was not bestowed in 2007.☹



*Hal Geiger teaches a Technical Writing workshop at the 2007 Chapter meeting.*

## Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Update

*Hal Geiger*

Following the death of our chapter's president in 2004, the Chapter set up a scholarship in the name of Professor Molly Ahlgren. Because Molly was an associate professor of environmental science at Sheldon Jackson College, the Chapter thought it fitting to offer this award to undergraduate students from Sheldon Jackson College, in an attempt to further Molly's mission, at least for the first few years. Sheldon Jackson College was glad to select a deserving student to receive the award (based on criteria developed by the Chapter), so there was very little work pertaining to this award for the Chapter to do on an annual basis. However, in 2007 Sheldon Jackson College suspended operations, although the college's administration intends to resume operations in the future. Accordingly, the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee met several times before the Chapter's 2007 annual meeting to develop a new set of guiding principles for the operation of the scholarship, and the membership approved the changes at that 2007 meeting.

In essence, the scholarship is now open to students in the University of Alaska system, at Alaska Pacific University, and at Sheldon Jackson College—if the latter institution should return to operation. One other important change is that the scholarship will only be available for a student's senior undergraduate year. Opening of the scholarship to additional schools will require significant additional work by the scholarship committee, as this committee will need to develop a means of application and will be responsible for annually reviewing and passing judgment on all applications in a timely manner. Additionally, the chapter's student subunits will now be involved in the selection by advising the scholarship committee on the top candidates' leadership at the respective schools. Obviously, this will place students at Alaska Pacific University at a disadvantage, as there is no student subunit chapter at that school, but students from that school are still welcome to apply.☹

Alaska Chapter's  
Internet Home Page Address

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

Membership information and application

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html>

## Cultural Diversity Committee Report

*Jerry Berg and Lisa Stuby*

The Cultural Diversity Travel Award helps fund entry-level applicants who are involved in natural resource fields to attend the annual Alaska Chapter conference. The committee selects the top candidate(s) and then tries to get as many recipients as possible to the meeting, depending on travel expenses. The goal of the award is to help diversify our Chapter membership and get young upcoming people active with AFS. The Cultural Diversity Award is funded by interest from an endowment, which is now over \$15,000 and is currently invested in two different financial accounts.

For the 2007 award, we solicited throughout the state and received applications from two highly qualified individuals. We were able to fund one applicant, Lisa Kangas, and the other received travel funds through the Fairbanks student chapter. Lisa was also one of three recipients for the award in 2006. A senior at UAF, Lisa is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and plans on a career in subsistence fisheries management. She spent her childhood years at fish camp on the Yukon River downstream of Ruby near Bishop Mountain. In high school she worked for the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) on an Age-sex-length project based at Bishop Mountain through the Koyukuk Tribal Council. Lisa spent the last two summers as a TCC Fisheries Intern through the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, and has worked in the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge on a whitefish tagging project, at the Henshaw Creek Weir, the Goodpaster Counting Tower, and the Traditional and Ecological Knowledge Camp in Fort Yukon. This past year, she also worked as a Fishery Genetics Intern with the Kuskokwim Native Association and ADF&G, learning from

“My name is Lisa Kangas and I am a senior majoring in Biological Sciences at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. I was awarded the diversity travel award scholarship to attend the 2007 American Fisheries Society meeting. I spent two full days attending presentations and various events held at the Cape Fox Lodge in Ketchikan. Attending the presentations gave me a better insight as to how studies are conducted and what kind of data biologists hope to get out of them. I learned more about coastal species and non-Interior-related issues. I believe it is important to know what is happening all around the State of Alaska. I am very thankful for the opportunity to explore a new town and meet new people with the same compassion towards fishes of all types.”

fishery geneticists, fishery researchers, and fishery managers. She currently works for Caroline Brown in the ADF&G Subsistence Division in Fairbanks as a College Intern on a study examining the distribution and use of non-salmon fish in the Middle Yukon River. Hopefully some of you had the pleasure of meeting her at one the past two Alaska Chapter meetings! Her comments are in the side box.

As always, the Cultural Diversity Committee invites ideas and suggestions from all Chapter members. ☺

### ONCORHYNCHUS

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

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Deadline for materials for the summer issue of *Oncorhynchus* is Mar. 10.

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### Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

Mentor and student applications for the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program are currently being accepted online at the parent society website at: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/hutton.html>.

The deadline for application is February 15, 2008. Successful applicants will receive a stipend of \$3,000 to assist a mentor with a field project during the summer of 2008.

*Lisa Stuby, incoming AFS, Alaska Chapter Vice President and Cultural Diversity Committee co-chair nets a nice king salmon.*



## Student Subunit News

Dona Eidam, our new AFS Alaska Chapter Student Subunit President for 2008, is a 25-year Eagle River resident; she is enrolled at UAA, where she is updating her biology degree and beginning a graduate studies program. Having raised two daughters with her husband Greg, she is now pursuing a lifelong passion of studying “all things fishes.” Dona is also president of the UAA campus of the student subunit, and works for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in the fish monitoring program at the Office of the State Veterinarian. She has also worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center and ADF&G Fort Richardson Hatchery. Her favorite teleost (and sentimental favorite) is the threespine stickleback.



*Dona Eidam, the new AFS Alaska Chapter Student Subunit President.*

The UAA campus of the student subunit has a membership of 12 and enjoyed an active semester, hosting monthly guest speakers including Clarence Pautzke who spoke on “Research responses to global warming” and Jack Colonell whose talk was entitled “Fisheries on the dark side; working as a private consultant”. We also sponsored a fund-raising

Halloween carnival booth and an all-day field trip to Seward’s Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery and the Alaska SeaLife Center, where we chatted with student researcher, Jared Guthridge, and Assistant Director of Research, Howard Ferren. Our club manages an announcement listserv of more than 100 subscribers for news pertaining to club events, job opportunities; conferences, local fisheries management issues, and fisheries study programs at UAF and UAS. Upcoming winter activities include a Christmas party, ice fishing event, and a panel discussion on the Pebble Mine Project. For information, or to join our listserv, email [fish\\_club@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:fish_club@uaa.alaska.edu). 🐟

## Student Writing Contest

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is holding its annual writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job communicating the value of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500- to 700-word article explaining their own research, or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (i.e., journalistic style). Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. The papers will be judged according to their quality and their ability to turn a scientific research topic into a paper for the general public. (For examples of past winning papers, see Fisheries 26(12):30 and Fisheries 27(1):39.). The deadline is May 4, 2008. For more information visit the parent society website at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html>. 🐟



## Meetings and Events

### Alaska Marine Science 2008 Symposium

January 21–23, 2008: The annual meeting of the NPRB will be held at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. Visit <http://www.alaskamarinescience.org/index.htm> for more information.

### 15th Western Groundfish Conference

February 4–8, 2008: This meeting, which focuses on a biennial review of groundfish science and management, will be held in Santa Cruz, California. For more information, visit the website at <http://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/home.php>.



### Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries Management and Research

February 24–28, 2008: Auckland, New Zealand. Visit the website at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008> or please contact [brad.parsons@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:brad.parsons@dnr.state.mn.us) for more information.



### 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting

March 2–7, 2008: This meeting, with its theme of “From the Watershed to the Global Ocean,”



is jointly sponsored by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, the American Geophysical Union, The Oceanography Society and the Estuarine Research Federation and will be held in Orlando, Florida. For more information

visit the meeting website at <http://aslo.org/meetings/orlando2008/>.

### North Pacific International Chapter Annual General Meeting



March 4–6, 2008: This meeting with its theme of: Sound Management, Mountains to the Sea, is being convened by Washington and British Columbia Chapters of AFS in cooperation of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation and will be held at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham, WA. The

abstract deadline is January 15, 2008. Visit the Western Division website at <http://www.wdafs.org/meet/meet.htm> for more information.

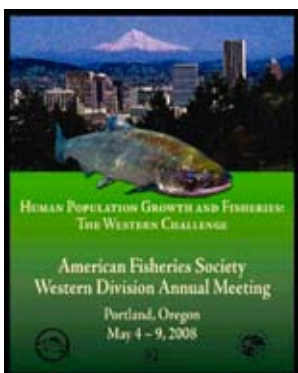
### National Shellfisheries Association

April 6–13, 2008: The 100th annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association will be held in conjunction with the 37th Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. The deadline for abstract submission is February 15, 2008. For more information see either <http://shellfish.org/> or <http://www.benthicecology2008.uconn.edu/>.



### 2008 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting

May 4–8, 2008: The 2008 Western Division AFS Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Oregon Chapter AFS and will serve as the Oregon Chapter’s Annual Meeting. This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The abstract deadline is February 22, 2008. A stream restoration workshop will follow the meeting on May 8 and 9. Visit <http://www.orafs.org/>.



### 8th International Congress on the Biology of Fish

July 28–August 1, 2008: This meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Symposia proposals are currently being accepted online at: <http://fishbiologycongress8.usgs.gov/>.



### Fifth World Fisheries Congress 2008

October 20–24, 2008: Pacifico, Yokohama, Japan. The deadline of February 29, 2008 for abstract submission is approaching. Visit the website at: <http://www.5thwfc2008.com> or for more information or email [wfc2008@ics-inc.co.jp](mailto:wfc2008@ics-inc.co.jp), or call +81-3-3219-3541.



this meeting is “Fisheries in Flux: how do we assure our sustainable future?” It will address the ongoing challenge of confronting change when managing fisheries. Fisheries

and fish communities are not static properties of ecosystems. Stressors such as exploitation, species invasions, climate change, and water resource demand are a few of the factors that drive changes. These changes potentially threaten sustainable use. Can we find solutions to these threats? What are we doing to ensure a sustainable future and what changes need to be made in our management of aquatic ecosystems? Symposium proposals are currently being accepted and the first call for papers is underway, with respective deadlines of January 11, and February 8, 2008. Visit <http://www.fisheries.org/afs08/>.

### American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting

August 17–21, 2008: The annual meeting of the AFS parent society will be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre and Westin Hotel in Ottawa, ON. The theme of



Some new and old members of the Alaska Chapter Excom. From left to right: Jamal Moss, Past President; Steve Zemke, outgoing Secretary; Bert Lewis, President; Lee Ann Gardner, Treasurer; and Scott Ayers, outgoing Student Subunit President.

## 2008 Alaska Chapter Officers

Alaska Chapter officers serve for 2 or 3-year terms. Elections are held annually in the fall for open offices. It is the responsibility of the past president to recruit candidates. If you are interested in serving, please contact Jamal Moss.

#### President

Bert Lewis, ADF&G/CF, P.O. Box 669, Cordova 99574-0669, 424-3212 wk, Fax: 424-3235, [Bert.Lewis@alaska.gov](mailto:Bert.Lewis@alaska.gov)

#### President-Elect

Toshihide “Hamachan” Hamazaki, ADF&G/CF, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage 99518-1599; 267-2158 wk, Fax: 267-2442, [Hamachan.Hamazaki@alaska.gov](mailto:Hamachan.Hamazaki@alaska.gov)

#### Vice President

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#### Treasurer

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#### Secretary

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#### Past President

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#### Student Subunit President

Dona Eidam, UAA, 3151 Alumni Loop, Ecosystems Biomedical Lab, Anchorage 99508, 764-7144 wk, [eidam.d@alaska.com](mailto:eidam.d@alaska.com)

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