



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society  
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*Brailer of Togiak herring. Photo by Tim Sands.*

## Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

*Art Nelson*

The Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) began in 1979 when western Alaska fishermen were facing new threats to their inshore fisheries, particularly for herring. The offshore fisheries had recently been brought under U.S. control with the 1976 passage of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, but foreign fleets were still being allowed to fish within U.S. waters. Western Alaska's inshore herring fisheries, and the local fishermen, were under increasing pressure on two fronts. First, a highly mobile purse seine fleet was serially fishing the spring sac roe herring fisheries along the entire coast, outcompeting the local fishermen that used smaller boats and gillnets. Second, foreign fleets were seeking a trawl fishery for herring in the Bering Sea and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was analyzing a plan to grant the foreign trawl fleet a mixed-stock, offshore herring fishery in the fall.

While herring was the "issue of the day" when BSFA formed, the organization has been a longtime advocate for the health of western Alaska's fishery resources and the

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*Gathering of stakeholders. BSFA photo.*

## The President's Corner

*Audra Brase*

As I write this column, the snow is falling here in Fairbanks and we are quickly approaching winter solstice. During this cold and dark time of year, the summer field season filled with sunny days on the water seems very far away.



In November, we held our 37th Annual Chapter Meeting in Juneau and, if you were fortunate enough to attend, you probably agree with me that this was a very successful and enjoyable conference. Over 288 attendees participated in three full days of fisheries sessions ranging from the application of traditional knowledge in fisheries management, to the diversity of marine ecosystems, to habitat restoration, and much more. I believe this diversity encapsulates our careers as fisheries professionals. We all start out with rather specific backgrounds and degrees, but as we progress in our careers we are exposed to a plethora of experiences and diverse viewpoints that shape the fisheries management and research decisions that we make.

At the meeting, Lisa Stuby completed her term as President and I would like to thank her for devoting much of the last three years to the Chapter; first as Vice President, then President-Elect, and lastly as President. You may not realize it, but it takes many volunteers to keep our Chapter active and vibrant. If you enjoy attending the Chapter meetings and/or continuing education classes that the Chapter sponsors, then I encourage you to become more involved in the Chapter's activities; be it on a committee, a session chair, or as a member of the Executive Committee. Without new people

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**Bering Sea Fishermen's Association**, continued fishermen that depend upon those resources. The BSFA has also become a conduit for cooperative research and management-related projects for western Alaska salmon. A short list of successes over the past 30 years in which BSFA played the substantial, if not the primary role, includes:

- Development of herring fisheries in western Alaska.
- Development of commercial halibut fisheries for western Alaska through the International Pacific Halibut Commission.
- Reduction of high seas interception of western Alaskan salmon in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean.
- Establishment of the Community Development Quota Program with Harold Sparck.
- Founding of various fisheries research and coordinating programs and non-profits including:
  - Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative
  - Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
  - Norton Sound Salmon Research and Restoration Program
  - Bristol Bay Buy-Back Coalition
  - Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Coalition
- Design and implementation of the king salmon saving areas in the Bering Sea.
- Establishment of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committees at local communities within western Alaska.
- Construction of the Quinhagak fish processing plant, and cold storage facilities in Tununak, Mekoryuk, and Toksook Bay.

For an interesting historical perspective, the organization's website ([www.bsfaak.org](http://www.bsfaak.org)) offers BSFA newsletters going back to 1979, chronicling the issues facing western Alaska's fishermen and BSFA's work on those issues.

When chum salmon stocks crashed throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region in 1993, the Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, directed funding to BSFA for cooperative projects to better assess and manage the salmon resource. For the first time on such a broad scale, regional organizations and residents were involved with gathering the information

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**The President's Corner**, continued

willing to step up and volunteer some time to our Chapter, we will become stagnant and unproductive.

I do not have any grandiose plans as the new Chapter President, but I do hope to build on the increased participation we saw at the annual meeting by getting the word out about our various committees and where help is needed. I've found that often people are willing to step up if asked, but they don't know where to start. Another goal I have is to update our Chapter website to become more in line with the look of the other Western Division Chapters. If any members have any issues you would like the Chapter to address please contact me and we'll see what can be done.

I wish you all a Happy Holidays and may 2011 be a good year for you and your families. 🐻



*Past-President Lisa Stuby passes the gavel to incoming Alaska Chapter President Audra Brase. Photo by Dolly Kjera.*

**Bering Sea Fishermen's Association**, continued that supported in-season management decisions affecting the lives and livelihoods of harvesters. Although funding for this program ended in fiscal year 2006, some of the program's projects were taken on by various organizations and/or agencies and continue to this day. The BSFA continues to seek reinstatement of this funding.

The cooperative projects greatly increased the information to help fishery managers assess returns and make management decisions, but AYK chum and Chinook salmon productivity still fluctuated wildly and was generally below expectations. The underlying factors affecting AYK salmon productivity remain poorly understood.

The BSFA is greatly concerned with data gathering and collaborative efforts to address the declines, and recoveries, of salmon abundance. Additionally, low market demand for salmon has combined with these declines to cause severe hardship and anxiety for the fishery-dependent communities in this region. Between 1997 and 2010, the unexpected and dramatic declines of AYK salmon runs prompted the Governor of Alaska and federal agencies to declare a total of 17 disasters in different watersheds within the region, as indicated in the table below.

Reductions of commercial fishing seriously impact western Alaska communities. Earnings

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**State and federal disaster declarations by year and AYK watershed.**

Watershed	Years	Declaration Source	Declaration Type
Kuskokwim River	1997, 1998, 2001, 2002	State	Economic Fish Disaster
Norton Sound	2000, 2002	State	Economic Fish Disaster
Yukon River	1997, 1998, 2001, 2002	State	Economic Fish Disaster
Kuskokwim Region	1997	Federal	Commercial Fish Failure
Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound	2000	Federal	Fisheries Disaster
Yukon River	2008, 2009	Federal	Commercial Fish Failure

### Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, continued

from commercial fishing have sharply declined throughout most of the region due to a combination of initial stock declines, followed by a drop in fishing effort due to a lack of markets for the fish. Accompanying these declines have been restrictions on subsistence fishing across a region with high levels of dependence on salmon.

The BSFA brought together the AYK regional Native organizations, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Kawerak, Inc., to address the overarching problem identified as a lack of data regarding these salmon stocks. These organizations then invited state and federal agencies to form an innovative partnership to cooperatively address salmon research and restoration needs. The partnership now also includes Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2002, the partners established the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI) through a Memorandum of Understanding, and created a process and structure to ensure the coordinated expenditure of research funds. The AYK SSI is governed by an eight-member Steering Committee and advised by a six-member Scientific Technical Committee composed of members representing relevant scientific disciplines. Between 2002 and 2006, Congress appropriated \$20.5 million to support this interagency, multi-disciplinary research effort to examine the cause(s) of salmon declines in the region.

To date, the AYK SSI has funded over 55 projects; more information on these can be found at [www.aykssi.org](http://www.aykssi.org). Notably, the AYK SSI represents the largest, most diverse, collaborative research effort to rebuild salmon runs across the Pacific Rim.

The basic mission of BSFA follows several core concepts. First, it is recognized fisheries sustainability is key to supporting and developing fisheries programs. Western Alaska's interests are focused on the long-term, and the BSFA has a notable history of developing effective conservation measures and innovative economic development initiatives on levels appropriate to the resource base. A second concept involves the benefits of collaborative partnerships. When



*Biologists sample returning chum salmon. BSFA photo.*

western Alaskan organizations join together to work collaboratively, assets are distributed more efficiently and everyone benefits. The BSFA was established on the premise that one voice can be heard more clearly when its words are chosen carefully and the message serves us all. A third concept is that research must be interdisciplinary. The BSFA is participating at every level to guide this research and guarantee its appropriate application so that western Alaskans obtain the greatest good from the resource. As a result, research on salmon stocks in western Alaska is receiving attention at a level that has been needed since Statehood. Finally, BSFA remains a strong voice for advocacy and responsible stewardship. Over the years, the BSFA has provided a platform for the residents of western Alaska to voice their concerns and influence regulations, strongly securing the natural ability of residents to be responsible stewards of the resources they require for survival.

In summary, the BSFA's long history and demonstrated track record of developing effective conservation measures and innovative economic development initiatives on levels appropriate to the resource base is more valuable than ever. 🐟



**AFS memberships  
may be renewed online**

<https://fisheries.org/afs/membership.html>

## Alaska Chapter 37th Annual Conference Awards

*Theresa Tanner*

The Awards Committee selects recipients for the Meritorious Service Award (MSA), the Alaska Chapter Service Award (CSA), and the Almost Darwin Award (ADA). The committee selected Gretchen Bishop to receive the Chapter Service Award and the 2009 Kwethluk field crew for the Salmon Rivers Observatory Network (SaRON) to receive the Almost Darwin Award; the MSA was not awarded in 2010.

Fourteen members volunteered to judge and select the best student paper and student poster at this year's annual meeting. The best student paper was awarded to Jason R. Neuswanger for "The roles of territoriality and detritus in wild juvenile Chinook salmon drift-feeding behavior" and the best student poster was awarded to Jamie McKellar for "Population structure and reproductive status of razor clams, *Siliqua patula*, in eastern Cook Inlet." Both award recipients are students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and received a \$200 monetary award. I commend all of the 2010 student presenters for sharing their work.

I would like to express my thanks to those who volunteered to act as judges, making the selection of Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster possible. I encourage all members to submit worthy nominations for the MSA, CSA, and ADA by the January 31, 2011 deadline.

### **Wally Noerenberg 2010 Award**

*Ted Otis*

The Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence is the highest award bestowed by the Alaska Chapter. The award honors an individual's life-long achievements in a career focused on Alaska's fisheries. Contributions may include innovations in management, harvesting, processing or marketing; fisheries education; or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. The award was created in 1981, and in 1982 was awarded posthumously to its namesake, Wally Noerenberg.

There have since been fourteen other recipients.

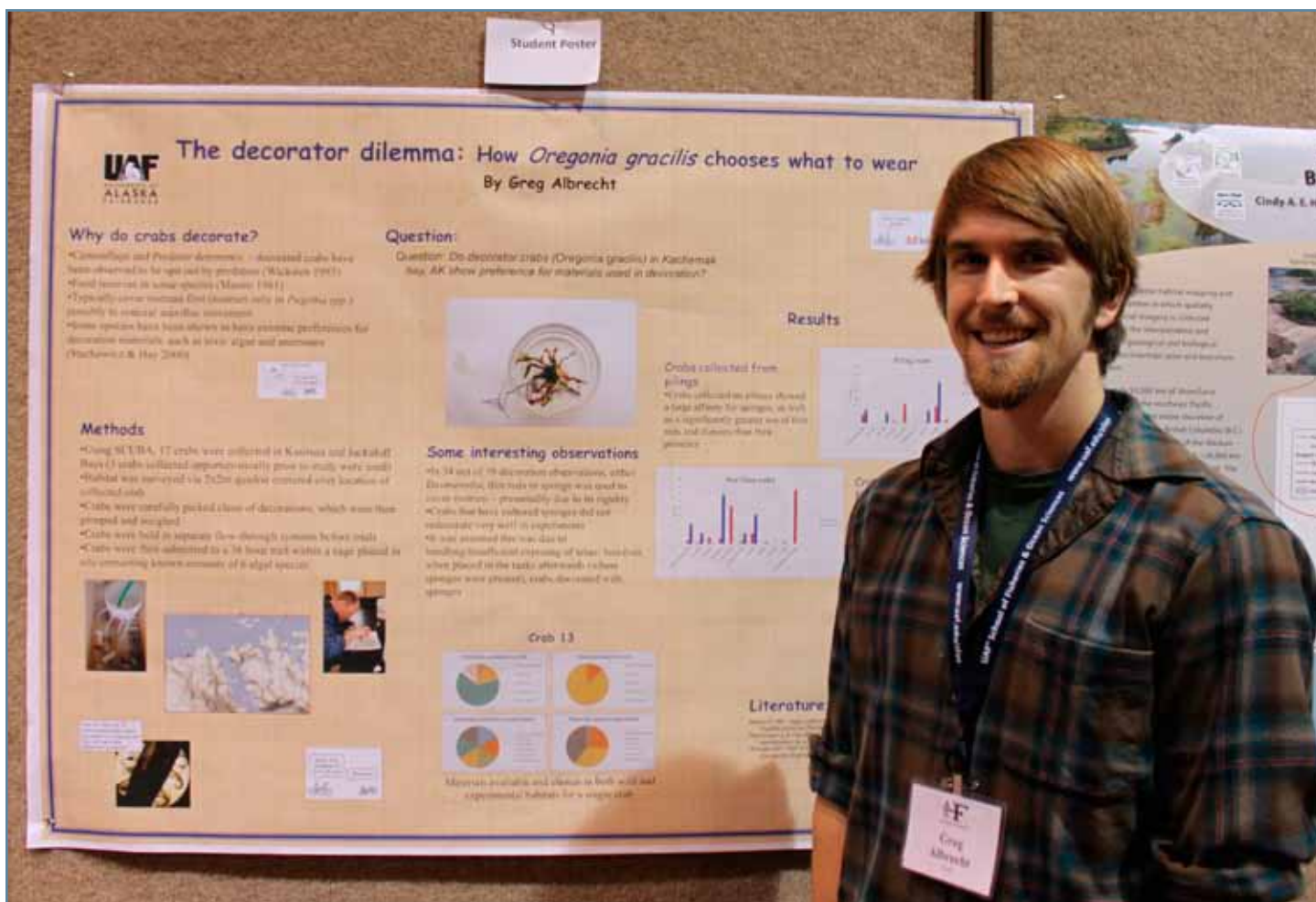
The WNA is administered by a committee comprised of three Chapter past-presidents and a committee chair that cannot be a past president. Committee members serve staggered three-year terms such that only one position becomes vacant and is refilled each year. Historically, the immediate past-president was automatically seated on the WNA committee following each year's annual Chapter meeting. In 2006-2007, the committee procedures were modified so that new committee members are randomly selected from all past-presidents still active in the Alaska Chapter. The 2010 WNA committee consisted of Bill Wilson, Scott Maclean, and Jim Reynolds. Hal Geiger was selected to replace Jim Reynolds for the 2011 committee. In addition, Ted Otis will be replaced by Ken Gates as committee chair in 2011.

For 2010, the committee received one WNA nomination prior to the new January 31 deadline. Unlike past years, the 2010 nominee had not been an Alaska resident, so the WNA committee tabled the nomination and solicited input regarding the nominee's eligibility. Although the procedures manual does not explicitly exclude non-Alaskans, every past award recipient was an Alaska resident for all or the majority of their career. Some members with lengthy associations with the Alaska Chapter and the WNA felt it was always assumed the award was intended for individuals who'd spent all or most of their careers living in Alaska focused on Alaska fisheries. Hence, the WNA Committee drafted language to explicitly include an Alaska residency criterion in the Chapter Procedures Manual. Further clarification was added stating that only individuals, not agencies or organizations, are eligible for the award. During their October meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously approved these changes. Due to the ineligibility of this year's nominee, the WNA was not presented in 2010. ☹

**Nominations for the Meritorious Service Award, the Alaska Chapter Service Award, and the Almost Darwin Award must be submitted by JANUARY 31, 2011.**

**Nomination forms are available at**

**[http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/awards_scholarships.htm)**



Greg Ablrecht, UAF, one of the student presenters in the poster session. Photo by Carin Stephens.

## Student Subunit Happenings

*Emily Lescak, Student Subunit Representative*

Fairbanks: The Fairbanks student campus group held elections this fall. New officers are: President Bessie Green, Vice President David Fowler, Treasurer Jason Stolarski, and Secretary Kira Baranowski. Elena Fernandez and Ben Overacker have taken on the positions of Co-Bosses of Fish Tank Cleaning, maintaining the native fish tank in the O'Neill building. We held a fly-tying workshop this fall led by graduate student Jason Neuswanger, with materials donated by Jason and tools loaned by University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The flies tied by students were donated to the Silent Auction at the annual AFS Chapter meeting to raise money for student travel to meetings. Ten students studying at the Fairbanks campus were able to attend and present at the state meeting in Juneau. Dr. Amanda Rosenberger taught a resume/job interview workshop to help

students prepare to start looking for summer jobs. Bad Fish Movies is making a comeback, with a viewing of Jaws III, Mama and Baby Jaws in Seaworld!

Anchorage: Four students from the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Alaska Pacific University attended the Alaska Chapter AFS meeting in Juneau. An organizational meeting was held at the end of November to restart the Anchorage student campus group. Dan Rinella will be the group's faculty advisor.

Juneau: No update was available. 🐞

### ONCORHYNCHUS

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## 2011 Call for Chapter Award Nominations

*Ted Otis and Theresa Tanner*

The Alaska Chapter is currently 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. You are encouraged to consider deserving individuals and to submit nominations for these awards. Please use the form 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 from this call for nominations will occur at the 2011 Annual Meeting. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2011.**

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 CSA was established to award outstanding service to the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Candidates should have been involved in some or all of the following activities: actively participated 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 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 last calendar year. Please include a photo of proof along with the story.

Submit award nominations and supporting documentation for the MSA, CSA, and Almost Darwin Award to Theresa Tanner, USFWS, 605 W 4th Ave., Rm G-61, Anchorage, AK 99501, (907) 271-1799, [theresa\\_tanner@fws.gov](mailto:theresa_tanner@fws.gov). The Awards Committee will select winners based on the strength of the nomination and the accomplishment.

The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence, the highest award of the Alaska Chapter, is bestowed as a special honor to an individual for outstanding contributions to Alaska fisheries. Contributions by nominees may include: scientific research; technological development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing, or marketing; academics and fishery education; or involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. Nominees must be, or have been, Alaska residents for all or most of their careers. Only individuals, not organizations, are eligible for the award. Submit Wally Noerenberg Award nominations and letters of support for nominations to Ted Otis, ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 3298 Douglas Place, Homer, AK 99603-8027, (907) 235-1723, [ted.otis@alaska.gov](mailto:ted.otis@alaska.gov).

## Chapter Bylaws Changes

*Bill Bechtol*

The core objectives and operating procedures for the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society are prescribed in the Chapter Bylaws with further clarification and interpretation provided by the Alaska Chapter Procedures Manual. At times it may be necessary to amend the Chapter Bylaws to reflect current practice or to simplify the descriptive text. During the business meeting at the November 2010 Annual Chapter Meeting, the Chapter membership considered three primary changes to the Chapter Bylaws. First, simplify the title of "First Vice-President" to "Vice-President" to remove the perception that the Chapter has multiple Vice-Presidents. Second, revise the term "Chairperson" to read "Chair" throughout the Chapter Bylaws to simplify the text without loss of context or gender neutrality. Third, clarify that committee chairs are to be appointed no less than annually. Members attending the Chapter meeting voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes.

## Committee Reports

### Continuing Education

*Tammy Hoem Neher, Committee Chair*

In association with the annual meeting, four workshops were scheduled covering a broad range of Alaska fisheries topics, including scientific public speaking, technical writing for fisheries, GIS basics, and the NOAA catch share program. The catch share program and scientific communication workshops were cancelled due a lack of registrants, but the GIS and technical writing workshops totaled 29 attendees.

As always, I am continuing to ask for ideas and suggestions from the membership for workshops (and instructors) that you would like to have offered in association with the annual meeting or during the year. Please contact Tammy Hoem Neher, [tdhoem@alaska.edu](mailto:tdhoem@alaska.edu), if you have ideas or suggestions you would like to share!

### Cultural Diversity

*Sara Gilk, Committee Chair*

The Cultural Diversity Travel Award helps fund entry-level applicants who are involved in the natural resource field to attend the annual Alaska Chapter conference of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The committee selects the top candidate(s) and then tries to get as many recipients to the meeting as possible depending on the meeting location and where the candidate(s) reside. The main goal of this committee has been to help diversify our Chapter membership and get young up-and-coming people active with AFS.

I solicited applications from around the state and received applications from seven highly qualified individuals. After scoring applications with a panel of anonymous judges, we were able to fund three candidates for the 2010 meeting in Juneau: Ernestine Ahgeak (Fairbanks), Elena Fernandez (Fairbanks), and Emilie Springer (Homer).

Ernestine Ahgeak is currently a senior at University of Alaska Fairbanks working towards a B.S. in Fisheries. She has had a lifelong involvement in fisheries and natural resources, starting with many years spent hunting, fishing, and participating in subsistence whale hunts in her hometown of Barrow. She has held internships at the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle and at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, and participated in the

prestigious MIMSUP (Multicultural Initiative in the Marine Sciences: Undergraduate Participation) program at Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center. She plans on pursuing a graduate degree and is interested in marine ecology, especially in arctic ecosystems.

Elena Fernandez is currently a student in the final year of her Master's program in Fisheries Oceanography at University of Alaska Fairbanks. She grew up sport fishing for bass and catfish in southern Ohio, and decided to pursue a fisheries career after being awarded a NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate fellowship at University of Alaska Southeast. She has received a number of awards and fellowships, including the UAF Chancellor's Fellowship, the Rasmuson Fisheries Science Center Graduate Fellowship, the Mamie Markham Award through Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, and Sigma Xi induction as an associate member for her REU project at UAS. She is interested in integrative approaches to fish management and assessing overall health and condition of a population at different life history stages, and will soon be pursuing a position at either a state or federal agency.

Emilie Springer is in the third year of her PhD program in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Anthropology Department. She has been involved with the fishing industry as a permit holder for the lower Cook Inlet seine fishery, with her family's seiner in Prince William Sound, and as a deckhand in the Sitka, Kodiak, and Togiak herring fisheries. She completed her Master's work at the University of Washington School of Marine Affairs, and has worked for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. She has been awarded research and academic grants from the Alaska Experimental Program to Stimulate Coordinated Research, the AFS Western Division, and the Prince William Sound Science Center Oil Spill Recovery Institute. Her research interests are in the social and cultural dimensions of mid-size to highly industrialized commercial fisheries and fisheries participation in Alaska coastal communities in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. After she finishes her PhD, she hopes to continue research work and possibly teaching in the UA system or other organizations in Alaska.

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**Committee Reports, continued**

**Electronic Communications**

*Allen Bingham, Committee 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 and the Chapter's email distribution list.

In recent years the web site has essentially just been "maintained" (i.e., no new improvements). Each newsletter that has been put out during this past year has been made available on our web site in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format; and information about training courses and meetings of the Chapter, and also the Parent Society and the Western Division, has been posted. As has been the case for the last three years, the newsletter was primarily distributed by an email-based system this year; some hard-copies were sent to some non-members, libraries, and members without email (or those requesting a hard-copy).

The Student Subunit web site (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/student>) is maintained as a portion of our site. I have not received updates of information on the Student website, so much of the current information on this sub-site is out of date (partly because I have not requested input). In the past the Student Subunit's web site included postings of the officers, meetings, and special event announcements for each of the following campus groups:

Fairbanks (University of Alaska Fairbanks); and Juneau (University of Alaska).

To my knowledge, the Anchorage campus group is inactive. Also, note that the Fairbanks campus group independently maintains an on-line blog site at: <http://uafafs.blogspot.com/>.

The committee continued to maintain an email distribution list for most Chapter members with email addresses in the Chapter's membership database. The distribution list was used successfully to "get the word out" for Chapter activities such as the recent announcements for the 2010 Annual Conference, Chapter elections, the Chapter newsletter, and other items of interest. The parent Society hosts our Chapter's email list server, and all Chapter members with an email address (who have chosen to participate) can be members of that list. Chapter members that

are subscribed can post email to the list at the following address (they need to post from the email address that they are subscribed to the list): [akchap@lists.fisheries.org](mailto:akchap@lists.fisheries.org).

The list is moderated by me to reduce SPAM messages, and to control for mistaken "Reply-to-All" responses to posted messages. Membership in the list is contingent upon membership in the Chapter. Periodically, postings from non-Chapter members have been permitted to be posted for distribution to the list on a case by case basis. During this past year (November 2009-October 2010), our membership was sent approximately 108 email messages categorized as follows (in no particular order):

- 43 Seminar announcements
- 8 Fisheries-related (non-AK AFS) meeting announcements
- 1 AK AFS Chapter Award nomination call
- 1 Call for a new newsletter editor for the AK AFS Chapter
- 2 Western Division AFS and/or AFS scholarship calls
- 1 Other Western Division and/or AFS informational message
- 14 Update notices in regards to the Chapter's web site (including annual meeting specific notices)
- 9 Information and or call for action related to the AK AFS Chapter's annual meeting (non-web related)
- 3 Call for newsletter articles
- 5 Newsletter distributions
- 2 Announcement regarding AFS dues renewals
- 4 Reminders to vote in AK AFS Chapter officer elections
- 14 Job opening announcements
- 2 Announcements for University-based courses
- 1 Book publication announcement
- 1 Continuing Education Survey
- 2 "Other" fisheries-related announcements

Although not directly related to my duties as the chair for the Electronics Communication Committee, in my role as the Membership Manager for the Chapter, maintenance of the distribution list for the Chapter's email list is crucial to maintaining this essential method of information exchange for our Chapter.

*Continued on next page*

**Committee Reports**, continued

I will be stepping down as the Membership Manager for the Chapter — and announcing that I need someone to step up and replace me in that role. I envision being available to transition a new volunteer into this role over the next year or so.

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/units/afs-ak> and the e-mail address for sending comment about and contributions to the web site is: [allen.bingham@alaska.gov](mailto:allen.bingham@alaska.gov).

**Environmental Concerns**

*Cecil Rich, Committee Chair*

The Environmental Concerns Committee was established by the Executive Committee to provide coordinated technical and policy analysis and Chapter input and comments on environmental issues that affect Alaska’s fishery resources. This may occur, for example, when the Chapter’s opinion or position is solicited by members or by external organizations or agencies. The committee will formulate, through consensus, a Chapter position on such issues for review by the EXCOM. Such positions should reflect the concerns of the membership as a whole. Due to the time-sensitive nature of many environmental issues, review of positions formulated by the committee will be by the EXCOM.

In 2010, there were no issues brought to the Committee for consideration.

If you would like to become involved with the committee on issues of concern, please contact Environmental Concerns Committee Chair, Cecil Rich at [cecil@gci.net](mailto:cecil@gci.net).

**Financial Assets Oversight**

*Ray Hander, Committee Chair*

Guidance to the Financial Assets Oversight Committee (FAOC) is provided in the Chapter’s Procedure Manual under the Chapter Financial Plan within the Chapter Investments section. The purpose of the FAOC is to oversee, advise, and make recommendations for

directing the financial assets of the Chapter by way of tracking the Chapter’s monetary holdings that are invested through financial or banking institutions.

In 2010, the FAOC met quarterly with the Chapter’s Wedbush Morgan Securities (WMS) representative, Todd Fletcher, to receive portfolio status updates and conduct maintenance of accounts as needed to conduct Chapter business. Lee Ann Gardner, Treasurer, is in frequent contact with WMS as she conducts day-to-day Chapter business and informs finance committee members with information on an as needed basis. The FAOC submitted a new committee entry for the Chapter’s Procedure Manual revision that provides FAOC background and responsibilities.

The Chapter’s WMS portfolio is invested using a moderately conservative strategy with an investment horizon of 7 to 10 years, as determined by the FAOC members in consultation with the WMS investment representative. The Chapter’s WMS investment portfolio for endowments has gained approximately \$16,891 since 30 October 2009. These gains resulted from interest in the Wally Noerenberg and Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund endowments. The loss between 2009 and 2010 (\$-1,541) shown in the Cultural Diversity Award Fund is a result of the recent withdrawal to pay for the 2010 Cultural Diversity Award. Since no Wally Noerenberg award was given in 2010, the earnings from this account were reinvested into the fund’s corpus. The Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund

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*Opening social at Ladd Macaulay Hatchery. Photo by Carin Stephens.*

<b>Account Name, Balance (\$) from 2008 to 2010, gain or loss (-) for Chapter assets in endowments and general funds.</b>					
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>31-Dec-08</b>	<b>30-Oct-09</b>	<b>29-Oct-10</b>	<b>Gain or loss from Dec. 2008</b>	<b>Gain or loss from Oct. 2009</b>
Award Endowments					
Cultural Diversity	13,119	16,677	15,136	2,017	-1,541
Wally Noerenberg	13,384	17,628	18,932	5,188	1,304
Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund <sup>a</sup>	41,220	65,990	83,118	41,898	17,128
Chapter Investment Fund					
Fund A	81,360	87,913	89,690	8,330	1,777
General funds					
Money Market Checking <sup>b</sup>	18,318	33,534	50,022	n/a	n/a
1st Nat. Petty Cash Acct.	n/a	n/a	2,664	n/a	n/a
Total endowments	67,723	100,295	117,186	49,463	16,891
Total general funds	99,678	121,447	142,376	n/a	n/a
Total assets	167,401	221,742	259,562		
All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1					
<sup>a</sup> increase includes donation contributions					
<sup>b</sup> balances fluctuate with annual meeting expenses					

### Committee Reports, continued

has increased since 2009 from interest earned, donor contributions, and two \$5,000 (one for 2009 and one for 2010) contributions from the Chapter consistent with the resolution approved by the Alaska Chapter in 2005. Fund A has gained \$1,777 since October 2009 through interest earned and payments made from general funds such as earnings from the annual meeting, continuing education events, and membership dues. Interest earned from Fund A may be used for expenditures such as travel and scholarship awards and special projects. Unexpended annual earnings from Fund A were reinvested into the Fund A corpus. The interest bearing money market checking and petty cash accounts fluctuate annually during August through December due to annual meeting and continuing education expenses and income. The money market checking account during the remainder of the year holds approximated \$7,000–\$10,000 to conduct regular Chapter business. At present, we are experiencing positive investment returns in the 10% range on a total return on basis while maintaining a moderately conservative investment portfolio. Realized portfolio gains are due to the ongoing stock market improvement and the Chapter's portfolio asset allocation. Overall, our investments are in bonds (85%), stocks (10%), and

fund manager held cash (5%) and is a moderately conservative means of investing that has gained ground over the past year in a difficult investing climate.

### Fisheries Communication and Education

*Cheryl Anderson and Laurel Devaney, Committee Co-Chairs*

Cheryl Anderson, Fisheries Biologist with the Kenai Fish & Wildlife Field Office, joined the committee as a co-chair. She has already brought energy and new ideas to the committee.

The Communication and Education Committee held a meeting of interested AFS members at the annual Chapter meeting. Steve Brockman, of the Juneau Fish & Wildlife Field Office, gave a presentation on a recent "Bio-Blitz" which yielded a wealth of scientific data while being an excellent outreach event. The AFS members attending the meeting also brain-stormed ideas for future activities.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Education Committee, please feel free to contact:

Laurel Devaney, [Laurel\\_devaney@fws.gov](mailto:Laurel_devaney@fws.gov), 907 456 0558, or Cheryl Anderson, [Cheryl\\_anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Cheryl_anderson@fws.gov), 907-262-9863.

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**Committee Reports, continued**

**Membership**

*Trent Sutton, Committee Chair*

The membership statistics were somewhat higher for 2010 than for 2009 through the September reporting period (see table). Although the number of active members is down slightly from 2009, the number of AFS life, retired, student, and young professional members have each increased over the past year. Overall, total membership has been on an upward trend over the past three years. In addition, the number of delinquent dues members (members who have not paid their membership dues) is down from 2009. It should be noted that the category of Alaska Chapter life member was new in 2010.



*Red king crab observing Chapter members during the opening social at Ladd Macaulay Hatchery. Photo by Carin Stephens.*

A total of 114 reminder emails were sent out between 20 August and 28 September 2010 to Alaska Chapter of AFS members who owed both parent society and Alaska Chapter dues. It is not

clear if the decline in the number of delinquent dues members is due more to this email effort or the effort of the previous Vice President (Audra Brase) for her snail mail reminders in fall 2009.

**AFS membership summary (2005 to 2010).**

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Month (of report)	Sept	Sept	June	July	Sept	Sept
Active	341	366	210	205	216	213
AFS Life	27	30	26	24	20	26
Chapter Life	----	----	----	----	----	11
Retired	9	12	8	9	10	11
Student	73	46	43	45	52	57
Young Professional	----	----	----	26	19	20
Other <sup>1</sup>	48	24	32	0	0	2
Total	498	478	319	310	317	329
Owes Parent AFS dues	0	0	0	0	2	1
Recent Delinquent Dues (paid Parent AFS through previous year)	82	204	242	135	128	102
Owes Chapter Dues	13	57	9	37	40	22
State/Providence (outside AK) <sup>2</sup>	17	17	11	15	10	16

<sup>1</sup>The "Other" membership category for 2010 includes one Hutton and one Developing Country member.

<sup>2</sup>The statistics listed for "State/Province" in Table 1 represent the number of different states or locations outside of Alaska where we have members.

**Committee Reports,** continued

**Molly Ahlgren Scholarship**

*Hal Geiger, Committee Chair*

The Molly Ahlgren Scholarship is awarded annually to a worthy undergraduate student working toward a baccalaureate degree in fisheries or aquatic science at the University of Alaska or Alaska Pacific University. The Alaska Chapter pays travel and meeting expenses for the scholarship recipient to attend the Annual Alaska Chapter Conference. The scholarship was established on behalf of the late Dr. Molly Ahlgren who exhibited an outstanding passion and desire to learn about the aquatic realm. This year the committee selected two students, with Executive Committee approval, as co-winners of the 2010 award. The Alaska Chapter would like to congratulate Andrew Reichel, a junior at Alaska Pacific University, and Casey McConnell, a student at University of Alaska Fairbanks, on being awarded the special honor of the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship.

This year the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee made several important changes. Some changes follow revision of the committee's formal procedures and duties, and the committee produced an approximately 500 word entry dealing with those duties and responsibilities for the Chapter Procedures Manual. Notably, the committee moved to a system of open application initiated by the students. The committee developed a new application form, and the committee will annually review all timely applications from the students that apply. The committee, in consultation with the student subunit, will make a recommendation on a scholarship winner to the Executive Committee. One other change is that Hal Geiger has resigned his chairmanship, and Ray Hander was appointed as the new committee chair; Hal will remain on the committee. In addition, the scholarship account balance reflects the recent check sent by Molly's mother, Isabel, for \$10K for their family's 2010 donation.

**Recipients Notes**

**Casey McConnell, University of Alaska Fairbanks**

Since I was unable to attend last year's meeting, and would have otherwise not been able to attend this year's meeting without the financial aid that accompanies the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship, I felt very privileged to have been selected as a scholarship recipient. I think that it is important for undergraduates who are looking towards graduate school to not only establish a good resume, but to also establish a personal connection with fishery professionals. During the conference and social events, I introduced myself and meet several fisheries biologists.

The sessions I attended were interesting and many of the presentations were very good in the sense that they were easy to comprehend, and were given in a manner that kept the audience's attention. I thought the variation of the freshwater and marine, salmon and crabs, and traditional knowledge and acoustic sessions balanced the conference well. I did struggle with rushing back and forth between conference rooms to see different talks. Even with the rushing around (too many good talks in too little time!), and despite the lovely Juneau weather, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. It was good to get out of Fairbanks for a while and take in some salty southeast air.

**Andrew H. Reichel, Alaska Pacific University**

My name is Andrew Reichel. I am a junior in Marine and Aquatic Biology at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage and I have been a member of AFS since 2007. I spent my childhood in the Lower forty-eight, born in Texas and raised in central Pennsylvania. Because of my lifelong love of fishing and the outdoors, the Marine Biology program at APU was a perfect fit for me. And after two years in Alaska, I can wholeheartedly say that I have never before experienced such an ecological utopia as exists here.

Thanks to the support of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, I was awarded a Molly Ahlgren Scholarship in November 2010 and given the opportunity to attend the Alaska Chapter AFS Conference in Juneau. Attending the conference was pivotal to my advancement as a professional, and the opportunity would have never presented itself without the support of AFS. To be given the opportunity to meet so many intelligent and charismatic people, whose interests, ingenuity, and devotion to the aquatic realm are revolutionizing the science of how we manage fisheries, is truly inspirational to students like myself.

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**Committee Reports, continued**

Though I was not fortunate enough to meet Molly, I am sure she would have been proud to see the cohesive networking of the attendees, and their eagerness to share their knowledge for the greatest goal of preserving Alaska's fisheries. Alaska has demonstrated the importance of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and this state's unrivaled success in managing fisheries stocks is setting a world-acknowledged precedent at a time when other regions' stocks continue to dwindle. By supporting young undergrads in their education and exposing them to the research that is going on all around them, Alaska's AFS is doing their part to ensure Alaska will be a leader in fisheries science for decades to come.

I truly thank you for the opportunity that you have given me, as well as your continued support of higher education. The experience was priceless, and I look forward to continued involvement with this premier chapter of AFS in the coming years.

**Newsletter**

*Gretchen Bishop; Oncorhynchus Editor*

The *Oncorhynchus* serves as a medium to distribute information to Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter is produced by editor, Gretchen Bishop, who compiles articles submitted by Chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. The AFS style conventions described at [http://www.fisheries.org/afs/publications\\_style.html](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/publications_style.html) are generally followed. Prior to finalizing the newsletter, the AFS Alaska Chapter President and the Electronic Communications Committee Chair (Allen Bingham) make final edits. Each issue includes a front-page feature article and one or more photos supplied by a volunteer to the editor to include in the newsletter. An effort is made to distribute opportunities to write the feature article between agencies and regions of the state. Feature articles in 2010 included: Winter (Vol. 30 no. 1) Halibut Satellite Tagging; Spring (Vol. 30 no. 2) Nutrient and Prey Fluxes Sustain Freshwater Fishes; Summer (Vol. 30 no. 3) King Crab Rehabilitation in Alaska; and Fall (Vol. 30 no. 4) Little Port Walter 75th Anniversary.

Submissions of articles for inclusion in the

newsletter are solicited quarterly via the AFS Alaska Chapter list-serve; photos are encouraged. During the past year, four electronic issues were published, one at the beginning of each calendar quarter. Newsletter submission deadlines are the 10th of March, June, September and December. This is the third year of fully electronic distribution for the *Oncorhynchus*, although paper copies continue to be archived and sent to subscribing libraries. This has permitted the distribution of a lengthier newsletter at reduced total cost.

Effective at the Annual Chapter meeting, Gretchen Bishop resigned as *Oncorhynchus* editor and Bill Bechtol was appointed as the new editor. If you have a newsletter contribution, please contact Bill at 299-6146, or [bechtolresearch@hughes.net](mailto:bechtolresearch@hughes.net).

**Resolutions and Bylaws**

*Bill Bechtol; Committee Chair*

The Resolutions and Bylaws Committee is a standing committee of the Alaska Chapter and serves to review proposed resolutions and Bylaws changes and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. This committee continues to provide input on revisions of the Alaska Chapter Procedure Manual to reflect actual Chapter practices. The Procedures Manual is a living document, providing guidance to Chapter officers and members and intended to be revised as needed within the bounds of the Chapter Bylaws. The Chapter Bylaws, which describe the core objectives and operating procedures for the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, may also be revised as needed upon an approval vote of the Chapter membership. In 2010, the committee received a proposal to make three primary revisions to the Chapter Bylaws: (1) to simplify the title of "First Vice-President" to "Vice-President"; (2) to revise the term "Chairperson" to read "Chair" throughout the Chapter Bylaws; and (3) to clarify that committee chairs are to be appointed by the Chapter President no less than annually. Aspects of the proposed Bylaws changes were presented in the Fall 2010 issue of the Chapter newsletter *Oncorhynchus*. The proposed Bylaws changes will be discussed, with a potential vote for or against approval by the membership, at the annual Chapter Business Meeting in November 2010.

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**Committee Reports, continued**

**Treasurer**

*Lee Ann Gardner, Chapter Treasurer*

Primary treasury-related efforts in 2010 included: (1) developing the spending plan for 2010; (2) completing the federal tax return filing for the Tax Year 12/1/2008 thru 11/30/2009; and (3) serving on the Chapter’s Finance Committee and the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee.

Note: The Wedbush Checking account is slightly inflated at this time since one 2010 annual meeting bill (\$2.7K) is still outstanding. The student travel fund balance is included in the Wedbush Checking account and was \$1,374; this year’s meeting auctions and t-shirt sales raised \$4,191 and there were \$9,257 in student travel expenses for a total balance of \$3,692 that was authorized by the Executive Committee with the deficit repaid out of general funds; the student travel balance is now \$0.

<b>Alaska Chapter Financial Account Balances as of December 10, 2010</b>	
<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Wedbush Checking	\$11,469
Wedbush Fund A	\$88,741
Wedbush Wally Noerenberg	\$ 18,708
Wedbush Cultural Diversity	\$ 15,798
Wedbush Molly Ahlgren Scholarship	\$ 90,783
<b>Total Wedbush Assets</b>	<b>\$225,499</b>
1st National Bank AK Checking	\$469
<b>Total Assets Alaska Chapter</b>	<b>\$225,968</b>

<b>Annual Meeting Registration Counts:</b>					
	2010 (Juneau)	2009 (Fairbanks)	2008 (Anchorage)	2007 (Ketchikan)	2006 (Fairbanks)
Students	24 (pd)	39	37	21	48
Member 3-day	109	81	93	73	85
Non-member 3-day	64	22	33	32	22
Member 2-day	4	4	15	2	6
Non-member 2-day	1	4	8	5	1
Member 1-day	13	1	18	8	5
Non-member 1-day	21	5	41	16	8
Others	5	6	14	14	7
Student Volunteers	47				
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>187</b>

**Meetings and Events**

**2011 Alaska Marine Science Symposium**

January 17-21, 2011: This meeting will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska. Register online through 9 January 2011 at <http://register.alaskamarinescience.org/start.jsf>.



**2011 Salmon Ocean Ecology Meeting**

March 23-24, 2011 This meeting will be held in Seattle, WA. Please email [Brian.Beckman@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.Beckman@noaa.gov).

**National Shellfisheries Association**

March 27–31, 2011: This meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD. Please visit <http://shellfish.org/node/78817>.



**Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium**



April 9–12, 2011: This meeting will be held in Kodiak, AK. Please contact [kate.wynne@alaska.edu](mailto:kate.wynne@alaska.edu).

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## Meetings and Events, continued



### 2nd ESSAS Open Science Meeting

May 22–26, 2011: This meeting, sponsored by PICES and themed “Comparative Studies of Climate Effects on Polar and Subpolar Ecosystems,” will be held in Seattle, WA. For more information, please visit [http://www.pices.int/meetings/international\\_symposia/2011/ESSAS/default.aspx](http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2011/ESSAS/default.aspx).

### ASIH 2011 Annual Meeting

July 6–11, 2011: This meeting will be held in Minneapolis, MN. For more information, please visit <http://www.asih.org/annualmeetings>.



### ESA 96th Annual Meeting

August 7–12, 2011: This meeting for Earth Stewardship will be held in Austin, TX. For more information, please visit <http://www.esa.org/austin>.

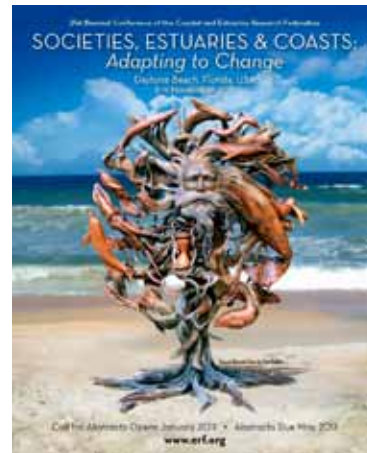
### 141st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

September 4 – 8, 2011: This meeting will be held in Seattle, WA. For more information, please visit <http://www.fisheries.org/afs2011>.



### Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation 2011 Conference

November 6–11, 2011: This meeting, “Societies, Estuaries & Coasts: Adapting to Change”, will be held in Daytona Beach, FL. For more information, please visit website online at <http://erf.org>.



## 2011 Alaska Chapter Officers

### President

Audra Brase, ADF&G/SF, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701-1599; 459-7244 wk, Fax: 459-7347, [Audra.Brase@alaska.gov](mailto:Audra.Brase@alaska.gov)

### President-Elect

Trent Sutton, University of Alaska, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, P.O. Box 757220; Fairbanks, 99775-7220; Ph: 474-7285, Fax: 474-7204, [tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu](mailto:tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu)

### Vice President

Mark S. Wipfli, USGS Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 209 Irving I Bldg, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775; Ph: 474-6654, Fax: 474-6101, [mwipfli@alaska.edu](mailto:mwipfli@alaska.edu)

### Treasurer

Lee Ann Gardner, RWJ Consulting, P.O. Box 672302, Chugiak 99567-2302; 688-1400 wk, Fax: 688-1405, [rwjconsulting@ak.net](mailto:rwjconsulting@ak.net)

### Secretary

Julie Bednarski, ADF&G/CF, P.O. Box 110024; Juneau, AK 99811-0024, 465-4944 wk, Fax: 465-4207, [Julie.Bednarski@alaska.gov](mailto:Julie.Bednarski@alaska.gov)

### Past President

Lisa Stuby, ADF&G/SF, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks 99701-1599; 459-7202 wk, Fax: 456-2259, [Lisa.Stuby@alaska.gov](mailto:Lisa.Stuby@alaska.gov)

### Student Subunit Representative

Emily Lescak, EBL – UAA, 3151 Alumni Loop Road, Anchorage 99508; Ph: 786-4768, [elescak@alaska.edu](mailto:elescak@alaska.edu)

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