



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society  
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*The AVCT at the outlet of Chenik Lake. All system components are contained on the quadrapod, with sensitive electronics housed in a strongbox on the platform. Photo by Ted Otis.*

## *Fish TV: Using video to remotely monitor salmon escapement*

*Ted Otis*

One of the cornerstones of sustainable salmon fisheries management is accurate escapement monitoring. Fishery managers require timely updates on run-timing and run strength in order to make appropriate in-season decisions to regulate harvest effort. Since statehood, Alaskan biologists have used an ever-expanding array of tools, including weirs, counting towers, aerial survey, ground survey, and sonar. Weirs are generally considered the most accurate, but are expensive and don't work for all applications. Aerial survey has long been one of the most practical monitoring methods in Alaska because it allows a lone biologist to collect run strength and timing information on multiple streams across large areas, often in a single survey. Despite these advantages, aerial surveys have drawbacks: 1) they're dangerous; 2) it's inherently difficult to accurately determine species and abundance from an aircraft traveling over 50 mph at 300–500 ft above the stream; and 3) survey estimates depend on a wide variety of factors including weather, water clarity, riparian cover, surveyor experience, timing and periodicity of survey flights, and stream life of the target species. Even when using the area-under-the-curve method to convert periodic surveys into total season escapement estimates, aerial surveys only provide rough escapement indices rather than absolute abundances. For these reasons, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Homer began evaluating remote video technology in 1997 as a salmon escapement monitoring tool to provide accurate, in-season, escapement estimates on small clear streams that would otherwise be monitored via aerial survey.

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## The President's Corner

*Trent Sutton*

Winter. That single word tends to make those of us in Alaska shudder as we think about cold temperatures, long nights, and, potentially, a lot of snow and ice. This winter has been no exception here in Fairbanks – in the past two weeks we have seen temperatures range from as low as



*Trent Sutton,  
AFS Alaska Chapter President.*

-40°F to nearly 50°F with various combinations of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and wind. Statewide we have seen similar extremes in the weather, but that is just how it tends to go in Alaska this time of year. But soon enough the days will start getting longer, the air will feel a bit warmer, and we will all be thinking about summer field projects, the planting of our gardens, and getting next winter's supply of firewood split and stacked. Like they say, there are two seasons in Alaska – winter and getting ready for winter.

Despite the challenges that winter tends to bring, the arrival of the holiday season and end of the year just around the corner always seems to invoke (at least in me) a fair bit of reflection on the past year and forward thinking of things to come in the new year. For my first President's Corner, I would like to take a quick look back on the end of 2011 and start to lay out my plan for 2012. As a starter, I would like to thank everyone who helped plan and participated in our annual meeting last month in Girdwood. Attendance was great, there were a lot of fantastic oral presentations and posters, and the socials were, well, social. I especially wanted to thank Audra Brase, Lee Ann Gardner, and Emily Lescak for all their hard work before and during the meeting. And I also wanted to thank Andy "Goat Vest" Seitz and his student posse for an entertaining auction. For those of you that missed Andy's vest, go to the Chapter website for a good chuckle. Hobo Jim put on a great show at the banquet

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## Fish TV, continued

Working with Wes Bucher, ADF&G's Lower Cook Inlet area management biologist at that time, we developed a list of criteria for a remote video system: 1) field durability—the system had to be weatherproof and bear resistant; 2) the system had to operate autonomously under a field-renewable power source without the need for frequent maintenance; 3) the system must be transportable in small aircraft; and 4) relatively inexpensive, particularly compared to a manned weir, sonar project, or aerial survey, the tool we hoped to replace.

Initially lacking dedicated project funding, we weren't able to design and fabricate our own custom components. Instead, we evaluated "off-the-shelf" equipment that suited our needs. We also sought advice from other researchers that had been using time-lapse video systems at fish passageways on dams in the Pacific Northwest and on a deepwater weir in Chignik, Alaska. These other applications differed from ours in that: 1) our remote application required that we generate our own power; and 2) we did not want to install an unattended weir to funnel fish past an underwater camera because of vulnerability to blockages that could impede fish passage. So we decided to model our video system like a counting tower ... an autonomous video counting tower (AVCT).

We identified several key components to assemble a successful AVCT: 1) a stable platform to mount and protect the equipment; 2) high resolution cameras capable of operating at low light to capture fish passage during daylight and crepuscular hours; 3) a time-lapse recorder capable of holding at least 1 week of video; 4) deep cycle marine batteries to power the system; and 5) solar panels and wind generators to recharge the batteries.

After considering the products available, we selected a camera and time-lapse VCR (the digital video recorder [DVR] was not yet available) that ran off direct current (DC). The camera drew less than 150 milliamps/hr and operated down to 0.01 lux. The VCR drew about 2.5 amps/hr, was fully programmable, and would automatically revert back to a programmed record mode when power was restored following an interruption.

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### The President's Corner, continued

and, as value added, volunteered to serve as the auctioneer which added to the hilarity of the evening. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am already looking forward to see what Mark Wipfli has planned for our 2012 annual meeting to be held in Kodiak.

I sent out an email via the listserv at the end of November on the AFS Policy Statement regarding the need for an immediate-release anesthetic-sedative for use in the fisheries disciplines. If you have not yet taken a look at this policy, please take a moment to do so while it is still posted on the national AFS website ([http://www.fisheries.org/afs/policy/policy\\_sed](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/policy/policy_sed)). For those of you that handle live fish, particularly for field-work purposes, there is a real issue with not having an FDA-approved immediate-release fish sedative. As I mentioned in my email message, the chapter has already provided support for this policy. But in this case, more feedback is better, so please provide input and/or support on this initiative before the opportunity closes.

One of my goals as President for this next year is to clean up and formalize some of our policies, particularly as they relate to our annual meeting. I still am sorting through and identifying what current, informal "policies" we have in place as a Chapter and will be working with the Executive Committee on formalizing and publicizing those for the membership. There is also a pending resolution from the Western Division of AFS (WD-AFS) that recommends a formal, independent scientific review and survey of potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay watershed. The Chapter has lent its support behind that resolution, which will be a discussion item at the December conference call meeting of the WD-AFS which I will participate in to represent our interests.

I will have more for all of you in the next newsletter, but in the interim, I wish you all a happy holiday season and a safe and productive new year! 🐟

### Fish TV, continued

Program restoration was an important feature for a remote, solar/wind powered system that might occasionally lose power. We also added a multiplexor allowing us to record up to four cameras on a single VCR. Knowing our power usage (about 3.0 amps/hr for all components combined x 20 hr/d of use), we designed the generation side of the system. Joining five deep-cycle marine batteries in parallel provided up to 500 amp-hr of reserve capacity at 12V, estimated to give at least seven days of operation without sun or wind to recharge the batteries. We selected a small, but durable, wind generator capable of producing 25 amps/hr in winds of 30 knots, and supplemented with up to five 85-watt solar panels, depending on wind availability at the site.

The next challenge was building a sturdy structure to house and protect the components from bears and high water events. After experimenting with light poles, we developed a four-legged "quadrapod" that could be disassembled into



*Electronic components housed inside the aluminum strongbox include: deep-cycle batteries, time-lapse DVR, monitor, fused switch panel, charge controllers and load-dispersion devices. Photo by Ted Otis.*

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## Fish TV, continued



*The prototype paddlewheel hydro-generator produces 2–3 amps/hr at current velocities around 1 m/s. Photo by Mike Parish.*

lengths short enough to fit into a de Havilland Beaver. A deck halfway up the “quad” provided a platform to support the aluminum strongbox housing the batteries and sensitive electronic equipment. The wind generator and solar panels could also be mounted directly to the “quad” so the entire system was self contained. Finally, a small mesh beach seine dyed light green was laid across the streambed below the AVCT to enhance the contrast of fish visible to the “sky cam” mounted just below the wind generator. An optional “H2O cam” could also be installed adjacent to the thalweg of the stream to determine species composition for multi-species returns.

After initial trials at Delight Lake in 1997, we deployed our first AVCT on Mikfik Creek in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary in 1998. We’ve since tested AVCTs at more than a half dozen other sites around Lower Cook Inlet and the outer Kenai coast. We’ve continued to modify various components to improve performance and reliability. For instance, reviewing video

tapes with the analog VCR was cumbersome and tape degradation was an issue during extended playback, so we transitioned to a computer-based digital video system. The computer had lots of advantages, but the CPU drew more power than our solar panels and wind generator could provide, so we again pursued alternatives, following the shift by the security industry to DVRs. Our current time-lapse DVR runs off DC, draws less than 2.0 amps, records up to 3 weeks of good quality video (720x480) at 5 frames/sec, has hot-swappable hard drives, programmable on/off scheduling, motion sensing capabilities, a time/date stamp, and automatically reverts to programmed record mode after a power failure. This DVR also records in the motion-jpeg video compression format, which we’ve found to be far superior to other formats for both image sharpness and smooth playback at high speeds.

Another issue that initially plagued us was losing data when the system failed; we wouldn’t

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## Fish TV, continued

discover the problem until our next site visit. All of our sites are remote, without available power, phone, or cell phone coverage. So we installed a satellite messenger device that notifies us by email and text message whenever power or video are lost. Another problem we faced was finding locations along a stream that were well suited to both counting fish and generating power. Sometimes, the best place to count fish was a short distance away from the best access to sun and wind. So, we began transmitting wireless video via microwave from the best fish counting site to the best power generation site. Because the camera and wireless transmitter combined draw less than 0.5 amps/hr, a single battery and solar panel are sufficient to power the remote camera site. Even with that capability, we found that some sites simply didn't offer sufficient access to sun and wind, so we decided to build a small paddlewheel hydro-generator to capture power from the flowing stream. After considerable searching, we found a design that, while still being modified to optimize power output at low current flow, produces 2-3 amps/hr at current velocities of 1 m/sec, enough to run our current video system.

So far, our results have been very encouraging. When we evaluated the AVCT's performance by operating it concurrently with a weir at Chenik Lake to monitor sockeye salmon, we found the daily and accumulative escapement counts virtually identical. However, like any tool, AVCTs are not suited for all applications. We've had less success estimating pink and chum salmon

escapement, especially on streams with intertidal spawning. Our AVCT performed best when monitoring sockeye salmon escapement into lakes, especially when there's no run-timing overlap with other species.

The future looks bright for continued development and use of remote video escapement monitors. Technology continues to advance and newer, smaller, more energy efficient DVRs are being introduced every year. Colleagues around Alaska and the lower 48 are now deploying underwater video systems on unmanned weirs and transmitting the video via microwave directly to their office. This application offers advantages over AVCTs because the motion sensing capabilities of modern DVRs can be used to delete blank frames and potentially facilitate auto-counting. However, for truly remote applications where site visits are infrequent, autonomous video counting towers can be an effective tool that should be in every fishery biologist's toolbox.

*Ted Otis began working in fisheries in Alaska in 1987 as a field technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, earned his MS in Fisheries Science in 1994, and began working as a fisheries biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries in 1996. Based in Homer as the Area Finfish Research Biologist for Lower Cook Inlet, Ted currently focuses on salmon and herring stock assessment. Wes Bucher, Mark Dickson, and Mike Parish helped develop various AVCT components with funding from ADF&G, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, and the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund.*



Andy Seitz and his "Prize Posse" at the banquet auction. Photo by Audra Brase.

## Alaska Chapter 37th Annual Conference Awards

Theresa Tanner

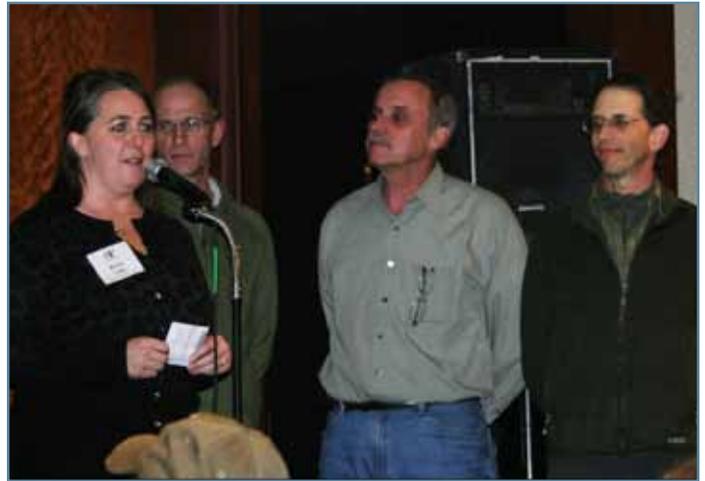
### 2011 AK AFS Awardees

The Awards Committee is responsible for selecting the Meritorious Service Award, the Alaska Chapter Service Award, the Almost Darwin Award, and the best student paper and poster presented at the annual Chapter Meeting. For 2011, the committee received three nominations each for the Meritorious Service Award and the Alaska Chapter Service Award; no nominations were submitted for the Almost Darwin Award.

The Awards Committee selected Ray Hander for the Alaska Chapter Service Award. Ray was honored for his active involvement and leadership in the Chapter, including his service as Chair to both the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award and the Financial Assets Oversight Committees and his past service as Treasurer.

For the first time in Chapter history, the Meritorious Service Award was shared among four individuals:

Charles Krueger, Christian Zimmerman, Karen Gillis, and Joseph Spaeder. Through their efforts, American Fisheries Society Symposium 70, entitled *Pacific Salmon: Ecology and Management of Western Alaska's Populations*, was published in 2009. This publication (available at <http://www.afsbooks.org/54070C>) compiles, under one cover, the freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecology of salmon in the North Pacific; human dimensions of salmon in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region; freshwater and marine



2011 Alaska Chapter Meritorious Service Award recipients (l-r): Karen Gillis, Christian Zimmerman, Charles Krueger, and Joe Spaeder. Photo by Randy Brown.



Theresa Tanner presents Ray Hander with the 2011 Chapter Service Award. Photo by Randy Brown.

management; subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries; lessons learned from other fisheries in terms of ecology, governance and management; and, finally, builds upon these four areas to address new challenges and new approaches to salmon management. The publication contains 61 peer-reviewed papers totaling 1,272 pages with color illustrations and includes, for the first time in the primary literature, individual papers detailing the history of management of the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River drainages and the Norton Sound region in response to changes in salmon abundance over time. Dr. Krueger and Dr. Zimmerman served as editors for the publication, and organized and reviewed the numerous drafts, revisions, and galley proofs of the 61 papers. Ms. Gillis and Dr. Spaeder provided leadership and coordination for the overarching AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative, including organization of Symposium 70, held in Anchorage in 2007, with 65 presenters and over 300 participants.

In 2011, 23 students presented papers and 13 students presented posters at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting in Girdwood, Alaska. The student presentations were evaluated by 24 Chapter members who volunteered to serve as judges. The two best paper and one best poster award recipients selected from the presentations were:

**Best Student Paper, co-winners:** Parker Bradley, "Characterizing the Juvenile Fish Community in Large Glacial Rivers in Alaska" and Jason Neuswanger, "The Importance of Drifting Debris for Drift-Feeding Juvenile Chinook Salmon."

**Best Student Poster:** Robert Marcotte, "Determining Population Relationships for Two Sister Species of Coregonus: Arctic and Bering Cisco (*C. autumnalis* and *C. laurettae*)."

The Awards Committee would like to extend their appreciation to our Meritorious Service and Chapter Service awardees. We also congratulate our student awardees, and thank the volunteer judges who made the student awards possible. 🐟

## Wally Noerenberg 2011 Award

*Kenneth Gates*

The Wally Noerenberg Award (WNA) for Fishery Excellence is the highest award bestowed by the Alaska Chapter. It honors an individual's life-long achievements in a career focused on Alaska's fisheries. Contributions may include, but are not limited to: fisheries research; technology development; species and habitat management; innovations in harvesting, processing or marketing; academics or fisheries education; and involvement in national and international affairs affecting Alaska fisheries. The award was created in 1981, and in 1982

was awarded posthumously to its namesake, Wally Noerenberg. Since then, there have 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 a staggered three-year term 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 WNA Committee procedures were modified so that new committee members are randomly selected from a list of past-presidents still active in the Alaska Chapter. The 2011 WNA Committee consisted of Hal Geiger, Bill Wilson, and Scott Maclean, whose 3-year term ends at the 2011 Girdwood Meeting. Bill Bechtol was randomly selected and has agreed to take Scott Maclean's position on the committee beginning at the 2011 Girdwood meeting.

This year, the committee received five WNA nominations prior to the new January 31 deadline. Unlike past years, this is the most nominations ever received in one year since the awards inception. Due to the high volume of nominations and quality



*Bill Heard and Jack Helle, co-recipients of the 2011 Wally Noerenberg Award, the AFS Alaska Chapter's most prestigious recognition. Photo by Randy Brown.*

of the nominees, the WNA Committee selected two recipients for the 2011 WNA, Mr. William R. Heard and Dr. John H. Helle. This was a unique situation for the WNA Committee. The procedures manual does not address multiple recipients in one calendar year, therefore, before moving forward the WNA Committee recommendation was voted on by the Executive Committee during the July meeting. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to support the WNA Committee's recommendation.

The remaining question for the WNA Committee and Executive Committee is what to do with the remaining three nomination packets. The WNA Committee discussed this in great length and unanimously agreed that the remaining three nominees be automatically considered for future awards. ?

### ONCORHYNCHUS

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

## 2011 Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award

### Ray Hander, Committee Chair

In 2011 the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee (Committee) updated the application to clarify the criteria for persons eligible to apply by basing the criteria on accrued credits for a junior class status. The application was sent out on 30 August 2011 to various distribution outlets such as financial aid offices, scholarship coordinators, and professors at the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University, as well as the Chapter web site. This year the Committee met and selected a winner and a first and second alternate of the 2011 award. The Committee made a recommendation on a scholarship winner to the Executive Committee, and that recommendation was approved. Items to be completed after the ceremonial award is given are disbursement of \$2,000 in scholarship funds to the award winner's university in time for the upcoming term and a letter to the Ahlgren family reporting on the 2011 award. In addition, all travel and meeting registration expenses to attend the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting are paid for by the Chapter. *[Editor's note – The award recipient, Dan Prince, provides a statement below.]*

### Dan Prince

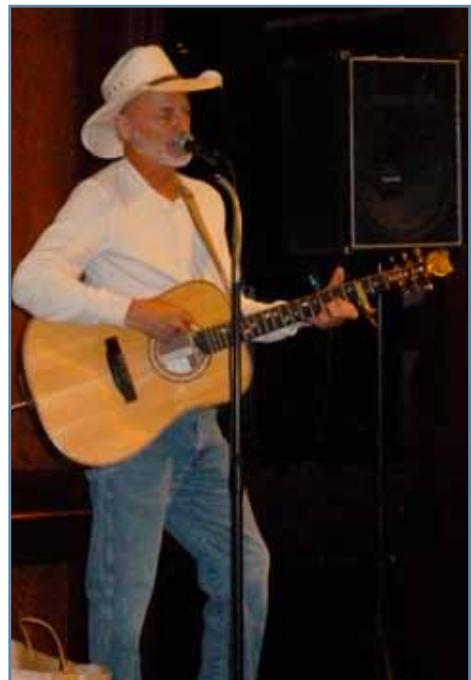
After a mere three years of integrating into the culture and people that comprise the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, I had already heard several accounts of the networking, learning, and just-plain-fun opportunities associated with the annual conference. However, it wasn't until the conference in Girdwood last November that I was able to experience one firsthand – and it did not disappoint. From the compelling presentations to the passionate chats in-between, it was immediately clear that I was among the people dedicated to Alaska's fishery resources, a crowd that one could easily get used to being around.

Currently, I am finishing up my last year as an undergraduate studying biology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. After working three summers in the field as a biological fisheries technician for the USFWS and three winters in a lab conducting undergraduate research projects on threespine stickleback, I was awarded the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship. Along with this honor came



Ray Hander presents Dan Prince with the 2011 Molly Ahlgren Award. Photo by Randy Brown.

the chance to attend this year's annual conference and learn about the broad scope of fisheries interests and studies taking place in Alaska. I was also able to meet with people who have made careers out of a passion for Alaskan fisheries, a passion that I share. The opportunities provided to me and past recipients of the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship cannot be overstated, and I am very grateful. 🐟



Hobo Jim, banquet entertainment and head auctioneer extraordinaire. Photo by Bill Bechtol.

## Student Subunit Happenings

### New Student Subunit Representative

Thomas Farrugia started his Fisheries Ph.D. in September 2010 at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His research entitled “An interdisciplinary sustainability evaluation of the skate fishery in the Gulf of Alaska” is examining the movement patterns, stock assessment, and bioeconomic modeling of big (*Raja binoculata*) and longnose (*R. rhina*) skates. Thomas is a fellow of the Marine Ecosystem Sustainability of the Arctic and Subarctic (MESAS) program, an NSF-granted graduate traineeship which focuses on ecosystem-based management and interdisciplinary studies.

Previously, Thomas completed his M.S. in Marine Biology at California State University, Long Beach. He worked on abundance and movement patterns of the shovelnose guitarfish (*Rhinobatos productus*) in a restored southern California estuary, and his work was used to assess the success of the habitat restoration. Mr. Farrugia now hopes to use his skills to answer applied fisheries questions and he is looking forward to working and learning in Alaska.

### Thomas Farrugia, Student Subunit Representative

The student subunit of the Alaska chapter of AFS has been very active during this quarter. Six students [*Editor's note – this is an update from the three students reported previously.*] attended the Parent society AFS meeting in Seattle in August where they presented their research to the fisheries community. Attendance at the Alaska Chapter meeting in Girdwood was 62 students, with 47 students receiving travel support; 33 students gave presentations. Parker Bradley and Jason Neuswanger were co-winners for the best student paper, while Robert Marcotte won best student poster. Dan Prince received the Molly Ahlgren award.

Students also presented at the Wakefield Symposium in Anchorage, the SACNAS National Conference in San Jose, and the 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals for the Society of Marine Mammalogy in Tampa. Julie Nielsen traveled to Bergen, Norway to meet with researchers at the Institute of Marine Research

and present her work on “Multi-scale movements of demersal fishes in Alaska”. She also attended the International Flatfish Symposium in Ijmuiden, Netherlands. International travel by our students



Thomas Farrugia measuring a big skate in Prince William Sound. Photo by Elisa Russ.

strengthens connections among researchers around the world and increases the international visibility and recognition of the Alaskan universities and AFS.

The Fairbanks student group substantially increased its membership and involvement over the past year, especially among undergraduates. Monthly meetings have included a resume building workshop, a fly tying seminar, and presentations by representatives from various organizations including ADF&G, USF&WS, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Alaska Sea Grant. In addition, an active website and Facebook page have been developed to increase communication.

The Anchorage student group is back up and running with members from University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University. Our faculty advisor is Dan Rinella. Officers are Emily Lescak (president), Leah Kenney (vice president), Kyle Shedd (treasurer), Andrew Reichel (secretary), and Dan Prince (publicity chair). Our activities included a presentation on Bristol Bay salmon from Tyler Dann, an end of semester social, and a tour of the new hatchery in Anchorage. The Anchorage student group anticipates launching a new website next semester.

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**Student Subunit Happenings, continued**



*Julie Nielsen in front of an Atlantic halibut at the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Norway. Photo by Alan Steffert.*

The Juneau SFOS student group celebrated two successful thesis defenses this fall semester. On September 29, Ashwin Sreenivasan presented his PhD work titled: “Nucleic acid ratios as an index of growth in Pacific herring, Pacific cod and walleye pollock.” A week later, on October 7, Laurinda Marcello defended her master’s work: “What drives snow crab recruitment: cod, spawners or climate?” Last fall the Juneau student group participated in their biannual highway clean-up of the Point Lena Loop area. The students joined the “Adopt A Highway” program shortly after the UAF Lena facility opened in the spring of 2009 and have since made spring and fall clean-ups as an effort to give back to the Lena community. 🐾



*Attendees mix at the poster session social during the Alaska Chapter conference in Girdwood. Photo by Randy Brown.*



*Presentation at the Alaska Chapter conference in Girdwood. Photo by Audra Brase.*

**25-Year and 50-Year Members**

Based on the efforts of Bill Franzin, then AFS president, and Gus Rassam, AFS Executive Director, the American Fisheries Society in 2009 approved issuance of commemorative pins as a recognition program for individuals that have been members for 25 years and for 50

Member	City	Joined	Member	City	Joined
<b>25-Year Members</b>					
Christopher Estes	Anchorage	1976	Richard Matson	Juneau, AK	1982
David Fluharty	Seattle, WA	1984	Stanley Moberly	Tumwater, WA	1964
Timothy Joyce	Cordova, AK	1981	John Thedinga	Juneau, AK	1977
Tom Kron	Anchorage, AK	1981	Steven Zemke	Anchorage, AK	1979
Denny Lassuy	Anchorage, AK	1980			
<b>50-Year Members</b>					
Robert Ellis	Sitka, AK	1950			

years or more. These AFS Alaska Chapter members have belonged to the American Fisheries Society for at least 25 years and were recognized at the November 2011 Alaska Chapter meeting banquet. Congratulations! 🐾

## 2011 Committee Reports

### Continuing Education

*Tammy Hoem Neher, Committee Chair*

This year, I planned four workshops in association with the annual meeting, and successfully held three of them on November 14–15. We had 35 participants enroll in workshops focused on technical topics: sonar use for fisheries escapement, otolith microanalyses, and ecological statistical modeling. I developed a follow-up survey for participants to gather opinions about what did and didn't work, as well as suggestions and ideas for future workshops; I will provide a summary of the results to anyone interested.

I am excited about next year's meeting and have already received some great ideas for workshops. One plan is a follow-up to the introductory microanalyses of otoliths workshop held this year, with a review of analytical methods and techniques and a tour of an analytical lab. I am looking for other ideas and suggestions from the membership, so please call or send me an email (226-4668; [tdhoem@alaska.edu](mailto:tdhoem@alaska.edu)) if you would like to learn a little more about something or see an education need.

### Cultural Diversity

*Sara Gilk-Baumer, 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 ten highly qualified individuals. After scoring applications with a panel of anonymous judges, we were able to fund three candidates for the 2011 meeting in Girdwood: Rachel DeWilde (Fairbanks), Leslie Jensen (Talkeetna), and Theresa Floyd (Fairbanks).

Rachel DeWilde is a sophomore at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) working towards a B.S. in Biology. Her research interests have been primarily with population genetics of Alaska blackfish. Rachel has been involved with the

Rural Alaskans Honors Institute, and has been awarded a NASA scholarship and research grants from UAF's undergraduate research program and from EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research).

Leslie Jensen is a recent graduate from the University of Washington, and is an intern at the Aquatic Restoration and Research Institute in Talkeetna. Ms. Jensen is currently studying the impacts of development on juvenile salmon habitat in the Matanuska-Sustina basins, and her research interests are changes in environmental conditions due to human development and climate change, and how that may affect salmon fisheries.

Theresa Floyd is a Master's student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research interests are in disease dynamics, especially in the face of global climate change. Theresa is currently focusing on the physiological effects of *Ichthyophonus* on Chinook salmon and the consequences of parental infection on hatching success and offspring survival in the Salcha River.

### 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.

During the past year the Chapter's web site underwent a transition as one of Audra Brase's goals as Chapter President was to upgrade the Alaska Chapter website. This past spring, Audra sought input from the Chapter's Executive Committee (Excomm) and various Chapter members on a new design. Audra researched other AFS Chapter's website designs, and talked to three different website contractors. Sundog Media was hired in July to design a new site, including adding electronic registration/bill pay for the Chapter meeting and converting us to a user-friendly and modern platform (Wordpress). An initial design was presented and approved by the Excomm in August. Lee Ann Gardner took the lead in getting the electronic payment/registration system set up through Plug'n Pay Technologies, Inc. Through the fall, Audra continued to work with the Sundog

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## 2011 Committee Reports, continued

Media contractors adding and editing content and learning Wordpress. Audra and I worked with Farasha Euker, the Parent AFS webmaster, to set up the new Chapter website on the Parent AFS servers. Farasha suggested that the Chapter invest in a new domain name to optimize search engine queries and to gain simplicity for end users. The domain name *afs-alaska.org* was purchased through DreamHost for 3 years. The Chapter took “ownership” of the new website on September 30. The new website is still a work in progress for older content (e.g., past Chapter newsletters will be added in the upcoming months).

In the past, the Student Subunit website was maintained as a portion of our site. Information about each of the campus groups is now provided on our new web site, but we do not plan to maintain student the subunit website. We will, however, provide a link to campus group websites as they develop.

As was the case for the last four years, this year’s newsletter was primarily distributed by a email-based system; with some hard-copies postal mailed to some non-members, libraries, and members without email (or those requesting a hard-copy).

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 inform the membership on items of interest such as the Annual Conference, chapter elections, and the chapter newsletter. 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 through which they are subscribed): *akchap@lists.fisheries.org*.

The list is moderated by yours truly to reduce SPAM and to control for mistaken “Reply-to-All” responses to posted messages. Membership in the list is contingent on Chapter membership. Periodic postings from non-Chapter members have been permitted for distribution to the list on a case by case basis. During this past year (November 2010–October 2011), a total of 97 email messages (down

from 108 last year) was sent, categorized as follows (in no particular order):

- 44 Seminar announcements
- 12 Fisheries-related (non-AK AFS) meeting announcements
- 2 AK AFS Chapter Award nomination calls
- 2 Calls for volunteers for the AK AFS Chapter
- 3 Western Division and/or AFS informational message
- 7 Update notices in regards to the Chapter’s web site (including annual meeting specific notices)
- 8 Information and or calls for action related to the AK AFS Chapter’s annual meeting (non-web related)
- 4 Calls for newsletter articles
- 5 Newsletter distributions
- 7 Job opening announcements
- 1 Survey
- 2 “Other” fisheries-related announcements

Related to my duties as the chair for the Electronics Communication Committee, I also serve as Membership Manager for the Chapter, maintaining the distribution list for Chapter emails.

I will be resigning as Electronic Communications Committee Chair, effective at the end of the 2011 Girdwood meeting. In light of this change, the following three major areas will need to be taken over soon:

- (1) Webmaster;
- (2) Chapter membership database manager; and
- (3) Maintain and moderate the Chapter’s email listserv.

In regards to the webmaster, Audra has taken over as webmaster and has agreed to continue in that role.

Items (2) and (3) are, more or less, tied into each other with (2) being the more time consuming and complex. I currently use a combination of MSExcel workbooks and some SAS code to manage the database. The functions of the SAS code were fashioned after a compiled RBase program that was written by my predecessor “ages ago” to accomplish the same functions. In short, the individual assuming these responsibilities should either be conversant in SAS and have access to a SAS license, or be proficient in some other database

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## 2011 Committee Reports, continued

package (e.g., MS SQL, ACCESS, etc.) and the time to re-write the code in their language of choice. I can continue in this capacity for the first 6–9 months of 2012, but it would be better if this is a transition period.

Chapter President Trent Sutton will be seeking volunteer(s) to take over as the Electronics

Committee Chair and/or as the Membership Manager, so if you're interested, contact either Trent or me (or anybody in Excomm).

The committee is also interested in hearing what members would like to see on our web site. The website, which has a feedback form to make suggestions, is: [www.afs-alaska.org/](http://www.afs-alaska.org/).

**Alaska Chapter assets summary for the period October 29, 2010 to October 26, 2011.**

Account Name	29 Oct. 2010	26 Oct. 2011	Difference	Dividend and Interest [%]	Contributions	Disbursements
Disbursements						
Award Endowments						
Cultural Diversity	15,136	15,704	568	809 [4.7]	0	700
Wally Noerenberg	18,932	17,446	(1,486)	999 [4.7]	0	2,000
Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund	83,118	92,701	9,583	4,141 [4.9]	10,000	2,000
Chapter Investment Fund						
Fund A	89,690	89,393	(297)	4,905 [4.9]	n/a	n/a
General Funds						
Money Market Checking*	50,022	5,618	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1st Nat. Bank of AK Cash Acct.*	2,664	29,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total endowments	117,186	125,851	13,365	5,940	10,000	4,700
Total general funds	142,376	124,011	(18,365)	4,905	n/a	n/a
Total assets	259,562	254,562	(9,700)	n/a	n/a	n/a

All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1. () indicates a decrease.

\* Balances fluctuate with annual meeting and continuing education income and expenses.

## Financial Assets Oversight

*Ray Hander (Committee Chair), Tim Joyce, Lee Ann Gardner*

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 2011, 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, Chapter Treasurer, is in frequent

contact with WMS as she conducts day-to-day Chapter business and updates finance committee members with information on an as-needed basis.

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 Finance Committee members in consultation with the WMS investment representative. The Chapter's financial assets for the period October 29, 2010 to October 26, 2011 are summarized in Table 1.

**Endowments:** All October 2011 endowment balances are less their 2011 award disbursements. The Chapter's WMS investment portfolio for endowments has gained approximately \$5,940 in dividends and interest (D&I) earned since 30 October 2010. The Cultural Diversity Fund (CDF)

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## 2011 Committee Reports, continued

increase is from \$809 D&I earned. The Wally Noerenberg Fund (WNF) decrease is from the award payout for 2011, but had a D&I earning of \$999. The Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund (MASF) gain is from a combination of contributions and \$4,141 D&I earned. The \$10,000 contribution is a minimum estimate of FY11 contributions to the MASF.

**Chapter Investment Fund A and General Funds:** Chapter Investment Fund A (Fund A) lost value since October 2010, but only due to recent withdrawals for 2011 meeting expenses. Previous gains were through \$4,905 in D&I earned, 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 (MMC) and 1st National Bank of Alaska cash accounts (CA) fluctuate annually during August through December due to annual meeting and continuing education expenses and income. The decrease in Total general funds is from meeting income deposited to date. The MMC account during the remainder of the year holds approximated \$7,000–\$10,000 to conduct regular Chapter business. The year 2011 represented a first for offering online sales for the Chapter. The online sales process required a traditional bank account for deposits. The CA houses petty cash and online income such as meeting registration and continuing education. Online sales from the CA are transferred to Fund A or the MMC while leaving a balance of approximately \$2,500 for petty cash. In past years, the MMC account received monies from registration, continuing education, etc., hence, the discrepancy seen in Table 1.

**Summary:** At present, we are experiencing modest positive investment returns (approximately 4.7%) while maintaining a moderately conservative investment portfolio. Realized portfolio gains are due to the Chapter's portfolio asset allocation leaning heavily towards bonds that continue paying modest returns while market volatility

continues. Overall, our investments are in bonds (87%), stocks (8%), and fund manager held cash (5%) and are a moderately conservative means of investment that has gained ground over the past year in a difficult investing climate.

## Fisheries Communication and Education

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

The Communication and Education Committee held a meeting of interested AFS members at the annual meeting in Girdwood. Tim Stallard, with the Municipality of Anchorage, gave a presentation of a recent "Weed Smackdown" which removed thousands of pounds of choke cherry from riparian areas in Anchorage. The AFS members attending the meeting also brain-stormed ideas for future activities.



*Lisa Kangas of the Tanana Chiefs Conference talks about Yukon Chinook subsistence harvests. Photo by Randy Brown.*

Katrina Mueller, Fisheries Education Coordinator with the US fish & Wildlife Service Regional office in Anchorage, will be replacing Laurel Devaney as the co-chair of this committee effective immediately. Katrina brings energy, a wealth of experience, and many new ideas to the committee. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Education committee, please feel free to contact: Cheryl Anderson ([cheryl\\_anderson@fws.gov](mailto:cheryl_anderson@fws.gov), 907-262-9863) or Katrina Mueller ([katrina\\_mueller@fws.gov](mailto:katrina_mueller@fws.gov), 907-786-3637).

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## 2011 Committee Reports, continued

### Membership

*Mark Wipfli, Committee Chairs*

The total number of members for 2011 is up substantially from previous years, by about 30% (see table below). As of September, we had 425 paid memberships, with most of the increases coming from student memberships (110 total student members for this year), with other increases in regular memberships (232 total for this year), life members (35 total for this year), and young professionals (36 total for this year). These trends are especially encouraging and will likely continue through subsequent years.

### Oncorhynchus Newsletter

*Bill Bechtol, Editor*

The *Oncorhynchus* serves as a medium to distribute information to AFS Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter is produced by editor, Bill Bechtol, who compiles articles submitted by Chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Graphics who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. The AFS style conventions described at [www.fisheries.org/afs/publications/publications\\_style](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/publications/publications_style) are generally followed. Prior to finalizing the newsletter, the Alaska Chapter President, the Electronic Communications Committee Chair, and other individuals make final edits.

**Alaska Chapter membership status, 2007-2011 (data generated by Allen Bingham)**

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Month	June	July	Sept	Sept	Sept
Regular Members	210	205	216	213	232
Life Members	26	24	20	26	35
Chapter Life Members (New for 2010)				11	11
Retired Members	8	9	10	11	11
Student Members	43	45	52	57	110
Young Professional Members (first tracked starting in 2008)		26	19	20	36
Number of "Other" Members (currently only includes one Developing Country Member)	32	0	0	2	1
Owes Parent AFS dues	0	0	2	1	1
Owes Chapter dues	9	37	40	22	32
TOTAL Members	319	310	317	329	425
Number of Delinquent Members from Previous Year	242	135	128	102	82
Number of Bad Addresses	1	4	3	5	7
Number of Active Members "outside" of Alaska	29	34	31	43	60
Number of Unique States/Provinces (not including Alaska) (countries)	11	15	10	16	18
Number of Complimentary Newsletters (libraries, officials, etc.)	37	38	37	37	37

Submissions of articles for inclusion in the newsletter are solicited quarterly via the Alaska Chapter list-serve; photos are encouraged. Newsletter submission deadlines are the 10th of March, June, September, and December. Each issue includes a front-page feature article, including two or three photos. An effort is made to distribute feature article authorship among organizations. Feature articles, by issue, in 2011 were: Winter (Vol. 31 no. 1) "Bering Sea Fishermen's Association" – Art Nelson; Spring (Vol. 31 no. 2) "Life According to Sheefish" – Lisa Stuby; Summer (Vol. 31 no. 3) "So You Want to be a Scientific Diver?" – Stephen Jewett; and Fall (Vol. 31 no. 4) "Marine Debris – More than Meets the Eye (or Sensor)" – Peter Murphy.

During 2011, five electronic issues were published, one near

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**Email distribution to AK chapter members**

Vol. (Issue)	Hard-copies mailed to AK Chapter members	Hard-copies mailed to libraries, Parent AFS officers, AK congressional members, AFS Division newsletter editors, etc.	Email distribution to AK chapter members
31 (1)	12	33	421
31 (2)	14	33	448
31 (3)	12	33	376
31 (4 & 4.5)	9	33	417

## 2011 Committee Reports, continued

the beginning of each calendar quarter, and a special edition election issue in mid October. Approximately 75 paper copies of each issue (375 total copies) were printed this past year, with most mailed to subscribing libraries or per individual request, and the balance retained for Chapter archival.

This is the fourth year of fully electronic distribution for the *Oncorhynchus*, allowing reduced costs; total newsletter publication and distribution costs for 2011 were \$1,496.13.

If you have a newsletter contribution, please contact Bill at 299-6146, or [bechtolresearch@hughes.net](mailto:bechtolresearch@hughes.net).

### Past Presidents Committee

*Lisa Stuby, Committee Chair*

The Past Presidents Committee was established at the 20th annual meeting of the Chapter on November 17, 1993 in Fairbanks. The Chapter's Executive Committee believed that past presidents possess a large reservoir of knowledge and experience of potential value to the Chapter, and establishing a committee of past presidents would provide a more formal mechanism for tapping into this experience as needed. One duty of the committee is to convene annually in association with the Chapter's annual meeting, and typically during a Past Presidents Luncheon, to discuss topics pertinent to the Chapter.

This year's luncheon, on November 16, 2011, had eight participants. One topic we discussed was attracting future candidates for vice president. It has been noted that for many years we have had one candidate running for officer positions like vice president, secretary, etc. In addition, it was noted that vice presidents in recent years have come from Fairbanks, but it would be nice to have some candidates from other parts of the state to provide diversity in our Executive Committee. Luncheon participants agreed that the Alaska Chapter meetings are a good opportunity to recruit candidates.

Another luncheon topic was the custom of cycling the annual Chapter meetings among the Interior (Fairbanks), South Central, and Southeast Alaska, and whether it HAS to be this way. Kodiak is being considered for the 2012 meeting rather than Interior, the next site under the typical rotation. While encouraging rotation among geographic areas of the state, meeting procedures do not require any strict rotational schedule. Although a meeting in Fairbanks would likely generate participation by a large number of undergraduate and graduate students, students located in Kodiak would similarly participate in a Kodiak meeting.

The issue of expenses associated with the annual Chapter meeting was also discussed. Several past

presidents commented that Alaska Chapter meetings have grown in participation over the years, and corresponding expenses have increased. While it is great to see so many students participating and giving talks and poster presentations, the Chapter essentially funds much of the student travel, socials, etc. Given the relatively small returns on Chapter investments under the current economy, we may need to put a spending cap on student travel, etc. One suggestion was

to extend greater effort to obtain meeting sponsors. Apparently, the socials, etc. at this year's Parent Society meeting in Seattle had major sponsors from industry that were advertised at the socials. It might be good for future Chapter meetings to have a member of the local arrangements committee with some expertise and industry contacts to lead a fundraising team.

### Resolutions and Bylaws

*Hamachan Hamazaki, Committee Chair*

For the period from November 4 2010 to November 15 2011, the Chapter Bylaws were revised as approved by the membership on November 4, 2010. The Chapter Procedure Manual was revised and published in May 2011. ?



*Past President Audra Brase congratulates incoming Chapter President Trend Sutton. Photo by Randy Brown.*

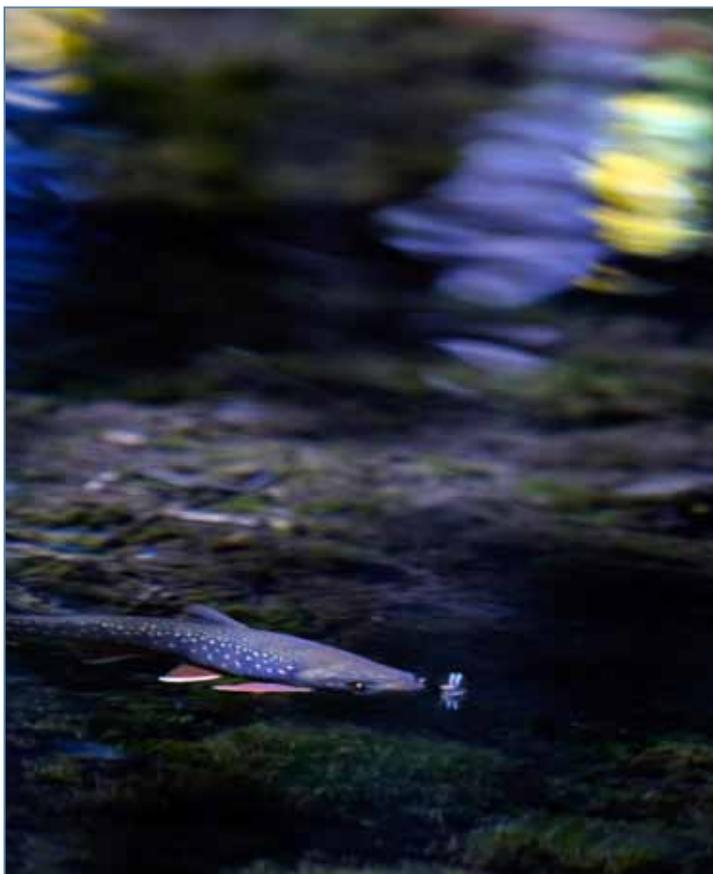
## Alaska Fish Photo Contest: 2011 Results and 2012 Details!

*Katrina Mueller*

Because fish images in the popular media are frequently taken by recreational anglers, or to advertise angling-related products or services, a large proportion are limited to species that are extracted from their natural habitat.

The year 2011 marked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's first annual Alaska Fish Photo Contest (open to all Alaska residents and visitors). We asked participants to send in photos that conveyed information about the natural seasonal behaviors and habitats of native fish, or captured the unique nature of Alaska's fisheries.

The first place photo, by Mark Stadskev, shows a Dolly Varden char just beneath the surface of Anchorage's Campbell Creek. It took Mark two hours and over 100 exposures to capture its brief pause before the strike! The runner up photo, a fisheye view of sockeye salmon migrating up the Kenai River by Kentaro Yasui, provides a holistic view of habitat (mountaintop to streambed) and fish behavior (migration). View all of the excellent 2011 submissions on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/USFWS.AK.Fisheries.Habitat](http://www.facebook.com/USFWS.AK.Fisheries.Habitat) (click "photos" in the menu bar to the left and open the folder named "2011 Alaska Fish Photo Contest").



"Hello Dolly" by Mark Stadskev, First place, 2011 Alaska Fish Photo Contest.

We hope these photos inspire others to get out and appreciate/photograph Alaska's amazing fish in 2012! For the 2012 contest rules, entry form, and prizes, go to the contest page at: [alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest\\_photo.htm](http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest_photo.htm).

### 2012 Alaska Fish Photo Categories

- **Fish Doing Fishy Things.** Fish can be very elusive ... and Alaska is a big state! We're looking for eye-grabbing photos of fish migrating, spawning, feeding, fighting, hiding, and jumping in their natural, Alaskan habitats. If they do it, we want to see it! Any species, any time of year.

- **What a Girl (Fish) Wants.** Male fish go through a lot to impress the ladies. Case in point: "nuptial" tubercles. Doesn't that sound romantic? You must not be a female lake chub or rainbow smelt. Others get a huge "kype" (er, a prominent hook jaw). Some especially flamboyant



Fisheye view of sockeye salmon migrating up the Kenai River by Kentaro Yasui, Runner-up, 2011 Alaska Fish Photo Contest.

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## Alaska Fish Photo Contest, continued

species, like the Dolly Varden char, turn brilliant colors. Watch for these amazing changes and send in your best close-ups!

- **Fish for the Future.** Children are the future stewards and beneficiaries of Alaska's incredibly rich fisheries resources. We're looking for outdoor shots of youth (under 18) fishing, helping with fishing gear, holding or releasing fish, or otherwise interacting with Alaska's fish/participating in related Alaskan traditions!

- **Unique Alaska.** Alaska's fish support varied and valuable subsistence, personal use, recreational, and commercial fisheries...we'd love to see you capture these unique fisheries and the settings in which they occur. If you catch and release, send in your best shots of fish that are alive and partially (or fully) submerged in their natural habitat! 📷

## 2012 Call for Chapter Award Nominations

*Theresa Tanner and Kenneth Gates*

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. We encourage all members to consider deserving individuals and to submit nominations for these awards. Please make your nominations at [www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships](http://www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships). Award presentations from this call for nominations will occur at the 2012 Annual Meeting. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2012.**

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 Theresa Tanner, USFWS, 605 W 4th Ave., Rm G-61; Anchorage, 99501, 271-1799, [theresa\\_tanner@fws.gov](mailto:theresa_tanner@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 last calendar year. Please include a photo of proof along with the story. Submit award nomination stories and photos to Theresa Tanner at the above address.

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 Wally 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 Ken Gates, USFWS, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, 43655 k-Beach Road, Soldotna, AK 99669, ph: 260-0126, [kenneth\\_gates@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_gates@fws.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 Theresa Tanner at [theresa\\_tanner@fws.gov](mailto:theresa_tanner@fws.gov) or ph: 271-1799. The application form for 2012 Chapter awards is available online via the link at: [www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships](http://www.afs-alaska.org/awards-scholarships). 📷

## Fish Wheel Operator Expertise Sought

The Cowlitz River is a large, regulated tributary of the lower Columbia River with an average annual Q of ~6,000 cfs. The lower river (< RM 50) has populations of hatchery-origin spring and hatchery-origin and natural-origin fall Chinook. Tacoma Power and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to talk with experienced fish wheel operators from Alaska to investigate the feasibility of using this gear to live catch these Chinook in the lower Cowlitz River. Please contact Mark LaRiviere, Tacoma Power at p: (253) 502-8767; [mlarivie@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:mlarivie@cityoftacoma.org), [www.tacomapower.com](http://www.tacomapower.com). ☹

## Electrofishing Courses Available

The Northwest Environmental Training Center (NWETC), a Washington-based, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, is seeking U.S. venues for its 2012 electrofishing courses. Two 3-day courses are available: backpack electrofishing and boat electrofishing. Both courses consist of classroom work on the first and third days and field exercises on the second day. A 4-day course covering both backpack and boat systems, including two days of fieldwork, is also available.

To schedule a venue, NWETC seeks to: (1) identify a local fisheries biologist willing to serve as field trip coordinator; and (2) achieve an enrollment of at least 12 participants. (Those serving as coordinator earn a course tuition waiver.)

Individuals interested in scheduling a course in their locale should contact Ingrid Kimball, [ikimball@nwetc.org](mailto:ikimball@nwetc.org), at NWETC for further information. Technical questions about course content should be directed to Jim Reynolds, [jbreyolds@alaska.edu](mailto:jbreyolds@alaska.edu).

## The Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship

This fellowship was created by AFS in 2007 to honor the memory of Steven Berkeley, a dedicated fisheries scientist with a passionate interest in integrating the fields of marine ecology, conservation biology, and fisheries science to improve fisheries management. Berkeley was a long-time AFS member and on the first Board of Directors for the Fisheries Conservation Foundation. The fellowship comprises a competitively based \$10,000 award to a graduate student actively engaged in thesis research relevant to marine conservation. Research topics may address any aspect of conservation; a focus on fisheries issues is not required. Electronic applications and recommendations must be received no later than February 1, 2012. For more information and application requirements see: [www.fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/mfs/index\\_files/Berkeley\\_Fellowship.htm](http://www.fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/mfs/index_files/Berkeley_Fellowship.htm). ☹

## Acoustic Tag and Hydroacoustic Assessments Training

Courses are hosted by University of Washington Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and will be held on campus at the University of Washington School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences. To reserve a seat, please email [support@HTIsonar.com](mailto:support@HTIsonar.com).

### Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish, 2-3 February 2012, Seattle, WA

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on operation and a variety of applications are covered. For more information, go to [www.HTIsonar.com/at\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.HTIsonar.com/at_short_course.htm).

### Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment, 9-10 February 2012, Seattle, WA

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. Lunch is provided. For more information go to [www.HTIsonar.com/ha\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.HTIsonar.com/ha_short_course.htm). ☹



**AFS memberships  
may be renewed online**

[www.fisheries.org/afs/membership](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership)

## Meetings and Events

### Alaska Marine Science Symposium

January 16–20, 2012: This meeting will be held in Anchorage, AK. For more information, please visit [www.alaskamarinescience.org/](http://www.alaskamarinescience.org/).



### 17th Biennial Western Groundfish Conference

February 6–10, 2012: This meeting will be held in Seattle, WA. For more information, please visit [www.westerngc.org](http://www.westerngc.org).



### 25th Northeast Pacific Pink & Chum Workshop

This workshop will be held February 13–14, 2012 at Centennial Hall in Juneau, Alaska. For more information, please visit [www.pinkandchum.psc.org/](http://www.pinkandchum.psc.org/).



### American Fisheries Society Western Division Annual Meeting

March 26–29, 2012: This meeting will be held at Jackson, WY. For more information, please visit [www.cowyaafs.org/annualmeeting/](http://www.cowyaafs.org/annualmeeting/).

### 6th World Fisheries Congress

May 7–11, 2012: This meeting, "Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing World," will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland. For more information, please visit [www.6thwfc2012.com/](http://www.6thwfc2012.com/).



## 2012 Alaska Chapter Officers

### President

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

### President-Elect

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)

### Vice President

Philip Loring, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 755910, Fairbanks AK 99775, Ph: 474-7163, Fax: 474-7041, [ploring@alaska.edu](mailto:ploring@alaska.edu)

### Treasurer

Lee Ann Gardner, RWJ Consulting, PO Box 670346, Chugiak 99567-0346; Wk: 688-1400, Fax: 688-1405, [rwjconsulting@ak.net](mailto:rwjconsulting@ak.net)

### Secretary

Nicky Szarzi, 34750 Greentree Way, Homer, AK 99603, Ph: 235-9713, [njszarzi@alaska.net](mailto:njszarzi@alaska.net)

### Past President

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

### Student Subunit Representative

Thomas Farrugia, University of Alaska Fairbanks, SFOS PO Box 757220, Fairbanks AK 99775, Ph: 474-7594, Fax: 474-7204, [tfarrugia@alaska.edu](mailto:tfarrugia@alaska.edu)

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members