



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society  
Vol. XXXIII Late Summer 2013 No. 4

## Editor's Note

This special issue of the Chapter newsletter is being distributed to provide adequate notice to allow the election of Chapter officers to be completed prior to the annual meeting of the AFS Alaska Chapter at Fairbanks in October 2013.

## Chapter Elections, Candidate Biographies

### Mary Beth Loewen, Vice President

Mary Beth is currently a Finfish Research Biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak. She was born and raised in Alaska, and early years growing up fishing, subsistence crabbing, and berry picking with her family around the state imbued her with a love



of being outdoors. Her first job in fisheries was with the commercial fisheries division of ADF&G in Kodiak working as a dockside sampler during the salmon fishery, and that first seasonal job was a "lightbulb moment" when she realized, to her parents' chagrin, that instead of medical school, her career path should involve waders and fish scales. After a brief college stint Outside and in Australia, she wisely returned to AK and UAF, where she completed both her B.S. and M.S. Mary Beth considers herself lucky to have been able to work throughout the state on various fisheries

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### Nicky Szarzi, Secretary

I retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 2011 after 28 years in research and management of mostly sport and personal use fisheries in interior and Southcentral Alaska. I worked mostly with salmonids and shellfish, but also with other interior Alaska species and



groundfish and halibut. In retirement, I have enjoyed educating myself about a broader spectrum of fisheries issues through part time work with the Department and with AFS. Other activities I enjoy are backpacking, skiing, fly fishing, tennis, hunting and gathering, reading, and staring at the view out the window of my home in Homer from

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**Mary Beth Loewen, Vice President, continued**

projects, ranging from Pilot Station Sonar to grayling movement studies on the Kuparuk River and Selawik sheefish with USFWS. She currently focuses on sockeye salmon smolt work on Kodiak Island, but loves when she gets a chance to work with hydroacoustics throughout the Kodiak and AK Peninsula area. In her non-fisheries time, she enjoys hiking and teaches ballet.

She began her involvement with AFS through the UAF student subunit chapter as a graduate student working on nearshore marine habitat of pollock and herring. The AFS network is particularly important to Mary Beth because it allows her the ability to network with other fisheries professionals beyond Kodiak and increase her awareness of research projects being conducted elsewhere in the state. Mary Beth has a passion for the sustainable management of Alaska’s renewable resources, as well as environmental education for all ages. She hopes that her involvement in AFS at a higher level will allow her to mentor future fisheries professionals as well keep her more closely tied with the advances in fisheries science taking place throughout the state.

**Nicky Szarzi, Secretary, continued**

an armchair. I’m trying to stave off the symptoms of an aging brain by learning bridge, improving my Spanish, and playing the banjo. Over the years I have been involved in the Alaska Chapter of AFS as a member, a presenter, chair of the Awards Committee, and, most recently, completing my first term as Secretary of the Chapter. I strongly believe in the mission of AFS and the Chapter to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems, promote high standards for fisheries professionals, and encourage new recruits into fisheries. I appreciate the opportunity to assist the Chapter being the Secretary has given me and would like to continue providing that service.

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*Oncorhynchus* is the quarterly newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Material in this newsletter may be reprinted from other AFS websites.

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Deadline for materials for the winter issue of *Oncorhynchus* is December 10.

**Officer Ballot**

**For Chapter Vice President and Secretary**

Please cut and paste ballot into an email with subject “Vote” by Oct 1, 2013.

Send it to:

Trent Sutton at Trent Sutton (*tmsutton@alaska.edu*) or mail via the U.S.P.O. to: Trent Sutton, UAF, SFOS, P.O. Box 757220, Fairbanks, 99775-7220.

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Beth Loewen

\_\_\_\_\_ Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Nicky Szarzi

\_\_\_\_\_ Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 Alaska Chapter Officers**

**President**

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**Student Subunit Representative**

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