

American Fisheries Society, Alaska Chapter

The 33rd Meeting of the Alaska Chapter

Business Meeting Notes

November 15, 2006
3:20 p.m., Fairbanks, Alaska

1. Meeting called to order at 3:27 by President Scott Maclean
2. Quorum established - Members of Executive Committee present were President Scott Maclean, President Elect Jamal Moss, Vice President Bert Lewis, Treasurer Lee Ann Gardner, Secretary Steve Zemke, and Student Chapter President Scott Ayers. Approximately 30 members were present.
3. Approval of the Agenda - The membership approved the agenda as presented.
4. Approve minutes from September 14, 2005 business meeting - Minutes of the September 14, 2005 were approved as presented on pages 98 through 101 of the 2006 Program.
5. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer's - Lee Ann Gardner presented the report of 2005-2006. Lee Ann provided a hard copy of her report for the membership prior to the meeting. In summary she indicated that the primary treasurer efforts have been related to incorporating the Chapter's financial plan into day to day operations of the financial accounts. The federal tax year filings were completed for Tax Year 12/1/04 through 11/30/05. Considerable effort was made to consolidate the Chapters financial accounts.

The Chapters Financial account balances are robust, with total assets of \$219,299.98. Approximately one half, are within the UBS checking accounts. Assets have increased approximately \$50,000 since 2004, primarily due to the Alaska Chapter's share of the 2005 National Annual Meeting profits (\$30,000) and the establishment of the Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Fund. Most of the expenses for this annual meeting are still outstanding.

Meeting attendance is 187. The highest percentage of the attendees at the meeting are either regular members (85) or student members (48).

- b. Committee Reports (full reports can be viewed at (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>)
 - i. Aquatic Education- no report.
 - ii. Awards - Cheryl Dion presented that the Award Committee received two nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and two for the Alaska Chapter Service Award. The five committee members selected Mason Bryant for the Meritorious Service Award and Cindy Hartmann for the Alaska Chapter Service Award. The new Almost Darwin Award only had one nomination. The winners/perpetrators were Togiak Refuge, Bethel ADF&G commercial fisheries, and the Native Village of Quinhagak.
 - iii. Chapter Historian - Discussion about how much of the archival data should be digitized and stored on the Chapter web site. Also, the considerable hard copy data that are not digitized need to either be eliminated or saved for permanent files that would be stored with the Secretary.
 - iv. Continuing Education – no report.
 - v. Cultural Diversity – no report.
 - vi. Electronic Communications – no report.
 - vii. International Relations – no report.
 - viii. Membership – Bert Lewis presented membership statistics from 1999 to 2006. 2006 membership numbers are slightly lower than in 2005, 498 versus 478. Fewer numbers of students and non members were the primary difference.
 - ix. Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Committee – Hal Geiger discussed the status of the Molly Ahlgren award.
 - x. Student Sub-units - Scott Ayers summarized the activities of the different sub units.

- xi. Wally Noerenberg Award - The committee is comprised of three Chapter past-presidents and a committee chair that cannot be a past president. Committee members during 2006 were David Wiswar, Carol Kerkvliet, Tim Joyce and Doug Palmer as chair. The award was created in 1981, and now has 13 recipients. The Wally Noerenberg Award for Fishery Excellence was presented this year to Bill Wilson during the banquet by Doug Palmer. Doug stated that Bill's life-long achievements include numerous scientific contributions that have improved our understanding of Arctic and sub-Arctic fish assemblages – particularly the responses of North Slope fish communities to human perturbations and development. Bill played an integral role in developing the Bering Sea and Aleutian groundfish management plan for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Most Alaska Chapter members understand the outstanding and continuous contributions that Bill has made to our organization. He has held numerous positions on Chapter committees and played a significant role in bringing two very successful annual meetings of the AFS Parent Society to Alaska. He was a key driving force in the realization of the milestone book "Fishes of Alaska" which probably would have never come to pass without his efforts. Bill has demonstrated a career of fisheries excellence, be it on-the-ground research studies, policy negotiations, or bringing top-flight science to the fisheries community in Alaska and beyond. His career in Alaska fisheries truly embodies what the Wally Noerenberg Award is all about.
 - xii. Environmental Concerns – no report and looking for a chair.
 - xiii. Newsletter – Gretchen Bishop, Committee Chair, reported on the *Oncorhynchus* which serves as a medium to distribute information to Alaska Chapter members and other interested individuals. The newsletter is produced by the editor, currently Gretchen Bishop. Gretchen edits and compiles articles submitted by Chapter members then sends the articles to Connie Taylor of Fathom Publishing who designs, lays out, and mails the newsletter. During the past fiscal year, four regular issues were printed, one at the beginning of each calendar quarter. At the 2006 meeting, the possibility of changing to electronic newsletter distribution is being considered. This has the potential of saving the Chapter \$1,000 annually in printing and mailing costs.
 - xiv. Resolutions and Bylaws – no report.
6. Outgoing President's Address - Scott Maclean gave a short address to the membership. He indicated that the Alaska Chapter was in a robust financial situation and that continuation of the established programs will keep the Chapter in good order. The meeting, being in Fairbanks helped provide for student participation (which was a primary goal) with over 45 students attending the meeting.
7. New Business
- a. Student Travel Fund Criteria - Scott Maclean presented the Student Fund Criteria as found on page 96-97 of the program. It was moved and seconded that the Criteria as presented should be adopted. Unanimous vote by the membership was to approve as written.
 - b. Electronic Newsletter - There was discussion about whether to go to an electronic newsletter, or to stay with the hard copy newsletter, or to go to some sort of hybrid. It was moved and seconded that the Chapter should go to electronic newsletter format, with the opportunity to receive a hard copy if requested. The membership voted unanimously to support the motion to go to an electronic newsletter, with a hard copy option.
 - c. Chapter Logo – Scott led discussion about establishing a formal logo for the Chapter. The various logos that were considered were located throughout the program. The Executive Committee previously voted to recommend the Chinook salmon logo as printed on the cover as the official logo. Considerable discussion ensued, most centering around the fact that the Chinook logo was not inclusive of the wide range of fisheries represented by our membership throughout Alaska. Many people preferred the ring concept logo showing a variety of fish as found on page 10 of the program. Others felt that there might be a logo that could combine the best attributes of many of the logos presented. Generally, the membership felt that decision on the selection of a logo was not appropriate at the time of the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to table the decision. Vote was unanimous to affirm tabling the decision.
8. Installation of Officers – Officers for this year were introduced. For 2007 the executive committee are:
 President, Jamal Moss
 Vice President, Bert Lewis
 Past President, Scott Maclean
 President Elect, Hamachan Hamazaki

Treasurer, Lee Ann Gardner
Secretary, Steve Zemke
Scott Ayers, Student Sub-Unit Representative.

9. Announcements – no announcements were made.
10. Next meeting – The next meeting will be located in southeast Alaska. Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan were discussed as possible locations. Sitka was ruled out as it hosted the meeting last round in Southeast Alaska.
11. Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion was passed by unanimous consent.