



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

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Special Election Issue 2002

No. 4 1/2

AFS Alaska Chapter 2002 Elections — Candidates for Office

Vice President — Molly Ahlgren

I joined AFS when I was an undergraduate fisheries major at the University of Idaho and have been a member ever since. AFS has played an instrumental role in my educational and professional life and I would like to give back some of the inspiration and support that I've received from the society over the years.

I still remember my Ichthyology professor driving a van full of U of I students to the Idaho chapter meeting in McCall, ID. I don't remember any of the technical sessions but I vividly remember playing pool in the evenings and interacting with "Professors and Professionals" (this category included anyone over age 25) as if they were real people.

I am an Associate Professor in the Environmental Sciences Program at Sheldon Jackson College where I've taught since 1990. I currently teach courses in Ichthyology, Fishery Science, Limnology, and Marine Invertebrate Zoology. I graduated from the University of Idaho in 1980 with a BS in Fishery Resource Management. I got an MS and a Ph.D. in Fish Ecology from Mich. Tech. Univ. (Houghton, MI).

My research interests revolve around the detritus link in the food web. Prior to 1990 I studied the feeding ecology of detritus consuming fishes in ponds and rivers in North and South America. Red sea cucumbers (*Parastichopus californicus*) captured my curiosity after I moved to S.E. Alaska, noticed a lot of long warty sausage shaped "things" on the bottom of the ocean and learned that they ate mud. I've studied various aspects of the

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Vice President — Martin Robards

I believe that my diverse history and future goals mesh well with the position of vice president. In addition to 12 years of marine research and consulting experience in Alaska, I am currently committed to furthering interdisciplinary research that enhances conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. This interest and experience, in addition to my association with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks will be invaluable throughout my tenure, and particularly when needing to draw on help and expertise for the 2004 annual meeting. I believe that this position will offer me the opportunity to use my enthusiasm, and commitment to develop new programs that foster the objectives of AFS.

I have gained a thorough understanding of fish biology and fisheries science in a variety of settings, both university and government, by researching specific species, fisheries science, salmon passage, and marine coastal ecosystems. This research has culminated in a series of peer-reviewed scientific publications. In addition to my science background, I have worked in the field of environmental consulting, learning about the nexus between science and regulatory compliance. Working for companies such as BP Exploration, Cominco, and Ketchikan Pulp, I developed a deeper understanding of both the needs of industry and how science is used in policy. Finally, I have spent the last 2 years working for a science-based environmental advocacy organization on marine protected areas and essential fish habitat issues. This experience has been invaluable in developing an understanding and appreciation for the complex social and biological issues that need to be taken into account in the formulation of new environmental and fish management policies. Cumulatively,

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Officer Ballot For Chapter Vice President

Cut off ballot (must be original) and mail in stamped envelope to:

Carol Ann Woody/USGS-BRD
Alaska Biological Science Center
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Voting deadline is November 22!

Vice President:

_____ Molly Ahlgren

_____ Martin Robards

_____ Write-in _____

You may also vote online at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/elections/2002/oclist2002.htm>.

Vice President –Molly Ahlgren, Continued from page 1

biology of the red sea cucumber (*Parastichopus californicus*) for the past 12 years.

I am particularly interested in supporting student participation in AFS and in increasing the number of undergraduates involved in the chapter. I feel very privileged that graduate students and faculty at the University of Idaho actively recruited and encouraged undergraduate's to participate in AFS. AFS chapter meetings provide an excellent venue for a student's first professional presentation and provide wonderful opportunities to meet future employers. 🗨️

2002 Alaska Chapter Officers

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

Vice President — Martin Robards, Continued from page 1

my longevity and diversity of experience in Alaska has resulted in a familiarity with a wide array of professional colleagues from the private, state, and government sectors. I believe this attribute is critical to working effectively as a member of the Executive Committee of the Alaska Chapter.

Through my professional experience, I have identified several key elements that warrant concerted attention in the immediate future. First, fishery policy decisions need to be made based on a better understanding of the usage, interpretation, and reliance on science – particularly in relation to uncertainty. Second, we need to address the confusing array of jurisdictions in our oceans. I would endeavor to develop the annual meeting program in 2004 to encourage discussion and debate regarding these issues. I also believe the advancement of fisheries science is partially dependent on the incorporation of social science into ecological management models. To this end I would also encourage discussion and research that treats natural systems as linked social-ecological systems (SESS). Finally, there is a lack of effective communication to the public and stakeholders about the fundamentals behind policy decisions, specifically, the newer management concepts that control their lives. I would strive to increase awareness and understanding of issues such as these during my tenure on the Executive Committee.

If I am selected for this position, I will energetically strive to promote the goals of the American Fisheries Society and those outlined above in association with my colleagues to the fullest of my ability. To do this I will foster outreach of information, particularly to coastal communities, promote multidisciplinary approaches to science, and encourage the development of educational programs for colleges and schools that portray new methods of thinking about managing our fish and marine systems. 🗨️

Oncorhynchus

Allen Bingham

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