



ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society

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AFS Alaska Chapter 2003 Elections — Candidates for Office

Hal Geiger for Vice President

The American Fisheries Society serves many purposes in this state, but our annual meeting must be the most important one. These meetings are a high-profile place for students to come and present their work, a place for agency researchers to show and describe what the government managers find important, and a place for researchers, policy makers, and others to introduce new ideas and to comment on important policy issues. Most importantly, these meetings give all fishery scientists in Alaska a sense of community and common purpose.

I have two main goals for the Chapter. First, I would like to help make the Chapter even more attractive to students and young scientists and managers – I want to help people coming into fisheries research and management to see this Chapter as an important part of the professionalism of our profession. Over the last several years there have been tremendous changes in fisheries in Alaska. Some of the principal reasons are the collapse of the value of salmon as a commodity, big changes in access to marine fisheries, and changes in the management of subsistence fisheries. My second goal is to help the Chapter remain relevant and an important part of the public policy debate, as Alaskans face what is really at risk as the value of our salmon fisheries declines, and as Alaskans change the way they use fishery resources.

Alaska has a lot of talented, organized, energetic fisheries scientists and managers that would make a great president of this Chapter. I am not sure that I am the best possible choice – but I will do my best, if elected. I came to Alaska in December of 1982 to work as a biometrician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. At that time, I had a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in statistics from Oregon State University. In 1988 I moved to the ADF&G headquarters' office to be the statewide salmon biometrician, and later the chief biometrician for the Division of Commercial Fisheries, working for Doug Eggers.

Along the way, I earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, working with Tony Gharrett on a problem in conservation biology of pink salmon. For the last two years, I have been working as a fisheries biologist in the Southeast Region of ADF&G. In the past, I was on the organizing committee of all seven meetings in the Alaska Salmon Workshop series, as well as several other large meetings. I have visited salmon fisheries and have worked on research projects in Western Alaska, Bristol Bay, the Alaskan Peninsula, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and Southeast Alaska. If elected, I will do what I can to help our Chapter maintain that sense of community and purpose that many of the past officers has built and maintained. ☺

Voting deadline is November 20.
You can vote on-line at the Chapter web site:
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/elections/2003/oclist2003.htm>.

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Officer Ballot For Chapter Vice President and Chapter Secretary

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

David Wiswar, USFWS/FRO, 101 12th Ave., Box 17, Fairbanks 99701-6291

Vice President:

_____ Hal Geiger _____ Write-in _____

Secretary:

_____ Robert Piorkowski _____ Steve Zemke _____ Write-in _____

Secretary

Robert Piorkowski

It would be an honor to serve a 2-year term as Secretary of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I will bring varied experience, enthusiasm, a sense of humor (if I could find it), and a strong commitment to the position. As to my background, I feel I have been a naturalist/biologist since I saw my first fish at age 2.5 years. My formal training started in the fall of 1968 when I came to Alaska to attend UAF, majoring in wildlife and fisheries. Over the next 3 years while attending school, I was fortunate to have jobs working as a curator for the IAB small animal/bird collection, as an assistant on a doctoral project looking at the wolves of Mt. McKinley, as a game technician on a Dall sheep marking/tracking study, as a lab technician in the UAF Forestry Soils Lab and as an analyst on a caribou calf vocalization study. Despite these wonderful experiences, I felt my university education was sorely lacking in real world experience so I dropped out and studied the McKinley caribou herd one winter under the auspices of UAF and ADF&G. That experience convinced me I needed more time roaming the wilderness to get a better feel for the fish, game and habitat. ANSCA allowed my wife and I to claim some land west of McKinley where we lived a very enriched (not \$\$\$!) subsistence lifestyle for the next 14 years. I occasionally worked seasonally as a wilderness ranger, de-facto lawyer, placer miner, professional hunting guide, heavy equipment operator and one summer as a specialist making sure things flowed downhill in the sewers of Nome while concurrently studying Norway rat distribution. Finally, feeling comfortable in the considerable amount I could never know, I returned to UAF in the mid eighties and finished a BS in fisheries science. Next, I completed a dissertation on the effects salmon carcasses have in upper stream ecosystems, which was one of the first comprehensive projects to look at this issue. During this time I also taught many UAF lab courses and a course on how to teach science for teachers, worked both as a fisheries consultant for the cooperative extension service and privately, and was an instructor in the Upward Bound Program. After graduation, I did two post-docs at UAF looking at macroinvertebrate recovery in streams after placer mining and best reclamation practices after placer mining. I began work for ADF&G in 1996, first serving as the statewide mariculture coordinator, then as the Alaska Fisheries Information Network coordinator and now as the Invasive Species Program Coordinator. I have been involved in AFS off and on since the mid-eighties when I served as the secretary for the Arctic Unit of AFS-AK. Thanks for consideration of my candidacy for the office of secretary. 🐟

Steve Zemke

I would be honored to serve a term as Secretary of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I became a life member of AFS in 1973. After graduating from the University of Idaho in 1973 with a degree in Fisheries Management, I began work for the US Forest Service. I worked primarily with forest management projects, first in a technician capacity, then on a professional basis primarily in developing vegetation management prescriptions with stipulations for protection of fish and wildlife resources.

In 1978 I moved to western Oregon to work on the Siuslaw National Forest, primarily due to my interest in working with anadromous fish resources. Here I became involved in the challenge of protecting fisheries resources within a large scale timber management program. We designed some of the first riparian habitat protection and management measures for the Pacific Northwest region.

In 1985 my interest in Alaska, particularly salmon fisheries, resulted in my accepting the position of fisheries program manager in Ketchikan Area for the Tongass National Forest. I was responsible for providing direction for the fisheries program, dealing with protection of fisheries resources and rehabilitation and enhancement of these resources in relation to societal needs.

Next, I moved on to a 2-year stint in an interagency development of the Federal program for management of subsistence uses on Federal Public lands and helped write the EIS for management of subsistence uses on all Federal Public Lands in Alaska. I was also part of the team that developed the Chugach Forest Land Management Plan and EIS. These broad scale efforts have given me expertise in public participation methods and development of stakeholder processes critical to success in resolving contentious issues.

From these positions I moved on to being the current subsistence coordinator for the Chugach National Forest. In this position, I have developed an understanding of the importance of fisheries resources to rural populations as a means of sustenance and also culture. I think these insights would be helpful in diversifying the knowledge base of the Executive Committee. My long standing support of the American Fisheries Society, my experience in the fisheries field, and my understanding of the fisheries resource and social issues surrounding them, particularly those related to rural Alaska, would be an asset to the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee. I have worked on several subcommittees for the Chapter, but wish to become more involved in the Society's activities because I have gained much from being a member. 🐟