



# ONCORHYNCHUS

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society  
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Lead technician Dale Brandenburger holding adult female steelhead in the upstream trap at Sitkoh Creek weir.

## *Southeast Alaska Steelhead Production Project: Sitkoh Creek Weir*

*Dave Love*

Steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, are endemic to the North Pacific from the southern California coast, north through British Columbia and Alaska then west to the Kamchatka Peninsula and some streams of the Siberian mainland. They have been widely introduced elsewhere in the world. Here in Alaska, they are found in coastal streams from Dixon Entrance, north and westward around the Gulf of Alaska to the Cold Bay area on the Alaska Peninsula. Southeast Alaska has 309 steelhead systems, most of which are believed to have escapements of 200 or fewer, with a handful of larger systems having annual escapements of about 1,000. The largest known steelhead producer in Southeast Alaska is the Situk River near Yakutat, which has annual kelt counts (adult emigrants) that vary from 3,000 to just over 15,000 adults.

Although 11 populations elsewhere in their endemic range are listed under the Endangered Species Act, no steelhead stocks in Alaska are thought to be threatened or endangered. In Southeast Alaska, most populations are thought to be relatively healthy; however, there

is little baseline information about abundance, production, life history or ecology. This lack of knowledge, combined with recent liberalization of the subsistence harvest regulations by the Federal Subsistence Board, and increasing sport fishing effort are cause for concern to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish (ADFG-SF). The smaller populations of steelhead in Southeast Alaska may be especially vulnerable to over-harvest and a better understanding of steelhead population biology is needed for their conservative management.

Early in 2008, personnel with ADFG-SF and the Resource Mapping and Inventory Group within ADFG Sportfish (ADFG-RMIG), met to discuss integrating complementary stock assessment and freshwater habitat projects for smaller steelhead populations. Three projects were integrated to support each other: the Southeast Alaska Steelhead Production Project (David Love, ADFG-SF), designed to estimate the number of steelhead smolts produced from a known escapement of adults (smolt-per-spawner), the Southeast Steelhead

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## The President's Corner

*Hamachan Hamazaki*

This year's Chapter meeting theme is "Celebrating Professional Diversity within Alaska Fisheries." This theme also coincides with this year's national AFS meeting theme "Diversity, the Foundation of Fisheries and the American Fisheries Society; Are We Gaining Ground?"



*Hamachan Hamazaki,  
AFS Alaska Chapter President.*

Most of us would inherently recognize the importance of diversity. However, when further pressed to answer why diversity is important, it is difficult to provide reasons. An answer I often hear is that diversity injects new viewpoints about an issue, which enriches our understanding. This is probably true, but I sometimes wonder if we are ready for this enlightened understanding. Wouldn't you rather that everyone shared your viewpoint? Here is an example based upon a common issue. Regardless of species, most of us would agree that protecting viable fish populations and stocks are the fundamental and highest priority for quality fisheries management. Thus, when the stock or population is low, or little information is available about its stock status, most of us would advocate for conservative fisheries management: to reduce or close fisheries. The margin of error should go to the fish, avoiding the risk of overfishing outweighs the loss of harvest opportunities.

On the other hand, for those who depend upon the fishery, reduction and closures would mean loss of income and livelihood, which can be devastating given current economic conditions. In addition, for many native communities that view subsistence fisheries as their way of life and cultural heritage, restricting or closing fisheries may appear as yet another intrusion, or assault on the rights of natives by the western culture. Our explanations that the closure is based solely on biology and is in the best long-term interest of their community are heard as "We had to burn the village to save it."

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## Sitkoh Creek Weir, continued

Habitat Carrying Capacity Study (Anthony Crupi, ADFG-RMIG), and the Southeast Alaska Steelhead Methods Project, which is utilizing DIDSON sonar for adult enumeration (Carol Coyle, ADFG-SF). These three projects will eventually provide the information needed to estimate the number of adults that utilize available spawning habitat, and that would fully seed available juvenile rearing and overwintering habitats (smolt-per-spawner). The Steelhead Production Project is a multi-year study that was initially conducted at Sitkoh Creek, Chichagof Island and will continue in the spring of 2010 on Prince of Wales Island.

In order to collect adult escapement and smolt emigration counts for the Steelhead Production Project, a bi-directional immigrant/emigrant bipod and picket weir was operated on Sitkoh Creek from April through June each spring from 2003 through 2009. Estimates of escapement ranged from 408 to 780 adults, and 900 to 3,700 smolts were counted through the weir each spring. Each spring, escapements averaged around 500 adults, while an average of about 3,000 smolts emigrated from Sitkoh creek. During the 7-year project, about 2,300 adults and 14,000 smolts were tagged with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags as they passed both up and downstream through the weir. Of the adults marked, about 1,400 (61%) were recaptured in subsequent years as repeat spawners. Of all the smolts that were marked, about 1,000 (7%) were recaptured as either first-time or repeat spawners. The maximum ocean age based on PIT tag returns was 6 years, with a few fish making up to four repeat spawning migrations.

Scale samples were taken from more than 1,500 smolts and 1,500 adults during this period. Most smolts were 3, 4 and 5 freshwater (89%), estimated by matching reads in two out of three independent readings. Generally, PIT tag ocean ages were corroborated by the scale aging methods used. Ocean ages for first time spawning adults varied between 1 and 4 years with most (about 50%) being 2- and -3-ocean. During the entire study period, only two fish were estimated to be 4-ocean, first time spawners, and one fish returned to spawn after only one year at sea. The aging methods developed during the past 6 years are now being used to estimate the age of scale sampled fish. Age estimation will allow for more precise reconstruction of brood year origins of steelhead

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**Sitkoh Creek Weir, continued**

smolts, which can be used to determine the number of smolt-per-spawner for the latter years of the study.

In addition to these research objectives, information about steelhead population demographics including migration timing, life history, and straying has also been collected. Not unlike other steelhead populations in Southeast Alaska, adult escapements into Sitkoh creek were comprised of about 60% females, with fairly similar immigration timing between years. Heavy snowfall and colder spring water flows seemed to delay adult immigration as well as smolt emigration timing. Recaptures of PIT-tagged smolts and adults have shown that Sitkoh Creek steelhead life history strategies run the gamut of those



*Bipod and picket weir, showing downstream trap to left and upstream trap to right of weir structure at Sitkoh Creek, Chichagof Island.*

The above may be an extreme case, but there are similar examples in many fisheries. To some of you, this example may illustrate the need to better educate the public about fisheries, but we should ask ourselves if we are also ready to be educated by the public? If all we do is try to convince them of how right we are, then diversity does nothing but hinder us. Embracing diversity would mean accepting and validating diverse or opposing points of view while trying to build a consensus about fisheries management decisions. This is sometimes very difficult and hard, so hard that many simply fall back on the “my way or the highway” approach.

As our profession is in charge of significant social impacts, we have a responsibility to the public, which has diverse views on issues; this may mean that we need to increase the representation of minority groups (e.g., race / ethnicity / gender) and non-fisheries biology disciplines in the fisheries profession. While those are mostly institutional-level efforts, we can do our part on a personal level by engaging with others of diverse views and backgrounds. The Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting is a good opportunity to do just this. See you at the Annual Chapter Meeting.

P.S. This is my last “President’s Corner”. Thank you for your attention and support for the Alaska Chapter of AFS. 🐟

behaviors reported in the literature. During the course of study, a few larger, tagged Sitkoh smolts have been recaptured re-emigrating through the weir the year following their initial tagging, resembling the migratory behavior of sea-run cutthroat trout, or of the half-pound steelhead reported from some northern California and Southern Oregon rivers. Jacking and straying were also documented in Sitkoh Creek; in 2007, one small tagged male steelhead was recaptured moving upstream through the weir—this precocious male was the first and only 1-ocean adult sampled.

This project is unique in Alaska, and possibly throughout the native range of steelhead, as no other long-term studies of wild steelhead populations are known to have used PIT-tagging techniques to estimate adult and smolt production, survival rates, and freshwater and ocean ages. Defining stock-recruitment relationships for an iteroparous species such as steelhead is complicated by variability in age estimation, mark-recapture efficiency and variability in life history strategies. Since so little is known about steelhead population dynamics, multi-year samples of spring steelhead adult escapement and associated smolt production may eventually provide sufficient data to estimate escapement targets for steelhead, allowing for their conservative management and avoiding threatened or endangered status. More information about trout research in Southeast Alaska can be found at the following website: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/trout/troutres.cfm>. 🐟

## Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference: “Celebrating Professional Diversity within Alaska Fisheries”

Lisa Stuby

Planning for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is proceeding nicely. This year’s meeting will take place from November 3–5, 2009 at the Westmark Hotel, in downtown Fairbanks, with continuing education courses scheduled for November 1–2. An opening social offsite trip to the local Silver Gulch brewery is planned for Tuesday, November 3rd and there will be a banquet buffet at the Westmark the following evening. As last year, the cost of the banquet will be incorporated into the meeting registration fees. Additional banquet tickets for family and friends can be purchased for \$30. A local band, Steve Brown and the Bailleurs will play during a cocktail hour between 6:00 and 7:00 P.M. Rooms can be reserved by calling the Westmark at 456-7722 or 1-800-544-0970. Not including tax, single or double rooms will cost \$74 per night, and this will include a continental breakfast!

During last year’s meeting, the Alaska Chapter hosted a “Student Mentor Luncheon” that was very popular. As a result, we will again be hosting this event at the November meeting and Shelley Woods, our student representative, will be looking for mentors. In addition, she will spearhead efforts to acquire items for the silent auction, which is held to benefit student travel. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Shelley ([shelleywoods@gmail.com](mailto:shelleywoods@gmail.com)).

The continuing education courses have been finalized, and course descriptions are provided below. There is a nice variety of courses, most of which haven’t been offered at past Alaska Chapter meetings. Please contact Jan Conitz ([jan.conitz@alaska.gov](mailto:jan.conitz@alaska.gov)) or Tammy Hoem ([tammyhoem@yahoo.com](mailto:tammyhoem@yahoo.com)) if you have questions.

Below are the sessions, and their respective chairs, for this meeting. Miscellaneous meeting information can be found on the Alaska Chapter website at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/>. I hope you all had a great summer and your summer field projects went well.

### Contributed Papers

**Session Chair:** Hamachan Hamazaki, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, [toshihide.hamazaki@alaska.gov](mailto:toshihide.hamazaki@alaska.gov).

### Poster Session

**Session Chair:** Cecil Rich, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, [cecil.rich@alaska.gov](mailto:cecil.rich@alaska.gov).

### Pacific Lampreys

**Session Chairs:** R.D. Nelle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mid-Columbia River Fishery Resource Office, [rd\\_nelle@fws.gov](mailto:rd_nelle@fws.gov); Bianca Streif, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Office, [bianca\\_streif@fws.gov](mailto:bianca_streif@fws.gov).

The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative is an effort led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate and develop a conservation plan that will lead to restored Pacific lamprey populations and improvement of their habitat throughout their range, which extends from Japan along the Pacific Rim to Baja Mexico. This session will include a presentation on the conservation initiative as well as Pacific lamprey research from the lower 48, including the Columbia and Klamath River basins.

Presentations about research and conservation on all lamprey species in Alaska, western Canada and states along the Pacific Ocean are invited and welcome.

### Fishery Genetics

**Session Chair:** Stew Grant, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, [william.grant@alaska.gov](mailto:william.grant@alaska.gov).

The use of genetics to manage fisheries has come along way since its beginnings in the 1960s. One major application has been the resolution of population limits, and in the case of salmon, the identification of the population components in mixed stock fisheries. The development of molecular markers has progressed considerably since the first use of immunology in the 1960s to describe genetic differences among populations. Each marker has led to progressively greater resolution of population structure, or to more rapid turnaround times, so that in-season results are now commonly used to support harvest management. The development of statistical methods has kept pace with the large amount of data being produced

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**Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference, continued**

by genetic analysis. Genetic considerations are also important in the development of salmonid and marine invertebrate broodstocks to prevent the loss of genetic diversity and to limit as much as possible hybridizations between outplanted and wild individuals. Well-managed hatchery operations and the use of triploid individuals for release help to reduce the potential for these hybridizations. One important application is the use of quantitative genetics and experiments lasting generations to better understand how captive breeding might influence adaptive traits. The application of genetic principles will continue to play an important role in conserving Alaska's still abundant fishery resources.

**Allocation among Fisheries Users: "How to Divide up Alaska's Fish Pie"**

**Session Chair:** Audra Brase, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, [audra.brase@alaska.gov](mailto:audra.brase@alaska.gov).

Alaskan fisheries are allocated among many user groups, including subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational fishermen. Allocative decisions are among the most difficult to make and the outcomes are almost always controversial. The goals of this session are to examine the evolution of various Alaskan fisheries, how and why allocations have changed over the years, what can be learned from those changes and what may be expected in the future. Suggested fisheries to examine include, but are not limited to, Pacific halibut, Chinook salmon throughout the state (Southeast Alaska, Copper River, Kenai River, and the Yukon River), Bering Sea red king crab, and Southeast rockfish.

**Management of Whitefishes in Alaska: What Do We Know and Where Do We Start?**

**Session Chairs:** Trent Sutton and Aaron Dupuis, University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, [tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu](mailto:tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu); [a.dupuis@sfos.uaf.edu](mailto:a.dupuis@sfos.uaf.edu).

Alaska supports a diverse assemblage of coregonine fishes (hereafter termed whitefishes), with eight recognized species in the genera *Coregonus* (humpback whitefish *C. pidschian*, broad whitefish *C. nasus*, Arctic cisco *C. autumnalis*, Bering cisco *C. laurettae*, least cisco *C. sardinella*), *Stenodus* (inconnu *S. leucichthys*), and *Prosopium* (round whitefish *P. cylindraceum*, pygmy whitefish *P. coulteri*). Whitefishes are broadly distributed

throughout Alaska in a variety of freshwater, brackish, and marine environments. Many whitefish species are abundant year round, and consequently support important subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational fisheries. Whitefishes are also an important component of the trophic food web, serving as important prey for a variety of piscine, avian, and mammalian predators. Although many species in Alaska exhibit similar life history attributes, significant variability exists in life history patterns within and among species, which may include freshwater-migratory, anadromous-migratory, and non-migratory strategies. Given this variability, there is limited information on the basic biology of most whitefish species, including distribution and abundance, migratory behavior, spawning, nursery, and feeding habitats, stock structure and dynamics, and early life history. This information is particularly crucial for whitefish because they are harvested year round and at different phases in their migration. Species identification based on morphological measurements and meristic counts can be difficult, particularly for larval and juvenile life stages. Because of the challenges associated with species delineation, regardless of life stage, species groups are often combined in harvest reports and management plans. Further, there is limited information about the extent to which harvest affects whitefish populations, which may vary on both temporal and spatial scales. The increased harvest of whitefish in recent years from subsistence and commercial fisheries has raised concerns about the status of whitefish populations in Alaska and their long-term sustainability. In this symposium, we will explore the current state of knowledge and information gaps for whitefishes in Alaska.

**Habitat Restoration in Interior Alaska**

**Session Chair:** Jeff Adams, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, [jeff\\_adams@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_adams@fws.gov).

With the increased recognition of the value of habitat restoration to fisheries conservation, managers, researchers, and the public need information on effective methods of fish habitat

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**Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference**, continued

restoration. This session will spotlight current and historic activities and describe the successes and failures of fish and aquatic species passage and riparian, wetland, and upland restoration projects in Interior Alaska. To provide insights about evaluating specific sites for restoration and to better educate all stakeholders for future involvement, the session will also include presentations concerning pre-and post-treatment habitat and population assessments, to assist with prioritizing projects. Although focused on applications in the Interior, presentations from other states and regions will be considered.

**Evolution of Fish Diversity**

**Session Chair:** Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, *lisa.stuby@alaska.gov*.

To better understand why fish species in Alaska and elsewhere show varying distributional and habitat needs, it is important to understand where, how, and why they evolved the characteristics that are necessary for their survival. With modern techniques, such as genetics, much can be gleaned on the phylogeny that could only have been assumed from fossils in more traditional cladistical analysis years ago. As different techniques, with greater sensitivity and accuracy, become available, the evolutionary relationships between species will become clearer.

**Quantitative Methods in Alaskan Fisheries Research and Management**

**Session Chair:** Milo Adkison, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *milo.adkison@uaf.edu*.

This session is intended to highlight the broad array of quantitative tools applied to research and management problems in Alaska. Novel techniques and novel applications of existing techniques are encouraged. Speakers should plan on incorporating an educational component in their talks; i.e., to discuss the potential uses, best implementation, and limitations of their methodology.

**Alaskan Coastal Waters: Biology, Ecology, and Ecosystem Services**

**Session Chair:** Ann Knowlton, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *knowlton@sfos.uaf.edu*.

Nearshore areas provide important ecological and biological services for Alaska's natural marine resources, as well as economic and recreational opportunities for local communities. This session will highlight the biodiversity of Alaskan coastal waters including habitat function and community processes. This session will provide an expansive perspective to include both fishery and non-fishery species, and will provide an integrated, broad-scale view of ecosystem functions and services.

**Fisheries Distributions, Movements, Migration, and Management as Outgrowths of Oceanic Change: Well, isn't that Spatial?**

**Session Organizer:** Jonathan Kamler; Seventeenth Coast Guard District; *jonathan.w.kamler@uscg.mil*.

Geospatial analysis tools and models have become key to understanding and managing Alaskan fisheries given changing movement and migration patterns, and uncertain species distribution—especially in the context of quickly changing oceans. This session will cover the array of geospatial analyses being applied to freshwater and saltwater Alaskan environments. The session will combine elements of several fields including fisheries, oceanography, geographic information systems, spatial statistics, and remote sensing. The session will offer the opportunity to present methodological developments, specific findings, and case studies. The implications will be discussed based on the various tools and techniques applied and the scale of the application (e.g., individual stream vs. entire watershed, and nearshore vs. offshore). The advantages, disadvantages, and difficulties with data collection and data availability will be discussed, along with recent technological developments and specialized marine-based extensions to common, off-the-shelf tools, such as ArcGIS. The session will include both remotely-sensed and field-collected spatial data analyses. Applications of geospatial analyses which address specific management problems and drive resource allocation decisions will be given special

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**ONCORHYNCHUS**

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

## Alaska Chapter 36th Annual Conference, continued

consideration. Case studies from both saltwater and freshwater environments are encouraged and welcome. If possible, speakers should plan to incorporate cross-discipline implications in their discussions, with particular consideration to the implications of climate change.

### Fisheries Enforcement and Fish Sustainability

**Session Chair:** Ray Reichl; U.S. Coast Guard, District Seventeen Response, Enforcement Branch, Juneau; [raymond.j.reichl@uscg.mil](mailto:raymond.j.reichl@uscg.mil)

Fisheries enforcement is often described as the third leg that supports the three-legged stool of fisheries management. While a great deal of attention is paid to the legs of science and policy, enforcement is often lost in those discussions. The complexity of fisheries enforcement requires applying the intricacies of a vast array of regulations, providing a presence to deter and apprehend violators, and cooperatively litigating the cases within the court

system. Enforcement also requires a great deal of public relations building in order to help deter and avoid violations. Sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries in Alaska are a mix of overlapping (and sometimes conflicting) state and federal jurisdictions and regulations. Commercial fisheries add significant additional levels of complexity in that international relations, regulations, and treaties all play roles in developing enforcement goals, policies, and on-the-water strategies. In fact, the international complexities even extend to some Alaskan sport fisheries (halibut, for example), which are cooperatively enforced by state and federal officers, but ultimately regulated pursuant to an international treaty. This session will provide an overview of Alaska fisheries enforcement with the objective of providing a better understanding of how fisheries enforcement, along with policy and scientific research, support that three-legged stool of fisheries management. ?

## Continuing Education Offerings at the 2009 Annual Meeting

Jan Conitz

Consider coming early to the meeting this year to take advantage of the Continuing Education program. There are four half-day courses to choose from: "Genetics Basics for Alaska Fishery Professionals," "Power-based Standardization in Electrofishing," "Fisheries Education Tips and Techniques," and "Cross-cultural Communication and Alaska Native Perspectives on Fishery Resources." The diversity of topics should offer something for everyone, and the half-day format means that you could take up to three different courses. Most of these courses have not been offered at past Alaska Chapter meetings. Late registration fees are in effect after the registration deadline of October 8. October 25 is the pre-registration (off-site) deadline. Full course descriptions and other information can be found online at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/meetings/2009/meet2009.htm>. Please contact Jan Conitz ([jan.conitz@alaska.gov](mailto:jan.conitz@alaska.gov)) if you have questions.

The previously scheduled course on "How to Have More Productive Meetings" has been canceled due to an insufficient number of registrations. However, Margo Matthews and Teri Arnold are available to teach a half-day or full-day version of this course during fall/winter 2009/2010, at your worksite and tailored to your agency needs. Please contact the Continuing Education committee, Jan Conitz (465-4125; [jan.conitz@alaska.gov](mailto:jan.conitz@alaska.gov)) or Tammy Hoem (796-5460; [tammyhoem@yahoo.com](mailto:tammyhoem@yahoo.com)) for more information.

### Genetics Basics for Alaska Fishery Professionals

**Date:** Monday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Bill Templin and Chris Habicht

**Cost:** \$100/\$150 (member/non-member)

This course will provide an overview of genetics applications as used in Alaska with a review section on genetics to provide a basic understanding of how and where this information can be helpful.

### Power-based Standardization in Electrofishing

**Date:** Monday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Instructor:** Jim Reynolds

**Cost:** \$125/\$150 (member/non-member)

The recent AFS book, *Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fish*, emphasizes the growing importance of sampling standardization in

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### Continuing Education, continued

fisheries science and management. Standardization of electrofishing, a common sampling method, requires an understanding of electrical principles, particularly power transfer theory. This half-day course will be presented in three 70-minute sessions with two intervening 15-minute breaks. Basic electrical principles, including power transfer, will be covered in the first session; elements of power-based standardization in the second; and development of standardized power charts in the third. This course will give participants an overview of the proper approach to the standardization of electrofishing, regardless of method (e.g. boat or backpack).

#### **Fisheries Education Tips and Techniques**

**Date:** Sunday, November 1, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Laurel Devaney and Erik Anderson

**Cost:** \$75/\$125 (member/non-member)

This 4-hour workshop is tailored specifically to the biologist who wants to share their knowledge with youth. You will receive specific tips and tools to help you develop school presentations and outdoor activities for children of all ages.

Many benefits can be derived from developing fisheries education activities for youth. Creating awareness and excitement about aquatic resources can help build a sense of stewardship among those who will be the next generation of resource managers and decision makers. Working with area youth can also help to open lines of communication with their parents and to improve community awareness and acceptance of your projects and agency. You can also recruit a body of enthusiastic assistants who can help you to accomplish more than you could otherwise achieve on your own.

Distilling your message for a younger audience, developing the materials for an activity, or including youth in your field work, can seem like an impossible addition to your already full workload. This workshop will introduce you to some existing kits and curricula available for your use and demonstrate some activities that you can use. You will receive tips on working with teachers and students in a school setting, including tailoring your message to fit different age groups. We will also highlight some successful fisheries education programs and discuss ideas for including students in your field work.

#### **Cross-cultural Communication and Alaska Native Perspectives on Fishery Resources**

**Date:** Monday, November 2, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Judy Daxootsu Ramos and Elaine Abraham

**Cost:** \$75/\$125 (member/non-member)

Part 1–Introduction to Alaska Native People. “There is no such thing as an Alaska Native.” This part will cover the different native languages and cultures of the aboriginal people of Alaska. What do we mean when we say “lower 48,” or “outside Indian?”

Part 2–Introduction to Alaska Native people politics. “How many governments are there?” An introduction to Native political organizations.

Part 3–Native and non-native communication styles. “Different styles, different communities.” Each culture has different communications styles. What are some of these differences?

Part 4–Native spirituality and relationship to their environment. “I talk to the universe.” Native people believe everything has a spirit, how does this effect how they manage their resources? 🗣️

### Newsletter Editor Position

Are you looking for a fun way to contribute your talents and energies to the Alaska Chapter while building a new skill set, and meeting interesting people? After 4 years of editing the *Oncorhynchus*, I will be stepping down within the next year. The *Oncorhynchus* editor position is vital to the Chapter’s operations and provides a satisfying outlet for your artistic, as well as professional, capabilities. In this position, you will have the opportunity to showcase interesting work within the Alaskan fisheries community while improving your editing, organizational and communication skills. It is an exciting time when the field of communication is in flux; the Alaska Chapter recently moved to electronic delivery of a .pdf copy of the newsletter and already some organizations (Western Division, National Fisherman) are moving to entirely web-based newsletters. With the guidance of the EXCOM, where will you take us? If you are interested in volunteering for this position, contact me ([gretchen.bishop@alaska.gov](mailto:gretchen.bishop@alaska.gov)) or Alaska Chapter President Hamachan Hamazaki ([Hamahan.Hamazaki@alaska.gov](mailto:Hamahan.Hamazaki@alaska.gov)). 🗣️

## Candidate Bios for Vice President and Secretary

### Trent Sutton, Vice President

Trent Sutton is an Associate Professor of Fisheries Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he has been a faculty member since June 2007. His current research interests focus on the ecology and population dynamics of freshwater and marine fishes, particularly whitefishes (i.e., humpback and broad whitefish; least and Bering cisco), salmon



*Trent Sutton, candidate for vice president of the AFS Alaska Chapter holds a nice lake sturgeon from the Great Lakes.*

(i.e., Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon; rainbow trout; Arctic char; Dolly Varden), and rockfishes. In addition, he still remains active in research in the Great Lakes region, with ongoing projects focusing on lake whitefish and eastern hellbenders. Currently, he has eight M.S. and one Ph.D. students in his research group. In addition to teaching three different undergraduate- and graduate-level courses at UAF, Trent is also very active in the American Fisheries Society, serving as the co-editor of the third edition of *Fisheries Techniques* and on numerous other committees for the society. Trent also has previous experience in AFS Chapter leadership as he was the President of the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, in 2004/2005 and served as the academic advisor of the Purdue University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society.

From August 1996 through May 2001, Trent was an Assistant Professor of Fisheries Biology in the Department of Biology and Director of Fisheries Research and Culture for the Aquatic Research Laboratory at Lake Superior State University. In these capacities, Trent taught 12 different undergraduate courses, mentored 39 undergraduate research projects on various aspects of fisheries ecology and management, and supervised research and culture operations

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### Julie Bednarski, Secretary

Julie Bednarski completed a B.S. in environmental studies with a major in natural science from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin in 1998. After this, she joined the Peace Corps in 1999 and went to Madagascar.



*Julie Bednarski, candidate for secretary of the AFS Alaska Chapter, with snailfish friend.*

When she returned seasonally as a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in California, and then for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In 2002, she went to graduate school at the University of Idaho, receiving her M.S. in fisheries resources in 2004. To date, two chapters of her master's thesis, *The Ecology of the Fishes in the Milk River, Montana in Relation to Spring Discharge*, have been published, the first in the *Montana Prairie Naturalist* and the second in *Rivers Research and Applications*.

After graduate school, Julie came up to Alaska on the ferry in November, falling in love with Alaska in the first few moments. After about a year spent in Hoonah, she moved to Juneau where she accepted her first job with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as the Juneau port sampling supervisor. Since then, she has continued work for the Department in the Region 1 Commercial Fisheries Division as a shellfish research biologist, and more recently as a subsistence sockeye research biologist.

Julie first became involved in AFS while working in Idaho, and has attended and presented at both state and national level AFS conferences. She appreciates the professional development that AFS provides its members and is committed to being a competent secretary if elected. ?

### Reminder!

**Renew your membership NOW online at:**  
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html> **to obtain a discount on your registration fees for the Annual Meeting!**

**Candidate Bios, Trent Sutton, Vice President**, continued

on Atlantic salmon, coaster brook trout, Pacific salmonids, yellow perch, and lake sturgeon.

From June 2001 through May 2007, Trent served as an Assistant and Associate Professor of Fisheries Biology in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. His research focused on the ecology and population dynamics of freshwater fishes, particularly those inhabiting the Great Lakes (i.e., lake sturgeon; sea lamprey; lake herring; lake whitefish; brook

trout), large rivers (i.e., flathead catfish; shovelnose sturgeon; blue sucker), and Indiana lakes and streams (i.e., western mosquitofish; killifishes; warmwater fishes). Through these research efforts, Trent completed eight M.S. students, three Ph.D. students, fourteen undergraduate independent study projects, and four high school independent study projects. In addition Trent taught six different undergraduate- and graduate-level courses during his time at Purdue.

### Native Fish of Alaska T-shirt


The sage green t-shirts depicting the life cycle of the Chinook salmon that were printed in 2006 have sold out, but the second in this series will be available this October! By popular vote during the 2008 Alaska Chapter meeting banquet in Anchorage, the beautiful Arctic grayling was chosen as the subject of this t-shirt. Similar to the first series, these t-shirts are commemorative, and only 200 will be available. Several members requested that long-sleeved t-shirts be printed, so there will be 150 short-sleeved and 50 long-sleeved t-shirts for purchase. The 2009 t-shirt is blue and features the Arctic grayling on the shirt back and the Alaska Chapter logo on the front. These t-shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton and machine washable. Once these are sold, planning will begin for the AFS commemorative t-shirt #3. So, if you are anxious for your favorite species of fish to be next, you will need to purchase several 2009 t-shirts for family and friends (they make great gifts) and start influencing your friends and colleagues to elect the next t-shirt species, hopefully at the 2010 meeting!

Karen Lybrand is the artist who created the design for the current Arctic grayling t-shirt, and also for


the previous Chinook salmon t-shirt. She has been a long-time collaborator with Ray Troll and did the graphic design work (Ray did the artwork) on the "Creating a Fisheries Mosaic" poster for the 2005 AFS National meeting in Anchorage. Andy Gryska, an Arctic grayling biologist with the Alaska

Department of Fish and Game, contributed numerous photos of Arctic grayling and advice to the artist. Similar to series #1, ALL proceeds from the sales of the series #2 t-shirts will go to fund student travel to future meetings of the Alaska Chapter.

All sizes are currently available, minus one medium-sized long-sleeved t-shirt that I actually have on



*The front of the new "Native Fish of Alaska" t-shirt.*



*The back of the new "Native Fish of Alaska" t-shirt.*

my lap as I write this. The cost will be \$20 for short-sleeved and \$25 for long-sleeved t-shirts. Series #2 t-shirts can be purchased at the upcoming Alaska Chapter meeting in Fairbanks. Ordering instructions can also be found on the Alaska Chapter website at: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/afs-ak/> under Memorabilia. Shipping adds an additional \$3 charge.

## Meetings and Events



### Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish

October 15–16, 2009: Seattle, WA; October 24–25, 2009: Lyon, France; February 4–5, 2010: Seattle, WA. This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement (and other aquatic life, such as eel, shrimp, and crab) with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. For more information, visit: [http://www.htisonar.com/at\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/at_short_course.htm).



### International Arctic Fisheries Symposium

October 19–21, 2009: This symposium, to be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, will initiate discussions for conserving and managing future fisheries in the Arctic Ocean. You can learn more about the symposium at its website: <http://www.nprb.org/iafs2009/>.



### Pacific Salmonid Recovery Conference 2009

October 28–30, 2009: This AFS-sponsored conference will be held in Seattle, WA. For more information, visit: [http://nwetc.org/bio-500\\_10-09\\_seattle.htm](http://nwetc.org/bio-500_10-09_seattle.htm).



### ERF 2009 Meeting

November 1–5, 2009: The biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation will be held in Portland, Oregon. The theme is "Estuaries and Coasts in a Changing World." For more information, please visit: <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/>.

### ICES/PICES/UNCOVER Symposium 2009

November 3–6, 2009: This symposium on "Rebuilding Depleted Fish Stocks - Biology, Ecology, Social Science and Management Strategies," will be held in Warnemünde/Rostock, Germany. For further information, please see <http://www.uncover.eu/index.php?id=180>.



### 2009 Shanghai Crab Symposium

November 8–11, 2009: To be held at Shanghai Ocean University, China. This conference, sponsored by the Shanghai Ocean University and Chinese Crustacean Society, will focus on the aquaculture, biology and management of commercially important crabs. Please visit <http://2009.crablab.org/>.

### Western Society of Naturalists

November 12–15, 2009: This meeting will be held in Monterey, CA. Abstracts will be accepted online through October 9. For more information visit: <http://www.wsn-online.org/meeting.shtml>.



### Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment

February 11–12, 2010: Seattle, WA. This short course in hydroacoustics covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. For more information, visit: [http://www.htisonar.com/ha\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/ha_short_course.htm).

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## Meetings and Events, continued



### Remote Sensing and Fisheries International Symposium

February 15–17, 2010: This meeting will be held in Kochi, India. The abstract deadline is October 15. Visit <http://www.geosafari.org/kochi/>.

### 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting



February 22–26, 2010: The annual ASLO Ocean sciences meeting, themed “From Observation to Prediction in the 21st Century,” will be held in Portland, Oregon. Abstracts will be accepted through October 15. Visit <http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/>.

### 16th Western Groundfish Conference

April 26–30, 2010: This meeting will be held at Centennial Hall in downtown Juneau. A website is under development at <https://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/>.



### ASIH Annual Meeting

July 7–12, 2010: The annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held in Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting website is under development at <http://www.asih.org/annualmeetings>.



### ESA 95th Annual Meeting

August 1–6, 2010: The 95th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America will be held in Pittsburgh, PA. Symposium proposals are currently being accepted at: <http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh/>.



### Wild Trout X Symposium

September 28–30, 2010: This meeting, the 10th in the Wild Trout symposia series, will be held at the Holiday Inn in Yellowstone, Montana. The call for papers will be coming soon at <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/index.php>.



### Ecosystems 2010 Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium

November 8–11, 2010: The 26th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, “Ecosystems 2010: Global Progress on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management,” will be held in Anchorage. Abstracts will be accepted through June 4, 2010 at <http://seagrants.uaf.edu/conferences/2010/wakefield-ecosystems/index.php>.

## Fall 2009 Student Subunit Update

Shelley Woods

Welcome back students! I hope your field season and summer break were enjoyable!

The UAF student group of the Alaska Chapter Student Subunit held its first meeting, welcoming new faculty advisor Dr. Trent Sutton and 3 new officers: President Jason Stolarski, Vice President Aaron Dupuis, and Secretary/Treasurer Keegan Birchfield. Dr. Sutton gave an overview of the new faculty, facilities, and academic programs that have evolved within the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences over the last 2 years. The faculty has doubled, new degrees are being offered, a student lounge was established at 215 O’Neill, and 3 new “smart” classrooms are available. Future developments include a

*Continued on next page*

## Fall 2009 Student Subunit Update, continued



teaching laboratory and a student computer lab. The Fairbanks group is working on starting an AFS water polo team, and developing a newsletter with the help of Mike Lunde, a fisheries undergraduate. The group has produced long-sleeved t-shirts and hoodies with an AFS Alaska Chapter Student Subunit logo designed by Laura

Gutierrez; these will be for sale at the Annual Meeting in heather gray and dark blue. To order early, please email [fbafs@uaf.edu](mailto:fbafs@uaf.edu). I promise these will sell out!

The Juneau group is also in full swing, with current President Katie Palof and Officers Elizabeth Siddon, Tammy Hoem, Sara Miller, and Lisa Kamin. The Juneau group of the Student Subunit has been assisting to promote the new Lena Point facility building to the greater scientific community by guiding tours and volunteering at events. The group also plans on participating in the Coastal Clean-up Day and the Adopt-a-Highway program. Other social events, such as a movie night and camping trips, are on the horizon. ☺

## Joe Margraf Receives National AFS Meritorious Service Award

F. Joseph Margraf, leader of the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and a professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), received the Meritorious Service Award from the American Fisheries Society (AFS) at its 139th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 31, 2009. The award is presented to an individual for loyalty, dedication, and meritorious service to the Society throughout the years; and for exceptional commitment to AFS programs, ideals, objectives, and goals.

Dr. Margraf has served as president of an AFS Division, Section, and several Chapters. Among his many achievements, Margraf served as AFS Constitutional Consultant for six years, during which time he undertook a complete revision of the AFS Constitution and Rules. In addition, he has served as a co-instructor in the AFS Leadership Training effort at the parent Society and Division levels since 2000. He took the lead role in formation of the West Virginia Chapter. He drafted and circulated the petition for formation of the Chapter, drafted the bylaws, ushered the chartering paperwork through the approval process, organized and ran the initial Chapter meetings, and served as interim president from 1987 to 1989.

He has fostered and encouraged student participation at several levels within the Society, serving as AFS campus representative at West Virginia University (1987–95) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (1996–99), and as Student Subunit faculty advisor at UAF (2000–2007). In addition, several of his graduate students have received awards for best paper or poster at Chapter, Division, and parent Society meetings. Moreover, he has organized numerous symposia and moderated sessions at AFS Annual and Division meetings over the years.

Those efforts involved a very substantial time commitment. Margraf has been exceptionally committed to the programs, ideals, objectives, and long-term goals of AFS over his entire career and is therefore truly worthy of the Meritorious Service Award. ☺



F. Joseph Margraf (right) of the University of Alaska Fairbanks receives the Meritorious Service Award from AFS President Bill Franzin. Photo credit: Jason Harmon, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

## Graduate Fellowship Opportunity in Marine Ecosystem Studies

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is seeking motivated graduate candidates for our Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in the Arctic and Subarctic (MESAS) program (<http://www.uaf.edu/mesas>). This interdisciplinary NSF-funded IGERT (<http://www.igert.org>) program incorporates social and natural sciences to explore new approaches to studying and managing marine ecosystems. In addition to interdisciplinary marine ecosystem coursework, the MESAS program provides opportunities for an internship with a partner

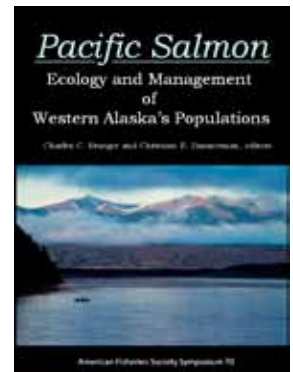
organization and mentoring of undergraduate students.

Fellowships are available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents seeking a PhD degree and include an annual \$30,000 stipend, tuition, health insurance, and research funding. Apply by February 15 for fall 2010 enrollment; new cohorts will be enrolled through 2012. Interested students should visit our website (<http://www.uaf.edu/mesas>) for more information or contact the MESAS office at [mesas@uaf.edu](mailto:mesas@uaf.edu).

## New Book from AFS

### Pacific Salmon: Ecology and Management of Western Alaska's Populations

The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Sustainable Salmon Initiative and the American Fisheries Society announce the publication of *Pacific Salmon: Ecology and Management of Western Alaska's Populations*. This volume is the proceedings of a symposium held in Anchorage and features a range of papers concerning salmon populations in the AYK region; subjects include the management of salmon fisheries, ecological processes that cause change in salmon populations; and the effects of variability in abundance of salmon on rural communities. It is a single reference text for the region and will serve as an access point to information that formerly resided in a variety of storage media—from the minds of managers and researchers, to drawers of historical files, to websites, to the primary literature. It is unique in two ways, first, because it links ecological and management information across the freshwater and marine ecosystems of the region, embracing the entire lifecycle of the salmon, and second because it includes chapters concerning the human dimension. Topics included in the human dimension chapters range from the role of traditional ecological knowledge to the economics of AYK fisheries. By presenting what is known about AYK salmon and then identifying information gaps, this book will serve as a valuable guide for future research and assessment programs. This book was edited by Charles Krueger and Christian Zimmerman and is published as American Fisheries Society Symposium Number 70. To purchase this book, please visit <http://www.afsbooks.org/>.



## 2009 Alaska Chapter Officers

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Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members