MISSION

The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education, research and public service concerning marine and freshwater ecosystems, and to fostering sustainable use of these resources for the benefit of Alaska, the nation and the world.

ABOUT US

The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences is one of the most diverse schools in the University of Alaska Fairbanks both in geographic distribution and academic mission, with faculty in twelve locations.

SFOS offers programs leading to baccalaureate degrees in Fisheries and master’s and doctoral degrees in Oceanography, Fisheries, and Marine Biology. We are educating the next generation of leaders for the fisheries and ocean related industries in Alaska and the Northwest.

Faculty research at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences extends from the rivers of Alaska to the fisheries of the Bering Sea and from Arctic Ocean oceanography to marine mammals in the Antarctic.

FACTS

• Over $16 million in research funding each year
• 55 faculty in five major locations across Alaska
• 125 students in M.S. and Ph.D. programs
• SFOS faculty and research staff collaborate with over 60 state, national, international and private agencies.
• Marine Advisory Program (MAP) agents are located in Unalaska, Nome, Homer, Kodiak, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Anchorage, Petersburg and Ketchikan.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Census of Marine Life (CoML)
SFOS faculty have a leadership role in this 70-nation, ten-year initiative. Funded by the Sloan Foundation, CoML strives to assess and explain the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the world’s oceans. www.coml.org

West Coast & Polar Regions Undersea Research Center
WCPRURC supports highly-rated, peer-reviewed proposals to conduct in situ research in the region offshore California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and the Arctic and Antarctic. www.wenurc.uaf.edu

Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS)
SFOS faculty are leading the effort to construct an expanded ocean observing system in waters off Alaska. This program will combine data collection and modeling to provide real time information on oceanographic conditions in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. www.aoos.org

Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center
The PCCRC focuses on the commercial fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and funds SFOS faculty to investigate problems important to the seafood industry. www.sfos.uaf.edu/pcc

UAF is an AA/EQ employer and educational institution.
SFOS DIVISIONS
Institute of Marine Science
IMS is active in research and graduate training at the master’s and doctoral levels. IMS conducts marine science studies in the world’s oceans, with special emphasis on arctic and Pacific subarctic waters.

Fishery Industrial Technology Center
Our Kodiak faculty work to increase the value of the Alaska fishing industry through academic and research programs in sustainable harvesting and seafood technology.

Fisheries Division
Through collaborative efforts with state, national and international organizations, our fisheries faculty study how to develop and maintain sustainable fisheries programs in Alaska and global waters.

Alaska Sea Grant/ Marine Advisory Program
Alaska Sea Grant funds marine research, provides education and advisory services and distributes information about Alaska’s seas and coasts.

Global Undersea Research Unit
GURU’s faculty and graduate students emphasize seafloor research in marine biology and geology. GURU provides access to undersea technologies and operates NOAA’s Kasitsna Bay Laboratory near Seldovia.

Seward Marine Center
SMC provides access to saltwater laboratories and the coastal environment with excellent laboratories, constant temperature chambers and a running seawater system.

A jellyfish in the Aleutian Islands. Photo courtesy of Stephen Jewett, SFOS Scientific Diving Program.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
• Secured the first phase of funding for the 242-foot, $123 million Alaska Region Research Vessel
• Began fisheries program expansion with a $5 million grant from the Rasmuson Foundation
• Completed new high-tech “smart” classroom to improve distance learning opportunities for SFOS students
• Hired new oceanography faculty in Fairbanks, fisheries faculty in Juneau and new MAP agents in Nome and Ketchikan
• Total SFOS endowments at the University of Alaska Foundation exceeded more than $15 million

2008 GOALS
• Secure $5 million in matching funds for the Rasmuson Foundation fisheries program expansion
• Begin construction of the Alaska Region Research Vessel
• Move into the new 30,000 square foot Lena Point Fisheries Facility in Juneau in Fall 2008
• Host the most spectacular National Ocean Sciences Bowl event in history in Seward, April 25-27, 2008
• Expand faculty by hiring fisheries scientists (4), oceanographers (3) and marine biologists (2)
• Increase undergraduate fisheries student enrollment

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SFOS oceanographers at work on the R/V Alpha Helix. Photo credit: Sarah Thornton.