

## **First Year Action Plan**

### ***Charting a New Course for Fisheries Undergraduates in Alaska***

University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences



## **I. Activities Planned During the First Year**

Each of our first year activities are directly relevant to the goals set forth in the University of Alaska Fairbanks proposal, *Charting a New Course for Fisheries Undergraduates in Alaska* (November 2006). These activities are the first steps necessary to realizing those goals. The first year activities are described here in the order in which the implementation steps are described in the UAF proposal. These activities are also directly represented in line items of the proposal's budget.

### ***A. Develop and Enhance Curricula***

#### **1. Develop a Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries**

The SFOS Faculty Curriculum Council, with the leadership of the Fisheries Undergraduate Coordinator, will develop the Bachelor of Arts in fisheries curriculum. This effort will entail reviewing similar fisheries B.A. curricula offered at other universities, determining the details of the B.A. in fisheries curriculum (including experiential learning through internships), and developing and revising syllabi for new and existing courses in the UAF catalog.

The development process will incorporate the Needs Assessment Survey completed for this purpose in Fall 2006, as reported in our proposal, and will involve consultation with the Rasmuson Fisheries Excellence Committee and the ANSEP program. In addition, a set of learning objectives will be developed for the courses offered in this curriculum to allow for the assessment of learning outcomes as part of an Outcomes Assessment for this program. This curriculum will be submitted for approval by the UAF Faculty Senate which accepts proposals during the fall semester of each year, in this case in Fall 2007.

#### **2. Develop Minor in Fisheries**

This new fisheries minor, consisting of approximately 18 semester credits, will familiarize students with fisheries in such majors as business administration, rural development, political science, and others as detailed in our proposal. The SFOS Faculty Curriculum Council, with the leadership of the Undergraduate Coordinator, will develop the proposed minor in fisheries for submission to the Faculty Senate in Fall 2007. This process will entail examining fisheries minors offered at other universities and developing learning objectives that will allow for an Outcomes Assessment of the program.

#### **3. Organize Internships**

Internships in which our undergraduate students gain experience in the fishing industry, in conservation agencies, or in non-governmental organizations will be an important component of our newly revised curricula. The Undergraduate Coordinator, the Fisheries

Director, and the Dean will establish agreements with appropriate companies and organizations and begin to assign students to these internship opportunities.

#### **4. Review and revise the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Fisheries**

The Fisheries Faculty Academic Program Review Committee was established in September 2006 to undertake a major review of curricula in our existing B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. fisheries degree programs. The Committee reviews the curricula using the protocol required by the UAF provost and the university's accreditors. The review committee includes knowledgeable members from other departments of the university and from the ranks of the profession outside the university. It will review recruitment, enrollment, and graduation histories, Outcomes Assessment reports, and identify gaps in the curricula and in the assessment process to be addressed by the faculty and administration. This report will be complete by Spring 2007. The faculty will respond to this report with recommendations for revisions in Fall 2007 for submission to the Faculty Senate in Spring 2008.

### ***B. Expand, Recruit Faculty, Intensify Faculty Engagement with Curriculum***

#### **1. Recruit New Faculty Positions**

Based on the curriculum planning process described above and on the existing SFOS faculty development plan, the fisheries and marine science faculty and the SFOS dean will formally describe the seven new faculty positions included in the proposal. The position descriptions are the first step in the recruitment process. Subsequent steps for the first year include the appointment of selection committees, consisting of faculty members and members of science and industry as appropriate; advertisement of the positions; and the review of applicants. Recruitment efforts will focus on the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in September 2007 in San Francisco. Selection of finalists and offers to successful applicants will occur in the second year of the program.

#### **2. Implement Two plus Two Plan**

The fisheries faculty will offer courses appropriate to undergraduate upper division students, including students from the University of Alaska Southeast, at the SFOS Fisheries Juneau Center and in Fairbanks as described in the proposal. This will require increased support for teaching by the involved faculty and will require enhanced support for graduate assistants.

### ***C. Recruit and Retain Students, Especially Alaska Native/Rural Alaskans***

SFOS has employed (fall 2006) a new Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for academic programs in the school. During the first year the Coordinator will finalize a Recruitment and Retention Plan in consultation with the ANSEP program. The Coordinator will provide recruitment materials to all high schools in Alaska and will personally visit science departments and principals at ten high schools during the year. The Coordinator will attend weekly ANSEP meetings in Fairbanks. SFOS will provide

funding from the project budget to ANSEP to assist that program in recruiting and retaining fisheries students.

#### ***D. Renew, Develop Infrastructure, Physical Teaching Facilities***

During the first year SFOS will develop a 'smart classroom' on campus in Fairbanks that will be capable of distance delivery of courses to SFOS centers at Juneau, Kodiak, and Seward. The new smart classroom will complement the facility planned for the new Juneau Center facility being constructed at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute at Lena Point. SFOS will also develop teaching laboratory spaces for the fisheries program at Fairbanks. This will involve the remodeling of existing spaces, new furnishings, information technology infrastructure (e.g., video conference equipment, networked computers), and specialized equipment required by new members of the faculty.

#### ***E. Link Oceanography and Fisheries through Ocean Observing***

During the first year SFOS will describe positions and begin recruiting for three faculty positions in oceanography/ocean observing. Their expertise will integrate the research and teaching programs in fisheries and marine sciences, advancing the school's ability to further the principals of ecosystem-based management.

### **I. Timeline for First Year Activities**

#### ***A. Curriculum Development and Enhancement***

- Complete Academic Program Review: September 06-May 07
- Complete Phase 1 Needs Assessment: November 06
- Develop B.A. in fisheries program, review with constituents through Fisheries Excellence Committee, propose to Faculty Senate: October 07
- Develop undergraduate minor in fisheries, review with constituents through Fisheries Excellence Committee, propose to Faculty Senate: October 07
- Advertise initial undergraduate internships: September 07
- Revisions of present academic programs for the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in fisheries proposed to Faculty Senate: October 07

#### ***B. Enhance and Engage Faculty***

- Develop five faculty position descriptions: March 07
- Appoint Selection Committees: April 07
- Advertise for the five faculty positions: July–October 07
- Select and review candidates: October 07–December 07
- Offer courses to support 2+2 model, Juneau & Fairbanks: Fall semester 07
- Recruit four Graduate Assistants to support curriculum enhancements: September 07

#### ***C. Student Recruitment***

- Appoint Recruitment and Retention Coordinator: September 06
- Contact all Alaska high schools about fisheries programs: March 07

- Visit ten high schools—science teachers and counselors: May 07
- Attend monthly ANSEP campus meetings: September 06–May 07; September 07–December 07

#### ***D. Refurbish and Equip Teaching Facilities***

- Smart classroom in O’Neill Building (Fairbanks campus) remodeled, furnished, and equipped: August 07
- High-resolution distance delivery equipment at Juneau, Kodiak, and Seward: August 07
- Students equipped with computers: December 07

## **II. Performance Measures for First Year**

Progress and success at the end of the first year should be measured by several expected achievements:

- Development of the B.A. curriculum, of the minor in fisheries, and review of the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs
- Establishment of five internships and recruitment of undergraduate students into them
- Recruitment process under way for seven new faculty in fisheries and in fisheries oceanography/ocean observing
- Finalized Recruitment and Retention Plan for SFOS-Fisheries.
- Recruitment of five new undergraduate students, particularly into the ANSEP program.
- Use of the smart classroom at Fairbanks and of high-resolution distance delivery equipment at Juneau Center and remote sites for three courses; use of teaching laboratory spaces at Fairbanks for one course.