

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant  
Monthly Report  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences  
January 2008**

***Preface:** To keep faculty and administrators at UAF, UAS and the Rasmuson Foundation aware of the ongoing activities of the Rasmuson Foundation grant to UAF for enhancing academic programs in fisheries and ocean sciences, a very brief monthly report will be prepared. This report is intended to be informal and informative. Questions regarding activities in this report should be directed to Dr. Trent M. Sutton (e-mail: [tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu](mailto:tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu)).*

**1. Curriculum Review, Planning, and Development**

The Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, and Minor in Fisheries curricula are still under review by the UAF Faculty Senate. As stated in the last update, the Minor in Fisheries curriculum has been passed by the Faculty Senate. The minor concerns have been addressed for the Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries. The meeting to approve these programs will take place on 29 January, at which time the approved curricula will be sent to the UA Board of Regents for their approval.

**2. New Course Offerings**

Gunnar Knapp (UAA) will offer a fisheries economics or fisheries markets course in fall 2008. This course is being funded by the seafood industry and will be offered as an asynchronous web course to students throughout Alaska. The course will become a part of the fisheries core in the B.A. in Fisheries curriculum and an elective in the B.S. in Fisheries program. This new course was discussed in a teleconference on January 7 with Gunnar Knapp, Trent Sutton, Bill Smoker, Keith Criddle and Denis Wiesenburg.

**3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure**

a. The smart classroom at UAF in Fairbanks (201 O'Neill Building) has been completed and is available for teaching classes and hosting meetings and workshops. Faculty candidates will present their seminars in the new classroom. The funding for the new classroom was from UAF matching funds for the first 18 months of the grant.

b. Trent Sutton met with UAF Facility Services 2-3 times a week during January to discuss renovations and upgrades for the teaching lab complex for the fisheries program in the UAF Arctic Health Research Building. Lab furniture and equipment for these labs have been identified and orders will be placed before the end of January.

c. Construction of the new facility in Juneau at Lena Point continues to be on schedule for late summer 2008 occupancy. Air handling systems have been delivered, and exterior siding application has started. Interior work is ongoing, electricians are busy and major duct work is commencing (see, <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/lenapoint/>).

#### **4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty**

Searches for faculty positions are ongoing. For the fisheries positions, three (Shellfish Biology, Curator, Physiological Ecology) are currently at the stage of inviting candidates (three candidates per position) to Fairbanks and Juneau for on-campus interviews. For the Human Dimensions of Fisheries Management position, phone interviews have been conducted, reference checks were made on 21 January 2008, and finalists will be invited to campus for interviews. The interviews for the fisheries positions will be held during February and March.

For the Marine Biology searches, candidates are being invited for interviews, with the interview process also to be completed during February and March. The hiring process for the ocean observing positions is being revised and is currently at the phone interview stage. All searches are on pace for hires to start for the 2008 fall semester.

Assistant Professor Nicola Hillgruber has agreed to become the SFOS point of contact for the undergraduate fisheries program in Juneau. Nicola teaches our undergraduate ichthyology course in Juneau (FISH 427) and regularly has undergraduates working in her laboratory.

#### **5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention**

B.S. in Fisheries Admissions Report

- Spring 2008: 4 applied, 3 admitted, 2 enrolled
- Spring 2008 within-UAF transfers:
  - to fisheries major: 3
  - from fisheries major: 3
- Spring 2008 B.S. fisheries enrollment: 24 (27, but 3 not enrolled this semester)
- Fall 2008: 4 applied (in review)

Recruitment Events

- Katie Murra and Trent Sutton met with prospective undergraduate fisheries student Brock Moellendberndt (Fairbanks, AK) and his family.
- Katie Murra presented fisheries program information to Ben Eielson High School counselor Joni Simpson, science teacher Joe Van Hoomissen, and 20 students in the Marine Biology class.
- Katie Murra and Trent Sutton presented fisheries program information to Effie Kokrine Charter School teacher Josh Snow and 12 students in the Advisory class.
- Katie Murra presented fisheries program information to West Valley High School counselors Lynn Hoffman, Willie Blackburn, Carol Johnson, Carol Henry, and Jeff Walters.
- Katie Murra presented fisheries program information to Hutchison High School counselors Jerrilyn McNelly and Natalie Luther.
- Katie Murra attended UAF American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) spring semester kick-off meeting.

- SFOS Rasmuson Fisheries Expansion article was published in the Alaska Science Teachers Association (ASTA) Winter 2007 newsletter. The story is attached.
- Trent Sutton, Bill Smoker and Denis Wiesenburg presented a poster on expansion of the UAF fisheries degrees at the 2008 Alaska Marine Science Symposium attended by over 600 scientists. Doug Molyneaux, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was impressed with the poster and took it for posting in ADF&G offices around the state.

#### Retention Events

- Katie Murra met with Daniel Solie (UAF ANSEP) to discuss spring 2008 semester and study groups for ANSEP science majors.
- Katie Murra and Mike Castellini attended UAF spring 2008 orientation “Academic Lunch”

#### University Events

- SFOS proudly graduated two B.S. fisheries majors in December 2007: Jackson Fox and Brandie Weintraub.

### **6. Participation of FITC/Kodiak and Other SFOS Sites and Programs**

The SFOS faculty at FITC will meet at the end of January 2008 and report to Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton on how they want to proceed in terms of developing the Seafood Technology program.

### **7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs**

The completion of the articulation agreement between the UAF SFOS and UAS-Ketchikan fisheries programs is still pending.

### **8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds**

Rasmuson: \$1,500,000  
 UAF Match: \$500,000

#### **Spent and encumbered (as of 1/24/08):**

Rasmuson: \$769,796.13  
 Match: \$499,141.35

### **9. Status of Fund Raising for Match**

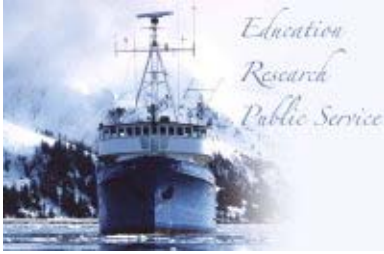
We are pleased to announce that Teresa Thompson has joined SFOS as our Development Officer effective January 7. Teresa, a UAF graduate, has experience working with United Way and most recently with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Teresa will also work with Denis Wiesenburg to raise the matching funds for the \$5 million Rasmuson Foundation grant.

## 10. Program Recognition

The Dutch Harbor Fisherman newspaper carried a front page article on the expansion of our undergraduate fisheries program funded by the Rasmuson Foundation. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton had some great quotes in the article as did Amanda Rosenberger, Internship Coordinator. The article so also included a discussion by Fisheries Excellence Committee member Kris Norosz from Icycle Seafoods and with Doug Molyneaux of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. You can read the story at <http://thedutchharborfisherman.com/news/story/1308> and a PDF of the story follows. The same story ran in the Bristol Bay Times (Dillingham), Cordova Times and the Tundra Drums (Bethel).

*Prepared by Trent Sutton, Bill Smoker and Denis Wiesenburg*

## Elevating Fisheries Education in Alaska



Recent and growing concerns regarding climate change

and the sustainable harvest of natural resources have spurred increased interest in fisheries science. The undergraduate fisheries program at the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences tackles those issues by offering students broad education and training, and by preparing graduates to work as fisheries professionals in management, research, conservation, education, policy, harvest and marketing organizations.

In January 2007, the Rasmuson Foundation generously provided a six-year \$5 million grant to the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to elevate its fisheries program to one of national prominence. The University of Alaska has provided matching funds for the effort.

Major elements of the fisheries expansion include:

- Revision of the existing Bachelor of Science in Fisheries degree to include more hands-on learning and a required internship or senior project
- Development of a new Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree that will prepare students to handle the interactions between humans and fisheries in positions such as fisheries policy-makers, seafood industry leaders, or rural and community developers
- Development of a new Minor in Fisheries
- Broad geographic availability of fisheries courses for students across Alaska through advanced distance learning technology

- Increased enrollment of rural Alaskan and Alaska Native students
- Improvements to the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences facilities and infrastructure
- Hiring of additional School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences faculty

With improvements to curriculum, infrastructure, and increased number of faculty, students majoring in fisheries at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences will receive a superior education and personalized support and guidance. Additionally, there will be many opportunities for high school students interested in fisheries and marine science to work with UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences faculty and students on research projects throughout Alaska.

It is imperative to spark an interest in Alaska's students to learn more about sustaining Alaska's robust fishery. The UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences encourages you, as Alaska's K-12 science educators, to contact us if you or your students are interested in learning more about our programs, or if you are interested in scheduling a classroom presentation or visit.

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**Divers find new species in Aleutians**

*There are unknown creatures lurking under the windswept*

*islands of the Aleutians. [Click for article and photographs.](#)*

# Back to the college classroom

## The Dutch Harbor

# Fisherman

The Aleutians and the Pribilofs



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## Raiders make big catch at Tip-off

Raiders place first, Herring awarded MVP

**DICK SHELLHORN**  
For The Dutch Harbor Fisherman

With winter crab season in full swing, Dutch Harbor, site of the wildly popular TV series "Deadliest Catch," is used to big hauls this time of year. Their hometown basketball team, the Unalaska Raiders, traveled all the way to Cordova for a big catch of its own.

Led by tournament Most Valuable Player Jake Herring, the Raiders topped Cordova 49-36 in the Tip-off championship game on Saturday, Jan. 26, to take home the first-place trophy in their inaugural appearance in the 26-year-old classic.

Herring, a 6-foot senior, poured in 24 points to lead the Unalaska cagers to their biggest win of the season.

"Every time we would think we had him stopped, he would pull up or slip by a defender for another basket," Cordova coach Jason Boerger said. "He had a great game."

Unalaska's boys came into the tournament with only three contests under their belt, all at the Grace Invitational tournament in early December. The Raiders used a third of their travel budget just to get to Cordova.

"It costs so much to get to games, we just don't play that much," Raider Coach Jim Wilson said. "We're lucky to get in 12 high school games in a season prior to our District tournament, which will be in Dillingham this year. Believe it or not, we hadn't played a high school game in five weeks prior to the Cordova tournament."

The Raiders try to compensate by playing a lot of scrimmages against alumni and men's teams in Unalaska, and it showed in their physical style of play.

"They were very tough on the boards and aggressive on defense," said Boerger, who took the Wolverines to the State 3A tournament the past two years. "They also are well balanced and have several players that can score."



Joy Landaluce/The Cordova Times

Senior Raider Jake Herring was awarded the most valuable player of the Cordova Tip-off tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26.

See Page 5, Basketball

## Frontier, Hageland merge

Single airline may bring smoother travel in Bush

**DUSTIN SOLBERG**  
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Two airlines serving vast reaches of rural Alaska will merge to create the largest Alaska-based air carrier.

Hageland Aviation Services of Anchorage and Frontier Flying Service of Fairbanks will operate under a common name, Frontier Alaska, after March 1. The company will be based in Fairbanks.

Mike Hageland, who founded his namesake company in 1981 in Mountain Village with a Cessna 180, said he expects passenger fares to remain the same after the merger.

He added, though, that operating a single plane on routes between hubs is more efficient, and this may translate to lower prices on some routes served by both carriers.

The new air carrier will have 63 aircraft, about 500 employees and will offer service to almost 100 Alaska destinations. Hageland said that he expects some job cuts as a result of the merger, but he didn't say how many.

"I would expect some reduction. Hopefully, that's a way we can save money ... instead of overlapping services," he said. "I don't expect it will be a tremendous amount."

He added that the communities now served by the airlines would continue to be so.

"We're not intending any cessation of service or lesser service," he said.

Though the two airlines do share

See Page 8, Air

## University elevates study of fisheries to BA degree

Move lauded as boost to Alaska economy

**VICTORIA BARBER**  
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Picture a typical liberal arts program: students studying subjects such as political science, writing, economics and anthropology.

Now picture those students taking that knowledge and applying it — to a fisheries degree.

It's not a typical program of study, but starting in the fall, University of Alaska Fairbanks students will be able to do just that and earn a Bachelor of Arts in fisheries.

The B.A. is one of many new programs being launched in the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean

Sciences as a result of a \$5 million endowment from the Rasmuson Foundation.

"We have developed something that is new and unique," said Trent Sutton, undergraduate fisheries coordinator at the UAF. "It's an opportunity to develop something that is certainly needed in Alaska but also beyond Alaska."

The B.A. allows students supplement their fisheries studies with subjects not typically associated with fisheries or ocean science. Sutton said that these new combinations will lead to new and much-needed kinds of fisheries professionals.

Fisheries and business management, for example, could prepare a student from a fishing community to return home and manage the family business.

See Page 8, UAF



A fisheries techniques class at the University of Alaska Fairbanks assesses the habitat for freshwater fish in Piledriver Slough outside Fairbanks. The class is part of UAF's efforts to increase hands-on learning in the fisheries program. From left, Shelley Woods, Mike Lunde, Scott Ayers and Seth Wietgreffe.

Courtesy photo/Katie Murra



### Existing rural communities served

Frontier Flying Service and Hageland Aviation will merge March 1 to form Frontier Alaska, serving nearly 100 Alaska communities. The map shows a selection of destinations served by each pre-merger.

#### Selected Destinations

- SHARED
- FRONTIER
- HAGELAND

#### Both airlines serve:

- Anvik
- Barter Island/Kaktovik
- Grayling
- Holy Cross
- Kalskag
- Nuiqsut
- Point Lay

#### Frontier serves:

• A network of regional hubs and some villages in Western Alaska and the North Slope

#### Hageland serves:

○ About 60 communities in Southwest Alaska



Source: Frontier Flying Service, Hageland Aviation Services

ALASKA NEWSPAPERS

## Air ...

From page 1

some routes, the carriers provide largely different service, said Will Johnson, who once operated a Bethel-based airline and directed a Bethel flight school.

"I see almost no reduction in the competition, and a lot stronger carrier that will serve the people of the region better," he said.

This is because Frontier flights focus on linking the state's major hubs with smaller regional hubs. Hageland's fleet of smaller planes, such as the nine-passenger Beech 1900 and the nine-passenger Cessna 208 Caravan, focus on linking villages of Southwest Alaska with regional hubs such as Dillingham, Bethel and Emmonak.

"What it will do is make a much more powerful airline that has the ability to serve the customers better," Johnson said.

He said he expects the merger will bring more seamless travel to the Bush. A flight from Anchorage to a village might have

required a night in a motel en route; the efficiency of a single airline should mean quicker travel, he said.

The new, better-financed airline may find itself in a position to expand to even larger aircraft, Johnson said.

Hageland said expanding to larger aircraft wouldn't be out of the question, but there are no plans to expand.

"We'll always be looking for different opportunities. You can never stay still in this business. You've got to keep flexible," he said. But that would be "a big step. Anything you put new types of equipment on now-days it gets very expensive."

Hageland Aviation has its main office in Anchorage.

Hageland said he never guessed the one-man airline would become a part of the largest Alaska-based airline.

"Never even thought about it," he said. "It's something that happens to you more than a planned thing."

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Dustin Solberg can be reached at (907) 348-2480 or toll free at (800) 770-9830, ext. 480.

## UAF ...

From page 1

Political science and fisheries would be a unique advantage to a young Alaskan with political ambitions.

Anthropology would provide a background to a fisheries student who is interested in understanding traditional fishing methods, and economics would be an advantage to students interested in the market forces that affect the fishing industry.

Kris Norosz works in government relations at Icicle Seafoods. She that the state will benefit from having more well-rounded fisheries graduates in the job pool.

"There are employees with biology degrees who are helping to form policies that affect industry and if they don't understand world markets and products ... it makes it hard for them to understand the implications of their decision," Norosz said.

"We need accountants, fleet managers, plant managers, marketing and sales (staff) ... there are a lot of different types of jobs besides sliming fish that are career jobs," she added.

Along with the addition of the B.A. program, the endowment has allowed UAF to hire five new faculty members and construct a Learning Center, which will include laboratories, lecture halls and videoconferencing equipment for distance learning.

A minor in fisheries science has been added, and all fisheries majors will have to complete internships as part of a program-wide emphasis on hands-on learning.

Amanda Rosenberger is a fish ecologist who was one of the first faculty members to be added to the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Rosenberger said that she thinks the internship requirement is "the best way we can take advantage of how unique Alaska is and the opportunities that are available in the state."

"Honestly, I think its one of the most fun things you can do as a student, to get in the field and mess with the fish," Rosenberger said. "If you haven't done that then I don't think your education is complete."

She added that potential employers throughout Alaska have expressed eagerness to participate in the program.

"We don't need to worry about having enough jobs for our students," Rosenberger said.

Recruiting and training more rural Alaska and Alaska Native students to take their place in the Alaska fisheries industry is a key component of the Rasmuson program expansion. UAF will be raising awareness in rural high schools and working with the organizations such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to help prepare students for the transition to university.

Doug Molyneaux, salmon research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said that UAF's emphasis on rural and Alaska Native recruitment will help to address a critical gap between Alaska's emerging workforce and the jobs that are available at state agencies such as Fish and Game.



Courtesy photo/Gretchen A. Pence

In the fall, students will be able to work towards a University of Alaska Fairbanks degree in Juneau at the newly constructed Lena Point Fishing Facility.

"Rural residents have the context of their life experience to perhaps better develop management approaches and apply research findings to rural fish and wildlife issues," Molyneaux said.

"But there is more to these jobs than tromping in the woods and streams and oceans. Fish and Wildlife specialists need strong skills in math, computers and writing."

"This program should provide for a broad-er pool of candidates to fill future vacancies," Molyneaux added. "The state has been having difficulty filling these vacancies, and because of this, has been looking more and more to outside Alaska."

Fisheries students will also have the option of completing part of their degrees in Anchorage, at the University of Alaska campus there, and in Juneau, at the new UAF Lena Point Fisheries Facility or the University of Alaska Southeast campus. Students will be able to communicate remotely with UAF faculty via teleconference.

Wherever students choose to study, Alaska has a unique appeal to students interested in fisheries science. Jessica Johnson, a senior in the fisheries program, moved from her home in Montana to study at UAF.

Johnson said that she was sorting through a pile of college brochures when a pamphlet from UAF grabbed her attention.

"I liked it that students were able to get out into the field," said Johnson.

Johnson has taken two internships while at UAF. She said that it's critical for students to discover how they feel about getting "hands on" with fisheries science.

"Quite a few people go into the program and they don't get into the field until their senior year and I think they say, 'Ew, gross,'" Johnson said. "It made me more excited to apply the knowledge that I had from class."

Sutton said that he hopes that these innovative elements along with new facilities and better staffing will help UAF fisheries program become competitive with programs at large universities such as the University of Washington.

The Rasmuson fisheries expansion, he said, is ultimately about making Alaska a better place.

"We could be training administrators in seafood processing plants ... state senators on Capitol Hill exacting legislation that enhances fisheries," Sutton said. "People who are going to go out there and make a difference for fisheries in Alaska."

Victoria Barber can be reached at (907) 342-2424 or toll free at (800) 770-9830, ext. 424.

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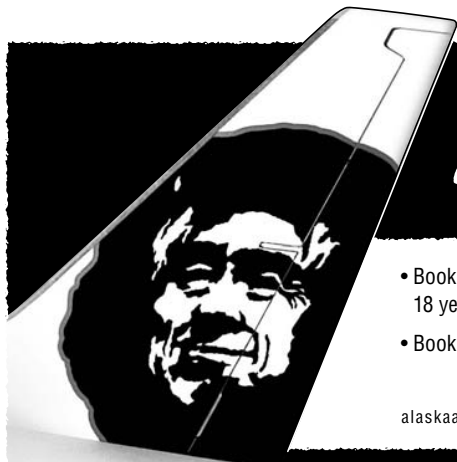
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