

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
December 2007**

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).

1. Curriculum Review, Planning, and Development

The Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, and Minor in Fisheries curricula have been reviewed by the UAF Faculty Senate. The Minor in Fisheries curriculum has been passed by the Faculty Senate. Minor concerns have been identified for the Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries and these concerns will be addressed prior to the mid-January 2008 meeting. After those revisions have been accepted, the curricula will be sent to the UA Board of Regents for approval.

2. New Course Offerings

There have been no new undergraduate courses developed or submitted for approval since the last monthly update. At this point, the course offerings and schedule are set for the spring 2008 semester.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

a. The video conference equipment has arrived for 201 O'Neill Building and is currently being installed. This classroom will be completely operational for the spring 2008 semester.

b. There will be a site visit on 20 December for Trent Sutton and Physical Facilities personal to discuss water, electrical, and ventilation needs for the lab complex in AHRB.

c. Construction of the new facility in Juneau at Lena Point continues to be on schedule for occupancy in late summer 2008. On 30 November electrical power to the building was turned on which allowed Kiewit Building Group (construction contractor) to start utilizing the temporary electric heaters in the building. The inside temperature is now staying in the high 50s, low 60s', which is a very comfortable temperature to work in. Framing and the level three interior studs were installed in early December and are about 80 percent complete. Piping and duct work are continuing along with variable air volume boxes. Boiler stacks are currently being installed.

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

Searches for four fisheries faculty positions, two marine biology positions, and three ocean observing positions are ongoing. Applications for all positions have been reviewed and arrangements are currently being made to conduct phone and campus interviews for the faculty candidates in January and February of 2008.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment Events

- Amanda Rosenberger met with UAF student Daniel Vaughn to sign him on as a B.S. Fisheries major.
- Amanda Rosenberger and Katie Murra met with UAF student Keegan Birchfield to sign him on as a B.S. Fisheries major.
- Trent Sutton, Amanda Rosenberger, and Katie Murra met with prospective student (and Hockey player), Patrick Goebel and his mother.
- Katie Murra submitted a brief summary of the SFOS Rasmuson Fisheries Expansion to Mike Geil of the Alaska Science Teachers Association (ASTA) to potentially print in the next issue of their quarterly newsletter.
- Katie Murra began developing a spreadsheet of contact information for Alaska high school science teachers, counselors, and principals.
- Katie Murra and Carin Bailey completed preliminary version of new undergraduate fisheries brochure that highlights both the B.S. and B.A. degrees in fisheries.
- Katie Murra sent boxes of UAF and SFOS publications and advising materials to the Marine Advisory Program (MAP) agents to aide them when they discuss our programs with students in their communities.
- Katie Murra met with UAF admissions to learn about a new online forum for connecting with prospective students (www.zinch.com).
- Carin Bailey and Katie Murra developed design for new SFOS recruitment folders.
- Katie Murra communicated with Phyllis Shoemaker about recruiting at the Tsunami Ocean Sciences Bowl, and National Ocean Sciences Bowl.

Retention Events

None reported this month.

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

There have been no new developments in the past month with SFOS sites outside of Fairbanks and Juneau in regard to the Rasmuson initiative.

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

Budget:

Rasmuson: \$1,500,000 (through June 30, 2008)

UAF Match: \$500,000 (required amount)

Spent and encumbered (as of 12/31/2007):

Rasmuson: \$732,148.10

Match: \$493,634.42

9. Status of Fund Raising for Match

Governor Palin did not include the \$1,000,000 in matching funds in her FY09 budget in spite of the tremendous effort on the part of the fishing industry to convince her staff of the importance of these funds. The University of Alaska will work directly with the Alaska legislature to include these fisheries funds in their FY09 budget. SFOS has prepared a document (attached) that will be provided to every state legislator in the next month. Justification for the funding will also be placed on the UA web site detailing the importance of the state appropriations for the university <http://www.alaska.edu/state/>.

10. Other

On 12 December, Denis Wiesenburg participated in the University of Alaska President's Cabinet in Anchorage. This meeting brings together UA President Hamilton with his statewide vice presidents and chancellors Steve Jones (UAF), Fran Ulmer (UAA) and John Pugh (UAS). He gave a presentation on the development of the new B.A. degree in fisheries that is being supported by a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. We are looking for additional ways for all three UA campuses to become involved in the undergraduate fisheries degrees.

Denis Wiesenburg met with Ed Rasmuson and Diane Kaplan on 18 December to discuss restructuring some of the Rasmuson Foundation-funded activities associated with the new undergraduate fisheries degree. This conversation was a follow up to the e-mail message of 11 December (below) asking for responses to four questions. The responses to the questions are being prepared and will be discussed with the FEC in early January. The response will likely include a modification in the faculty positions to be paid from the Rasmuson Foundation funds.

To: Dean Denis Wiesenburg, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Fm: Ed Rasmuson, Chair, Fisheries Excellence Committee

Diane Kaplan, President, Rasmuson Foundation

Cc: Members of the Fisheries Excellence Committee (FEC)

Dt: December 11, 2007

Thank you for your continued efforts to reinvigorate the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) undergraduate fisheries program. After reviewing the November 2007 monthly progress report, a number of committee members have shared questions of critical importance and we have summarized the questions below:

1. Who will be the primary faculty member to coordinate the undergraduate effort at the Juneau campus in terms of supporting Juneau-based students with their programs and internships and leading the undergraduate recruitment and retention effort at the Juneau campus?
2. How will the existing UAF Juneau-based faculty participate in the undergraduate program? We understand that there is a balance between teaching commitments and research activities among University Faculty, but how will the existing Juneau faculty be engaged in the undergraduate teaching effort?
3. Can you provide some context for the proposed new faculty positions in regards to the degree curricula approved by the FEC? The November 2007 report indicated that recruitment for several new faculty concluded on December 7. How does each of these new faculty positions support the undergraduate degree curriculum? In particular, the various curricula have few courses related to oceanography. Yet 3 of the 7 new positions appear to be in that area. (We recognize that the oceanography focus was part of your original concept.) Please explain how these particular positions support the undergraduate programs. For example, what is the estimated percentage of the time that these faculty will devote to the undergraduate programs?
4. The FEC suggested revisions to the curricula with regards to adding courses on fisheries policy, environmental law, economics, marketing, etc. Please describe how the new positions support these courses. If they are not supported by the new hires, which are the existing faculty who will teach these courses?

At your earliest convenience, we welcome your response to the above questions and encourage you to share it with the members of the FEC. Thank you for keeping us all informed on the progress of this effort and we look forward to hearing from you.

Prepared by Denis Wiesenburg, Trent Sutton and Bill Smoker

FY09 \$1,000,000 Budget Request for Fisheries

Alaska's fisheries lead the nation in value, productivity and sustainability. During the last year alone, fishermen plying Alaska's waters were paid more than \$1 billion for their catch. While the value of Alaska's fish continues to rise, the number of experts available to manage the health of these resources is dwindling.

An aging workforce and a low number of in-state fisheries graduates is leading to a "near-crisis in staff" at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It is estimated that more than 25 percent of ADF&G's workforce will retire in the next five years. Additionally, out of a total staff of 1,400, only 60 are Alaska Native.¹ ADF&G recruiters have increasingly had to look Outside for fisheries experts to research and manage Alaska's fisheries.



UAF students collect data on salmon near Yakutat, Alaska. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Livermore.



Alaska's fisheries are among the most productive and healthiest in the world. Photo by Scott Smiley.

Currently, more than half of UAF's fisheries graduates go to work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or federal agencies in Alaska. The state of Alaska needs more of these graduates and the University of Alaska is ready to meet this challenge.

A six-year, \$5 million grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to the UAF fisheries program presents an unprecedented opportunity for the state of Alaska to train the fisheries workforce of the future. The University of Alaska needs a \$1 million commitment from the state of Alaska to match the funding from the Rasmuson Foundation. The University of Alaska has requested the needed \$1 million in the budget approved by the UA Board of Regents.

The expansion of the fisheries program at UAF includes the following components:

- Increased recruitment and retention of rural Alaskan and Alaska Native students into fisheries
- New bachelor of arts degree in fisheries and new minor in fisheries
- Revised and updated bachelor of science degree in fisheries
- Experiential, hands-on training for students through internships and field research
- Broad geographic availability for students across Alaska using distance learning

What better place to train Alaska's fisheries experts than right here in Alaska?

For more information, please visit www.sfos.uaf.edu/fisheries.

¹ Source: Laine Welch, "Program seeks new blood for fisheries," Anchorage Daily News, July 28, 2007.

University of Alaska
FY09 Operating Budget Request Summary
Proposed October 23, 2007
(\$000's)

	State Approp.	Receipt Authority	Total
General Fund/General Fund Match	289,235.5		289,235.5
Technical Vocational Education Program Account	3,134.3		3,134.3
Mental Health Trust	200.8		200.8
Receipt Authority		506,219.9	506,219.9
FY08 Operating Budget	292,570.6	506,219.9	798,790.5
FY09 Operating Request Items			
Adjusted Base Requirements			
Compensation Increases	9,002.7	5,977.1	14,979.8
Additional Non-Discretionary Fixed Cost Increases	4,279.9	7,745.8	12,025.7
Subtotal - Adjusted Base Requirements	13,282.6	13,722.9	27,005.5
Priority Program Enhancement and Growth			
Preparing Alaskans for Jobs	5,680.7	2,567.2	8,247.9
<i>Health</i>	2,517.8	757.2	3,275.0
<i>Engineering and Construction Management</i>	2,162.9	810.0	2,972.9
<i>Fisheries</i>	1,000.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
University Research Investment	3,589.7	11,851.9	15,441.6
<i>Climate Impact and Alaska's Natural Resources</i>	966.4	1,080.8	2,047.2
<i>Engineering, Transportation and Energy</i>	1,000.0	3,400.0	4,400.0
<i>Biomedical & Health Research</i>	550.0	7,100.0	7,650.0
<i>Enhancing Competitive Research</i>	1,073.3	271.1	1,344.4
Student Success	2,739.2	509.9	3,249.1
<i>Meeting Student Demand</i>	830.6	388.4	1,219.0
<i>Workforce Start-Ups and Equipment (TVEP)</i>	408.6	-	408.6
<i>Student Success Initiatives</i>	1,500.0	121.5	1,621.5
Cooperative Extension, Public Service and Outreach	1,805.0	1,650.0	3,455.0
Subtotal - Priority Program Enhancement and Growth	13,814.6	16,579.0	30,393.6
Total FY09 Increment Request	27,097.2	30,301.9	57,399.1
Total FY09 Operating Budget Request	319,667.8	536,521.8	856,189.6
% Change FY08 Budget to FY09 Request	9.3%	6.0%	7.2%