

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
March 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).*

1. Curriculum Review, Planning, and Development

The Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Science, Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, and Minor in Fisheries curricula are still under review by the UAF Curricular Affairs Committee. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton had a conference call with the committee on Monday, 24 March 2008, to discuss revising the math requirement in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program. At the recommendation of the committee, calculus will be made an option. Students taking lower level math courses will take two rural development courses and those taking calculus will be eligible to take the two upper level economics classes. The curricula were voted on and that vote will be passed onto the UAF Faculty Senate for their 07 April 2008 meeting.

2. New Course Offerings

No new courses at this time.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

a. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton and SFOS Administrative Manager Greg Simpson met with UAF Facility Services to discuss large-scale renovations to the teaching laboratory space in the west end of the Arctic Health Research Building. Based on this meeting, a recommendation was made by Trent and Greg to have an architecture firm redesign the layout of the teaching space to make better use of the available area.

b. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton has been working with SFOS Administrative Manager Greg Simpson on a long-range space plan for the Fisheries program in the Arctic Health Research Building.

c. Lena Point continues to be on schedule for late summer or fall 2008 occupancy. As of this update, exterior paneling work and interior work, including sheetrock installation, duct work, electrical and plumbing, are all continuing. Fisheries Division faculty Anthony Gharrett and Nicola Hillgruber along with Manager Debi Rathbone have had several meetings with the UAF Facilities Project Manager and his staff to make decisions on carpeting, flooring, interior doors, and lab flooring/bench surfaces, etc. Preliminary meetings on office, classroom, and lab furnishing needs have also been conducted by the UAF Project Manager's staff. Anthony Gharrett and Debi Rathbone attended these

meetings and discussed projected needs and classroom layouts. (see <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/lenapoint/>)

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

a. Searches for the Fisheries faculty positions are nearing completion. For the fisheries positions, offers for the Curator of Fishes and Physiological Ecologist positions have been extended and the search committee for the Human Dimensions of Fisheries Management position met in late March and made a recommendation to the dean. The final candidate for the Shellfish Biologist position will be interviewed in early April and a decision will be forthcoming soon thereafter.

b. For the two Marine Biology searches (funded separately from this initiative), all candidates have interviewed on campus, the search committees have made their recommendations, and offers have been extended and accepted (Marine Mammal) or will be extended shortly (Early Life History). The interview process for the single Rasmuson Foundation-funded oceanography position began the last week of March and will continue until mid-May. A total of eight candidates will be interviewed for this position as well as two additional oceanography positions (funded from a different source).

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

B.S. Fisheries Admissions Report

- Fall 2008: 11 applied, 8 accepted (3 incomplete)

Recruitment Events

- Trent Sutton met with visiting prospective undergraduate fisheries student Chris J. Oliver.
- Madeline Scholl met with visiting prospective graduate student Jessica Cross.
- Katie Murra and Trent Sutton met with visiting prospective undergraduate fisheries student Mark Setzer and his mother Linda.
- Katie Murra worked with post-doc Necla Demir and Dr. Murat Balaban of the Fishery Industrial Technology Center in Kodiak to put together an SFOS booth at the annual Kodiak ComFish tradeshow.
- Katie Murra sent UAF and SFOS materials to Terry Reeve (Bethel MAP agent) to display at the Bethel Job & Career Fair.
- Katie Murra worked with UAF admissions and talked with several prospective students during the annual UAF InsideOut Day.
- Katie Murra displayed SFOS materials at the annual UAF Major Mania event University Events
- Katie Murra and Denis Wiesenburg attended a welcome dinner for Anchorage/MatSu/Kenai Peninsula high school counselors who were invited for a 2-day visit to UAF through UAF admissions.
- Amanda Rosenberger introduced the UAF undergraduate fisheries programs, Katrin Iken discussed links between fisheries and marine biology, and Katie Murra demonstrated

SFOS VCON capabilities during the UAF admissions Anchorage/MatSu/Kenai Peninsula high school counselor visit.

- Katie Murra led two SFOS tours for interested Anchorage/MatSu/Kenai Peninsula high school counselors. SFOS graduate students Jen Bell, Scott Ayers, Tania Spurkland, and SFOS staff member Heloise Chenelot demonstrated their research.
- Katie Murra helped judge science papers at the annual Alaska State High School Science Symposium (ASHSSS), and worked with the UAF student subunit of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to award the best aquatic paper to Drew Jackson from West Valley High School.

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

a. There have been no new developments by the FITC faculty in terms of development of undergraduate Seafood Technology courses. However, Director Murat Balaban will be on the UAF campus in early April and will meet with Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton to discuss developing a minor or concentration in Seafood Science and Technology.

b. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton has had discussions with UAF Marine Advisory Program agent Heidi Herter (Nome) regarding the development of introductory level fisheries and marine biology courses to be taught as part of the B.S. in Fisheries Science and B.A. in Fisheries degree programs.

c. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton has had discussions with UAF Kuskokwim campus biology faculty member Hector Douglas regarding the development of an introductory level course in marine biology that would be taught via distance across several campuses. There is potential that Hector and Heidi could jointly teach this course, which would also be part of the B.S. and B.A. programs.

7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs

The completed articulation agreement between the UAF SFOS and UAS-Ketchikan has been reviewed by Fisheries Division faculty. The articulation agreement is currently being reviewed by UAS-Ketchikan faculty and we are awaiting their comments.

8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds

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

Spent and encumbered:

Rasmuson: \$964,303.96
Match: \$487,456.87

9. Status of Fund Raising for Match

The Senate Finance Committee of the Alaska Legislature added the \$1.0 million for UAF Fisheries back into the state operating budget in mid-March and the full Senate approved the budget on March 24. The messages of support sent by members of the fishing industry around the state to Senators Stedman, Hoffman, Elton and others were instrumental in having these funds for our undergraduate fisheries expansion added to the UA budget. The letters from Kris Norosz and Morgen Crow were important in this success.

While the funding must survive the conference with the House, we would not be in this position without the tremendous support we have received from those on the FEC and others in this effort. We have some confidence that the funding will survive conference as the total UA budget is at the same level the Governor requested. Senator Stedman wrote to Denis Wiesenburg on March 18, "I'll be excited to see the program implemented this fall."

Prepared by Denis Wiesenburg, Trent Sutton and Bill Smoker