

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant  
Monthly Report  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences  
April 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 Arts in Fisheries and Minor in Fisheries curricula were approved by the Faculty Senate on April 7. Both curricula are on the agenda for approval for the June 18-19, 2008 Board of Regents meeting in Anchorage. Students have already shown interest in both programs even though they are not official degree programs yet.

**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, SFOS Administrative Manager Greg Simpson, and Associate Dean Mike Castellini met with UAF Facility Services staff and faculty/administrators from the Provost's Office, the Institute of Arctic Biology, and the Museum of the North to discuss backfilling soon-to-be vacated space in the Arctic Health Research Building. No decisions have been made yet on how the available space (approximately 3,000 square feet) will be allocated.

b. Laboratory space in the Arctic Health Research Building has been identified for the undergraduate computer lab which will be made available for the start of the 2008 academic year.

c. The Lena Point Fisheries Building in Juneau continues to be on schedule for fall 2008 occupancy – projected completion September 2008. Exterior: The majority of the paneling system has been installed. Currently, Kenco, is continuing installation of the outside window trim. Kiewit anticipates starting exterior civil activities at the end of this month, such as the installation of the trench drain to the outbuilding. Level 3: Kiewit is utilizing a "top down" approach to get the lab and office sides ready for casework, (mid-may arrival date). A major effort was done by all to get the level 3 lab and office side ready for sheetrock, which began during the last week in March. The majority of sheetrock on level three has been installed, and taping operations have started on the lab side. Level 2: Sheet rock installation is progressing. Level 1: Minor activity only has been occurring on this floor as the work has focused on the upper levels of the building.

Kiewit began prepping the seawater lab CMU walls for epoxy paint which is to be applied this month. (<http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/lenapoint/>)

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

a. Searches for the Fisheries faculty positions are nearing completion. For the four fisheries positions, our offer for the Curator of Fishes position has been extended and was accepted on April 11. Offers have been made to for Physiological Ecologist and Human Dimensions of Fisheries Management. The final candidate for the Shellfish Biologist position was interviewed in early April and an offer has been made to the top candidate. Negotiations are underway. The Human Dimensions candidate will make a return visit to Fairbanks the first week in May and make a decision on our offer then.

b. For the two Marine Biology searches (funded separately from this initiative), all candidates have interviewed on campus, the search committee has made their recommendations and offers have been extended. The Marine Mammal position was filled by Dr. Lara Dehn. An offer was made for the Early Life History position. The interview process for the oceanography position will continue through mid-May. A total of eight candidates will be interviewed for this position and two additional oceanography positions (funded from a different source).

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

Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention (March 27-April 25)

B.S. Fisheries Admissions Report

- Fall 2008: 14 applied, 9 admitted, 3 admitted pre-major, 2 incomplete
  - Currently, 8 students have indicated they will enroll this fall.

Recruitment Events

- Katie Murra and Trent Sutton met with visiting prospective undergraduate fisheries student Cassandra Walter and her mother Tamara.
- Katie Murra and Amanda Rosenberger met with visiting prospective undergraduate fisheries student Garrett McLean.
- Katie Murra attended the North Pole High School Career Day.
- Katie Murra and AFS student subunit members Christine Gleason and Melissa Smith attended the Tanana Middle School Career Fair and talked to middle school students about careers in fisheries and demonstrated fish aging techniques.
- Katie Murra displayed SFOS materials at the annual UAF Day at “Taste of North Pole”.
- AFS student subunit members Megan Perry and Jess Johnson presented information on careers in fisheries and UAF fisheries degree programs to high school students attending the annual AK state FFA meeting held on the UAF campus.
- Dr. Brenda Konar, Carrie Parris, and Nathan Stewart demonstrated Marine Biology research techniques to two Lathrop High School Biology classes during an SFOS tour.
- Katie Murra, Denis Wiesenburg, Carin Bailey, Dean Stockwell, Gretchen Hundertmark, Lori Nunemann, and Tara Borland traveled to Seward April 25-27 for the national

competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl to recruit students from around the country to SFOS programs.

- West Valley High School student Shamariah Hale job-shadowed Brenda Konar, Chris Stark, and Trent Sutton and sat in on part of an Ichthyology lab section to learn more about careers in fisheries.
- Shamariah Hale (West Valley High School sophomore) and Trent Sutton were awarded a 2008 AFS Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology scholarship. They will work on the Chatanika River this summer.

#### Retention Events

- Amanda Rosenberger organized and held the first annual SFOS Undergraduate Research Symposium. Jess Johnson, Christy Gleason, and Lisa Kangas gave oral presentations of their research and field experiences in fisheries.
- Trent Sutton, Amanda Rosenberger, and Katie Murra held an SFOS undergraduate fisheries course registration and advising day to ensure our fisheries students were on track and enrolled in courses for the Fall 2008 semester.
- Undergraduate Fisheries retention scholarship winners were announced.
  - Outstanding Freshman: Daniel Vaughn
  - Outstanding Sophomore: Caleb Chase
  - Outstanding Junior: Keegan Birchfield
  - Outstanding Senior: John Richar
  - Outstanding Service: Jessica Johnson

#### University Events

- Katie Murra met with UAF admissions and other UAF recruitment coordinators to discuss progress and coordinate upcoming recruiting and outreach events.

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

Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton met briefly with FITC Director Murat Balaban in early April and discussed the Seafood Science and Technology. Trent will go to Kodiak in May or June to meet with the FITC faculty and assist with the development of an undergraduate concentration and/or minor in Seafood Science and Technology.

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

The articulation agreement has been reviewed by UAS-Ketchikan faculty and a conference call to discuss this articulation will took place on 29 April 2008.

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

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

**Spent and encumbered (April 30, 2008)**

Rasmuson: \$1,057,629  
Match: \$489,039

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

The Alaska Legislature included the \$1,000,000 for “fisheries” in the University of Alaska FY09 budget that passed on April 12. The support we received from the United Fisherman of Alaska (UFA), other fisheries organizations, and individuals throughout the fishing community was truly heartwarming. The UA budget is awaiting signature by the Governor who has until May 24 to sign the state operating budget, HB 310.

Thank you notes were sent to individuals who contacted the legislature to support this funding, including FEC members Kris Norosz and Morgen Crow. A letter was sent to each member representative of the United Fishermen of Alaska thanking them for the resolution they passed and delivered to the legislature. The strong support from the fishing industry statewide for the funding was mentioned in Laine Welch’s column in the *Anchorage Daily News* on April 6, 2008.

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