

Progress Report Spring '07

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
April 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, brief periodic reports will be prepared. This report is intended to be informal and informative. Questions regarding activities in this first report should be directed to Dr. William Smoker (e-mail: bill.smoker@uaf.edu).

1. Curriculum Review, Planning, and Development

- a. Have completed a review of 35 undergraduate freshwater fisheries and 15 undergraduate marine fisheries/biology Bachelor of Science degree programs in North America. Data on course offerings and credit requirements (total required for degree and by course offering category) have been compiled for comparison to the UAF fisheries Bachelor of Science degree. This information is being used to assess and guide the revision of the UAF fisheries program.
- b. Learning objectives (i.e., educational objectives) for the Bachelor of Science in fisheries have been developed and circulated to the faculty. Comments have been received and incorporated into the draft. Note that this is a working document and will be used for assessment purposes to determine if we are meeting our educational objectives in delivering this degree program.
- c. A draft of the new fisheries Bachelor of Science degree curriculum has been developed and will be circulated to the faculty in early April 2007.
- d. A curriculum review is currently underway for the fisheries Bachelor of Arts degree program and fisheries minor. Learning objectives and curricula will also be developed for the major and minor, and this process should be completed and circulated and distributed to the faculty by the end of May 2007.

2. New Course Offerings

- a. Two new courses have been developed and will be offered for the new curricula:
 1. Fisheries Techniques I (Drs. Trent Sutton and Amanda Rosenberger; to be offered fall 2007)
 2. Regional Oceanography (Dr. John Kelly; to be offered fall 2007)
- b. In addition, there will be a second fisheries techniques course (Fisheries Techniques II; to be offered spring 2008) developed and offered by Dr. Trent Sutton to make the techniques course a one-year sequence consisting of field and laboratory activities. Fish Ecology will also be offered during

the spring 2008 semester by Dr. Amanda Rosenberger as a stacked undergraduate/graduate level course. A Freshwater Food Webs course is also slated for fall 2008 and will be taught by Dr. Mark Wipfli with assistance from Drs. Amanda Rosenberger and Trent Sutton. Additional course will be offered as the program develops and the new faculty hires arrive on campus.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

UAF has allocated \$500,000 to modify space in the O'Neill Resources Building to create a 1,300 sq. ft. classroom for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. An architect has been hired by the university and has designed the new facility with significant input from SFOS faculty and administrators. The design is 95% complete and bids should be solicited in early May.

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

a. Fisheries Biology Positions (4 positions)

1. Dr. Amanda Rosenberger has been hired as a tenure-track, assistant professor of fisheries biology and arrived on the Fairbanks campus in November 2006.
2. Dr. Trent Sutton has been hired as a tenure-track, associate professor of fisheries biology and coordinator of the undergraduate fisheries program and will arrive on the Fairbanks campus in June 2007.
3. For the other two tenure-track, faculty hires, one position will go to Fairbanks and the other will go to Juneau. Faculty needs for each campus have been discussed and the primary areas identified for new faculty include human dimensions and/or policy (Fairbanks) and marine benthic ecology (Juneau). Position descriptions are currently being drafted and the announcement will be distributed in September 2007 at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society to be held in San Francisco, California.

b. Ocean Observing Positions (3 positions)

A draft announcement has been developed for three tenure-track, assistant or associate professors in oceanography. These hires will be in the major oceanographic disciplines (i.e., biological, chemical, geological, and physical oceanography) which would augment existing expertise at IMS. Possible areas of focus include but are not limited to shelf-slope dynamics, air-sea or air-sea-ice interaction, sediment dynamics, microbial ecology and organic and/or tracer chemistry.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

SFOS Recruiting and Retention Coordinator Katie Murra is developing a detailed plan for student "Enrollment Management." She has been meeting regularly with the ANSEP students at UAF.

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

Dean Wiesenburg and Associate Dean Castellini have visited Kodiak three times during the last two months to discuss academic programs with the FITC faculty. FITC faculty are very interested in the undergraduate fisheries program and are working on the development of syllabi for several courses to be considered for the program, e.g. Fish Utilization.
- 7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs**

Dean Wiesenburg participated in UA President's Cabinet in Anchorage on March 28 to present the plans for the expansion of the undergraduate fisheries program. He, Chancellor Jones, and UAS Chancellor John Pugh discussed methods of collaboration.
- 8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds**
 - a. As noted above, UAF has allocated \$500,000 to SFOS for O'Neill Resources Building renovations to include the new SFOS classroom. The university will complete the Rasmuson Foundation matching form as soon as the contract for the renovations has been awarded.
 - b. The budget is being expended as per the proposal.
- 9. Status of Fund Raising for Match**

It seems unlikely that the Legislature will allocate the \$1,000,000 in matching funds this session. SFOS has received permission and UAF funding to hire a Development Officer to assist the Dean in fundraising activities for this and other initiatives.

*Prepared by Trent Sutton, Bill Smoker and Denis Wiesenburg
April 24, 2007*