

Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant Number 2663
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
June 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 Arts in Fisheries was unanimously approved by the University of Alaska Board of Regents at the June 2008 meeting. The prospectus for this degree program has been prepared by Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton and it has been submitted to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The NCCU is an accreditation organization that must approve this curriculum document prior to its being made available to students.

2. New Course Offerings

No new courses to report.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

a. UAF Facility Services continues with renovations of the laboratory space in the Arctic Health Research Building in Fairbanks that will serve as the undergraduate teaching laboratories. We have been reassured that these rooms will be completed in time for use prior to the start of the fall 2008 semester.

b. The Lena Point fisheries facility in Juneau continues to be on schedule for early fall 2008 occupancy. We plan to move students and classes to the facility beginning in October 2008. Distance delivery equipment for two classrooms has been purchased and is in Juneau for installation in late summer and fall. Classroom furniture is being chosen and purchased. Progress on construction of the building has been substantial: Exterior paneling and roofing are nearly complete, glazing including the entrance window wall is nearly complete, and entrance doors, frames and glazing are being installed. Outbuildings are in place and being finished, sidewalks, utility trenches for exterior fish tanks have been constructed, and paving has begun. Interior laboratory casework is being installed, painting is nearly complete, and communications wires have been pulled and terminated. Elevator installation is underway. The seawater labs have been sealed with epoxy and plumbing is being installed. Project photos available at, <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/lenapoint/>.

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

a. We earlier reported successful recruitments of two new faculty members who will join SFOS Fisheries for the '09 Academic year (Shellfish biologist Ginny Eckert, Human Dimension Anthropologist Courtney Carothers.) The search for a Physiological Ecologist in Fairbanks was closed as the remainder of the candidates available in the pool was considered by the search committee to not be qualified. The position announcement will be reposted in fall 2008. In the interim, Dr. Andrew Seitz will be hired as a part time adjunct faculty member to teach the courses that would have been covered by this position. Andy has taught undergraduate courses in the UAF SFOS Fisheries program for the past year and a half.

b. Dr. Peter Winsor has been hired as a new Oceanography faculty member in Fairbanks and will start in August 2008.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention (May 28-June 26)

B.S. Fisheries Admissions Report

- Fall 2008: 18 applied, 17 total admitted (5 admitted pre-major, 2 postponed after admit, 2 withdrawn after admit), 1 incomplete
 - Currently, 11 have enrolled

Recruitment Events

- Bill Smoker displayed SFOS booth and handed out SFOS materials at the World Ocean Day event held by NOAA at TSMRI in Juneau on June 14.
- Katie Murra met with prospective undergraduate student Patty Davis from Westminster, CO on June 17.
- Katie Murra met with prospective undergraduate student Jesse Dunshie from Fairbanks, AK on June 25.
- Katie Murra met with prospective graduate student Katlin Miller from Ft. Collins, CO on June 25.
- Katie Murra sent letters to the 2008 American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology recipients.
- Katie Murra worked with SFOS PIO Carin Bailey to update SFOS website content.
- Katie Murra contacted Kay Larson Blair with the USFWS partners program to send SFOS materials to their summer interns.
- Katie Murra contacted Michele Yatchmeneff with the ANSEP biological sciences summer bridging program to arrange a meeting with their summer bridge students.
- Katie Murra and Denis Wiesenburg worked to organize a “Fisheries Recruiting Roundtable” discussion to be held July 15 in Anchorage.
- Shamariah Hale, a West Valley High School (Fairbanks) sophomore, was chosen to participate in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. Hale is one of 26 students across the nation chosen by the American Fisheries Society. She will spend two months working with UAF Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton.

Retention Events

- Katie Murra worked with incoming fisheries students through phone and office meetings to get them registered for Fall 2008 courses.

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

The FITC faculty are developing an undergraduate concentration and/or minor in Seafood Science and Technology. A series of teleconferences with Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton will take place in July 2008 to discuss the final form of this program.

7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs

The articulation agreement between the Fisheries program in UAF SFOS and UAS-Ketchikan is still pending. Additional information from both universities is being collected to be used in developing the final agreement. The final component to be resolved is whether 100- and 200-level courses at UAS-K can count toward 300- and 400-level courses at UAF. Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator Trent Sutton and Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Katie Murra will be meeting with UA Statewide Course Transfer Coordinator Mike Ernest in early July 2008 to discuss that part of the articulation.

8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds

Rasmuson:	\$1,500,000	(Year 1)
UAF Match:	\$500,000	(Year 1)

Spent and encumbered (as of 6/30):

Rasmuson:	\$1,232,951.61	(Year 1)
Match:	\$500,000	(Year 1)

Note: Year 1 and Year 2 funds will be reported together in the July 2008 report.

9. Status of Fund Raising for Match

The matching funds for year 2 have been appropriated by the Alaska legislature and have been programmed in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences budget for the FY09 fiscal year. Other sources of funds for the program are being sought under the leadership of SFOS Development Officer Teresa Thompson.

10. Program Visibility

News of approval of the B.A. in Fisheries by the Board of Regents was carried nationwide by the Associated Press.

Prepared by Denis Wiesenburg, Trent Sutton, and Bill Smoker