

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

***Preface:** To keep University of Alaska faculty and administrators, members of the Fisheries Excellence Committee (FEC) 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

- a. A draft of the new fisheries Bachelor of Science degree curriculum has been completed and approved by an ad hoc committee of Fisheries Division faculty. The draft curriculum will be circulated to the remainder of the Fisheries faculty for approval in late July 2007.
- b. A curriculum review is currently underway for the fisheries Bachelor of Arts degree program and fisheries minor. The draft curriculum will be completed and distributed to the Fisheries Division faculty by the end of August 2007. Trent Sutton will be making trips to both Anchorage (UAA) and Kodiak (UAF SFOS FITC) in late July and early August to meet with faculty interested in developing courses for this curriculum.
- c. Learning outcomes for both the Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries will be completed during summer/fall 2007.

2. New Course Offerings

- a. New sophomore and junior courses on Fisheries Utilization and Fish Products are under development by SFOS fisheries food science faculty at FITC.
- b. Trent Sutton will be traveling to Anchorage at the end of July to meet with to Steve Grabacki and Gunnar Knapp at UAA about potential new course offerings. Steve is interested in teaching a Seafood Logistics course.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

1. Construction activities continue as planned on the new classroom in the O'Neill Building (Fairbanks) and the Lena Point facility (Juneau). To date, both the classroom and facility completion dates are on schedule (September 2007 and Fall 2008, respectively).
2. Trent Sutton has met and initiated discussions with physical facilities personnel on the renovations and occupancy of laboratory instructional space in the Arctic Health Research Building. Classes could be taught in these rooms as early as the fall 2007 semester.

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

Position descriptions have been developed for the two Fisheries positions, with one going to Fairbanks (Human Dimensions) and the other slated for Juneau (Shellfish Biologist). In addition, position descriptions have also been developed for the three Ocean Observing positions. The announcements will be made public by the end of

August 2007, interviews will take place in late 2007 and early 2008, and offers will be extended to successful candidates by the end of February 2008. Trent Sutton will chair the Fisheries searches and Mark Johnson will chair the Ocean Observing searches.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

- a. B.S. Fisheries Admissions Report
 - a. 13 students have applied, 7 students have been admitted, and 4 new students have currently enrolled for the fall 2007 semester; it is anticipated that at least 3 more students will enroll prior to the start of the school year.
 - b. One ANSEP student (Joel Hunt) transferred during the spring semester from Computer Science to Fisheries at UAF.
- b. Publications
 1. Final revisions of the UAF/SFOS Viewbook have been completed and submitted to UAF/Scott McCrea.
 2. The SFOS graduate studies brochure has been updated and sent to printers.
- c. Recruitment Events – None this month
- d. Retention Events – None this month
- e. Outreach Events – Katie Murra participated in the following events:
 1. Alaska Oceans Festival, Anchorage (02 June)
- f. Trent Sutton and Katie Murra participated in a conference call on 21 June 2007 to discuss planning activities and meeting goals for the upcoming workshop in fall 2007 that will focus on defining better pathways to careers in the fields of fisheries and wildlife. Other participants in this conference call included Paula Cullenberg and Heidi Herter (UAF MAP), Kate Sullivan (UAS Ketchikan), Debbie Hart (ADFG), and Kyle Belleque (BBDEC).
- g. Nicola Hillgruber, supported by Eva Patton (Association of Village Council Presidents), taught a two-week fisheries curriculum at the summer science camp on Nunivak Island in early June 2007. The camp was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the USDA, with support from the Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska Corporation and Nunivak Island Cultural Education and Adventures. The goal of this program is to encourage high school students from the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta to consider a career in science and technology. Two of the 2006 summer science camp students are currently participating in the Kuskokwim Campus (Bethel) of UAF CRCDC (College of Rural and Community Development) Biological Sciences Summer Bridging Program and will enroll in the fall 2007 as fisheries undergraduate students at SFOS as part of the ANSEP program.

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

- a. Trent Sutton met with UAF SFOS faculty in Juneau in early June 2007 to discuss their involvement in course offerings and curriculum development. Discussions have been ongoing via email and phone, and Trent will be making another trip to meet with the Juneau faculty and staff in late September 2007.
- b. Trent Sutton will be traveling to Kodiak in early August 2007 to meet with FITC faculty and to tour their facilities. This meeting will focus on structuring how the FITC program can contribute to the fisheries curricula and teaching courses (fish Utilization and Fish Products), particular the Bachelor of Arts.

7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs

Trent Sutton has had an initial discussion with Kate Sullivan (UAS Ketchikan) regarding development of an articulation agreement with UAF SFOS. He will be traveling to Ketchikan in late September for an additional discussion with Kate on this topic.

8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds

Expenditures of the Rasmuson grant and associated match funds, by category, are provided below. The number in parentheses indicates the total amount allocated for this category for project for the first 18 months. A total of \$2 million has been allocated for the first 18 months, with \$1.5 million from the Rasmuson Grant and \$500,000 match provided by UAF.

- a. Salaries - \$99,319.53 (\$471,610)
- b. Fringe benefits - \$47,114.96 (\$247,382)
- c. Travel - \$30,353.03 (\$80,000)
- d. Contractual services - \$3,680.75 (\$43,500)
- e. Commodities - \$22,111.38 (\$69,446)
- f. Equipment - \$6,316.55 (\$350,000)
- g. Student aid - \$0 (\$35,562)
- h. Other - \$0 (\$202,500)
- i. Building modifications - \$397,659.19 (\$500,000)
- j. Total Expenditures- \$606,737.39 (\$2,000,000)

9. Status of Fund Raising for Match

- a. On June 18, SFOS began the process of hiring a Development Officer to assist in raising the matching funds. The job notices states that the University of Alaska Fairbanks is seeking an experienced development professional to join its dynamic and aggressive fundraising organization. This individual will be responsible for developing, managing and coordinating overall fundraising strategies for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, including the cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of individuals, corporations, and foundations.
- b. For the 2007 Alaska Legislature, UAF submitted a request for funds to match the Rasmuson Foundation grant. The request was not funded. For the 2008 legislature, the request is being expanded to include funds to allow UAA and UAS to collaborate more fully in the fisheries expansion. A memo drafted by UAF Chancellor Steve Jones and signed the chancellors of UAF, UAA and UAS was sent to President Hamilton on June 26 proposing a "Fisheries Initiative Joint Budget Request" for consideration by the 2008 Alaska Legislature.

Prepared by Trent Sutton, Denis Wiesenburg, and Katie Murra