

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
July 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 Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accrediting organization is currently reviewing the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program. Once that review has been completed during fall 2008, revisions to the curriculum will be made and it will be available for students at the start of the spring 2009 semester. Both the revised Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Science and Minor in Fisheries degree programs will be available for students at the start of the fall 2008 academic year.

2. New Course Offerings

No new courses to report.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

a. UAF Facility Services completed renovations of the laboratory space in the Arctic Health Research Building in Fairbanks on 24 July 2008. These laboratories are ready for the fall semester as planned and will serve as the undergraduate teaching laboratories.

b. The UAF Lena Point Fisheries Facility continues to be on schedule for fall 2008 occupancy. 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 work is nearly complete including construction and paving of parking lots. In the building interior, laboratory casework is largely installed, painting is nearly complete, and communication wires have been pulled and terminated. The elevator is installed. The seawater labs plumbing is installed. Project photos are available on the web at <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/lenapoint/>

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

Two of the new Rasmuson Foundation-funded faculty hires (Courtney Carothers, Peter Winsor) will be arriving on the Fairbanks campus starting in mid-August 2008. The other new Rasmuson hire (Ginny Eckert) is already in place in Juneau. A position announcement will be posted in August 2008 for the Physiological Ecologist position to be located in Fairbanks.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

Fisheries Admissions Report

- Fall 2008: 20 applied, 18 total admitted (5 admitted pre-major, 3 postponed after admit, 2 withdrawn after admit), 2 incomplete. At this point in July 2007, only 14 students had applied to our undergraduate fisheries degree program; thus the 20 new applications represent a significant increase over last year.
 - Currently, 11 new students have enrolled for the fall 2008 semester.

Recruitment Events

- Katie Murra attended the RAHI graduation ceremony on the UAF campus.
- Katie Murra met with the ANSEP summer bridge biology students, Michele Yatchmeneff, and Mike Reardon on July 15 to talk with them about our fisheries programs.
- Denis Wiesenburg, Katie Murra, Jessica Bennett (UAF admissions), Lael Oldmixon (UAF admissions), Debbie Hart (ADF&G), Reid Brewer (MAP), Torie Baker (MAP), Sunny Rice (MAP), Steve Davis (NOAA), Peggy Byers (UAA admissions), Joe Nelson (UAS admissions), Mike Reardon (ANSEP), Michele Yatchmeneff (ANSEP), and Matt Calhoun (ANSEP) met on July 15 to discuss recruiting ideas for fisheries.
- Katie Murra met with the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA) Marine Biology group to talk with them about our fisheries programs.
- Katie Murra worked with UAF Marketing and Relations to organize SFOS participation in the upcoming Tanana Valley and Palmer State Fairs.

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

The FITC faculty are still developing an undergraduate concentration and/or minor in Seafood Science and Technology and intend to participate in the delivery of courses in support of the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree programs.

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 which will be used to develop the final agreement.

8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds

Rasmuson Foundation Funds Awarded:	\$2,500,000	(Years 1 and 2)
UAF Matching Funds Budgeted:	\$1,500,000	(Years 1 and 2)

Spent and encumbered:

Rasmuson Foundation Funds Expended:	\$1,268,986.30
Rasmuson Foundation Funds Encumbered:	\$ 101,749.56

UAF Matching Funds Expended: \$504,225.67
UAF Matching Funds Encumbered: \$0

9. Program Recognition

News articles on the new B.A. in fisheries were reported in the Tundra Drums (Bethel) on July 11 (<http://thetundradrums.com/news/show/2729>) and in the Cordova Times on July 17 (<http://www.thecordovetimes.com/news/show/2766>). We especially liked the title of the Cordova article “Bachelor’s degree in fisheries is bait for Bush students.”

SFOS Public Information Officer Carin Stephens also developed a post card announcing the new degree program. The 6.5 inch by 8.5 inch post cards will be mailed to over 1000 recipients on the SFOS mailing list, including most of the major fishing companies in Alaska. A copy of the card is attached at the end of this report.

Prepared by Denis Wiesenburg and Trent Sutton

ex•pe•ri•en•tial learn•ing

noun, learning by doing.



News Postcard, Summer 2008

What's new at the UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences?

- New Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries and Fisheries Minor
- Revised & updated Bachelor of Science in Fisheries

Our revitalized undergraduate fisheries program emphasizes:

- Experiential learning, including internships & research
- New, improved facilities for distance learning
- A focus on recruiting rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives
- And more....



Learn more at www.sfos.uaf.edu.

School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks

The expansion of the UAF fisheries program is generously supported by the Rasmuson Foundation.

On the front: UAF fisheries student Sean Rooney holds a sand lance while doing field work near Homer, Alaska. Sand lances are extremely important forage food species for Alaska's larger fish like salmon, cod and halibut. Photo by Sean Rooney.

