

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
August 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, 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.** Drafts of the Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, and associated minors will be completed and available for distribution to the Rasmuson Fisheries Excellence Committee (FEC) during the last week of August.
- b.** Trent Sutton met with Mark Herrman (Dean, UAF School of Management) on 30 July 2007 to discuss the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries. The primary focus of the meeting was the Bachelor of Arts curriculum and on the potential foci of the associated minor tracks. Minors were identified in general business, management and organizations, and marketing. Mark identified two faculty members, in addition to himself, in the School of Management (Drs. Joshua Greenberg and Branka Valcic) who also had interests in fisheries economics and could contribute to the development of the Bachelor of Arts curriculum and associated minors.
- c.** Trent Sutton traveled to Kodiak (August 04-07) to meet with faculty and staff at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) to discuss their involvement in the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries program, including potential course offerings. During this meeting, a potential minor in Fisheries Utilization was identified that could be taught by FITC faculty (Scott Smiley, Alexandra de Oliveira, Brian Himelbloom, Quentin Fong, and Charles Crapo. This minor would include courses in seafood microbiology/quality safety, seafood processing and preservation (byproducts), fisheries marketing and economics, statistical and quality control, seafood nutrition, and bioengineering or introduction to fish processing. In addition, this program could have ties to the UAF Tanana Valley Campus Culinary Arts program. Additional discussions and tours centered around FITC facilities, local processing plants, and opportunities for undergraduate internships, practicums, and/or independent study research.
- d.** Trent Sutton met with Gerald McBeath, Jonathan Rosenberg, and James Gladden from the UAF Department of Political Science to discuss potential minor options to be included in the Bachelor of Arts program. Identified minors included general political science and environmental politics.
- e.** Trent Sutton discussed with Dr. James Murphy (University of Alaska Anchorage) via phone (August 17) his view on the Bachelor of Arts program. This discussion was very useful and was based on the e-mail that Jim sent the FEC on August 07.

2. New Course Offerings

Amanda Rosenberger will teach an undergraduate/graduate course on Fish Ecology during the spring 2008 semester. This course will be a required component of the

Bachelor of Science in Fisheries curriculum and an elective option in the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries curriculum.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

- a.** Construction activities in the new classroom in the O'Neill Building (Fairbanks) continue to remain largely on schedule, with a tentative occupancy date of mid-September. The primary construction has been completed and the carpet has been installed. The remainder of the construction/installations will be completed by September 07, classroom furniture will arrive in mid-September, and the teleconferencing equipment will arrive and be installed in mid-October.
- b.** Construction of the new facility in Juneau at Lena Pt continues to be on schedule for late summer 2008 occupation. Structural steel is in place, concrete floors are in place, utilities are being installed. The university and the architects worked in August to ensure that the design of classroom systems will be flexible and can accommodate changing technology.



Lena Point construction, Aug 22, 2007, by Karl Petterson

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

Provost's Request to Fill Position forms have been completed for the two Fisheries positions and three Ocean Observing positions. Discussions continue on the composition of the search committees and format of the upcoming interviews.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

- a.** B.S. Fisheries Admission Report - 15 students have applied, 9 students have been admitted, and 8 students are currently enrolled (4+ more students are expected to enroll once they have been admitted into the program)
- b.** Publications – the updated SFOS graduate studies brochure has been received

- c. Outreach Events - UAF-SFOS/AK Sea Grant booth at Tanana Valley State Fair (August 10)
 - d. A policy has been developed and approved by Dean Denis Wiesenburg and Vice Chancellor of Student Enrollment and Services Tim Barnett, to provide an out-of-state tuition waiver to freshmen and transfer baccalaureate students from outside of Alaska. This initiative should help to increase the number of fisheries undergraduates in the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts programs.
- 6. Participation of FITC/Kodiak and Other SFOS Sites and Programs**
Trent Sutton traveled to Kodiak (August 04-07) to meet with faculty and staff at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC). Details on this trip were provided in 1c above.
- 7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs**
Trent Sutton talked with Barbara Morgan, University of Alaska Southeast, about developing an articulation agreement for the Fisheries Technology certificate and associate's degree programs.
- 8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds**
Budget:
Rasmuson: \$1,500,000
UAF Match: \$500,000

Spent and encumbered (as of 8/21):
Rasmuson: \$510,459.29
Match: \$426,918.97
- 9. Status of Fundraising for Match**
Denis Wiesenburg spoke with Rasmuson Foundation President Diane Kaplan on August 14 to discuss organizations that might provide matching funds. We are trying to set up a meeting with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation during the time of the American Fisheries Society meeting in San Francisco the first week of September. The search for the SFOS Development Officer is still in progress and the job ad will run for one additional month in the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

Prepared by Trent Sutton, Denis Wiesenburg, and Katie Murra