

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant Year 1 Progress Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences**

A. Grant Contingencies Addressed

- 1) The University of Alaska Fairbanks is carrying over (from FY08 to FY09) less than 25% of the awarded grant funds.
- 2)
 - a) The Fisheries Excellence Committee serves as a valuable resource for UAF SFOS. The committee was convened in June 2007, September 2007, October 2007 (via teleconference) and March 2008. The next meeting is planned for September 2008.
 - b) In June 2008, the UA Board of Regents approved the new B.A. in fisheries and fisheries minor.
 - c) UAF certifies that students may earn the first two years towards the baccalaureate degree at any UA campus and complete the four-year degree in either Fairbanks or Juneau.
 - d) UAF met the 500,000 1:1 challenge grant and expended all of the funds, partially through the completion of the new Vera Alexander Learning Center. Documentation showing that the challenge was met and the funds expended is attached.
 - e) UAF SFOS has made significant progress towards the expansion and reinvigoration of the UAF undergraduate fisheries program. The First Year Action Plan is attached. Progress details from January 2007 to June 2008 are included below.

B. Curriculum Development and Academic Collaborations

The Bachelor of Science in fisheries was revised from 130 to 126 degree credits and consists of a university core, a fisheries core, and fisheries/science and free electives. The program includes several new courses which will increase experiential learning opportunities and broaden the knowledge base of students. Several existing courses have also been revised. The B.S. will train students for a traditional career or graduate school in fisheries biology and management.

A Bachelor of Arts in fisheries was developed and consists of 126 degree credits. This program was submitted to the UAF Curricular Affairs Committee (October 2007), passed by the UAF Faculty Senate (April 2008) and approved by the UA Board of Regents (June 2008). The program must be approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (fall 2008) before it is available to students. The degree consists of a university core, a fisheries core, minor and free electives. The B.A. will train students for a career or graduate school in fisheries business, policy, anthropology or rural community development.

A minor in fisheries was developed, and consists of a minor core, a fisheries core and a concentration. It was submitted to the UAF Curricular Affairs Committee, passed by the UAF Faculty Senate and approved by the UA Board of Regents. The minor must be approved by the NWCCU (fall 2008) before it is available to students.

Additional curricular developments include: (1) discussions with Fishery Industrial Technology Center faculty in Kodiak about the development of a minor or concentration in food science and nutrition; (2) discussions with Marine Advisory Program agent Heidi Herter (Nome) and UAF Kuskokwim campus biology faculty member Hector Douglas (Bethel) on developing introductory fisheries and marine biology courses to support the 2+2 initiative; and (3) the development and discussion of an articulation agreement between the UAS-Ketchikan Fisheries Technology certificate/associate degree programs and the UAF undergraduate fisheries curricula.

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C. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

Seven tenure-track faculty positions were allocated as part of this grant. In fall 2006, Trent Sutton was hired as the Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator and Amanda Rosenberger was hired as the Experiential Learning Coordinator. Nicola Hillgruber was chosen to serve as the point of contact for the undergraduate program in Juneau. Three of the four remaining hires will start in summer 2008 and include Ginny Eckert (shellfish biology, Juneau), Courtney Carothers (human dimensions, Fairbanks) and Peter Winsor (oceanography, Fairbanks). The final position in Fairbanks (physiological ecology) will be re-advertised in fall 2008; in the interim, Andrew Seitz will teach courses as an adjunct professor in the undergraduate program.

D. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

Three SFOS classrooms have been renovated on the UAF campus. The classroom in 138A Irving II has a new flat-screen television and will also have upgraded video-conference equipment through a UAF Technology Advisory Board grant. Room 214 O'Neill now has two flat-screen televisions and state-of-the-art video-conference equipment. A new smart classroom, the Vera Alexander Learning Center in 201 O'Neill, was completed and includes state-of-the-art video conference equipment, two large projection units, and two flat-screen televisions. The center also contains a smartboard for distance delivery of courses, meetings, workshops, and other activities. New laboratory space in the Arctic Health Research Building will be available this fall and includes a teaching lab, tank room and student computer lab.

The Lena Point Fisheries Facility in Juneau remains on schedule for fall 2008 occupancy. This 31,000 ft² building will contain classrooms, offices and laboratories for UAF Juneau Center faculty, staff and students. It includes two dedicated smart classrooms with state-of-the-art video conference equipment and smartboards. Both the Seward Marine Center and FITC in Kodiak have received updated, state-of-the-art video-conference equipment, allowing for improved distance learning opportunities and communication between SFOS faculty, staff and students.

E. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

Three students graduated in spring 2007 with a B.S. in fisheries. Seven students enrolled for fall 2007, for a total of 24 students in the B.S. program. In spring 2008, six students graduated with a B.S. in fisheries. 17 students have applied for fall 2008 and 11 have been admitted.

Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Katie Murra conducted the following during 2007-2008: (1) developed recruitment packets for the UAF MAP agents in Alaska's coastal communities; (2) created and revised SFOS recruitment materials; (3) attended regular UAF ANSEP and AISES meetings; (4) participated with UAF admissions in recruitment events; (5) developed outreach activities and displays at 38 events; (6) developed and updated the SFOS Enrollment Management Plan; (7) visited more than 34 Alaska high schools; and (8) met with 10 high school students in Fairbanks. Additional activities included: (1) Trent Sutton developed a research project with a Fairbanks high school student and recruited an Alaska Native student from the same school to conduct summer research via the American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fishery Biologist program; (2) awarded scholarships to four incoming freshmen and one transfer student for fall 2008; and (3) awarded scholarships for academic achievement to an outstanding freshman, sophomore, junior and senior and for outstanding leadership in fisheries in 2008.