

SFOS News

University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

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Alexander named to new university post

Long-time University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Professor of Marine Sciences Vera Alexander has been named Special Assistant for Fisheries and Ocean Science Policy. Provost Paul Reichardt appointed Alexander to the post in recognition of her national expertise in helping to shape federal policy and procedures relating to ocean science and technology.

Alexander is Dean of the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS), a position she has held since 1989 and will continue to hold until a national search for a new dean is completed. Alexander served as director of UAF's Institute of Marine Science from 1980 through 1993. Alexander joined UAF in 1962 after earning her bachelor of arts and master of science degrees from the University of Wisconsin. She received her doctoral degree from UAF in 1965, joined the UAF faculty, and was named professor of marine science in 1974.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Alexander has focused her research efforts on the biology of ice-covered seas and the study of arctic and subarctic fresh waters. She is the first woman to receive a doctoral degree from UA,

and one of UA's first two recipients of Ph.D. in marine science.

Alexander is one of three presidential appointees on the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission and has served as a commissioner since 1995. Established under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, the commission oversees U.S. activities related to existing laws and international conventions, and makes recommendations for the protection and conservation of the nation's marine mammals.

In 1992, she was appointed by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a delegate to the North Pacific Marine Science Organization – PICES. As a PICES delegate, and current vice president of the organization, Alexander represents U.S. policies on the governing council and promotes national objectives on issues relating to marine research in the North Pacific Ocean. She also serves on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Advisory Board, having recently been reappointed to a three-year term. The NOAA SAB is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the undersecretary of commerce for oceans



Vera Alexander

and atmosphere.

With the search for a new SFOS dean underway, Alexander will now focus more of her energy on federal policies affecting UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, which maintains divisions throughout Alaska. The arctic marine system is recognized as a major factor in global climate and climate variations. Students and researchers with SFOS are involved with a variety of studies in waters off Alaska's coast, which is the longest coastline of any U.S. state.

Konar attends NSF's proposal workshop

Brenda Konar was invited to, and attended, the National Science Foundation's Proposal Workshop for New Investigators in Washington D.C. August 26–27. She and forty-nine other new investigators from around the country learned about opportunities and procedures for working in the Antarctic.

Brenda plans to team up with Katrin Iken, who attended the workshop in the previous year, and to submit a proposal to the Office of Polar Programs Antarctic Program for their next funding cycle.



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School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences student receives USFS national honor

Beth Kitto, a M.S. student in Fisheries, received a national honor from the US Forest Service. Beth and her co-workers at the Glacier Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest received the "Individual or Group Research Achievement" at the "Rise to the Future" Awards Reception in Washington, DC on 6 June 2002. The "Rise To The Future" awards are a way of recognizing outstanding achievements in fisheries for individuals within the U.S. Forest Service and are offered in several categories, such as mentoring, collaborative aquatic resource stewardship, and professional excellence – research. Beth and her co-worker Rob Spangler were sent to DC by the Forest Service to attend the ceremony and receive the award from the Chief of the Forest Service, Dale Bosworth. According to Beth "We received a heavy, glass, free-standing, inscribed thing." Beth gave a power point presentation about the project and an acceptance speech on behalf of the group, which in addition to Beth and Rob included five technicians who worked in the field and lab on this project with them.

The group received the award because their project "Eulachon subsistence use and ecology investigations" is well rounded in that it includes not only research, but also an educational component with the local schools. Furthermore, there is a significant level of involvement from other groups, including UAF, as Brenda Norcross is the Chair of Beth's M.S. committee and Co-PI with Rob Spangler on the funding component received from USFWS Subsistence Division and United States Forest Service. Additionally, Beth expanded the project to include Doug Hay at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. In summer 2000, Beth's eulachon expertise was recognized when she was invited by Doug to attend the International Eulachon Council Meeting in BC.

It is a quite real honor for Beth, Rob, and the crew to be recognized, as most awardees are further along in their careers. Involvement in this project has helped steer both Beth and Rob further into subsistence issues and changed their careers. Beth was a temporary fisheries biologist with the USFS while working on this project from 1999 –

2001. She was a USFS seasonal biological technician for 9 years prior to that. During her "off" season, which happened to be winter, Beth spent 4 years as an observer in the Bering Sea pollock, cod, and flatfish fisheries. Beth currently is employed full time as a Fisheries Biologist with USF&WS at the Office of Subsistence Management in Fisheries Information Services while she is finishing writing this project for her M.S. in Fisheries. She plans to defend this fall. In addition to Brenda Norcross and Doug Hay, her other committee members are Nick Hughes and Bob Foy. All have agreed that this is a fascinating project that will provide valuable information about the life history of eulachon in the Twentymile River, a tributary of Turnagin Arm. Rob Spangler has worked for the USFS for 11 years and was District Fishery Biologist while working on this project. He is currently Subsistence Fisheries Biologist for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest. Rob will soon be applying to the Fisheries program at UAF to work with Brenda Norcross on regional aspects of eulachon.

INS tightens reporting requirements for non-immigrant United States visa holders

Recent terrorist incidents have underscored the need to broaden the special registration requirements for non-immigrant aliens from certain designated countries, and other non-

immigrant aliens whose presence in the United States requires closer monitoring, that they provide specific information at regular intervals to ensure their compliance with the terms of their visas

and admission, and to ensure that they depart the United States at the end of their authorized stay. On June 13, 2002, the Department published a proposed rule to modify the regulations to require certain non-immigrant aliens to make specific reports to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Effective September 11, 2002 non-immigrant aliens will be required to make specific reports upon arrival; approximately 30 days after arrival; every twelve months after arrival; upon certain events, such as a change of address, employment, or school; and at the time they leave the United States. The website for the required INS forms is: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/index.htm>.



People

Dr. Donald E. Kramer

was invited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Protected Area Center to attend an invitational and expense paid workshop on marine protected areas for education intermediaries. This event is limited to forty experts from the West Coast. The workshop will run September 4th and 5th in Morro Bay, California. Dr. Kramer will give a presentation on "Use of video coverage of natural resource issue forms in public education."



Don Kramer

submitted abstracts regarding aquatic food research for the annual meeting in 2003.

At the July meeting of the International Association of Food Protection in San Diego, CA, Himelbloom was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Seafood Professional Development Group. A main responsibility will be to organize a seafood research symposium at the annual meeting in 2003.

Daniel Mahalak

is the new Marine Technician aboard the *Alpha Helix* and enjoys working with the high caliber technicians at Seward Marine Center. He hails from Montana and has been in Seward since November 2001. Dan graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in Geology and is optimistic that his recently acquired Forklift Operator Certificate will offer him more career advancement opportunities. His favorite activities are hunting and biking, and he is a great fan of "Friday Popcorn" at SMC. A future goal for Dan is to purchase his own home. Welcome, Dan!



Daniel Mahalak



Z. Kowalik

Dr. Zygmunt Kowalik, of the Institute of Marine Science and a highly recognised expert in the field of marine science, will be participating on the Advisory Board for the Centre of Excellence for Shelf Seas Science. In this capacity he will help to assess and strategically direct the Centre, which will be managed by a small management section headed by Professor S. Massel as the Centre Coordinator. The independent European Community experts have evaluated the project and have given it a grade of 97 out of 100 points, one of the highest notes granted to a Polish institution.

In June, **Brian Himelbloom** served on a seventeen-member review panel, in Washington, D.C., to rank grant proposals submitted to the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative under the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

At the Institute of Food Technologists meeting in Anaheim, CA, in June, Himelbloom was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Aquatic Food Products Division. Duties include evaluating and coordinating



Jennifer Elhard

Jennifer Elhard has filled the "Invisible Secretary" position at Seward Marine Center, although her actual title is Administrative Clerk. She came to Seward from Seattle in 2001, leaving the big city for the family feeling she found and loves here. Jennifer spent many summers in Seward visiting her godfather, Mike Banas. Her husband, Rocky, was raised in Seward, so the move was a natural. Jennifer attended the Alaska Voca-

tional Technical Center where she graduated with certificates as Administrative Assistant and MS Office User Specialist. Welcome, Jennifer!



Publications

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Nielsen, T.G., E.F. Moller, S. Satapoomin, M. Ringuette, R.R. Hopcroft. 2002. Egg hatching rate of the cyclopod copepod *Oithona similis* in arctic and temperate waters. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 236: 301-306.

Suryan, R.M., D.B. Irons, M. Kaufman, J. Benson, P.G.R. Jodice, D.D. Roby, and E.D. Brown. 2002. Short-term fluctuations in forage fish availability and the effect on prey selection and brood-rearing in the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa triactyla*. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 236: 273-287.

Funding

Dr. A. Sathy Naidu recently received \$31K in funding from the NOAA/NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center for the project "Granulometry and organic carbon contents of sediments, Bering Sea, Alaska." The project relates to the agency's objective to assess the impact of trawling for ground fish on benthic organisms in the Bering Sea.



Left: Bizarre sponges and macroalgae are common members of the rich benthic community in the Boulder Patch.

Right: A diver (Katrin Iken) is placing a marked cage with an enclosed boulder back on the bottom of the seafloor where it will stay until the group comes back in the next year.



UAF's Institute of Marine Science is back at the Boulder Patch

By Brenda Konar

Some researchers enjoy scuba diving in warm, tropical places. Others prefer something a little different. Global Undersea Research Unit assistant professor Brenda Konar and Institute of Marine Science assistant professor Katrin Iken, along with Scientific Diving Course graduates Casey Debenham and Chris Wyatt, took a two-week vacation from the office to go to the Boulder Patch in the Beaufort Sea.

The boulder patch is a kind of marine oasis in Prudhoe Bay. While most of the Alaska Beaufort Sea has a soft seafloor bottom, the Boulder Patch consists of cobbles and small boulders. This rocky area is unique because it holds a diverse kelp and invertebrate community. We're interested in learning more about how marine organisms like algae, sponges, and bryozoans recruit into the community and how

factors, such as grazing, impact recruitment. Being the first year of a three-year study, our time was spent setting up experiments. Work included collecting rocks, long hours of removing organisms from the rocks, and constructing cages. Long days of diving in ???-degree water and floating ice were made enjoyable by the midnight sun and the sighting of a polar bear.

Joining us in the field was Ken Dunton from the University of Texas. Ken is widely credited with having done some of the first biological studies of the Boulder Patch during his PhD work at University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) in the 1980s. He is currently working up there and posing some algal physiology questions. His contributions to the project are invaluable.

The project is funded with a generous grant from the Coastal Marine Institute and field support from BP. BP is interested in protecting the patch's abundant array of sponges, corals, and

algal species from the impact of current and planned oil exploration activities. The company provided accommodations at their Endicott Island complex, some seven miles offshore in Prudhoe Bay. While at the facility, the UAF group joined Ken in giving two talks about the Boulder Patch marine community and described aspects of cold water diving. These talks were well attended by the workers at the station and resulted in numerous questions. Science Divers Casey Debenham and Chris Wyatt added much underwater time to their logs and participated in all aspects of the study. Without them, we'd still be hauling rocks off the bottom!

This study is expected to continue over the next two years. We're looking forward to the results that will no doubt add to our understanding of how cold water marine communities function.



Left: Chris Wyatt (left) and Brenda Konar (right) prepare for a dive with help from their dive tender Katrin Iken (middle) on board the 28 ft Whaler "Proteus".

Right: Graduate student Casey Debenham (right) and diver Chris Wyatt (left) prepare cages for the underwater grazer-exclusion experiments, wearing the required PPE (Personal Protection Equipment).



Chenelot studies salinity and turbidity effects on kelp in Kachemak Bay

Heloise Chenelot is studying the effect of salinity and turbidity on the performance of bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) in Kachemak Bay, Alaska. She performed a reciprocal transplant experiment

among three sites along the axis of the bay and monitored the growth and mortality rates of the transplanted sporophytes (conspicuous life stage of kelp) throughout the summer.

Chenelot is also looking at the effect of salinity and light attenuation on microscopic kelp spores by conducting laboratory experiments where spores are subjected to different salinities or light intensities.



Co-workers busy as SALMON moves ahead

A new addition to our list of projects is the Tsunami Warning and Environmental System for Alaska (TWEAK) funded by NOAA (\$450,000 in the next year). Dave Musgrave is now heading up this final phase of its initial year in anticipation of establishment of a CODAR array (Coastal Ocean Radar, which measures two-dimensional surface velocities) off of Kodiak Island to study the flow through Shelikof Strait. He has also been lobbying and networking on behalf of SALMON and now within Alaska for the Coastal Alaska Observing System (CAOS, see website at http://www.ims.uaf.edu/SALMON/caos_signup.php). In this regard we are happy to announce that Two Crow (aka Dr. James Schumacher) has joined us as director of CAOS to initiate efforts in its development. Two Crow has been called back into active duty for this effort after retiring from NOAA several years ago. He now goes by the name Two Crow, which recognizes his role in Native American culture and rituals. He'll be dividing his time between Alaska and the Lower 48.

Hank Statscewich has been working on our SALMON system, our website: <http://www.ims.uaf.edu/SALMON/>, and most recently a project to characterize currents in Tongass Narrows for Tetra Tech and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The study is examining dissolved oxygen in waters there and in Wards Cove as affected by cannery fish waste.

Tony D'Aoust, our new, permanent ocean operations manager, conducted a second reconnaissance of possible CODAR sites in southern Prince William Sound. For part of that time he was joined by Kathy Turco, our sound recording consultant, to tape field sounds for a forthcoming audio production about the physical oceanography of Prince William Sound. Tony continues intensive planning and permitting for our monitoring equipment there and has begun similar work for the CODAR arrays to be part of TWEAK off of Kodiak Island. In late July he accompanied National Maritime Wildlife Refuge officials in an air charter reconnaissance for prospective CODAR sites on Chirikof, Sutwik, or

Chowiet Islands in the Semidi Islands. After regrouping from these journeys, he has been preparing gear down at the Seward Marine Center for the GAK 4 redeployment scheduled for late August.

Rachel Potter will be part of this mooring turnaround. In her computer data work she is using SEADAS to process NASA SeaWiFS data for chlorophyll, a level two images and comparing them to AVHRR sea surface temperatures from the same spatial and temporal locations. She has also begun an initial check of this data contrasting it with CTD casts from GLOBEC cruises.

Philip Marshall helps to handle daily operations and paperwork. In mid-July he attended the American Meteorological Society's Maury Project held for two weeks at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. This workshop taught by Academy faculty helps train pre-college teachers in physical oceanography. Marshall will be incorporating new demonstrations from this session into his workshops.

Intern participates in NOAA/OE-funded research project



Catalina Martinez (NOAA/OE) and Benjamin Warlick (UAF undergraduate).

Benjamin Warlick was one of the undergraduate student interns who participated in this last summer's NOAA/OE Gulf of Alaska Seamount Exploration 2002. Venturing out to explore the seamounts on the Woods

Hole Oceanographic Institute's vessel *R/V Atlantis*, Benjamin brought back crab samples from the seamounts for analyses (by IRMS) of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen in muscle tissues in an effort to understand the crabs' food sources.

Editor's Corner: Got News?

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