

Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) Update
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks
www.sfos.uaf.edu/fitc

Ongoing Activities, May 2011

The FITC faculty and staff provide this monthly update for those interested in the teaching, research and public service at FITC. Please contact us with questions.

News

The *Kodiak Daily Mirror* story featured Julie Matweyou discussing PSP in local shellfish
http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/view/full_story/13449195/article-No-way-to-tell-good-shellfish--from-bad?

Federal agriculture research operation in Alaska faces ax Read more:

<http://www.adn.com/2011/06/12/1913046/agriculture-research-operation.html#ixzz1PB5bkPth>

Upcoming –

- **Thursday, June 16th at 1 pm Graduate student defense** – Stuart Thomas, Fisheries student based at FITC will be presenting his thesis work “Growth and Post-Harvest Quality of Selected Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) Cultured in Kachemak Bay, Alaska and Puget Sound, Washington in October 2009 and June 2010”. The presentation will be at FITC and videoconferenced to Anchorage and Juneau and Fairbanks.
- **Tuesday, June 21, FITC Lunch Seminar** – The last lunch seminar in the FITC series is Tuesday, June 21st, “Who Eats Our Fish – Markets for Alaska Seafood” by Dr. Quentin Fong, FITC/MAP marketing specialist. The talk will be videoconferenced to Petersburg and Anchorage.
- **Thursday, June 23, 10 am Graduate student defense** – Katie Brenner, candidate for MS in Seafood Science will present her work "Quality Assessment of Commercially Harvested Weathervane Scallop (*Patinopecten caurinus*) & Purple-Hinge Rock Scallop (*Crassadoma gigantean*) from Alaska." The presentation will be at FITC and videoconferenced to Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

Teaching (teaching and student support by FITC faculty)

Summer visitors working at FITC

Kevin Lauscher from Kodiak High School is spending the month of June working at FITC and a local seafood processor developing lab activities for this **KHS Food Science course**. Kevin is working under the guidance of Brian Himelbloom and Alex Oliveira.

Catherine Chambers, a PhD student of UAF faculty member Courtney Caruthers is working out of FITC through the summer. Cat and Courtney are both **anthropologists and they are studying the community of Kodiak to document different experiences of changes related to fishing** and how these changes relate to community well being. Courtney and Cat will be conducting interviews over the next two years with fishery participants throughout Kodiak (crew members, skippers, boat owners, processing and

marketing managers and employees, support service businesses, charter boats and tourism operators). If you would like to be interviewed about your experiences, or have questions or comments about the research, please contact them at 654-7335 or by email at clcarothers@alaska.edu or cpchambers@alaska.edu.

Chuck Crapo taught HACCP and Sanitation to seafood workers at the Platinum plant operated by Coastal Villages Region Fund.

Research

Marine Mammal Ongoing research

Kate conducted land-based observations and brand-resighting on the Long Island Steller sea lion haulout. She received a report of a dead rotten humpback whale near the south end of Alitak, south end. Kate relayed the message to NMFS/Juneau and to Bree Witteveen in Kodiak, who completed Level A data form on the stranded animal. Kate also sent a 3kHz whale pinger to Jan Straley for use on a Sitka area gillnet in hopes of deterring whales from entangling nets.

Seafood byproduct use research

Quentin Fong presented a paper titled *Role of UAF & ARS in the Handling of Alaskan Fish Processing Waste: Break-Even Analysis of Two Lower Cost Waste Handling Technologies* on work done by him as well as FITC reserachers Matt Davenport, Scott Smiley, Lale Gurer and Peter Bechtel at the North American Association of Fishery Economists NAAFE Forum 2011, May 11 to 13, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Seafood product research

Quentin also presented a paper on *Demand for Green Labeled and Environmental-Labeled Seafood: Survey Results from Beijing, China* at the same meeting. He also served chair on a session focused on Seafood Markets.

Other

Alex Oliveira presented a seminar at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in Fairbanks on “DHA in Marine Organisms and the DHA Principle”. The seminar focused on omega-3 fatty acids and marine bacterium.

Public Service

Kate Wynne was in Liberia, Africa, this month training fisheries observers as part of NOAA’s International programs. She assisted NOAA personnel and contractors (team of 5 total) in conducting a 3-week joint U.S.-Liberia training for federal fishery biologists. Kate was responsible for presenting marine mammal ID, bycatch reporting, and safety instruction to 40 students with mixed backgrounds. These observers are



destined to board foreign trawl vessels fishing in Liberian waters.

Kate gave two presentations at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge: a Brown Bag Seminar Series *“What is Alaska Sea Grant doing in West Africa?”* and a training for summer interns and volunteers : *“Identifying Kodiak’s Marine Mammals.”* She also gave a noon Brown Bag Seminar at FITC: *“GAP studies in the Kodiak area”* to 17 local and 2 videoconference attendees.

Julie Matweyou was invited to speak at the Kodiak Refuge volunteer orientation training on the problem of PSP on Kodiak, emphasizing refuge volunteers’ contact with public and visitors to Kodiak. The talk was also attended by a Ft. Abercrombie volunteer naturalist and USFW field volunteers.

Julie also collected mussel samples from Middle Bay. She dug for clams but did not find any, but chose that location over a closer location in town because this is where people harvest (1 illness reported from Middle Bay summer 2010). Samples were frozen for analysis at a later date. She did notice signs of recent clamming on the beach.

Quentin Fong, Chuck Crapo and Lale Gurer worked with Pickled Willies, a Kodiak based seafood company. The owners recently leased a production facility in Kodiak and the three FITC researchers will provide business assistance..



Brian Himelbloom participated in the annual tidepooling excursion to Woody Island, Kodiak and interacted with about sixty student, teachers and chaperones.

Brian also provided technical assistance to an inquiry by a local resident concerning presumed slug eggs in commercial plant soil. We used the microbiology lab's dissecting microscope to investigate the sample provided and observations were found inconclusive, as these egg-shaped particles are probably the company's time-released fertilizer.

University Service

Brian participated in the final FY 2010-11 UAF Faculty Senate Meeting in Fairbanks. He will continue as one of three SFOS senators serving in the senate in FY 2011-12. Brian also participated in the UAF Curricular Affairs Committee teleconference providing suggestions to Katrin Iken and Sarah Hardy in their proposed marine science minor.

Scott Smiley, Stephen Bodnar and Kay Bodi met every other week with Ron Moore from UAF Facilities regarding maintenance of the FITC building.