MISSION STATEMENT:
The SFOS Fisheries Division will create a center of academic excellence in the fisheries discipline that promotes lifelong learning for undergraduate students preparing to enter a career in fisheries.

GOAL STATEMENT:
The goal of the B.A. in Fisheries degree program is to educate undergraduate students in a broad, interdisciplinary curriculum in fisheries science, with particular emphasis on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of fish and invertebrate fisheries, in preparation for a career in fisheries and/or the seafood industry in Alaska and elsewhere.

INTENDED OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
1. Have excellent oral and written communication skills.
2. Obtain interdisciplinary knowledge of fishery science, with particular emphasis on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of fish and invertebrate fisheries.
3. Achieve knowledge of the scientific tools of data collection in interdisciplinary fisheries science and demonstrate competence in compiling and reporting of that data.
4. Earn a degree in a timely fashion.
5. Be prepared to compete successfully for admission to interdisciplinary M.S. or M.A. programs in Fisheries or related science disciplines.
6. Be prepared to compete successfully for entry-level professional career positions in social, cultural, and economic aspects of fisheries in Alaska and elsewhere.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES:
1. Compare individual scores of students in similarly-scored evaluations of term papers in the introductory and capstone courses; 80% of students who complete both courses will improve scores. (Objectives 1-3)

For the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program, the entry level course is FISH 101 Introduction to Fisheries and the capstone course is FISH 487 Fisheries Management. For FISH 101, there are three writing assignments, with one assignment (summary of a global fishery) serving as the course term paper. In FISH 487, there are four writing assignments and students complete a group fisheries management project, which includes the development of a fisheries management plan; this assignment serves as the course term paper. Since the creation of this degree program, which was initiated in spring 2009, 1 student has completed both FISH 101 and FISH 487. The mean percentile for the term paper in FISH 101 and FISH 487 was 100% and 81.3%, respectively. Although the student that had completed both FISH 101 and FISH 487 did not show improvement in his/her writing scores, this metric may not be reflective of his/her writing abilities. However, because only
one student completed both FISH101 and FISH 487 in this degree program, no meaningful cumulative analysis can be conducted at this time.

2. Track retention rates and rate of graduation within 5 years as evidence of achievement. Eighty percent (80%) of undergraduates will be retained each year, and 50% of juniors will complete degrees in ≤3 years. (Objective 4)

Since the initiation of the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program, the average retention rate for freshman from years 1-2 is 66.7% (N = 3), and the average retention for transfer students from years 1-2 is 57.1% (N = 14). Retention rates for years 2-3 and 3-4 are much higher. For freshmen and transfer students from years 2-3, retention rates are 100% (N = 1) and 83.3% (N = 12), respectively. In addition, retention rates for all students, regardless of entry to the program as a freshman or transfer, are 100% for years 3-4 (N = 1 and N = 3, respectively). Although the data suggest that the retention rate goal for the undergraduate fisheries program (80%) is not being met for years 1-2 but is being exceeded for years 2-3 and 3-4, these results must be interpreted with caution due to low sample sizes.

As stated previously, the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program was initiated during the spring 2009 semester. In spring 2012, the first student graduated from this degree program and 100% of the juniors enrolled in this degree program (N = 3) are on track to graduate within three years.

3. Eighty percent (80%) of graduates seeking employment in fisheries or aquatic sciences, or admission to a graduate program will succeed within one year of graduation. (Objectives 5-6)

To date, only one undergraduate student that was enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program has graduated (spring 2012), and this individual has been accepted to graduate school. A comprehensive analysis of this metric will be conducted once more students have completed the degree program.

4. Compile and summarize mentor evaluations from the experiential learning internships as evidence of readiness for a professional position. 80% of students will be judged by mentors to have performed at a satisfactory level for an entry-level fisheries professional. (Objective 6)

Mentor evaluations were compiled for five different experiential learning internships completed by undergraduate students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program. The mean mentor evaluation score (out of 5) was 3.9, with a range from 3.0 to 4.5. A mentor evaluation score of 4.0 or higher is considered satisfactory for an entry-level fisheries professional, and 4 out of the 5 mentor evaluation scores for student internships in the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program were 4.0 or higher (80% of students) which meets our goal for this metric.
5. Eighty percent (80%) of graduates will be "satisfied" or "very satisfied" overall, with the education they received in the Fisheries Program at UAF. (All objectives)

*Based on responses to the exit interview survey, the one graduate from the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program provided a high overall rating of the education received in the fisheries program at UAF. Note that we consider a score of 9-10 as very satisfied and 7-8 as satisfied on a scale of 1 to 10. Specific comments that support this assessment include the following:

“I would say that my experience at UAF was a 10/10. I not only got an education, but want to get more of an education which I never thought I would have been able to do and it is all thanks to UAF SFOS. UAF overall has been a top-notch school and with its help I will be going for more education and will be well set for a future career in fisheries.”.*

Based on this information, the one student that has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree to date provided a “very satisfied” rating of the educational experience received in the UAF Fisheries Program. It should be noted that no three-year post-graduation alumni questionnaires have been completed to date for this Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries because this is the first graduate from this degree program (which began in January 2009). A comprehensive analysis of this metric will be conducted once more students have completed the degree program.