

Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks
www.sfos.uaf.edu/kmsmc

July 2012 Update

The Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center faculty and staff provide this update for those interested in the teaching, research and public service activities at the Center. Please contact us with questions.

Upcoming Events

Bruce Odegaard, vice-president of product service for the Seafood Products Association (SPA) will be in Kodiak Aug. 14 – 24 collaborating with Alex Oliveira to train individuals working with quality control of Pacific salmon in the seafood industry. They will produce a large number of samples of whole fish, fillets or canned salmon showing different degrees of spoilage that are used during formal sensory workshops held annually at the NOAA Sand Point facility in collaboration with FDA.

Julie Matweyou will give a presentation on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) Aug. 23 as part of the Alutiq Museum Lecture Series.

Kodiak will host the American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter meeting Oct. 21-26. Multiple KSMSC faculty members will be participating in the meetings.

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group meeting will be held in Kodiak Oct. 30 – Nov. 1 and Julie Matweyou is scheduled to give a field tour of tunicate plate monitoring in St. Paul Harbor.

In the News

Julie Matweyou spoke at the Ft. Abercrombie Summer Naturalist Series July 14 on marine invasives; *Marine Invasive Species...Have They Made it to Kodiak?* Sixteen people attended and there was a write up in the local paper the following Monday.

http://kodiakdailymirror.com/printer_friendly/19331681

Brian Himelbloom was interviewed about PSP and featured in an article printed in the July 3 edition of the *Kodiak Daily Mirror*.

Bree Witteveen presented an evening seminar to approximately 27 attendees in Kodiak and Fairbanks for the UAF Summer Sessions, hosted by CES, *Thar she blows! Whale Research around the Emerald Isle*. Local public radio reporter Brianna Gibbs recorded the presentation and aired a story on the talk and research:

http://www.kmxt.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3989&Itemid=2

As a follow-up, Brianna Gibbs joined Bree and Kate Wynne on the boat for a day of photo identification of humpbacks. The outing resulted in a second story on whale research:

http://www.kmxt.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4000&Itemid=2

Kate Wynne was interviewed by Anna Young July 16 for information to accompany video of KSMSC whale research that she intends to use in a video about *Women on the Water*.

Teaching

Bree Witteveen secured \$1,000 Oscar Dyson scholarship for an incoming MS student and agreed to assist two University of California students with data needs for their respective humpback whale stable isotope projects.

Research

Seafood Research

Brian Himelbloom and Julie Matweyou began collecting four types of molluscan shellfish on Kodiak Island for evaluation this fall of an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for quantifying paralytic shellfish poison (PSP). The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) is funding this project.

Brian Himelbloom began work on a USDA-ARS funded project to determine if the same-day chemical oxygen demand (COD) assay can replace the five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) assay for assessing fish wastewater disposal in maritime waters. He is testing stickwater produced by the Kodiak Fishmeal Company to compare COD assay with split samples tested by a BOD assay at the Kodiak Seafood Laboratory operated by Chris Sannito.

Alex Oliveira spent several days in July preparing and submitting manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, as well as serving as a reviewer for three journal manuscripts. She also submitted three abstracts for presentation at the November 2012 Trans-Atlantic Fisheries Technologists Conference. Alex was notified that the following manuscript was accepted for publication at *Journal of Food Processing and Preservation*: Alexandra C.M. Oliveira, Peter J. Bechtel, Amit Morey, Kathryn Brenner and Trina J. Lapis. Chemical composition of spiny dogfish (*Squalus Suckleyi*) harvested in Alaska.

In July Kodiak Island Borough School District signed the MOA to participate in the ADEC funded PSP beach monitoring program. Kodiak was selected as 1 of 4 communities in the state to participate in the program.

Brian Himmelbloom supervised laboratory technician Cherry Seime in evaluating bacterial content of vacuum-packaged, freeze-dried salmon cubes that are undergoing a lengthy storage period at room temperature. This project is funded by Alaska Space Grant.



Marine Mammal Research

For the GAP project, Kate Wynne, Bree Witteveen and Lei Guo conducted bi-monthly aerial survey July 24 on north Kodiak waters to record whale distribution and abundance

Kate Wynne responded to a report of a stranded dead humpback on Spruce Cape July 12. She contacted NMFS and advised US Navy personnel as they planned and successfully orchestrated the removal of the carcass from their beach. The animal was an apparent victim of killer whale predation. Kate collected skin samples and submitted a report to the NMFS Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Bree Witteveen made several day trips to get humpback and fin whale photo-ids and biopsy samples. She also matched humpback whale photographs collected during a 2011 International Whaling Commission cruise to the Kodiak whale catalog and found one match.



Service

Public Service

Kate Wynne facilitated a refresher course on large whale disentanglement July 2 and 3. Ed Lyman, of NMFS, led the two half-day sessions including discussions and demonstrations of safe and effective response to entanglement of large whales. The course drew 10 Kodiak resource personnel including: Bree Witteveen, Julie Matweyou, Lei Guo and Kate Wynne of KSMSC, three NMFS Office of Law Enforcement Agents, two ADFG fish biologists and one USFWS agent from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Courtney Carothers, UAF SFOS faculty member based in Fairbanks, gave a presentation at KSMSC on July 26, *Social Transitions and Well Being in Kodiak Fishing Community*.

The proposal for technical training to commercial fisherman that Julie Matweyou and Kodiak College submitted to the Fisheries, Seafood, Maritime Initiative (FSMI) was accepted and will advance to Phase 2 with collaboration among related proposals.

Quentin Fong assisted Jason Bang of Alaska Seafood Systems to organize a tour and interviews with seafood faculty of Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center by Samsung Corporation, Republic of Korea.

Brian Himelbloom met with visiting buyers from the South Korean company EMART and discussed the work that goes on in the seafood microbiology lab and wild Alaska seafood quality.

Quentin Fong conducted a seafood economics 101 session with Margie Bauman, freelance reporter to help her understand the dynamics of seafood markets.

Alex Oliveira provided similar analytical service to Talkeetna Smokehouse in July as she did in June. Ms. McKay submitted three smoked salmon samples and two salmon jerky samples for analysis of water phase salt and water activity, respectively. I also conducted water phase salt analysis in one salted sockeye fillet sample for Mr. Mark Wagner.

Quentin Fong provided Geoduck market information to Everette Anderson, APIDCA

Professional Service

Kate Wynne sorted and gathered data associated with marine mammal samples collected from various stranding events since 1996 and stored in Kodiak. In total, samples from 16 cetaceans and 11 pinnipeds were contributed to the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center's national tissue archive, primarily for use in DNA studies.

Brian Himelbloom participated in a teleconference with <http://www.surefish.com/SurefishSeattle.htm> for potential collaboration on training of laboratory technicians for conducting quality control in Dutch Harbor.

Photos: Collecting shellfish on Kodiak Island, photo provided by B. Himelbloom. Evaluating bacterial content of vacuum-packaged, freeze-dried salmon cubes, photo provided by B. Himelbloom. Large whale disentanglement training sessions, photos provided by K.Wynne.