

27th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium

Fishing People of the North

Cultures, Economies, and Management
Responding to Change

EDITORS

COURTNEY CAROTHERS

KEITH R. CRIDDLE

CATHERINE P. CHAMBERS

PAULA J. CULLENBERG

JAMES A. FALL

AMBER H. HIMES-CORNELL

JAHN PETTER JOHNSEN

NICOLE S. KIMBALL

CHARLES R. MENZIES

EMILIE S. SPRINGER



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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Cover photo of southeast Alaska seiner by Gary Freitag.



Alaska Sea Grant
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 755040
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5040
Toll free (888) 789-0090
(907) 474-6707 Fax (907) 474-6285
alaskaseagrant.org

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About the Proceedings Book and the Symposium

Nineteen peer-reviewed papers are included in this proceedings volume; all were presented at the symposium Fishing People of the North: Cultures, Economies, and Management Responding to Change, September 14-17, 2012, in Anchorage, Alaska. A total of 72 oral presentations and 23 posters were shared at the symposium.

The goals of the Fishing People of the North symposium were to (1) share knowledge of opportunities and constraints that fishing people in northern countries encounter in a time of environmental, social, and economic change; and (2) investigate how diversity in values and livelihoods can be best incorporated into management processes. To meet these goals, oral presentations and posters were solicited for four main themes: Human-Environmental Relationships; Fishing Communities in Transition; Indigenous and Rural Knowledge and Communities; and Governance and Management Issues in the North.

Fishing People of the North was the first Wakefield symposium to focus on the work of social scientists—anthropologists, economists, indigenous knowledge experts, and sociologists, among others. The symposium attracted over 170 participants from Canada, Greenland, Japan, the Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Russia, and the United States. Attendees reflected a diversity of cultures, backgrounds, occupations, and connections to fisheries.

This symposium provided a forum for scholars, indigenous leaders, fishery managers, fishing families, and others to explore the human dimensions of fishery systems. It was a place for sharing what we have learned across diverse systems, exploring the many questions that remain, and building the relationships necessary for future collaborative opportunities. These resulting proceedings provide a valuable contribution advancing our understanding of how we can more fully characterize the diversity of the people and places that depend on the sea, and how we might better incorporate this diversity into management processes.

The symposium steering committee gave awards to two Ph.D. students from the University of Alaska Fairbanks for their presentations—Zac Hoyt and Megan Peterson. Ten students from several nations competed for the \$300 prizes. Travel to the symposium was paid for nine graduate students, and seven students earned their registration fees by working during the symposium sessions.

Details about the symposium Fishing People of the North, including the program, presentation PowerPoints, and abstract book, are available on the symposium website, alaskaseagrant.org/conferences/2011/wakefield-people/.

Steering Committee

Courtney Carothers (co-chair) University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

Keith Criddle (co-chair) University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Juneau, Alaska, USA

Catherine Chambers University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

Paula Cullenberg University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

James Fall Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Amber Himes-Cornell National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington, USA

Nicole Kimball North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska, USA (current affiliations is Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

Marie Lowe University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Charles Menzies University of British Columbia, Department of Anthropology, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Mary Pete University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kuskokwim Campus, Bethel, Alaska, USA

Jahn Petter Johnsen University of Tromsø, Center of Marine Resource Management, Tromsø, Norway

Emilie Springer University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Anthropology, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

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School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks
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The Lowell Wakefield Symposium Series and Endowment

Alaska Sea Grant has been sponsoring and coordinating the Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium series since 1982. These meetings are a forum for information exchange in biology, management, and economics of various fish species and complexes, as well as an opportunity for scientists from high-latitude countries to meet informally and discuss their work.

Lowell Wakefield was the founder of the Alaska king crab industry. He recognized two major ingredients necessary for the king crab fishery to survive—ensuring that a quality product be made available to the

consumer, and that a viable fishery can be maintained only through sound management practices based on the best scientific data available. Lowell Wakefield and Wakefield Seafoods played an important role in the development and implementation of quality control legislation, in the preparation of fishing regulations for Alaska waters, and in drafting international agreements for the high seas. In his later years, as an adjunct professor of fisheries at the University of Alaska, Lowell Wakefield influenced the early directions of Alaska Sea Grant. The Wakefield Symposium series is named in honor of Lowell Wakefield and his many contributions to Alaska's fisheries. In 2000, Frankie Wakefield (Lowell's wife) made a gift to the University of Alaska Foundation to establish an endowment to continue this series.