

University of Alaska Board of Regents

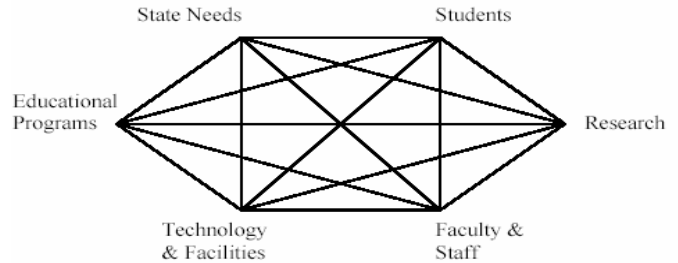
Program Approval Summary Form

Requirements:

MAU: UAF

Title: Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries

Target admission date: Fall 2008



How does the program relate to the **Education** mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU?

Over the past two years, SFOS faculty members have surveyed the Alaskan fishing industry and its regulators to determine how our fisheries program can be broadened to serve a larger sector of Alaska's fishing community. Faculty members in SFOS have visited fishing companies, seafood processors, and industry regulators to gather standardized information about industry needs and potential areas for growth. Our Marine Advisory Program faculty has organized meetings to determine the specific needs of Alaska's coastal communities. We have also completed a written survey of 244 individuals and groups involved in Alaska's fishing industry.

To date, there has been no formalized degree program that has been formulated to address the needs of a liberal arts degree in fisheries. As a result, fisheries industry professionals in Alaska have had a primarily science degree out of a Bachelors of Science program or have a primarily business, political science, social science, or anthropology degree out of a Bachelor of Arts program. Our proposed degree melds those two programs so that students receive both an adequate foundation in the sciences and a broad background in business and political science/policy.

The creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries does have the potential of impacting student enrollment in other degree programs with the UA system, particularly at UAF. We do not necessarily anticipate drawing students from other programs. Instead, we anticipate an increase in student enrollment which would have the positive benefit of increasing credit-hour production in fisheries courses as well as courses in degree programs intricately involved in this program (e.g., Business Administration, Political Science). It should be mentioned that this degree program does have the support of Interim Dean of the School of Management and the Department Head of Political Science.

What **State Needs** are met by this program.

Alaska's fisheries are entering a period of rapid change. Climate change influences the abundance and dynamics of fish stocks. Institutional changes continue to alter the structure and function of industry by promoting the emergence of industrial firms and Alaska Native organizations as dominant sectors in the fishing industry. Legal protections for threatened and endangered species and essential habitats and the development of new ecosystem-based management plans are continuously changing Alaska's fisheries.

The fisheries curriculum offered by the University of Alaska Fairbanks through the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences must meet the challenges of these changes. The health of Alaska's biologically and ecologically sustainable fisheries, the growth and development of Alaska's economy, and the persistence of traditional subsistence communities require that we train and educate scientists and managers with the knowledge and experience to confront these challenges.

What are the **Student** opportunities and outcomes? **Enrollment** projections?

The proposed Bachelor of Arts on Fisheries degree program will offer enrolled undergraduates the unique ability to combine business administration, finance, accounting, marketing, organizational management, policy development, and rural community development skills with their technical knowledge of fisheries management issues within the context of the Alaskan fishing and seafood industries. Undergraduates that completed the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program would be competitive for a wide variety of agency and organization positions, particularly within the state of Alaska. Areas of focus would include

business administration, policy development, fisheries education and outreach specialists, or social scientists.

The undergraduate enrollment in Fisheries is expected to increase to 50 students in the Academic Year (AY) 2009. As the program evolves and grows, it is anticipated that the combined student enrollment in the B.S. and B.A. in fisheries programs will increase to 100 in AY 2012. In addition, it is anticipated that the Alaska Native and rural Alaskan student enrollment will increase from its present level over the past five years (1 to 5 students) to 10 to 15 students in AY 2009. Based on this anticipated increase in enrollment, the number of graduates each year is expected to increase from 2 (current average) to 6 student per year in AY 2009, 20 per year in AY 2012, and then stabilize at 20 graduates per year for program years 5 to 20.

Describe Research opportunities:

Through internship experiences, students will be able to develop independent study and senior thesis research projects. Through these experiential learning initiatives, students will be paired with relevant faculty members and their graduate students who will provide mentoring through the process of project development, implementation, and sample and data analysis. Students will also have an opportunity to present their research findings at scientific meetings as posters or oral presentations and, potentially, publish these results in the peer-reviewed literature.

An additional step in our implementation of the new degree program that is critical will be the establishment of an effective internship program that represents a partnership between the student, the university, and the company or agency to provide both experience and education to the students in our program. An internship is a three-way cooperative venture among an employer, the university, and a student. Participating employers gain a high quality, enthusiastic employee and a cost-effective means of recruiting and training potential employees. The students gain real-world experience and the university receives credit for instruction. If matched properly, the internship is a win-win-win proposition.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

The SFOS has received a \$5 million grant from the Rasmuson Foundation with a \$5 million match from UA Statewide. These funds will be used over the next six (6) years to hire new faculty, renovate teaching classrooms and laboratories, purchase field and laboratory equipment, recruit and retain students through scholarships and other initiatives, and meet other teaching needs associated with the delivery of the fisheries program.

A total of \$500,000 has been allocated by UAF to SFOS to develop and refurbish teaching classrooms and laboratories. To date, both classrooms in the O'Neill Building (rooms 201 and 214) have been completed. Room 214 has been outfitted with video conference equipment and is a functional teaching room that can hold up to 20 students. Room 201 will be outfitted with its video conference equipment by the end of 2007. This room can hold up to 50 students and will also serve in the capacity as a model "Smart" classroom. Offices for three of the new fisheries faculty in O'Neill Building have been completed and two of these offices are currently occupied. A five-room laboratory complex in the Arctic Health Research Building is slated to be refurbished during winter and spring of 2008 and available for use for the fall 2008 semester. The Lena Point facility, which houses SFOS faculty, staff, and students in Juneau, will be completed in fall 2008. This facility will have a number of teaching classrooms and laboratories, and teaching rooms will be outfitted with video-conference equipment. Finally, SFOS teaching facilities in Seward and Kodiak will also be outfitted with video-conference equipment for distance delivery.

Five new faculty members in Fisheries will be hired in SFOS prior to the start of the fall 2008 semester. In addition, two faculty members (Amanda Rosenberger and Trent Sutton) have already been hired in Fisheries in support of this program. Further, there will be three additional hires in Oceanography and these positions will serve to interface the Fisheries and Ocean Observing programs. One of our new faculty members (Trent Sutton) has been designated as the Undergraduate Fisheries Coordinator with the responsibility for overseeing the development and maintenance of this program. In several years, a distinguished visiting professor will be brought in to Fairbanks or Juneau to interact with our faculty and

students to broaden the program.

In order to make this degree program accessible at other UAF facilities, UA campuses, and rural communities, distance-learning equipment has been or will be upgraded at all SFOS locations to allow faculty at any location to deliver instruction at any other location. A new high-definition distance learning system will be used to assure the best quality communication. Desktop computers will also be purchased for students at UAF campuses in Fairbanks and Juneau so that they have access to the computational capabilities needed for some of the classes. Instructional field and laboratory equipment will be upgraded to assure that students have access to the top-of-the-line equipment available at other institutions. Funds to cover these costs have been provided by the Rasmuson Foundation.

**RESOURCE COMMITMENT TO THE
PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM
Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries**

Resources	Existing	New		Total
	College/School	College/School *	Others (Specify)	
Regular Faculty (FTE's & dollars)	12 \$1,474,000	4 \$2,176,444		16 \$3,650,444
Adjunct Faculty (FTE's & dollars)	2 \$25,004			2 \$25,004
Teaching Assistants (Headcount)	4	4		8
Instructional Facilities (in dollars and/or sq. footage)	\$500,000 1310 sq. ft.		\$26.5 million under construction Lena Point	\$27 million
Office Space (Sq. footage)	700	300	3,092 (201 O'Neill Bldg.)	4,092
Lab Space (Sq. Footage)	2,250		2,920 (AHRB)	5,170
Computer & Networking (in dollars)		\$570,000		\$570,000
Research/ Instructional/ office Equipment (in dollars)		\$560,000		\$560,000
Support Staff (FTE's & dollars)		3 \$1,256,309		3 \$1,256,309
Supplies (in dollars)		\$90,000		\$90,000
Travel (in dollars)		\$220,000		\$220,000

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Signature _____
Dean of College/School Proposing New Degree Program

____10/4/2007____
Date

* Rasmuson Foundation funding and UAF match over 5 years (funding began Jan. 1, 2007).