

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

April 1993

1993 Meeting Scheduled for September 7-9

Noel Cressie, the author of the 1991 book *Statistics for Spatial Data*, is to be the featured speaker at the 1993 Chapter meeting. The meeting will be held at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, September 7 through September 9. Technical presentations will take place on the first day. The business meeting, including a fourth talk by Prof. Cressie, will take place on September 8. September 9 is tentatively reserved for a chapter-sponsored introductory course on the S-plus package for microcomputers.

Prof. Cressie will give three talks on the first day of the meeting. The first talk will be of a general nature with the entire University invited to attend. The other two talks are expected to be more advanced, and will require registration for the regular meeting. Regular registration will cost \$50, but full time students will be allowed to register free.

Noel and an instructor for the S-plus class will be in Fairbanks for Labor Day weekend, which runs from September 4-6. Anyone interested in helping them have an interesting Alaskan experience should contact Hal Geiger (465-6115).

Call for Papers

One of our greatest strengths as a chapter has been the technical talks at our meetings. Again, we need some. Work in progress, interesting consulting problems, or even nonoriginal but little known secrets make great contributions. If you are interested (even if you are not sure, but you want someone to help talk you into it) please give Hal Geiger a call (465-6115).

Kenneth Pollock to Visit Alaska in April

North Carolina State University professor, Kenneth Pollock, will visit Fairbanks beginning April 28 to lecture at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He can be reached through the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UAF. Dr. Pollock also plans to visit Anchorage sometime during his stay.

Focus on the S System Planned for Fairbanks Meeting

Many chapter members have very recently purchased or plan to get the S-plus system for microcomputers. Because of the new interest in this package, we are planning a series of talks at the Fairbanks meeting on the S system. We also hope to put together a one-day course on the S-plus package. The S system has advanced EDA capabilities and the ability to do generalized linear models, generalized additive models, and other modern statistical methods not available on statistical packages developed in the 1960's and 70's. The cost of the course is expected to be \$150 for members with institutional sponsorship, something less for those without sponsorship, and \$20 for full-time students. We probably need a minimum of eight to ten full-cost students taking the class to make the finances workable. This course will only go if members show sufficient interest within the next month or so. If you are interested please contact Hal Geiger (465-6115) as soon possible. Ivan Vining will be organizing the session on S applications. If you are an S user and have any ideas for a presentation, give Ivan a call at 486-1861

Annual ASA Video Courses Planned for Fairbanks, Juneau, Anchorage, and Kodiak

Larry Byrne is organizing the Spring video short courses. The course is scheduled for the weeks beginning April 19 in Fairbanks, April 26 in Anchorage, and following weeks in Juneau and Kodiak. The local arrangements will be made by Larry Byrne in Fairbanks (455-6777), Jim Blick in Juneau (465-4228), Debby Burwen (267-2383) in Anchorage, and Ivan Vining (486-1861) in Kodiak. At press time, specific times and places have only been worked out for the Anchorage viewing: April 28 and 29, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the new Fish and Game conference room at 333 Raspberry Road in Anchorage. The topic is classification and regression trees, and six hours of video tape is provided. The cost of the course is \$75.00 for members with institutional sponsorship, \$40.00 for members that are

required to pay for the course out of their own pockets, and \$20.00 for full-time students. The cost is an additional \$10.00 for nonmembers -- which is price of membership. If you are interested, contact the organizer in your area for specific times and places. Also, if members know of any available CART software, please give Larry Byrne a call.

Report From the Committee on a Regional Conference

The Committee on a Regional Conference has met on the phone several times since it was first formed at the suggestion of Bob Hogg in 1991 to look into an NSF Regional Conference in Alaska. The committee has been interested in several topics and potential speakers, but none of these potential speakers have been willing to commit to this very demanding undertaking. Committee member Jay Ver Hoef is continuing to contact potential speakers.

Chapter Dues Alert

The number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year we have received your dues; the letter represents the type of membership (R=Regular, S=Student). Please renew your membership. Dues may be sent to Linda Brannian, ADF&G, CF, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518 or included with your membership dues for the national organization. Regular annual membership is \$10 and \$1 for students. Make checks payable to AK ASA.

Your chapter needs dues to pay for the annual business meetings, newsletters, and some costs of continuing education. Remembering to pay dues is easy when attending the annual meeting, but the Chapter needs your dues whether you attend the annual meeting or not. If you cannot attend the annual meeting, send your dues directly to Linda or indirectly to the Chapter as part of your dues to the national organization.

Notes From The Rumor Monger . . .

Will and Beth Geiger recently got a postcard from wondering member Terry Quinn. He reportedly has been petting Kangaroos, SCUBA diving on the Great Barrier Reef, and eating lots of Vegemite. He concluded a stay in Tasmania and will spend the rest of his sabbatical in New Zealand.

Rumors that former chapter president and all-round thrill seeker, Dana Thomas, will return soon to the Arctic

with a great sun tan are incorrect. The latest word is that he won't be back until January of 1994. Dana, by the way, is in Oman. His new book, coauthored with Brian Manley and Lyman McDonald (*Resource Selection by Animals: Statistical Design and Analysis*) is now in print.

Stan Carlson has moved from the Auke Bay Fisheries Lab, to work as a biometrist at the Alaska Fish and Game Limnology Lab in Soldotna. Stan will be working with Dana Schmidt to unlock the secrets of Alaskan sockeye salmon. By now, Stan knows all about the effect of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. Be sure to ask him detailed questions about this at the chapter meeting.

Former chapter president, author of the new and well-received Wiley series book on sampling, recipient of our chapter's only award for an outstanding research paper, and formerly the only person in the city of Kodiak that knew the name of the letter η -- Steve Thompson -- returned to the United States in January to accept a position of associate professor of statistics at Pennsylvania State University.

Alaskan Chapter of the American Statistical Association, officers for 1993

President and Newsletter Editor: Hal Geiger. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau AK 99802-2000, (907) 465-6115

Vice-President: Ronald Barry. Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Fairbanks, AK 99775-1110; (907) 474-5375

Sec.-Treas.: Linda Brannian. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, (907) 267-2118.

Executive Committee: Doug Pengilly. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 211 Mission Rd, Kodiak, AK 99925-0101, (907) 486-4791.

Executive Committee: Sam Thiru. Department of Mathematics, University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK 99508, (907) 786-1742.

Council of Chapters Representative: Jay M. Ver Hoef. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 Collage Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; (909) 456-5156.

1993 Annual Meeting Update

The 1993 Annual Chapter Meeting will be held in Fairbanks during November 15-18, 1993. The Fairbanks Westmark Hotel has been selected to serve as the host hotel. The general theme of the meeting is economic and socioeconomic aspects of Alaskan fisheries. The meeting will attempt to focus on those issues that are forces determining much of what we as biologists do whether we are in research, management or administration. The special session topics include the following general subjects: Economics and socioeconomics of Alaskan Fisheries; Water Use (including the controversial subject of out-of-basin water withdrawals); Ecological Approaches to Fisheries Management; Mixed Stock Fisheries; Marine Fisheries Research at the University of Alaska; and Sport Fisheries in Interior and Northern Alaska.

Hopefully we will have a good slate of contributed papers, also. In addition plans are underway for a number of special luncheons including one for past chapter presidents, a water export luncheon, a cultural diversity luncheon, and one for student members.

A room rate of \$59 for rooms with twin beds or \$69 for double or queen beds has been secured for the meeting.

Call for Papers. This is the third call for papers for the 1993 annual chapter meeting. All members performing research or management on Alaskan fish, fisheries or fish habitat are encouraged to present the results of their work at the next annual meeting to be held in Fairbanks. Especially if your work addresses any of the topics covered in the special sessions mentioned above we will be most interested in papers of that nature. There may be much excellent work being done that could be overlooked by the Chairpersons of those respective sessions. Abstracts should be sent to: Joe Webb, 6958 No Name Lane, Fairbanks, Alaska 99712. If at all possible, each hard copy abstract should be accompanied by a IBM compatible diskette with the text in Wordperfect or Word. All abstracts received before October 15th will be considered for presentation.