

# AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

## ALASKA CHAPTER

### NEWSLETTER

(19 December 1991)

#### 1991 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting was held in the Chapel by the Lake adjacent to the University of Alaska, Southeast September 16-17, 1991. Dr. Robert V. Hogg was our guest speaker from the University of Iowa and presented a tutorial on Robust Statistics to twenty-one people September 16. He also spoke briefly about his upcoming lecture tour on quality control and his perceived need to improve the teaching of statistics. The morning of Tuesday, September 17 the following presentations were given:

Pink Salmon Escapement Estimation Using Aerial Observations,  
by Brian Bue, Richard Gates, and Sam Sharr, Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game

A Habitat-based Method for Estimating Potential Abundance by  
Dave Carlile, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Defining Appropriate Strata in a Stratified Petersen Estimate  
by John Clark, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

An Analysis of Bacterial Kidney Disease Data for Alaskan  
Chinook Salmon by Hal Geiger and Richard Gates, Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game

Properties of Survival estimators for Telemetry Data Using  
Monte Carlo Simulation by James Hasbrouck and William R. Clark,  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Iowa State University.

Mixed Results from a Mixed Method Mark-recapture Study of Red  
King Crab by Doug Woodby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

#### 1991 BUSINESS MEETING

Chapter president, Don Marx, brought the annual business meeting to order the afternoon of September 17, 1991. Hal Geiger was elected Vice President. Per our constitution, Doug Pengilly of Kodiak became President and Don Marx an Executive Committee member. Linda Brannian was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Brian Bue was elected to the Executive Committee and Alan Johnson continued in his term as our representative on the Council of Chapters.

**Old Business.** At the 1989 business meeting in honor of the sesquicentennial celebration of ASA, the Alaska Chapter decided to present a plaque to the author(s) of the statistical manuscript judged to be of greatest value to statistics in Alaska. Dr. Steven K. Thompson was presented in absentia for his paper titled *Sample size for estimating multinomial proportions* (1987, Vol 41, No 1, American Statistician). His letter of acceptance was read and the plaque will be sent to him at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Linda Brannian accepted responsibility for updating the membership directory for 1992. A draft survey form was distributed, which was modelled after the national

ASA directory. The addition of an E-Mail and Fax number was suggested. The questionnaire will be attached to the next newsletter with the goal being to distribute the directory at the fall 1992 meeting. The directory will also include a history of the chapter and the most recent constitution.

Allen Bingham distributed a draft of his history of the chapter for the directory. He requested that comments be returned to him by the end of the year. Call Allen at 344-0541 if you did not receive a draft copy and would like one to review. He will send a copy to Dana Thomas a founding member at UAF. Allan recommends that a chapter historian be appointed, who, if nothing else is responsible for keeping a complete set of chapter newsletters.

**New Business.** Don Marx appointed a committee of Dave Bernard, Allan Bingham, Earl Becker, Linda Brannian, and himself to revise our constitution. Created in 1982 a revised constitution was approved in 1987. With a revision of the National ASA constitution 1991 our chapter constitution needs to be brought in compliance. The objective will be to distribute a proposed constitution this winter in a newsletter and advertise a spring meeting to vote on the revision. The approved revision will then be incorporated into our 1992 Directory.

A motion was raised to offer travel support to the Chapter President to attend our annual fall meeting. A motion was not voted upon because the Executive Committee is already empowered to disperse such funds. Concern was raised to use this as a last resort and not deplete chapter funds. The offer was meant to encourage unsupported members to be officers. For example travel funds are difficult to obtain for University members.

Don Marx suggested a new term of office for chapter officers. He recommended the terms begin with the calendar year, and not right after the annual meeting. This would allow for a more orderly transition and match the national office. A motion passed unanimously and will be incorporated into our new constitution.

Our 1992 Annual meeting will be held in Anchorage sometime in the fall. The Current President (Doug Pengilly) will organize the meeting. Dr. Robert J. Tibshirani (University of Toronto) will present a tutorial. A motion was passed to ask Dr. Tibshirani to speak on general additive models based on his recent book with T.J. Hastie.

The Vice President (Hal Geiger) is responsible for inviting a guest speaker and arranging the place and time for the 1993 meeting. The Executive Committee reserves the authority to make the final decision. The following topics and potential speakers were discussed and prioritized:

- Maximum Likelihood (Lindsay)
- Mark-recapture/Creel Surveys (Ken Pollock)
- Spatial Analysis, Kriging (Ver Hoeff, Cressie)
- Time Series (G. Box or Brillinger)
- Methods of Numerical Optimization (Marquardt)
- Resampling (Wu)
- Event Count Analysis (King)
- Kalman Filters (Fagan, Sullivan, Deriso)
- Linear Models
- Graphical Diagnostics (Dennis Cook)
- Survival Rates (D. Oates)

Please contact any member of the executive committee (preferably Hal Geiger) if you have suggestions for the 1993 meeting.

Don Marx volunteered to organize a spring ASA continuing education tape. Analysis of binary data by David Cox and E. Joyce Snell (1989) was proposed.

Linda Brannian volunteered to call University of Alaska, Anchorage members to personally invite them to attend the 1992 meeting and hopefully make a short presentation on the current area of research or expertise.

National ASA has begun to charge a \$1 fee to forward Chapter dues paid to them. A motion was passed to absorb the loss and not alter the dues structure for members paying through the National office.

An idea was raised for earning money for the Chapter's continuing education and guest speaker program by renting and charging to view SAS training tapes. Pat Hansen volunteered to write to SAS Corp. to see if this was possible. Tapes are available for 1 year and could be shared across the state.

**Treasury Report.** Currently the Chapter has a balance of \$3081. Cost of the 1991 annual meeting was \$1,440 for honorarium, travel, and meeting space rental. We also have \$930 outstanding from persons who have not yet paid for the tutorial. The National chapter provided \$450 to help with Dr Hogg's travel. The Chapter filed its first and only tax return as long as gross receipts remain under \$25,000.

#### **CHAPTER DUES ALERT**

Please note that the number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year for which we have received dues and 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.

The Chapter needs your dues. These monies defray the costs of the annual business meetings and newsletters as well as some of the 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. Please send your dues directly to Linda or indirectly to the Chapter as part of your dues to the national organization.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Our annual fall meeting is always a good time to acquire and meet new members. We welcome the following members (most were given a chance to describe themselves; see if you can find the trend in this data):

Dave Ackley. Dave is a Biometrician with the Commercial Fisheries Division (Comm. Fish.) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in Juneau. He is currently working on fishery bycatch issues and is developing an interest in GIS software.

Dave Carlile. Dave is a Biometrician with ADF&G Comm. Fish. in Juneau. His general interest is in applying appropriate statistical methods to improve fisheries stock assessment and to address other fisheries resourcement management issues. Some specific activities have included application of line transect methods to estimate rockfish abundance, and experimental design and analyses to evaluate fish retention devices in groundfish pots.

James Hasbrouck. James is a Biometrician with ADF&G F.R.E.D. Division in Anchorage.

Peggy Murphy. Peggy is a Biometrician with ADF&G Comm. Fish. in Juneau. Peggy's interests are in applying statistical theory to the (sometimes ugly)

"real world" of shellfish fishery issues; principally in experimental design and modelling.

Jay Ver Hoef. Jay returns to Alaska (M.S. in Biology from UAF in '85) after recently receiving a his PhD in statistics and ecology from Iowa State. Now a Biometrician with ADF&G Wildlife Conservation in Fairbanks, Jay's expertise is in spatial statistics (e.g., Kriging and stuff like that).

Doug Woodby. Doug is a Biometrician with (take a guess) ADF&G Comm. Fish. in Juneau. Presently Doug's research and interests involve quantitative evaluation of survey and catch statistics for various crab species and an experimental harvest approach to modeling sea urchin population biology.

#### **COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS** (Communicated by B. Alan Johnson)

One of the flagged concerns of the Alaska Chapter has been the price, availability, and applicability of video short courses. The last I will leave to the short course participant and his/her openness to the learning process. We as a Chapter, along with the help of Randy Spoeri (past assistant to the Executive Director), have removed the problems of price and multiple use location of the video short courses. The Alaska Chapter caused this change to occur. These changes have helped the Chapter in its role of keeping the membership in touch with what is going on.

As your Representative to the Council of Chapters, I attended the business meeting at the National ASA meeting in Atlanta this last August. Bob Mason, as a member of the Continuing Education Committee, reported on the status of short courses. As your representative, and having attending two short courses at the current meeting, and having seen no filming going on, I had talked to Bob Mason privately. Our conversation addressed the lack of filming of the short courses for repeated presentations. Since his report to the Council of Chapters had not mentioned filming, and I as your representative had placed it under new business at the previous annual meeting, and I noticed no discussion under old business, I stood up. The incoming President Stuart Hunter was at the meeting and knew what I was going to say.

My comments for the record of the business session again recapitulate the lack of short course filming. I said that the filming falls into the framework of membership solicitation (Pres. Zellner's comments at the business session) and also the concept of the history of statisticians. I think I got across the point and that the revenues from short courses will also be pumped back into the filming process. There are other small Chapters that do not have the availability of dynamic speakers for their members, so Alaska is not alone in this quest for the continual contact of the educational process.

As a result of my point of order that an item of business was not covered, Vicki Hertsburg (past Council President) talked to me during the afternoon workshop and said she would write a letter on behalf of the Council. She did, and I have a copy that I will forward for the Chapter files. The letter again voices the concern of a continued service functionality of the short courses for the Chapters.

This is by far my longest Rep report, but the item is important to the Chapter and I will continue in the perturbation to the National office in this process. As you are aware, I chair the Professional Ethic Committee, but I also have approached Stue Hunter with my getting on the Continuing Education Committee. My goals fit into the Chapter needs of a continued availability of short courses at a reasonable price. The video courses are a very important item to the Chapters and to the Association.

There are other items of business that I hope to cover in the upcoming issues of

the newsletter. Any questions or comments, call me, or FAX me at home 487-4356.

As your Council Rep, Alan Johnson - confined to Kodiak

*President's agenda to above:* Although Alan is still in Kodiak ("confined" or not), he will no longer be working for ADF&G. On 23 December 1991, Alan begins work as a statistician for the National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. Dept of Commerce, NOAA) in Kodiak. His new address is: NMFS, Box 15 USCG Base, Kodiak AK 99619). We all wish Alan the best in his new position. Although Alan no doubt has his own reasons for the move, I note that it coincides well with efforts to diversify our Chapter's membership by slightly reducing the numerical dominance of ADF&G employees.

Additionally, Alan received notification in late December '91 that he has been appointed to the National ASA Continuing Education Evaluation Subcommittee. The purpose of that committee is to evaluate all proposals for CE courses (excluding two-day courses) that are submitted to ASA for the annual meeting in 1992.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

Please complete the membership survey form attached to this newsletter and return to Linda Brannian, ADF&G, CF, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518. Our goal is to prepare a membership directory for distribution at the 1992 annual meeting.

ALASKA CHAPTER ASA OFFICERS:

President: Douglas Pengilly, AK Dept. of Fish and Game, 211 Mission Rd,  
Kodiak, AK 99615, 486-4791

Vice President: Hal Geiger, AK Dept. of Fish and Game, PO Box 3-2000,  
Juneau, AK 99802, 465-4210

Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Brannian, AK Dept. Fish and Game, 333  
Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518, 344-0541

Executive Committee: Don Marx, University of Alaska, 3211 Providence Dr,  
Anchorage, AK 99508, 786-1755

Executive Committee: Brian Bue, AK Dept. of Fish and Game, 333  
Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518, 344-0541