



Alaska Pollock Catcher Processors Honored for Supporting Marine Research at Alaska University

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) honored the Pollock Conservation Cooperative (PCC) at its annual awards reception in Fairbanks on December 12th. The PCC, which is composed of the member companies of the At-sea Processors Association (APA), was recognized for annual contributions totaling more than \$13 million since 2000.

The APA member companies formed the PCC in 1998 when the Alaska pollock catcher/processor fleet created a catch share cooperative, a private sector initiative designed to mitigate the environmental impacts of fishing, increase the amount of food produced per pound of fish harvested, and provide socioeconomic benefits for 2,500 men and women who work in the industry sector.

Soon after the Alaska pollock catcher/processor sector cooperative formed, the fishing companies entered into a partnership with UAF to develop a marine research grants program and to support a faculty position with UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. In 2000, the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC) was created at UAF.

The APA/PCC companies participate in the Alaska pollock fishery, one of the world's largest fisheries. As stewards of the waters off Alaska's coast, the companies recognize the value of marine research performed by the students and faculty of UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Working collaboratively with resource managers, the PCCRC focuses research dollars in areas where practical research yields results that inform fishery science and management decisions.

"The APA/PCC companies appreciate UAF's recognition of our continued contributions to improving knowledge of the ocean environment. We value our relationship with UAF and look forward to accomplishing more in developing the fields of marine science and marine policy," said Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director of the PCC.

The PCCRC is a successful collaboration of industry and educators working together to anticipate and meet the needs of the present and the future. In the PCCRC organization, the industry representatives share the current interests of their sector on an annual basis through the research priorities in the request for proposals. Fishery managers, scientists and educators work together with industry to arrive at the best research program to meet those needs.

For further information contact Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director, At-sea Processors Association (APA) and Pollock Conservation Cooperative (PCC) at ph. (907) 523-0970 or smadsen@atsea.org.