

WHY WE CARE

Wild Pacific salmon are profoundly important; they have long connected cultures, ecosystems and economies throughout Alaska and around the Pacific Rim. Sustainability hinges on healthy relationships between wild salmon and people. Alaskan people and communities are dependent on salmon, and healthy salmon ecosystems are likewise dependent on wise management and stewardship.



History has taught us that the connections between wild salmon and people have been repeatedly severed throughout the world, and in North America remain intact only in Alaska. A rapidly changing climate, increasing urbanization, shifts from rural to urban ways of life, inequities in access, and aging of many fishing fleets are just some of the challenges facing Alaska salmon and people.

To address these challenges, bring about change and increase understanding, the University of Alaska has established the Center for Salmon and Society (CSS). The goal of the CSS is to provide a forum for the co-creation of knowledge by diverse salmon-connected individuals and institutions and to use that knowledge to inform wise equitable management.



GOALS

- Engage our diverse salmon community, with particular emphasis on ensuring that all voices are represented and respected
- Collaborate in cooperative and interdisciplinary research and synthesis to address the most pressing issues facing salmon and people in Alaska
- Promote the use of the best available information to policymakers to help them make informed decisions
- Educate and prepare the next generation of salmon stewards from communities around the state



PRIORITIES

Engagement

The CSS holds workshops focused on identifying and addressing long-term challenges to Alaska's salmon and salmon-dependent communities. These workshops bring together lawmakers; commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen; industries; conservationists; managers; tribes; academia; and media representatives to discuss solutions to these challenges.

Research and Synthesis

Faculty members are participating in the State of Alaska Salmon and People salmon synthesis project, the International Year of the Salmon steering committee, and on the Salmon Connect board. They are also partners in Alaska Salmon Fellows, Racial Equity in Salmon Systems, and Indigenizing Salmon Management projects.

Educational Activities

New interdisciplinary salmon courses and fieldwork are designed to prioritize salmon in our fisheries curriculum. Topics include links between salmon and society, life history, racial equity in Alaska's salmon systems and salmon management and conservation.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The CSS has received support from UAF, CFOS, Alaska Sea Grant, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Salmon Connect and the World Wildlife Fund. We seek additional partners to help fund research, scholarships and fellowships, and bring salmon-connected people together to address challenges.

We look to Alaskans to help us make a meaningful and lasting contribution to long-term conservation of Alaska's salmon and people systems. Through engagement, research and synthesis, education and informing policymakers we can ensure healthy salmon populations and healthy salmon relationships for Alaska's future.

To contribute or learn more, please contact:

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