



From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 Division of Commercial Fisheries



DIRECTOR'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Division of Commercial Fisheries recognizes employees with two types of Director's Achievement Awards. The Meritorious Service Award is the highest award given by the division to an employee who has shown excellence in his or her work over an extended period of service. Outstanding Service Awards are given to employees whose performance is clearly superior to that of others in similar positions or to employees who have made significant contributions to the division over the last year. Candidates are nominated by staff through their respective Regional Supervisors or Section Chiefs. I am pleased to announce that the following individuals have been selected to receive the Director's Achievement Awards for 2016.

Tim Baker
Meritorious Service Award
 Management Coordinator • Region II
 Anchorage



Scott Walker
 Fishery Biologist III • Region I
 Ketchikan



Scott Johnson
 Analyst Programmer IV • Region I
 Douglas



**David Anderson, James Wiese,
 Ted Jewell, David Knight**
 Vessels Program • Region II



Jenefer Bell
 Fishery Biologist II • Region III
 Nome



Doug Pengilly
 Fisheries Scientist I • Region IV
 Kodiak





From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries

2016

Director's Achievement Award for MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Tim Baker
Management Coordinator • Region II • Anchorage

Tim Baker has dedicated nearly 30 years to the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in both the Division of Sport Fish and the Division of Commercial Fisheries. He has held several positions, including Biometrician, Research Analyst, Research Biologist, and Management Coordinator for Region II. Succeeding in these very different positions indicates Tim's broad knowledge, adaptability, capabilities, and his ability to successfully work in areas with highly controversial issues. His current position as a Management Coordinator for commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet has him managing the most complicated and difficult salmon fishery in the state.

Tim has written or coauthored 31 reports on topics such as Arctic char in the Wood River in Bristol Bay, Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecasting, and the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill's effects on herring. He is a member of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, and a member of the American Fisheries Society on both a national and state level.

Tim has successfully guided his staff through several Board of Fishery meetings, including the Upper Cook Inlet meetings—the most contentious in the state. His knowledge, experience, enthusiasm, and organizational skills provide the strong leadership

necessary to work collaboratively to ensure successful harvest opportunities for both current users and future generations of Alaskans.

Successfully managing commercial fisheries typically requires long irregular hours and working on weekends for most of the summer. Tim has consistently displayed a high work ethic and was always available when there was work to be done or someone needed help.

Tim's personable demeanor has allowed him to develop good working relationships not only with his staff, but also with staff from other divisions and with members of the public. Even though many of the issues he deals with are very controversial, because of his wealth of knowledge and broad experience, along with his personality, he is respected by his staff, his peers, a wide variety of user groups, and the general public.

Tim's passion and dedication to the sustainability of Alaska's natural resources epitomizes his service not just to Alaskans, but also to those who visit this great state.

For these accomplishments, and for his commitment to excellence, the division is proud to award Tim Baker the Director's Achievement Award for Meritorious Service.





From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director's Achievement Award for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Scott Walker
Fishery Biologist III • Region I • Ketchikan

Scott Walker has worked his entire career in Ketchikan, beginning as a Fish and Wildlife Technician in 1986. He worked his way up to Assistant Area Management Biologist, moved to a herring research position, and in 2006 became the Ketchikan Area Management Biologist. In this position, he manages commercial salmon purse seine, salmon drift gillnet, herring winter bait, herring spawn-on-kelp, herring sac roe, shrimp pot, sea cucumber dive, sea urchin dive, geoduck dive, marine kelp, and subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska Districts 1-4. These fisheries run from January to December, and along with his other duties (including annual Pacific Salmon Commission meetings, annual Drift Gillnet and Purse Seine Task Force meetings, annual reports, annual management plans for each of his fisheries, and Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings every three years), his job is easily the most heavily tasked Area Management Biologist position in Southeast Region.

He also supervises a staff of two Fishery Biologist II positions, a Fish and Wildlife Tech IV, a Fish and Wildlife Tech II, and two Program Technicians. He performs all of his duties with apparent ease and a good sense of humor.

Ketchikan is by far the busiest area office in Southeast Alaska in terms of workload and public interactions. Scott is always willing

to put things on hold to talk with fishermen and other members of the public. He is genuinely kind and caring in those interactions and does not lose patience with members of the public. His demeanor is calm, confident, and knowledgeable, and if he does not readily have an answer to a question, he will do the research and follow up. These qualities were on full display in planning for the Craig spawn-on-kelp herring fishery this year.

For a number of reasons the upcoming fishery was nearly certain to exceed the guideline harvest levels if managed according to past practice. Rather than close the fishery, Scott spent countless hours talking over alternatives with regional management staff, industry members, and the Attorney General's office, and developed an innovative solution for an orderly fishery that

would stay within the guideline harvest level. He presented his solution at a task force meeting in December and though it was tense and heated, Scott maintained a reasoned approach throughout and the users agreed to his plan. Scott could have justifiably closed this fishery but instead found a way to make it happen because he understands its importance to local fishermen.

For his everyday dedication to his job and for this effort in particular, Scott Walker is deserving of the Director's Achievement Award for Outstanding Service.





From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director's Achievement Award for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Scott Johnson
Analyst Programmer IV • Region I • Douglas

Scott Johnson has been working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the Southeast Regional office for nearly 30 years as an Analyst/Programmer. Scott was hired after graduating from the University of Alaska with a degree in biometrics. After joining the department, Scott and his coworker, Jeff Kelley, designed the Region's Integrated Fisheries Database (IFDB) which is still in use. Scott designed the data tables and output reports, while Jeff designed the user interface for data entry. IFDB is a world-class database that contains salmon, herring, invertebrate, and groundfish harvest; and biological, escapement, and research data. The harvest data extends from statehood through fish harvested in Southeast's fisheries today. Scott created a wide range of reports that are used by fisheries biologists, biometricians, and fisheries managers to forecast returns, set harvest limits, and open and close fisheries. These reports provide data for universities and fisheries researchers throughout the country as well. Scott has

adapted the database to changes in technology; for example, instead of recording data with pencils on Rite-in-the-Rain paper, users can add data to the database with hand-held data capture devices.

Scott deserves the Outstanding Service recognition because the department's Region I office has depended on him to make changes to the database throughout the years at a moment's notice, to be available all hours of the day or night to troubleshoot problems during at-sea surveys, and to monitor the database in times of sickness and health for nearly 30 years! Scott is a very important member of the Division of Commercial Fisheries Information Technology team and has worked doggedly alongside headquarters staff to support the statewide business intelligence initiative. His devotion, can-do attitude, love of fisheries science and management, and determination to do the best job possible is worthy of the Director's Achievement Award for Outstanding Service. He deserves nothing less, except the Packers winning the Super Bowl!





From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director's Achievement Award for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**David Anderson, James Wiese, Ted Jewell, David Knight
 Vessels Program • Region II**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Central Region vessels program is recognized for outstanding performance and dedication to the users and the fishery resources of the State of Alaska. The vessel's program is staffed by Captain Dave Anderson and Vessel Technician James Wiese on the R/V *Solstice*, and Captain Ted Jewell and Vessel Technician David Knight on the R/V *Pandalus*. Also serving on each vessel were seasonal Boat Officer I's John Crofts and James "Charlie" Schollenberg. While the R/V *Pandalus* at 67' and R/V *Solstice* at 58' are based in Region II, these vessels and their crew operate important research programs across the state from the arctic waters of Norton Sound to the U.S./Canadian border in Southeast Alaska. These research vessels are extremely adaptable; gear types include pots, long line, small and large mesh trawl, drift gillnets, seines, dredges, sonar, and remotely operated vehicles. Research projects include working with salmon, herring, crab, shrimp, scallop, rockfish, halibut, sablefish, lingcod, skate, and salmon sharks.

In 2016, the R/V *Solstice* staff accepted the challenge of conducting the drift gillnet test fishery in Upper Cook Inlet from a 58' seine vessel, something that the *Solstice* had never done before. This high-profile public program consisted of 30 continuous days of sampling in inclement weather conditions and was in addition to over 115 days at sea conducting other research projects.

Fisheries work is not the only type of research that these vessels are

capable of. The R/V *Solstice* worked with U.S. Geological Survey scientists and researchers from Boise State University to determine the cause of the tsunami waves that swept through the Prince William Sound village of Chenega during the great Alaska earthquake of 1964. Over 50 years later, a collection of images taken while mapping the seafloor revealed the likely cause of the tsunami: a large set of underwater landslides. Similar work was done by the R/V *Solstice* crew working along the 825-mile-long Queen Charlotte-Fairweather fault, where the Pacific plate slides northwest past the North American plate. This was the first time anyone had mapped this area with modern technology and high-resolution imagery.

Especially of note in 2016 were the extraordinary efforts of the R/V *Pandalus* crew to replace the main engine in less than two weeks. On May 16, the main engine failed and the vessel was scheduled to sail June 7 for the critically important Port Moller test fishery project in Bristol Bay. Acting quickly, a new engine was bid, ordered, and delivered while the old engine was pulled out. The new engine was installed and sea trials completed all by June 5, in time to leave for Bristol Bay.

Region II's vessel staff's performance, flexibility, outstanding commitment to service, and their willingness to take on new challenges throughout the state of Alaska warrants their recognition for the Director's Achievement Award for Outstanding Service.



Clockwise from top left: David Anderson, James Wiese, David Knight, Ted Jewell.



From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director's Achievement Award for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Jenefer Bell Fisheries Biologist II • Region III • Nome

Jenefer Bell is currently the Fishery Biologist II Arctic Area Research Biologist in Norton Sound, and is based in Nome. She is responsible for conducting research in support of management needs in the Arctic Area; her responsibilities include multiple salmon stocks and the Norton Sound red king crab fishery, one of the largest commercial fisheries in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

Jenefer received her bachelor's degree from Allegheny College and her master's degree from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Jenefer's professional work background includes working as a Fishery Biologist II research biologist, a Fishery Biologist II management biologist, and as a fish culturist and manager for two aquaculture associations. This professional background has provided important experience and perspective in emerging hatchery and artificial salmon propagation interests in Norton Sound.

Jenefer works independently and without anyone needing to ask her to take on often thankless projects. Her strong work

ethic and dedication to her job has resulted in her success with two large-scale research projects that provided important new insights for the Norton Sound commercial red king crab fisheries and the commercial and subsistence Nome area salmon fisheries. The Arctic Area had suffered from a long period of vacancy not only for the area research biologist position Jen currently holds, but for other biologist level positions as well. This reduced staffing leads to gaps in reporting and data management. Jenefer has taken the initiative to remedy these shortfalls by standardizing historical datasets, recovering historical data that had not been adequately tracked, and catching up on area reports that had not been written due to the above vacancies.

For her initiative and desire to step up and help out the Arctic Area team wherever she sees a need, and for her commitment to excellence, the division is proud to award Jenefer Bell the Director's Achievement Award for Outstanding Service.





From the Office of the Director, Scott Kelley
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director's Achievement Award for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Doug Pengilly Fisheries Scientist I • Region IV • Kodiak

Doug Pengilly started with Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a seasonal Fishery Biologist I in Kodiak in 1979 in charge of operating the Sapsuk Tower on Alaska Peninsula under Arnold Shaul. His responsibilities included enumerating adult salmon, smolt indexing, and running a tagging study. Doug only held the position for one season, but returned to Fish and Game in 1988 after completing his Master's Degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, attending the Colorado State University as a Ph.D. candidate in statistics, and working for the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of Alaska.

In 1988, Doug was hired as a Biometrician II at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and it was in this position he began his career in shellfish research. One of his first assignments included an analysis of the king crab survey for the Kodiak Area addressing the effects of size and exploitation rates on the population.

Doug took over as the Westward Region's research supervisor in January 5, 1995, and was ultimately promoted to a Fishery Scientist I in 2012. Doug's contributions to the department over his 28 years of service are too numerous to count—he continually strived to protect the sustainability of the state's resources. He spearheaded stock assessment research of the commercial crab species in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands, St. Matthews Island, and Norton

Sound; and he was instrumental in the development of the state's crab fishery observer program.

Doug has attended countless meetings representing the state at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and has participated in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Crab Plan Team and Crab Rebuilding Committee. He has represented the state at the Board of Fisheries meetings, served on various advisory committees, and has contributed his expertise to Gulf of Alaska crab and groundfish research and management.

Doug has authored and coauthored many manuscripts and reports, supervised never less than five people at a time, and worked tirelessly on budgets, million dollar grants, and stock assessments. Doug's unique perspective and insight made his opinions invaluable in meetings, as his colleagues often referred to him as "the smartest guy I know." His easygoing nature and constant good mood made him very approachable. In recognition

of his dedication, leadership, and overall excellence in groundfish research and management in the Westward Region, the division is proud to award Doug Pengilly the Director's Achievement Award for Outstanding Service.

His love for music and playing guitar spilled over into his job, as he serenaded his staff daily with the latest tune in his head. These days the office is sadly quieter after Doug's retirement, but if you're in town on a Friday and Saturday night, stop by the Kodiak Inn to listen to him play, his music goes on!

