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## **Editorial**

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**Susan M. Shirley**

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### **MILESTONES FOR THE ALASKA FISHERY RESEARCH BULLETIN**

This year as we enter a new era, we naturally reflect on past accomplishments, gauge progress, and set future goals. This is also the time to commemorate two milestones for the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin. The 1999 volume marks its 5th year of publication. Congratulations to the authors, reviewers, editorial board, and staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game who helped to make the journal a success.

With the new millennium also comes change for the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin. The founding editor, Robert L. Wilbur, retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in December 1998. Before becoming Scientific Publications Editor in 1986, Bob served as Statewide Enhancement Harvest Coordinator from 1976 through 1984, and Statewide Herring and Shellfish Management Coordinator until 1986. His long tenure with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and his commitment to producing high-quality scientific publications are laudable. We wish Bob continued success and enjoyment in his future endeavors.

As the new editor of the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My biological research experience and knowledge of Alaska fisheries will serve as a good foundation for the challenges of editing the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin. I have B.S. and M.S. degrees in zoology and physiology, with an emphasis on physiology of aquatic organisms. When I came to Alaska in 1982, I worked at the University of Alaska Juneau on salmon genetics and biochemistry projects as a research technician. Later, I became a research associate at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, studying and publishing on early life history and larval biology of king crabs and Dungeness crabs in Southeast Alaska. I was a research analyst for 9 years with the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission before joining the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in October 1999.

Alaska's fisheries continue to provide important recreational, subsistence, and commercial opportunities in the state. State-of-the-art scientific methods and analyses are crucial for responsible management, development, enhancement, rehabilitation, conservation,

and wise use of our natural resources. Alaska is fortunate to have many internationally recognized scientists and managers who make significant contributions to fisheries research and management. We also benefit from fisheries research conducted in Alaska by scientists from other places. Effective communication is paramount for exchange of their techniques, conclusions, and data, and the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin is a valuable forum for disseminating this information.

As we enter a new phase for the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin, we are committed to supporting the journal. We will continue to produce a professional and informative journal with regional as well as universal perspectives. We will strive to make this and other publications of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game more visible and accessible online and through the use of electronic media. I look forward to receiving your manuscripts, and working with you to maintain the high standards of this important fishery journal.

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