

I. Opening Remarks

Welcome to Alaska, welcome to Juneau, and welcome to the second symposium sponsored by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, *Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon*. Those of you that went on the tour of the Chilkat River chum salmon spawning areas at Haines yesterday probably are not talking to me today after the brutal weather I subjected you to up at Herman Creek and at the Bald Eagle Preserve. Listening to me talk about my favorite subject, chum salmon, in the freezing, numbing wind, snow, and rain was an unforgettable, or should it be forgettable or perhaps unforgivable, experience? I'm sure in the future if I'm permitted to arrange a tour, people that were on this one will be checking the weather and looking for excuses to do something else.

We have two distinguished guests in the audience that I would like to introduce to you right now. First, Alaska's Lieutenant Governor, and Commissioner of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, Fran Ulmer. Second, Mrs. Shirley Carlson from Juneau. Most of you knew Dick, Shirley is his wife. Dick died from injuries after he was struck by a car on the side of the highway near his home on July 21. A poster is on the wall that celebrates some of Dick's research activities. Most of the papers presented here in the next two days will be published in the proceedings of the Symposium as Bulletin Number 2 of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. This Bulletin will be dedicated to Dr. H. Richard (Dick) Carlson.

Dick was born in Elgin, Illinois, on June 29, 1940. He was a young 59 years old. He attended South Dakota State University and transferred to Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, to finish his B.S. degree in fisheries in 1963. He completed a M.S. degree in fisheries in 1968 at the University of Connecticut and his Ph.D. degree in 1985 at Oregon State University. Dick also graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia, and was commissioned ensign and lieutenant and served on active duty in the Gulf of Mexico in 1963-66.

He started working at the Auke Bay Laboratory in 1960-61 as a seasonal temporary in the Herring Investigations Program. After his stint in the Coast Guard, he came back to the Auke Bay Laboratory and worked for the Salmon Investigations Program in Bristol Bay. He accepted a permanent research biologist position in 1968 with the Marine Fisheries Investigations Program. His research on rockfish behavior and life history resulted in several papers that first demonstrated homing ability to certain reefs.

Dick was the first American scientific observer on the Japanese research vessel the *Oshoro Maru*. Dick

was also the first scientist to use a submersible submarine to observe groundfish in southeastern Alaska.

He also worked with the U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty Research Program from 1986 through 1994. In 1995, he transferred to the new Ocean Carrying Capacity Research Program. Dick was very pleased to get back on the high seas and was the program's Chief Scientist until his death.

Dick's love of the ocean caused him to spend much time under the ocean surface. As a diver for Auke Bay Laboratory, he logged an astounding 3887 dives! He also dove in California, Hawaii, Fiji, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Mexico, and Honduras. For 17 years he observed and marked starfish and monitored their distribution and longevity in Auke Bay. A paper describing these observations was published in the *Journal of Marine Biology* in 1999, shortly before his death.

Dick and Shirley were famous for their hospitality. One of our Russian colleagues told me that they considered Dick and Shirley their adopted American parents. They made sure that our foreign visitors felt they always had a home to go to in Juneau.

He was supposed to make an oral presentation at this symposium. His co-authors Ed Farley and Kate Myers finished the paper and will present it for him. It will be a very fitting memorial to have the proceedings of this Symposium – Bulletin Number 2 of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission – dedicated to Dr. H. R. (Dick) Carlson.

I have two more distinguished guests to introduce and they are our keynote speakers. Dr. Elbert W. (Joe) Friday, Jr., Director of the Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate in the U.S. National Research Council, Washington, D.C. Dr. Friday will speak to us on "Climate Variability and Climate Change: What Do We Really Know?" His talk will follow Lieutenant Governor Ulmer's Welcome Address. The next distinguished guest is Dr. Bruce Finney, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Finney's keynote address will be the first talk tomorrow – "A Long-Term Perspective on Climate Variability and Salmon Production in the Northeast Pacific Ocean." These two keynote talks will provide the background and insights for helping to understand how climate variability and climate change are involved in our symposium subject – *Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon*.

Jack Helle
Chairman
Symposium Steering Committee

