

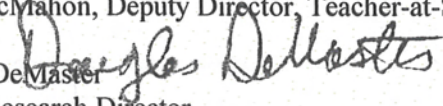


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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JUN 04 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jennifer Hammond, Director, Teacher-at-Sea Program
Elizabeth McMahon, Deputy Director, Teacher-at-Sea Program

FROM: Douglas P. DeMaster 
Science & Research Director

SUBJECT: Support for NOAA's Teacher-at-Sea Program

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) would like to express our support and offer our sincere thanks to NOAA's Teacher-at-Sea (TAS) Program. Over the years, we have benefited greatly from the assistance provided to our research scientists by the many teachers we have had the pleasure to sail with. Scientists in our Midwater Assessment and Conservation Engineering Program (MACE) began sailing with TAS-sponsored teachers back in the summer of 1992 on a Pacific hake acoustic-trawl (AT) survey aboard the NOAA Ship Miller Freeman. Since then, very few summers have passed without at least one and as many as six teachers participating in surveys for hake off the west coast and pollock in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska aboard either the *Miller Freeman* or NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*.

The TAS Program serves a critical role in the success of these AT surveys. Not all positions on the Science Team need be filled by acoustically-trained fish biologists. A positive attitude and willingness to learn (along with a good set of "sea legs") are all that is needed in the Fish Sampling Lab. In our 21 years of experience, we have yet to sail with a teacher who has not represented the best of their profession. The value of the TAS Program to teachers, and their students and the public-at-large is well established. We would like to acknowledge and say thanks for the many positive benefits your Program has brought to our time at sea and our overall research efforts.

