

Final Report from CIFAR to NOAA
on Extension to Close-out of Cooperative Agreement No. NA17RJ1224

1 July 2009–30 November 2009



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Overview

[In 2008, following a competitive application process, CIFAR was awarded a new 5-year cooperative agreement as the NOAA Alaska Regional Cooperative Institute. The new cooperative institute is called the “Cooperative Institute for Alaska Research,” to better reflect the Alaska regional aspect while retaining the acronym “CIFAR.” This report is for the Extension to Closeout granted to CIFAR for our NOAA cooperative agreement NA17RJ1224 (University of Alaska Fairbanks, UAF grant G00000191) to the Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research.]

As outlined in our Extension to Closeout request submitted on 14 August 2009, we spent this period closing out our Task 1 core administrative award, 28 Task 1 Education & Outreach awards (student research and field class support), and over a hundred Task 3 research awards and sub-contracts. In August, G00000191 was chosen for A133 audit for FY09, and we assisted UAF Office of Grants and Contracts in this effort.

At the same time, John Walsh remained actively involved with the NOAA’s national and international efforts while Susan Sugai participated in Alaska Regional Collaboration Team (ARCTic) activities. CIFAR assisted ARCTic in identifying researchers to provide briefings during visits to Alaska by President Obama’s Ocean Policy Task Force and other White House Cabinet and Congressional fact-finding groups in August.

The last scheduled drawdown from this award is in process. As noted in our request, most of the expenditures were for personnel services required for CIFAR administrative functions associated with close-out, but also for student research support associated with our Stock Assessment and International Polar Year (IPY) Student Traineeships and student involvement in the CIFAR Russian–American Long-Term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA) field project. In Appendix 1, we summarize the CIFAR-funded personnel during the 150-day closeout period.

We anticipate that following the University submission of the November draw downs that the remaining available balance will be approximately \$130,548.27 or 0.51% of the award totaling \$25,685,525. Of this remaining balance, \$21,331.87 is from Task 1 administrative funds because of the unanticipated loss of our long-time CIFAR administrator in July 2009. Her position was filled on a part-time basis for 5 months. We are presently involved in a search for a permanent replacement.

Highlights of CIFAR Task I Activities

During this extension to closeout period, our Task I administrative activities were focused upon preparing the final annual report and closing out awards under this cooperative agreement while moving forward with activities under our new cooperative agreements NA08OAR4320751 and NA08OAR4320870, for our NOAA non-competitive and competitively awarded projects, respectively. Activities more closely aligned with the new cooperative agreements will be reported in the next annual report for those awards in April 2010.

During the 150-day extension to closeout period (1 July 2009 to 30 November 2009) the actual time spent on CIFAR administrative functions required a total effort of 9.4 person months that was distributed among CIFAR staff as follows:

- John Walsh, CIFAR director, 25% FTE
- Susan Sugai, CIFAR associate director, 81% FTE
- Lesli Walls, CIFAR interim fiscal administrator, 66% FTE
- Barb Hameister, publications and meetings manager, 64% FTE

Because CIFAR is located at UAF, we place a high priority on our Task I competitively funded student traineeships that help prepare future human resource needs of both NOAA and the State of Alaska. We bring together faculty and students from various University departments and campuses to collaborate with NOAA scientists on research and educational efforts. Because our requested Task I support for education and outreach efforts in our new cooperative agreement was not funded at the level requested, we provided student research support for 5 Ph.D. and 1 M.S. degree seeking students during the extension to closeout period using our Task 1 funds. Six students received a combined total of 19.3 person months of student stipend support; 5 of these students received > 50% NOAA support during this 150-day time period.

To highlight the important role that students play in fulfilling NOAA's mission goals, we have **boldfaced the names of students** in this overview of CIFAR accomplishments.

Stock Assessment Training and Improvement

Three students (**Katie Palof**, **Haixue Shen**, and **Suzanne Teerlink**) received tuition and/or stipend support under the Stock Assessment Training and Improvement award. **Shen**, who officially received her Ph.D. in December 2009, began employment as a Biometrician II at Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the Douglas Commercial Fisheries Division on 15 September 2009. **Palof** is continuing her Ph.D. research with support from the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC) and **Teerlink** has support to finish her M.S. research from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Sara Miller, a Ph.D. student, received travel support to present at the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Meeting in Fairbanks in November. She gave an oral presentation "The optimal stability 'window' hypothesis: A possible link between water column stability and Gulf of Alaska pink salmon survival." **Miller** has received a PCCRC fellowship for the 2009–2010 academic year.

International Polar Year Student Traineeship Awards

We extended stipend support to two finishing Ph.D. students on their competitively awarded International Polar Year Student Awards.

Jason Addison successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation "High-resolution Paleooceanography of the Gulf of Alaska, Subarctic Northeast Pacific Ocean: Insights into a Dynamic Atmosphere-Ocean-Ecosystem Linkage at Decadal Timescales" in July and officially graduated in December 2009. He has been working on four manuscripts in preparation for submission to journals.

Jason Amundson, a Ph.D. candidate in geophysics, is scheduled to defend in February 2010. In this 150-day reporting period, Amundson has one manuscript in press and a second one in preparation. They are:

Amundson, J.M., M. Fahnestock, M. Truffer, J. Brown, M. Lüthi, and R. J. Motyka, 2009, Ice mélange dynamics and implications for terminus stability, Jakobshavn Isbræ, Greenland, *J. Geophys. Res.*, doi:10.1029/2009JF001405, in press.

Amundson, J.M., M. Fahnestock, M. Truffer, M. West, E. Okal. Seismic and satellite observations of calving events at Jakobshavn Isbræ, Greenland, from 1982-present. Manuscript in preparation.

Presentations during this reporting period include:

Amundson, J.M., M. Fahnestock, and M. Truffer. Application of a simple ice-mélange force-balance model to the calving dynamics of Jakobshavn Isbræ, Greenland. Presented at the *International Symposium on Glaciology in the International Polar Year*, Newcastle, England, July 2009.

Amundson, J.M., M. Fahnestock, and M. Truffer. Seismic and satellite observations of calving events at Jakobshavn Isbræ, Greenland, from 1996 to present. Presented at the *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, California, December 2009.

Russian-American Long-Term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA)

Michael Kong, a Ph.D. student who was proposed to be funded through a competitively award RUSALCA award, needed additional student stipend when the field portion of his project was delayed one year. We supported his stipend to participate in the RUSALCA Bering Strait mooring cruise and to do the field and laboratory studies that will be part of his Ph.D. dissertation research, which is in very early stages. Outcomes of this support will be reported in upcoming annual reports for NA08OAR4320870.

Appendix 1: CIFAR-funded Personnel during Extension to Closeout (1 July – 30 November 2009)

Name	Highest earned degree	Hours	Pay Periods	Months	
Research Scientists					
Sugai, Susan	Ph.D.	563		3.2	
Walsh, John	Ph.D.	176		1.0	
				4.2	person months
				0.4	person years
Administrative					
Hameister, Barbara	B.A.	444		2.6	
Walls, Lesli		461		2.6	
				5.2	person months
				0.4	person years
All CIFAR employees					
Total Ph.D.	2				
Total M.S.	0				
Total B.S. or B.A.	1				
Total unknown or none	1				
Total Scientists and Administrative Staff				4	
Total (>50% NOAA)	≥ 2.5 months			3	
Students					
Addison, Jason	Ph.D.		10.0	5.0	
Amundson, Jason	Ph.D.		1.7	0.9	
Kong, Michael	Ph.D.		6.0	3.0	
Palof, Katie	Ph.D.		6.5	3.3	
Shen, Haixue	Ph.D.		5.3	2.7	
Teerlink, Suzanne	M.S.		9	4.5	
				19.3	person months
				1.6	person years
All CIFAR students					
Total Ph.D.	5				
Total M.S.	1				
Total B.S. or B.A.	0				
Unknown	0				
Total students				6	
Total (>50% NOAA)	≥ 2.5 months			5	