



The Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund

“Supporting the next generation of fisheries biologists and conservationists”

In 2002 a group of Humboldt Fisheries alumni formed the *Humboldt Fishin' Lumberjacks* to share quality time ‘on the water’ fishing together and reflecting on our shared life experiences. During our time at Humboldt State University (HSU), we had all benefitted directly from and been inspired by **Dr. Terry Roelofs**, longtime Fisheries department leader and current Professor Emeritus of Fisheries Biology at HSU.

Dr. Roelofs began his Humboldt career in 1970, guiding and building the department into the internationally recognized center of fisheries excellence that we proudly identify with and support. Terry has served as professor, mentor, fly fishing guru, and inspiration to decades of fisheries students, many of whom have used their Humboldt experience as a springboard to long and successful careers in fisheries science and management.



Terry Roelofs (*right*) receiving the inaugural \$10,000 Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund donation check in the galley of the F/V *Royal Star* during one of the Humboldt Fishin' Lumberjacks long range tuna trips. Left to right are Lumberjacks Craig Heberer, Greg Koonce, Dave Hankin, Dave Manning, and Terry.

We felt it was fitting to honor Terry’s legacy by creating the ***Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund*** to pay his vision forward to help support HSU students with financial needs who are seeking a post-graduate degree in Fisheries or a related field. Since 2015 we have provided monetary grants to students actively engaged in graduate studies, recognizing the difficulty that older students—often with a family to support—have in achieving this goal. The monetary awards focus on applicants with an interest in fisheries conservation and enhancement research that applies to or directly benefits North Coast watersheds and adjacent marine waters. To date, the *Humboldt Fishin' Lumberjacks* have raised more than \$100,000 to support the Roelofs Fund, mostly from our own pockets.

We are now launching a fund-raising campaign to help increase the size of the fund so that we can offer additional and more substantial annual awards to deserving students. The fund is managed by the Humboldt Area Foundation, and it’s easy to contribute online or by check.



To make a tax-deductible donation, scan the QR code with your phone, or go to <https://www.hafoundation.org/Giving/Give-Now> and select ***Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund*** in the drop-down menu.

If you have other ideas on how to help us grow this fund, please don’t hesitate to visit our ***Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund*** Facebook Page or contact us at (760) 805-5984; craigheberer@gmail.com.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Previous Roelofs Humboldt Fund recipients express how critical and timely the scholarship support was in their HSU careers and beyond.



Chris O'Keefe, 2019

The Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund was great and helped me pay for a large part of my tuition for a semester. I was very grateful to be the recipient of the fund and paired with other scholarships, I have been able to keep my graduate school debt to a minimum... My time at HSU has been wonderful. The classes and faculty have been truly great! ... The connections I have made in the program have led me to get my current job with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, where I am a Fisheries Biologist II working on identifying habitat restoration projects above Iron Gate Dam on the Klamath River.



Madison Halloran, 2018

Thank you so much for reaching out to me, and for your work in continuing this fund! It absolutely helped me out so much in grad school, and I am forever grateful for your support. Through a combination of scholarships like yours, and working part-time, I was able to complete my degree in 3 years with basically no debt... I am excited to be moving back to my home state of Alaska, and to be working to protect public lands at a federal level. My new supervisor did tell me that having a graduate degree in natural resources/ fisheries, and specifically my work with salmon while at HSU, was a big selling point on hiring me, as those are such crucial issues for Alaskans.



Chad Martel, 2017

Being awarded the Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Fund was a great experience that has had a continued impact on my career... It is great to know that there is a network of alumni in the field that, despite having their own careers, are willing to lend a hand to students who need all the help they can get... I hope that this fund is able to continue helping students in the future, and that once my career is a little more established, I am able to pay it forward and contribute towards helping future generations of fisheries students and professionals.



Gabe Sheer, 2015

I had the extreme good fortune to receive the first scholarship awarded by the Roelofs fisheries fund in 2015. Not only was the financial support immensely helpful in completing my graduate studies, but I also gained the support of an amazingly generous network of fisheries biologists and enthusiasts that made this fund possible. Their forethought in not only honoring one of our favorite HSU faculty, but also to support and foster the next generation of fisheries scientists and managers is incredibly important.... Supporting others, like me, in their academic studies is one of the best ways I can think of to encourage fresh thinking and innovative solutions for the problems we face in the future.