

# Scientist of the Month



## Logan Ito

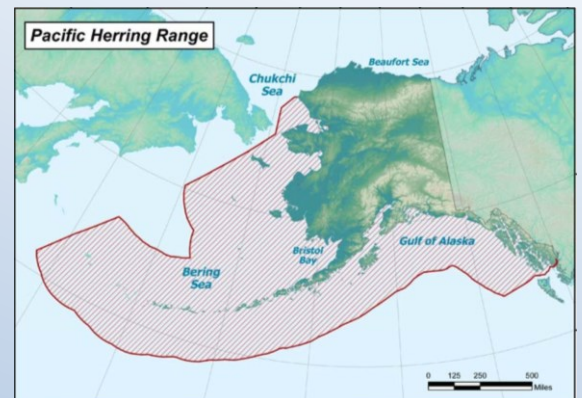
Logan Ito, a graduating UAF senior and first-year BLaST Scholar, is pursuing a degree in biological sciences with a concentration in physiology. He was first introduced to BLaST in the summer of 2018, where he studied aquatic parasites in the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) Research course with Dr. Don Larson, a former BLaST Graduate Research and Mentoring Assistant (GRMA) and now UAF faculty. Ito, from Dillingham Alaska, has grown quite fond of Fairbanks and calls it “a home away from home.” He enjoys fishing, wrenching on motorcycles and snowmobiles, resurrecting old cars, and off-roading. After graduation, Ito plans to apply to medical school and become an orthodontist.

## Research

Ito’s research project analyzes the genomics of different Bering Sea herring populations under the guidance of Dr. Andrés López, an associate professor at the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Ito shared, “I really enjoyed this research as it has been very active since day one. I started with completing and understanding herring dissections and tissue extractions, and recently moved towards DNA sequencing and analysis. Understanding the genetics of the Bering Sea herring will provide useful insight towards fisheries management of this species and can be a steppingstone to future projects. It is valuable to know more about the seemingly small, yet critical species of the Bering Sea. The López lab has provided me with research experience encompassing a wide variety of skills to take with me no matter where I end up, and no day seems to be the same. This research is a fun and refreshing break from classwork, and I always walk away from the lab feeling like I accomplished something.”

## Mentoring

Ito thanks many individuals who have helped him throughout his research journey at UAF, “I would first like to thank Dr. López and master of fisheries and ocean sciences graduate student Sydney Almgren for their support and infectious enthusiasm integrating me into their lab team. I have learned so much about research this year and it has truly been a unique experience to broaden my understanding of the many steps it takes to make a project come together. I would also like to thank Dr. Larson, who introduced me to the field of research nearly five years ago and lit a fire that has been burning ever since. I would also like to recognize my former BLaST Research, Advising and Mentoring Professional (RAMP) Emily Sousa for being a knowledgeable, supportive, and flexible mentor, whether it be academic- or lab-based. I would also like to recognize Arleigh Reynolds for being my current BLaST mentor and making sure my last months as a senior are going well.”



**Above Top left:** BLaST Scholar Logan Ito, Fairbanks, Alaska. (Photo Credit: Chris Kim, Feb. 2023)

**Top Left:** Bering Sea Pacific herring. (Photo Credit: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2023)

**Top Right:** Map of herring range in Alaska. (Photo credit: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2023)

**Left:** Ito with his BLaST faculty mentor and PI Arleigh Reynolds. (Photo credit: Amy Topkok, April 21, 2023)