

UAF, Soviets cooperate on health research

FAIRBANKS — After nearly 10 years of inactivity, joint research is once again taking place among scientists at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Arctic Biology and their Soviet counterparts at the Institute for Biological Problems of the North, according to UAF.

The Soviet institute is part of the Far East Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The thawing of American and Soviet diplomatic relations has allowed scientists in Alaska and the Soviet Union's Magadan region to continue combined efforts that last flourished in the mid-1970s.

Francis S.L. Williamson, director of UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology, was in Leningrad for an International Arctic Science Conference in December 1988 and met with Soviet scientists. The scientific exchange program plans were formalized this summer and signed in Fairbanks Aug. 11.

Topics of the agreement include the history and distribution of plants and animals in the region, productivity of northern ecosystems, principles and methods of environmental conservation in the Far North and the ecology of humans.