

Poikilotherms Have Variable Body Temperatures

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for continued support of a project to study mechanisms by which animals adapt to low temperatures.

The grant, in the amount of \$20,000, goes to Dr. Hans Behrisc, for a project titled "Temperature and the Regulation of Enzyme Activity in Arctic Poikilotherms." The project is now in its third year. This grant brings NSF support to \$58,000.

"We're interested in some of the molecular mechanisms by which animals can adapt to low temperatures," Behrisc said. Poikilotherms are organisms with a variable body temperature usually slightly higher than the temperature of the environment.

Behrisc's project, using primarily king and tanner crabs, studies regulatory characteristics of enzymes, and how this regulation is effected by temperature.

In addition, he is studying seals and walruses to determine how the animals are able to overcome changing temperatures in the extremities.