The sun was setting, the pink sky was reflected on the waters and snowed mountains when I saw a glacier for the first time. The plane landed in Juneau, Alaska where I spent two months working as a postgraduate intern at the University of Alaska Fairbank (UAF), School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

During my stay, I worked on my research project as well as assessing other projects going on in the laboratory. My thesis focused on the analysis of stomach content for a diet study and the length relationships of two co-occurring ground fish predators, Pacific halibut and arrowtooth flounder. Gaining more information of the food habits and relationships between these two species is essential for fisheries management, as arrowtooth flounder, a non-targeted species, seems to be taking over the commercially important species, Pacific halibut.

Through the summer, I helped collect more stomachs going to the docks where we asked fishermen to donate them to the project, and afterwards dissecting these in the laboratory. I beached seined on several occasions in different locations, which allowed me to better know the wildlife and sites as well as gaining experience in sampling methods I had never used before, handling and recognising species. I also participated in an arrowtooth flounder tagging project which involved going out fishing in a boat.

My placement in Alaska was an extraordinary experience in a unique, remote and wild place where I not only gained scientific experience and knowledge in different fields of fisheries but I got to see incredible landscapes and wild life while doing so. Caves of ice, whales flying, bears knocking on my door (literally), bold eagles everywhere, porcupines, fish almost bigger than me… definitely my best experience ever!