

Implementation of statewide subsistence fisheries harvest assessment strategy

Abstract: The project was the second phase of an effort to develop a unified subsistence fisheries harvest assessment program in Alaska. In 11 area workshops, representatives of tribes, state advisory committees, federal regional advisory councils, and state and federal agencies reviewed programs for collecting subsistence harvest data. They were guided by the principles and recommendations developed by a statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Working Group in Project FIS00-017. Workshop participants identified action items for potential modifications to existing programs, proposals for regulatory changes, and potential studies involving harvest assessment and traditional knowledge. They also endorsed the collection of subsistence harvest data and the Working Group's recommendations. A theme common to all the workshops was developing partnerships between agencies and tribes within these programs. The project supported updates to the Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Database and the production of Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Annual Reports for 2001 and 2002. Recommendations included in the final report include continued implementation of a unified program with additional community and subarea workshops, continued updates and enhancements to the database, and continued publication of annual reports. The final report also recommends a workshop for policy development in support of a unified program and the formation of a standing committee to monitor progress in the implementation of the Working Group's recommendations.

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