

Development of a shared AYK salmon database

Abstract: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim (AYK) Region is creating a salmon database management system. The goal of the database is to provide managers, researchers, and the public involved in salmon fisheries in the AYK Region with a system to enter and process new data, as well as to retrieve historical data. Funding for this effort has been provided by numerous sources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helped initiate this program by funding creation of a data inventory, in the process of which many problems with historical data were identified. Through this effort staff began aggregating electronic data files for salmon in the AYK Region (Office of Subsistence Management project FIS 00-016). Additional funding, as project FIS 02-069, allowed the department to continue data rescue, aggregation, validation, and standardization from March 2002 through January 2003. As part of FIS 02-069, approximately 200 additional electronic age, sex, and length (ASL) files were found while transferring files from obsolete to current storage media and operating systems. A parsing program was written to recognize and load raw ASL files into an Access database. A preliminary database structure for biological data was developed and implemented. A total of 769 electronic ASL files containing 205,244 individual fish samples were loaded into databases. A total of 336 handwritten ASL files containing 106,348 individual salmon samples were keyed into a database. One hundred OPSCAN ASL files containing 27,990 individual salmon samples were rescanned and stored as digital files. Fifteen years of Yukon River subsistence and permit data were converted from obsolete to modern software and 695 escapement data sets were checked for errors. Work on this project is continuing under project FIS 04-701.

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