Kake Subsistence Salmon Harvest Use Pattern

This report describes traditional, historic and contemporary use of sockeye or red salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) resources by the people of Kake, Alaska at Kutlaku Creek in Bay of Pillars on Kuiu Island, and Gut Bay and Falls Creek on southern Baranof Island. These three systems are the principal sources of sockeye salmon for the people of Kake. Research topics include the historic and contemporary methods of harvest and processing, traditional management regimes, location of sockeye fisheries, and aspects of competition, distribution and exchange of salmon. Traditional fisheries management maintained healthy stocks of sockeye salmon. Some aspects of traditional fishing practices remain. Respect for salmon, high harvesting households, and multi-household fishing groups with a commitment to sharing resources with those who cannot fish are traditional elements that continue to influence local fishing patterns. Contemporary Kake sockeye salmon harvest practices are community and family-based. The work groups are households and families. The men do most of the fishing while the women process the fish. Nets and other gear are often shared between households. Beach seines, set nets and gill nets are the most common gear used for subsistence sockeye fishing. Regulations and management practices have recently incorporated traditional practices and needs into management plans or regulatory systems. Regulations pertaining to ceremonial needs, customary trade, designated fishers and community harvest permits have begun to address these issues. Methods for data collection were key respondent interviews, participant observation, and archival research.

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