SUBSISTENCE HARVESTS AND USES OF SALMON, TROUT, AND CHAR IN AKHIOK, LARSEN BAY, OLD HARBOR, OUZINKIE, AND PORT LIONS, ALASKA, 2004 AND 2005

FINAL REPORT TO THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS FOR STUDY NUMBER FIS 04-457 UNDER CONTRACT NUMBER 701815C203

ABSTRACT

Participation in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Kodiak Management Area Pacific salmon Oncorhynchus subsistence permitting program has been low; therefore, accurate harvest estimates have been difficult to achieve. The Kodiak Management Area includes the rural communities of Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions, which are located on the Kodiak Island archipelago. In 2001, the Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Working Group recommended that a project be created that would both provide education and outreach about the permit program and an evaluation of harvest assessment methods. This report is a result of that project, which was funded by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. The project included 11 key respondent interviews and 303 household harvest surveys in 2005 and 2006. A fundamental part of the research process was the engagement of residents, fisheries managers, ADF&G researchers and local research assistants through public meetings and workshops. Finally, respondents provided traditional and ecological knowledge about harvest patterns and cultural uses of salmon resources in the area. Results of the project indicated that as the number of fishers participating in the permit program increased from 2004 to 2005, the accuracy of the harvest estimates also increased; the harvest estimates from the permits also more closely agreed with those generated from the household surveys. Discrete estimates showed that rainbow/steelhead trout O. mykiss and Dolly Varden/Arctic char Salvelinus spp harvests were not increasing, and did not present problems of sustainability in area streams.

Keywords: Kodiak Management Area, subsistence salmon fishing, subsistence fishing, subsistence harvest assessment, Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions.

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