

Togiak River subsistence harvest monitoring

This study was initiated to document subsistence fishery practices and total harvest by species and area by conducting in-season and post season interviews with Togiak River subsistence users. This study was also designed to enhance the reliability of annual harvest estimates through community outreach and supplemental interviews, to obtain maximum compliance with subsistence fishing permit participation and harvest reporting.

Togiak residents, BBNA Natural Resources staff, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport and Commercial Fisheries Divisions in Dillingham expressed a data need for systematic in-season subsistence harvest data collection to improve the existing information used for management. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge similarly expressed the need for monitoring Dolly Varden, salmon, and other species used in the subsistence fisheries. Due to several circumstances beyond the Investigators' control, the in-season monitoring was not successful.

The effort to evaluate and enhance the subsistence harvest data through work with the existing permit system worked quite well. Post-season interviewing substantially improved the subsistence salmon harvest estimates for the community of Togiak. For each study year, about a third of the total estimated salmon harvests would have been missed had the interviews not occurred. A high level of participation in the survey and the virtual absence of refusals indicate overall support for collection of subsistence harvest data.

Citation: R., J. Chythlook, T. Krieg, M. Lisac, and J. Larson. 2003. Togiak River subsistence monitoring. Natural Resources Department, Bristol Bay Native Association, Dillingham, Alaska. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Project No. 01-047, 2001 Annual Report.