

Cook Inlet Customary and Traditional Subsistence Fisheries Assessment

Abstract: This report provides information about past, present, and potential noncommercial harvests and uses of fish in waters of the Cook Inlet Management Area that are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board. Phase One of the project consisted of a literature review, key respondent interviews and four scoping meetings. Phase Two consisted of a survey of 355 households in five study communities: Cooper Landing, Hope, Nikolaevsk, Ninilchik, and Seldovia. Three stakeholder meetings to review the study findings also took place.

The Dena'ina (Kenaitze) and other local residents harvested fish for subsistence use in the study area until pre-statehood federal authorities prohibited subsistence fishing in freshwater in 1952. Since then, substantial economic development has brought rapid population growth; most household heads in the study communities have lived there less than 10 years. Most households in the five study communities harvested and used fish in the 2002/03 study year, but harvests were relatively low in the road connected communities, and higher in Seldovia. In four of the study communities, rod and reel fishing under sport fishing regulations provided most of the harvest. Most households recommended federal subsistence fisheries identical to state sport fisheries and most found state personal use fisheries adequate for their needs.

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