

Natural Resource Internship Program
2005 Annual Report for Study 04-309

The Kuskokwim Native Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have offered fisheries internships to about 15 high school students a year since 1999. The purpose of the program is to encourage community involvement in Kuskokwim River fisheries research and management through engaging youth (ages 14-19) in research projects. The internships last one to two weeks and take place at fisheries research camps. Interns gain fisheries field work experience by counting salmon passage through weirs, sampling salmon for age-sex-length analysis, collecting salmon fin tissue for genetic analysis, recording stream physical conditions, tagging salmon, and living in remote camp environments. Interns also learn fisheries research, management, and ecological concepts through a curriculum of readings and activities. Eight high school interns have been later hired by either the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or Kuskokwim Native Association as fisheries technicians. In 2005, 17 interns from six different villages along the Kuskokwim River participated in the program. The internship program has been an excellent opportunity for communities to participate in fisheries research and for students to explore career opportunities in the natural resources field.

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