

Science, Service, Stewardship



Update on Data Collection from Alaska Communities

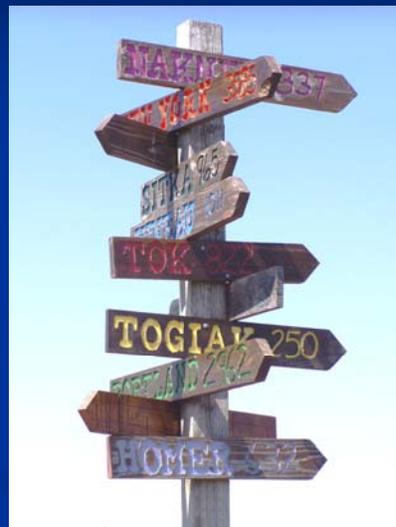
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Dr. Jennifer Sepez (AFSC)
and Christina Package (PSMFC)

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

■ Community Data Collection

- Purpose
- Communities
- Survey
- Example Questions
- Timeline
- Partners



Purpose

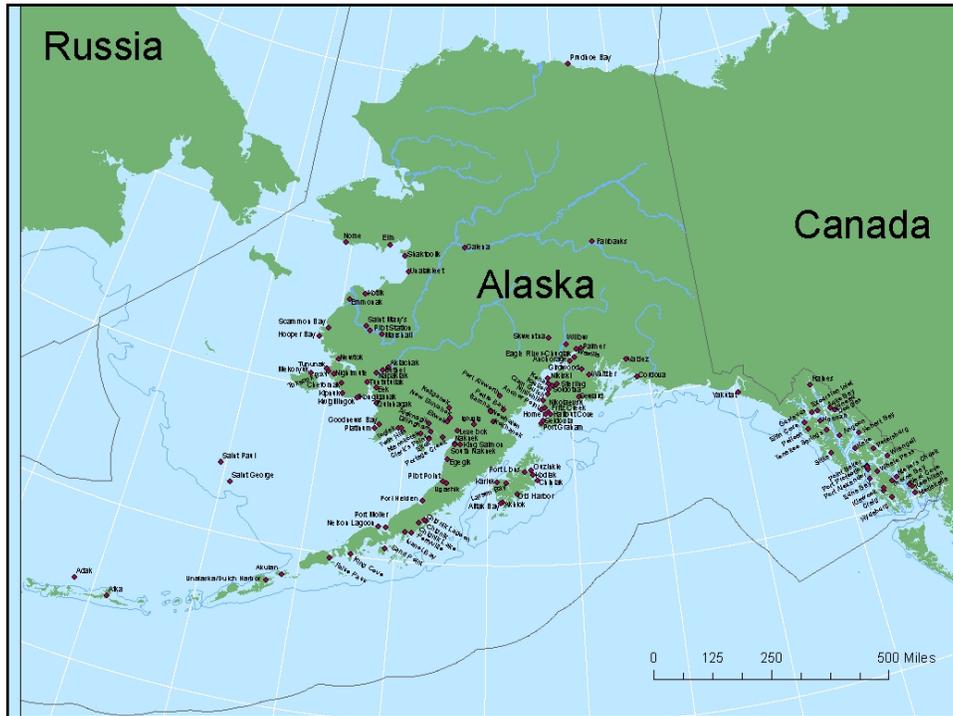
■ Purpose:

- improve commercial fisheries data for North Pacific fisheries using the community as the unit of reporting and analysis*
- provide systematic annual data for the economic impact assessment of communities involved in North Pacific fisheries*
- respond to requests from communities for this type of data and analysis

*from Funding Proposal 3b: *Comprehensive Economic Data Collection from Alaska Communities*

Included Communities

- 136 Alaska communities
 - Profiled in *Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries – Alaska*
 - Selection process used commercial fishing indicators (such as presence of processor, # of permits, # of crew licenses, etc...) to determine profiled communities
 - May add more communities over time



Survey

- Partnering with local community organizations
- Training provided beforehand
- Mailed to communities annually
- Filled out by an elected official and the community harbormaster
- Participants compensated
- Follow-up by local organizations to increase response rate

Example Questions

- List of local fishing related businesses and the local sales tax collected from each
- Fish tax information
 - \$ of fish taxes community receives per year
 - How much of annual city budget is made-up of fish taxes
- Slips - # of slips and trend in types of vessels
- Vessels – list of names of vessels based in community

Timeline

- 2009: development of survey.
- 2010: training and survey mailing.
- 2011: new Census data released. List of communities will be re-evaluated and profiles updated.

Partners

- NOAA (funding for 1st year already provided)
- Alaska Fisheries Science Center - ESSRP
- Council – Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee
- Sea Grant
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Additional Local/Regional Organizations such as SWAMC, GOAC3
- Communities

“In most cases, policy makers generally know more about the average fish than they do about the average fisherman”

(Wanetta Ayers Anchorage Daily News, 2-24-07)