

DRAFT 2028 SOUTHWEST REGION FISHERIES RESOURCE MONITORING PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS

Southwest Region volunteers, made up of members from the Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol Bay Councils, met July 21, 2026 to discuss priority information needs for fisheries resource monitoring throughout their regions. In anticipation of a lower funding cycle, similar to 2026, volunteers agreed to limit the list of priority information needs to a smaller number of high priority Stock, Status and Trend projects to maximize in-season management application during this critical period of decreased funding. The volunteers agreed that this strategy should ensure that projects submitted during the 2028 funding cycle directly address information gaps needed to maintain open subsistence fisheries. The current draft list of priority information needs is shown below.

- Reliable estimates of the abundance of salmon populations in Kodiak, Unalaska, and Bristol Bay important for subsistence use and assessment of changes in these populations. Specific areas of concern include McLees Lake (Unalaska), Buskin River (Kodiak), Lake Clark (Bristol Bay), Big Creek (Bristol Bay), Togiak (Bristol Bay), and Chignik (Bristol Bay).
- Using scale analyses of fresh and saltwater growth patterns over multiple years, examine how recent changes in the ocean impact growth and survival of Chinook and Sockeye salmon within their range and habitats. The Kodiak/Aleutian drainages of particular concern include the Buskin, and McClees drainages) and/or the Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula drainages (Lake Clark, Chignik, Big Creek/Naknek, and Togiak drainages).