

## **Collection of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) regarding subsistence fisheries in the Eagle and Circle areas of Interior Alaska**

**Abstract:** From August 2000 through April 2001, with assistance from the National Park Service; the Native Villages of Eagle and Circle undertook a project designed to collect Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) from their residents (members of the Han Gwich'in and Kutcha Gwich'in (Kutchin) tribes, respectively). The goals of the project were to collect verbal and spatial subsistence information regarding 2 anadromous and 4 freshwater fish species: Chinook [king] salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum [dog] salmon (*O. keta*), Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*), Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), Whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*, *Coregonus* spp.) and Burbot [lush] (*Lota lota*). The Principle Investigator and Cultural Anthropologists, with assistance from four native Research Assistants (RA's), attempted to collect information about presence, abundance, habitat, and harvest of the above mentioned fish species. The project was partially successful in that a total of 21 "protocol" or "key informant" interviews were conducted, but the spatial data collection utilizing semi-directive group interview techniques was less successful than anticipated. Other project accomplishments included: assessment of the reliability of permit data from state agencies; productive "capacity building" in the form of training for local RA;s to document TEK; and a good foundation for further involvement of local residents in natural resource management.

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