THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF FISHERIES HARVEST MONITORING METHODS, SITKA 2005

ABSTRACT

This study reviewed subsistence and personal use salmon harvest monitoring methods used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to estimate harvests for sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*, coho salmon *O. kisutch*, Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*, pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta* in Sitka, Alaska. Harvest estimates based on subsistence permit data were compared with harvest estimates based on in-person household interview survey data. ADF&G Division of Subsistence household harvest surveys in the communities of Southeast Alaska typically document substantially higher harvest levels than those reported on subsistence/personal use salmon permits. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) conducted the in-person household interviews. The following information was collected during the in-person interviews: harvest numbers for each species of salmon; types of fishing gear used; and location of harvests. Harvest levels reported from the household interviews were significantly higher (16,171 salmon) than those reported on the returned permits (6,597 salmon). The largest disparity between the numbers reported on the surveys and the numbers reported on the permits was in the number of Chinook salmon harvested. This result reinforces the hypothesis that because the household survey included sport fishing gear (rod and reel and trolling gear), those harvest levels would be greater than the levels reported on the permits, which include only subsistence/personal use gear.

Key words: Subsistence fishing, personal use fishing, Pacific salmon, sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, chum salmon, Sitka, Southeast Alaska.

This document should be cited as:
Turek, M. F. and B. Robbins. 2012. The validity and reliability of fisheries harvest monitoring methods, Sitka 2005. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 340, Juneau.