**Southwest Alaska region**

Priority Information Needs

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

The Bi-Council Working Group identified seven (7) draft priority information needs for the 2018 Notice of Funding Opportunity. These recommended PIN's were presented to members of the Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils during their Fall 2016 meetings.

## Mutually Beneficial Projects

- Reliable estimates of Chinook salmon in the southwest region to determine health and abundance and address region-wide declines in populations (NOTE: K/A Council stated that Chinook Salmon are not an important subsistence resource in the K/A region)
- Obtain subsistence harvest survey data for salmon and non-salmon fish by residents of southwest communities, particularly those with outdated information and/or not currently surveyed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence. Emphasis was given to address harvest trends in Unalaska Bay and Togiak.

## Council Region Specific Projects – Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

- Reliable estimates of Sockeye Salmon escapements in the Lake Clark watershed
- Reliable estimates of Chinook Salmon escapement and evaluation of "quality of escapement" measures (for example, potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization) for determining the reproductive potential of spawning stocks in the Meshik River.
- Evaluation of quality of escapement measures (for example, potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization) for determining the reproductive potential of spawning stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River, Nushagak River and Chignik River.

## Council Region Specific Projects – Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

- Comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of subsistence Sockeye Salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, Alaska including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake watersheds; assessment of 1) the decline of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities and (2) the potential effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems.
- Investigate crab populations in Women's Bay; e.g. impacts of ghost crab pots and sea otter predation on crab populations.

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Potential PINs from August 2016 K/A meeting for further discussion

- Continuation of FRMP-funded Sockeye Salmon escapement monitoring projects
    - Buskin River weirs
    - Afognak River/Litnik weir
    - McLees Lake/Reese Bay weir
- Relationship between salmon and crayfish in Buskin Lake

Other potential projects considered/discussed

- Weirs for monitoring Summers Bay River/Lake and Unalaska River. Neither location has Federal jurisdiction, so they are not eligible for FRMP funding.

Other potential projects that may need to be discussed

- ADF&G salmon monitoring projects that may be discontinued due to State budget cuts
    - Karluk River weir
    - Ayakulik River weir
    - Ilnik River weir

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