



AYK SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE

Project Synopsis

NORTON SOUND AREA



(Julie Raymond-Yakoubian)

PROJECT 601

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
Kawerak, Inc.

RESEARCH PERIOD

June 2006 -
April 2009

BUDGET

\$211,568.00

LOOKING AT CHANGE

Norton Sound residents have long depended upon natural resources to support their traditional subsistence way of life. Because of their long-term, multi-generational understanding of the region, residents often can recall short- and long-term changes in harvest opportunities, escapement, colonization, climate change, and harvest pressure. A multi-dimensional understanding of the ecology of the region, and specifically salmon cycles over time, can be provided by recording this knowledge, tying it to biological information, and placing it into a geographic context.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Document Norton Sound local and traditional knowledge in order to describe observed changes to the salmon resources and environment in a geographic context that would serve as an aid in fisheries management, and freshwater and marine ecosystem research.

Increase the capacity of the regional Native non-profit organization to become more meaningfully involved in both biological and social research projects.

HOW WE DID IT

This project worked with communities in the Norton Sound region, from St. Michael in the south to Wales in the north, and including Diomed and St. Lawrence Island (Savoonga). We used a locally-hired intern as well as a research assistant from each community to

RESEARCH

FRAMEWORK:

SALMON LIFE CYCLE –
PRIORITIES #2 AND #4

SNAPSHOT

Local and traditional knowledge can help shed light on salmon population cycles and other environmental changes.

This community-based project yielded observations from across the Norton Sound region.

NORTON SOUND



(Julie Raymond-Yakoubian)

help conduct interviews with at least four experts within each of the nine communities participating in the project. We used a semi-structured interview guide along with maps to interview participants. Community experts were also asked to quantify environmental changes in measurable ways so that the information could be compared across the region.

WHAT WE DISCOVERED

While the specific changes each community experienced are different, there are broad similarities in the types of changes and their impacts on communities. There is a wide concern from participating communities about both changes to salmon populations they utilize and environmental changes.

PRODUCTS AND OUTREACH

Our report is available for use by resource managers and researchers. We have added searchable interview transcripts to the Eskimo Heritage Program archive, which is open to the public and researchers conducting research for non-commercial purposes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The information from this project continues to be valuable in advocating for continued and improved opportunities for salmon harvest by region residents. Kawerak is now conducting a similar project about traditional knowledge of non-salmon fish used for subsistence.



(Arlo Hannigan)

AYK SSI Mission: To collaboratively develop and implement a comprehensive research plan to understand the causes of the declines and recoveries of AYK salmon.

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE

BERING SEA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
110 W. 15TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
(907) 279-6519

DOWNLOAD REPORTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT AND LEARN MORE AT WWW.AYKSSI.ORG