

Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund
Summary of September 2-3, 2008, Expert Panel Meeting
and
Proposed Frameworks for Regions West of Cape Suckling
for Federal Fiscal Year 2008

- Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim (AYK) Region
- Southcentral Region
- Westward Region

Introduction

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) Expert Panel for regions west of Cape Suckling met on September 2-3, 2008, in Anchorage to:

- Develop recommended AKSSF Calls for Proposals for the AYK, Southcentral, and Westward regions for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008, and
- Discuss other topics, including the proposal submission and scoring process and criteria.

The FFY 2008 Calls for Proposals will be issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in mid-September 2008 for the three regions west of Cape Suckling. The Calls will solicit proposals for funding for projects related to three AKSSF goals:

- Goal 1 – Habitat
- Goal 2 – Salmon Stock Assessment
- Goal 3 – Salmon Management

In FFY 2007, the same Call for Proposals was issued for each of the three regions. In FFY 2008, the Calls for Proposals will be tailored to each region to ensure that the highest priority needs related to salmon and steelhead habitat, stock assessment, and management for each region are addressed through the AKSSF.

To prepare for the 2008 funding cycle, three interagency groups with regional expertise met to consider the highest priority information needs/actions for each AKSSF goal.¹ At its September meeting, the Expert Panel considered the regional groups' recommendations and developed the following AKSSF Framework for the regions west of Cape Suckling that: (1) lists the AKSSF goals, objectives, and information needs/actions relevant to the region for the next one to five years, and (2) recommends the highest priority information needs/actions to include in the FFY 2008 Call for Proposals.

Additional topics discussed by the Expert Panel are also summarized in this document.

Program Update

¹ Members of the Expert Panel and each regional group are listed in Attachment 1. Public attendance at the September Expert Panel meeting is listed in Attachment 2.

- Alaska will receive \$14.5 million from NOAA in FFY 2008; \$6.5 million will be available for projects west of Cape Suckling; \$4 million in Southeast Alaska; \$1 million for statewide education and outreach projects; and the balance for program administration. Nationwide, \$67 million was available through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) for FFY 2008; only \$35 million is in the proposed President's budget for FFY 2009.
- There will be a new 33% non-federal match requirement for FFY 2008. ADF&G is getting more information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regarding the match requirement that it will provide in the Call for Proposals and in instructions/trainings provided to proposal applicants.
- ADF&G has issued an additional Call for Proposals for projects related to Goal 1: Habitat, for all four regions of the State (Southeast, Southcentral, AYK, and Westward). The Call will be used to allocate FFY 2007 funding for habitat projects; there will be no match requirement. There is \$2.9 million available through this Call. The department's decision to issue this Call focused on Goal 1: Habitat is responsive to NOAA's strong emphasis on salmon habitat protection in the FFY 2007 PCSRF program guidance. The Call was issued September 5, 2008. Proposals will be due October 17th. Proposals will be reviewed and scored through the same process used for west of Cape Suckling proposals last year.
- ADF&G will also appropriate \$1.6 million in FFY 2007 PCSRF funds to Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) projects in Southeast Alaska.
- The following schedule is anticipated for the FFY 2008 Call for Proposals process:
 - September 15 – Issue Calls for Proposals
 - October 31 – Proposals Due
 - Early December – Scoring completed
 - December 30 – Funding decisions
- ADF&G is developing a training module and will provide training sessions in several communities around the State to assist proposers in completing the required Proposal and Statement of Work documents and responding to the new matching funds requirement.
- ADF&G is continuing to determine how to proceed with soliciting proposals under AKSSF Goal 4: Long-term Stewardship – Information and Education. State procurement rules make it unworkable for ADF&G to provide AKSSF funds directly to non-government organizations (NGO) through a Call for Proposal process. The department is exploring routing the solicitation through the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR). Alternatively, the department may issue a Call for Proposals for Goal 4 that would require that NGOs partner with a government entity to receive funding and implement a project. It was noted that the NGO could not apply to be a Principal Investigator, but could serve as the Project Manager.
- Several regional groups (Southcentral, Westward, and Southeast) are recommending that the AKSSF Frameworks include consideration of information needs/actions related to steelhead management, stock assessment, and management. ADF&G agrees that steelhead should be added to the AKSSF Framework; however, they will not solicit projects that are focused solely on steelhead in FFY 2008. (A project that addresses steelhead along with salmon could be considered for funding.)
- ADF&G provided information regarding the project balances for projects funded via earmark prior to FFY 2007.

AKSSF Framework for Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim (AYK) Region

The Expert Panel is recommending the following AKSSF Framework of goals, objectives, and information needs/actions for the AYK Region. The information needs/actions identified to be of high priority for the next one to three years are indicated below. The highest priorities recommended for inclusion in the FFY 2008 Call for Proposals are shaded.

Changes from the language in the FFY 2007 Call for Proposals for the regions West of Cape Suckling are shown below. New wording is underlined; words to be deleted are shown with ~~strikethrough~~.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| GOAL 1 – HABITAT: Protect and restore freshwater, estuarine, and marine salmon habitats to maintain resource productivity. | | |
| Objective 1A. Identify, protect, and manage spawning, rearing, <u>incubation, overwintering,</u> and migration habitats to mitigate or prevent <u>human-induced</u> perturbations beyond the bounds of natural variation. | | |
| Strategic Focus for AYK region, for Objective 1A. | | |
| Projects proposed under Objective 1A will be judged to be of higher strategic importance if there is a potential threat to or high potential for human alteration of the habitat. Potential threats of particular strategic concern in the AYK region include: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation infrastructure associated with natural resource development. - Mining and oil/gas development. - Urbanization, particularly in the Tanana drainage. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (1A-1 - AYK) Quantify flow requirements for life stages of salmon and secure instream flow <u>reservations of water on important salmon-producing systems.</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | Not sure of status of reservations in the AYK region. Focus should be on systems with potential significant withdrawal for other uses (e.g., potential large mine development in Kuskokwim and Norton Sound areas). |
| (1A-2 - AYK) Catalog anadromous water bodies. | High – include in 2008 Call | Used as the primary authority to regulate development. Many anadromous streams in AYK have not been catalogued. Consider giving priority to projects that, in addition to documenting presence of salmonids, include information pertaining to 1A-3 below. |

| Objective 1A - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (1A-3 - AYK) <u>Identify and analyze location critical/essential and patterns of important spawning, incubation, rearing, overwintering, and migration habitat, including site-specific habitat characteristics (e.g., vegetation, substrate, hydrology/hydraulics, water quality).</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | Analyzing habitat “patterns” gives predictive capability to assessing habitat values in areas not previously investigated. Predictive capability is important in large region with little specific baseline data. Complements 1A-2 by identifying the life stage using catalogued habitat. |
| (1A-4 - AYK) <u>Evaluate the individual and cumulative effects of human activities on salmon habitat, and on the beneficial uses of salmon.</u> Analyze cumulative effects of human activity across spatial and temporal scales for watershed management on important salmon producing systems. | | While this is a conceptually important type of evaluation, it is not as feasible to conduct, especially since the quality and coverage of baseline data in the AYK region is poor. |
| ADD (1A-5 – AYK) <u>Establish baselines for water quality and quantity.</u> | | Water quantity is addressed in 1A-1; however, collecting baseline water quantity data is inextricably linked to collecting water quality data. Quantity data is also used for purposes other than securing water reservations (the focus of 1A-1). |
| ADD (1A-6 – AYK) <u>Evaluate the relationship between the amount, quality, and patterns of habitat types, and salmon productivity.</u> | High | Habitat-based productivity models may provide additional insight for setting or interpreting AYK escapement goals. |

Objective 1B. Restore and protect habitat and fish passage that has been degraded by human activity.

~~Restore, maintain and/or protect habitat and access to habitat that has been degraded or is at risk of degradation.~~

Strategic Focus for the AYK region, for Objective 1B.

The following will be considered in evaluating the strategic importance of projects proposed under Objective 1B:

- Project cost relative to resource benefit. (“Resource benefit” includes consideration of the degree to which the habitat has been deleteriously altered and the potential benefits relative to increasing salmon production that might be realized if the habitat is restored.)
- Project would provide a public education / outreach benefit.
- Project capitalizes on an opportunity (e.g., road reconstruction provides opportunity for culvert replacement).

For information need/action 1B-2, it is most appropriate to use AKSSF funding for lower cost restoration projects and/or to leverage other funding sources to accomplish larger, more expensive projects.

| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <p><u>(1B-1 - AYK) Identify, assess, prioritize, and plan for restoration and maintenance of fish passage and riparian, spawning, and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity.</u></p> <p>Address fish passage that is restricted due to culverts, roads, and other structures; improve culvert design; and/or identify fish movement to adequately design protection measures that minimize the impacts of culverts.</p> | <p>High – include in 2008 Call</p> | <p>This is a necessary first step before considering information need/action 1B-2. It is critical to maintain salmon production in areas negatively affected by development.</p> |
| <p><u>(1B-2 - AYK) Restore fish passage and riparian, spawning, and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity. The restoration project must include monitoring (commensurate to the project scale) that documents the project has been implemented as planned (e.g., built as designed, revegetated as planned, etc).</u></p> <p>Restore, maintain and/or protect riparian, spawning, rearing habitat that has been degraded by, or is at risk of degradation by, land management practices (e.g., urbanization, timber harvest) and/or human use.</p> | <p>High – include in 2008 Call</p> | <p>In AYK, culvert removal and streambank stabilization are the projects most likely to be conducted under this information need/action.</p> |

| Objective 1B - Continued | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| ADD (1B-3 – AYK) <u>Review and analyze the effectiveness of mitigation / restoration projects to continue to improve mitigation / restoration techniques.</u> | | |

| ADD OBJECTIVE 1C under Goal 1: <u>Detect and predict short- and long-term changes in environmental conditions, and how these changes affect salmon distribution and productivity.</u> | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| ADD (1C-1 - AYK) <u>Evaluate ocean, freshwater, and estuarine conditions and cycles that affect salmon productivity.</u> | | Important for developing forecast models. |
| ADD (1C-2 – AYK) <u>Detect and evaluate effects of climate change on salmon habitat and distribution.</u> | | |

| GOAL 2 – STOCK ASSESSMENT: <u>Collect information needed to sustain high potential productivity of wild salmon stocks.</u> | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| WILD STOCKS | | |
| Maintain and restore wild salmon stocks to sustain high potential productivity. | | |
| Objective 2A. Assess salmon escapements <u>and productivity</u>, throughout their range. Estimate and periodically Evaluate escapement goal approach and the biological goal ranges to achieve sustained yield. | | |
| Strategic Focus for the AYK region, for Objective 2A. | | |
| Projects proposed under Objective 2A will be judged to be of higher strategic importance in the AYK region if they address one or more of the following strategic priorities: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain credible escapement estimates for poorly assessed stocks. - Evaluate stocks that have declined in abundance. - Evaluate contribution of existing escapement data to total return (for run reconstruction). | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2A-1 - AYK) Obtain reliable temporal/spatial estimates of escapements by <u>age/sex/length for highly utilized stocks.</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | Primary method for or inseason management and also assists in evaluating issues related to quality of escapement. |

| Objective 2A - Continued | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2A-2 - AYK) Develop data analyses, databases, or models for <u>establishing escapement goals</u> (including standardizing and aggregating historical data; examination of ecological processes). | High | |
| (2A-3 - AYK) Develop, evaluate, and implement methods to estimate escapement, including developing cost effective technologies , evaluating existing escapement estimates and developing <u>cost-effective technologies</u> to estimate a larger proportion of total escapements. without increasing cost. | High – include in 2008 Call | AYK is a vast area where assessing escapements is very difficult and expensive. It is important to consider alternative strategies for developing escapement goals (e.g., habitat-based, perhaps using remote sensing). In addition, many of the current escapement projects (Yukon/Kuskokwim) index some fraction of the total escapement. Projects that evaluate the relative contribution of these index systems are desired. |
| (2A-4 - AYK) <u>Estimate freshwater juvenile salmon production for highly-utilized stocks.</u> Develop, implement and evaluate methods to estimate freshwater salmon production. | High | |
| (2A-5) Understand ecological conditions that drive early marine survival. | | (Deleted; addition in Goal 1 addresses environmental conditions) |
| ADD (2A-6 – AYK) <u>Collect and evaluate data regarding harvest by stock by brood year for wild stocks.</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | Harvest is a critical component of stock management. (Much of the stock-specific harvest information would be tied in with the genetics work in Objective 2B below.) |
| ADD (2A-7 – AYK) <u>Evaluate “quality of escapement” measures in establishing salmon escapement goals and evaluating the reproductive potential of escapements.</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | In AYK, there are current issues related to the quality of escapement (e.g., size, health) that should be addressed. |

| Objective 2B. Identify and catalog conservation units (stock aggregations <u>and</u> meta-populations). | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <u>ADD (2B-1 – AYK) Collect additional genetic baseline material to fill in gaps in AYK baseline data. (Proposer must demonstrate through consultation with the agency genetics labs that a gap in baseline data exists.)</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | |

| Objective 2C. Restore self-sustaining wild salmon stocks, where appropriate. | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2C-1) Identify factors limiting wild salmon productivity. | Delete | <p>These information needs are redundant. Limiting factors related to habitat would be assessed and addressed under Objective 1B. Limiting factors related to salmon management would be assessed under Objective 2A and could be addressed through management changes (Goal 3). The “strategic focus” statement for Objective 2A will focus stock assessment on wild stocks that have declined in abundance.</p> <p>In AYK, some stock restoration projects are being done in the Norton Sound region. While it is important to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any restoration efforts that are done, such monitoring can be done by ADF&G outside of the AKSSF program.</p> |
| (2C-2) Address factors limiting wild salmon productivity through stock restoration efforts. | Delete | |

| GOAL 3 – SALMON MANAGEMENT: Improve and maintain effective, biologically sound, salmon management systems to regulate human activities that affect salmon. | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Objective 3A. <u>Implement</u> Improve management systems for wild and enhanced fish production to achieve cultural, social, and/or economic benefits within acceptable biological limits. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3A-1 - AYK) Collect sufficient information on the harvest and escapement of wild salmon from a particular drainage or set of drainages, and Evaluate the effect of management actions on cultural, social, and/or economic benefits. | High | In AYK, management actions affecting salmon size / gear selectivity could be evaluated under this information need/action. (Delete first sentence, as is redundant to 2A-1 and new 2A-6.) |
| (3A-2 - AYK) <u>Collect and analyze data, and develop databases and models, for forecasting and other fishery management needs.</u> Collect sufficient biological and/or other information to improve forecasting and in-season management. | | Lower priority, as forecasting is generally more important in areas with significant commercial fisheries. Fisheries in AYK are primarily for subsistence use. |
| ADD (3A-3 – AYK) <u>Conduct ethno-historic and ethnographic research describing patterns of subsistence use of wild salmon, and investigate changes in those patterns of use through time. (Focus on projects that would not be funded by the Federal Subsistence Program.)</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | Subsistence fisheries harvest the majority of salmon in the AYK. Involves stakeholders in the assessment and management processes. Do not use AKSSF funding to replace Federal Subsistence funding available for some areas within the AYK region. |

| <p>Objective 3B. <u>Minimize adverse impacts to wild stocks from enhancement.</u> Develop and implement methods for managing enhanced production while evaluating and minimizing adverse impacts to wild stocks.</p> | | |
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| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3B-1 - AYK) Assess effects of interactions between wild and hatchery (enhanced) stocks. | | There has been only limited enhancement in AYK region. Lower priority need is to track whether negative effects on wild stocks are occurring. |

| <p>Objective 3C. Identify, assess, and minimize interaction and impacts of invasive species, including aquatic plants (exotics).</p> | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3C-1 - AYK) Determine the effects and potential effects of <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species on wild salmon. | | Invasive species are not yet a significant issue in AYK. |
| (3C-2 - AYK) Implement measures to control <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species to <u>minimize effects on impacts to</u> wild salmon. | | |

AKSSF Framework for Southcentral Region

The Expert Panel is recommending the following AKSSF Framework of goals, objectives, and information needs/actions for the Southcentral Region. The information needs/actions identified to be of high priority and recommended for inclusion in the 2008 Call for Proposals are shaded.

Changes from the language in the 2007 Call for Proposals for the regions West of Cape Suckling are shown below. New wording is underlined; words to be deleted are shown with ~~strikethrough~~.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| GOAL 1 – HABITAT: Protect and restore freshwater, estuarine, and marine salmon and steelhead habitats to maintain resource productivity. | | |
| Objective 1A. Identify, protect, and manage spawning, rearing, <u>incubation</u>, <u>overwintering</u>, and migration habitats to mitigate or prevent <u>human-induced</u> perturbations beyond the bounds of natural variation. | | |
| Strategic Focus for Southcentral region, for Objective 1A. | | |
| Projects proposed under Objective 1A will be judged to be of higher strategic importance if there is a potential threat to or high potential for human alteration of the habitat. Potential threats of particular strategic concern in the Southcentral region include: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urbanization, including rapid growth in the Matanuska Susitna Valley. - Mining. - Hydroelectric and hydrokinetic development. - Transportation and energy development. - Development involving significant use of water from salmon waterbodies. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (1A-1 - SC) Quantify flow requirements for life stages of salmon <u>and steelhead</u> and secure instream flow reservations <u>of water on important salmon- and steelhead-producing systems.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| (1A-2 - SC) Catalog anadromous water bodies. | High – Include in 2008 Call | The Catalog of Waters important to anadromous waters is more complete in SC than in WW and AYK. However, there may be need for additions in areas subject to potential threats. |

Southcentral Region

| Objective 1A - Continued | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (1A-3 - SC) <u>Identify and analyze the location of critical/essential and patterns of important spawning, incubation, rearing, overwintering, and migration habitat, including site-specific habitat characteristics (e.g., vegetation, substrate, hydrology/hydraulics, water quality). (Note: Characterizing salmon and steelhead movement in watersheds to inform and improve fish habitat conservation measures has been identified as an important focus for this habitat assessment work in the Southcentral region.)</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | Analyzing habitat “patterns” gives predictive capability to assessing habitat values in areas not previously investigated. Understanding fish movement is particularly important for large SC watersheds for fish passage and for habitat conservation. |
| (1A-4 - SC) <u>Evaluate the individual and cumulative effects of human activities on salmon and steelhead habitat and on the beneficial uses of salmon and steelhead.</u> <u>Analyze cumulative effects of human activity across spatial and temporal scales for watershed management on important salmon producing systems.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | In SC, there is a need to evaluate the potential effects of large resource development projects on fish production and resultant effects on the users and economy that benefit from those effected fisheries. |
| ADD (1A-5 – SC) <u>Establish baselines for water quality and quantity.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | Although water quantity is addressed in 1A-1, collecting baseline quantity data is inextricably linked to collecting water quality data. Quantity data is also used for purposes other than securing water reservations (the focus of 1A-1). For large development projects, expected that the project would pay for this baseline work for the project footprint area. |
| ADD (1A-6 – SC) <u>Evaluate estuarine conditions and cycles that affect salmon and steelhead productivity in estuarine areas that have been subject to human-induced perturbations.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | There is interest in understanding conditions in estuarine areas affected by human-induced change (e.g., Knik Arm), in addition to estuaries not subject to human-caused change (see 1C-1 below.) |
| ADD (1A-7 – SC) <u>Develop watershed and basin-wide plans to protect important salmon and steelhead habitat or restore degraded habitat.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | |

Objective 1B. Restore and protect fish habitat and fish passage that has been degraded by human activity.

~~Restore, maintain and/or protect habitat and access to habitat that has been degraded or is at risk of degradation.~~

Strategic Focus for Southcentral Alaska, for Objective 1B.

The following will be considered in evaluating the strategic importance of projects proposed under Objective 1B:

- Project cost relative to resource benefit. (“Resource benefit” includes consideration of the degree to which the habitat has been deleteriously altered and the potential benefits relative to increasing salmon production that might be realized if the habitat is restored.)
- Project would provide a public education / outreach benefit.
- Project capitalizes on an opportunity (e.g., road reconstruction provides opportunity for culvert replacement).
- Project is part of an existing basin-wide management or restoration plan or strategy.

For information need/action 1B-2, it is most appropriate to use AKSSF funding for lower cost restoration projects and/or to leverage other funding sources to accomplish larger, more expensive projects.

| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <p><u>(1B-1 - SC) Identify, assess, prioritize, and plan for restoration and maintenance of fish passage and riparian, spawning, and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity.</u> Address fish passage that is restricted due to culverts, roads, and other structures; improve culvert design; and/or identify fish movement to adequately design protection measures that minimize the impacts of culverts.</p> | <p>High – Include in 2008 Call</p> | |
| <p><u>(1B-2 - SC) Restore fish passage and riparian, spawning, and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity. The restoration project must include monitoring (commensurate to the project scale) that documents the project has been implemented as planned (e.g., built as designed, revegetated as planned, etc).</u> Restore, maintain and/or protect riparian, spawning, rearing habitat that has been degraded by, or is at risk of degradation by, land management practices (e.g., urbanization, timber harvest) and/or human use.</p> | <p>High – Include in 2008 Call</p> | <p>The intent is to focus on high priority opportunities that meet the strategic focus <u>and</u> where the responsible party does not have the financial capability to correct a problem or where there is no responsible party.</p> |

| Objective 1B - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| ADD (1B-3 – SC) <u>Review and analyze the effectiveness of mitigation / restoration projects to continue to improve mitigation / restoration techniques.</u> | | Not high priority for 2008; already funding this type of effectiveness monitoring for stream bank restoration techniques on the Kenai River. Do not anticipate additional projects of this type needed in short-term. |

| ADD OBJECTIVE 1C to Goal 1: <u>Detect and predict short- and long-term changes in environmental conditions, and how these changes affect salmon and steelhead distribution and productivity.</u> | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| ADD (1C-1 - SC) <u>Evaluate ocean, freshwater, and estuarine conditions and cycles that affect salmon and steelhead productivity.</u> | | |
| ADD (1C-2 – SC) <u>Detect and evaluate effects of climate change on salmon and steelhead habitat and distribution.</u> | | |

| GOAL 2 – STOCK ASSESSMENT: <u>Collect information needed to sustain high potential productivity of wild salmon and steelhead stocks.</u> | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| WILD STOCKS | | |
| Maintain and restore wild salmon stocks to sustain high potential productivity. | | |
| Objective 2A. Assess salmon and steelhead escapements and productivity throughout their range. Estimate and periodically Evaluate escapement goal approach and the biological goal ranges to achieve sustained yield. | | |
| Strategic Focus for Southcentral region, for Objective 2A. | | |
| Projects proposed under Objective 2A will be judged to be of higher strategic importance in the Southcentral region if they address one or more of the following strategic priorities: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain credible escapement estimates for poorly assessed stocks. - Evaluate stocks that have declined in abundance. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2A-1 - SC) Obtain reliable temporal/spatial estimates of escapements by age/sex/length for highly-utilized stocks. | High – Include in 2008 Call | Noted that in SC, there is a lot of escapement data on systems, but it is important that data and gaps should be filled. There is good coverage for sockeye, but not for coho, chum, pink, or steelhead. |

| Objective 2A - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2A-2 - SC) Develop data analyses, databases, or models for <u>establishing</u> escapement goals. (including standardizing and aggregating historical data; examination of ecological processes). | | |
| (2A-3 - SC) Develop, evaluate, and implement methods to estimate escapement, including developing cost effective technologies , evaluating existing escapement estimates and developing <u>cost-effective</u> technologies to estimate a larger proportion of total escapements. without increasing cost. | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| (2A-4 - SC) <u>Estimate freshwater juvenile salmon production for highly-utilized stocks.</u> Develop, implement and evaluate methods to estimate freshwater salmon production. | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| (2A-5) Understand ecological conditions that drive early marine survival. | | (Deleted; addition in Goal 1 addresses estuarine conditions) |
| ADD (2A-6 – SC) <u>Collect and evaluate data regarding harvest by stock by brood year for wild stocks.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | |

| Objective 2B. Identify and catalog conservation units (stock aggregations <u>and</u> meta-populations. | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| ADD (2B-1 – SC) <u>Collect additional genetic baseline material to fill in gaps in Southcentral baseline data. (Proposer must demonstrate through consultation with the agency genetics labs that a gap in baseline data exists.)</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | |

| Objective 2C. Restore self-sustaining wild salmon stocks, where appropriate. | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2C-1) Identify factors limiting wild salmon productivity. | Delete | These information needs are redundant. Limiting factors related to habitat would be assessed and addressed under Objective 1B. Limiting factors related to salmon management would be assessed under Objective 2A and could be addressed through management changes (Goal 3). The “strategic focus” statement for Objective 2A will focus stock assessment on wild stocks that have declined in abundance. |
| (2C-2) Address factors limiting wild salmon productivity through stock restoration efforts. | Delete | |

GOAL 3 – SALMON MANAGEMENT: Improve and maintain effective, biologically sound, salmon management systems to regulate human activities that affect salmon and steelhead.

Objective 3A. Implement ~~Improve~~ management systems for wild and enhanced fish production to achieve cultural, social, and/or economic benefits within acceptable biological limits.

| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (3A-1 - SC) Collect sufficient information on the harvest and escapement of wild salmon from a particular drainage or set of drainages, and Evaluate the effect of management actions on cultural, social, and/or economic benefits. | | |
| (3A-2 - SC) <u>Collect and analyze data, and develop databases and models, for forecasting and other fishery management needs.</u> Collect sufficient biological and/or other information to improve forecasting and in-season management. | High – Include in 2008 Call | |

| Objective 3A - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <u>ADD (3A-3 SC) Conduct ethno-historic and ethnographic research describing patterns of subsistence use of wild salmon and steelhead, and investigate changes in those patterns of use through time.</u> | | Funding is also available through Federal Subsistence Program to sufficiently address this need in the Southcentral region. |

| Objective 3B. <u>Minimize adverse impacts to wild stocks from enhancement. Develop and implement methods for managing enhanced production while evaluating and minimizing adverse impacts to wild stocks.</u> | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3B-1 - SC) Assess effects of interactions between wild and hatchery (enhanced) stocks. | High – Include in 2008 Call | Note that “interactions” includes both genetic and ecological interaction. Quantifying straying rates would be one element of the assessment of genetic interactions; quantifying interbreeding rates and the effects on population fitness and productivity would be others. |
| (3B-2 - SC) Develop, implement, and evaluate fish culture practices that minimize adverse interactions with wild stocks. | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| (3B-3 - SC) Determine appropriate levels of enhancement. | | |

| Objective 3C. <u>Identify, assess, and minimize interaction and impacts of invasive species, including aquatic plants (exotics).</u> | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3C-1 - SC) Determine the effects and potential effects of <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species on wild salmon and <u>steelhead</u> . | | Invasive species issues in SC region include: reed canary grass, pike, and Atlantic salmon (potential). However, there are other funding sources currently available for this work. |
| (3C-2 – SC) Implement measures to control <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species effects on <u>impacts to wild salmon and steelhead</u> . | | |

AKSSF Framework for Westward Region

The Expert Panel is recommending the following AKSSF Framework of goals, objectives, and information needs/actions for the Westward Region. The information needs/actions identified to be of high priority for the next one to three years are indicated below. The highest priorities recommended for inclusion in the 2008 Call for Proposals are shaded.

Changes from the language in the 2007 Call for Proposals for the regions west of Cape Suckling are shown below. New wording is underlined; words to be deleted are shown with ~~strikethrough~~.

| GOAL 1 – HABITAT: Protect and restore freshwater, estuarine, and marine salmon and steelhead habitats to maintain resource productivity. | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Objective 1A. Identify, protect, and manage spawning, rearing, <u>incubation</u>, <u>overwintering</u>, and migration habitats to mitigate or prevent <u>human-induced</u> perturbations beyond the bounds of natural variation. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (1A-1 - WW) Quantify flow requirements for life stages of salmon <u>and steelhead</u> and secure instream flow reservations <u>of water on important salmon- and steelhead-producing systems</u> . | | Longer-term need for Westward. Need baseline data about water quantity before ready to secure water reservations. (See information need/action 1A-5, below, regarding baseline water quantity information). |
| (1A-2 - WW) Catalog anadromous water bodies. | | Longer-term need for Westward region. Cataloguing anadromous waters provides important statutory protection for these waters. However, cataloguing would be preceded by habitat assessment, addressed in 1A-3 below. |
| (1A-3 - WW) Identify <u>and analyze</u> location of critical/essential <u>and patterns of important</u> spawning, incubation, rearing, <u>overwintering</u> , and migration habitat, including site-specific habitat characteristics (e.g., vegetation, substrate, hydrology/hydraulics, water quality). | High – include in 2008 Call | Basic habitat assessment is essential precursor to all other Goal 1 work. Identification of important habitat will enable development and application of habitat-based methods for escapement goal analysis to estimate Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY). In Westward region, escapement goals (EG) were established for 53 stocks (or stock aggregates) during the recent Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle; only 10 EGs were based on estimates of MSY due to lack of data. Habitat-based methods could address this issue. |

| Objective 1A - Continued | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <p>(1A-4 - WW) <u>Evaluate the individual and cumulative effects of human activities on salmon and steelhead habitat and on the beneficial uses of salmon and steelhead.</u></p> <p>Analyze cumulative effects of human activity across spatial and temporal scales for watershed management on important salmon producing systems.</p> | | |
| <p>ADD (1A-5 - WW) <u>Establish baselines for water quality and quantity.</u></p> | High | This is an important precursor to 1A-1, securing water reservations. |
| <p>ADD (1A-6 - WW) <u>Monitor development projects or activities to ensure protection of salmon and steelhead habitat.</u></p> | High | There is no ADF&G Habitat Division staff based in the Westward region (Kodiak); region is served out of Anchorage. Suggest that projects under this information need/action be coordinated with ADF&G staff located in the region; consider seasonal staff located in Kodiak to conduct monitoring. |

Objective 1B. Restore and protect habitat and fish passage that has been degraded by human activity.

Restore, maintain and/or protect habitat and access to habitat that has been degraded or is at risk of degradation.

Strategic Focus for Westward Alaska, for Objective 1B.

The following will be considered in evaluating the strategic importance of projects proposed under Objective 1B:

- Project cost relative to resource benefit. (“Resource benefit” includes consideration of the degree to which the habitat has been deleteriously altered and the potential benefits relative to increasing salmon production that might be realized if the habitat is restored.)
- Project would provide a public education / outreach benefit.
- Project capitalizes on an opportunity (e.g., road reconstruction provides opportunity for culvert replacement).

For information need/action 1B-2, it is most appropriate to use AKSSF funding for lower cost restoration projects and/or to leverage other funding sources to accomplish larger, more expensive projects.

| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
|---|-------------|--|
| <p>(1B-1 - WW) <u>Identify, assess, prioritize, and plan for restoration and maintenance of fish passage (e.g., culverts, fish ladders) and riparian, spawning, and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity.</u></p> <p>Address fish passage that is restricted due to culverts, roads, and other structures; improve culvert design; and/or identify fish movement to adequately design protection measures that minimize the impacts of culverts.</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>Extensive road construction conducted by the U.S. Military in the region; often did not provide adequate fish passage for both adult and juvenile life stages. Culverts/bridges have also collapsed. ADF&G Region 5 has done a culvert assessment and prioritization for State roads on Kodiak. There are also historic fish ladders (Kodiak, Afognak) that must be maintained if fish passage and production in these systems is to be maintained. State is generally not funding fish ladder maintenance.</p> |

| Objective 1B - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <p>(1B-2 - WW) <u>Restore fish passage (e.g., culverts, fish ladders) and riparian, spawning and rearing habitats that have been degraded by human activity. The restoration project must include monitoring (commensurate to the project scale) that documents the project has been implemented as planned (e.g., built as designed, revegetated as planned, etc).</u></p> <p>Restore, maintain and/or protect riparian, spawning, rearing habitat that has been degraded by, or is at risk of degradation by, land management practices (e.g., urbanization, timber harvest) and/or human use.</p> | High | |
| <p>ADD (1B-3 – WW) <u>Review and analyze the effectiveness of mitigation / restoration projects to continue to improve mitigation / restoration techniques.</u></p> | | Important; but no ADF&G Habitat Biologist available in region to do this work. Would need to indicate how this information need/action could be staffed in Westward region. |

| ADD OBJECTIVE 1C under Goal 1: <u>Detect and predict short- and long-term changes in environmental conditions, and how these changes affect salmon and steelhead distribution and productivity.</u> | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <p>ADD (1C-1 – WW) <u>Evaluate ocean, freshwater, and estuarine conditions and cycles that affect salmon and steelhead productivity.</u></p> | | |
| <p>ADD (1C-2 WW) <u>Detect and evaluate effects of climate change on salmon and steelhead habitat and distribution.</u></p> | | |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>GOAL 2 – STOCK ASSESSMENT: <u>Collect information needed to sustain high potential productivity of wild salmon and steelhead stocks.</u></p> | | |
| <p>WILD STOCKS Maintain and restore wild salmon stocks to sustain high potential productivity.</p> | | |
| <p>Objective 2A. Assess salmon and steelhead escapements and productivity, throughout their range. Estimate and periodically Evaluate escapement goal approach and the biological goal ranges to achieve sustained yield.</p> | | |
| <p>Strategic Focus for Westward region, for Objective 2A. Projects proposed under Objective 2A will be judged to be of higher strategic importance in the Westward region if they address one or more of the following strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain credible escapement estimates for poorly assessed stocks. - Evaluate stocks that have declined in abundance. <p>In FFY 2008, priority stocks that are poorly assessed and/or declining in abundance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ayakulik sockeye and Chinook - Chignik sockeye and Chinook - Karluk Chinook - Akalura Lake sockeye - Sturgeon River chum - Uganik Lake sockeye | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <p>(2A-1 - WW) Obtain reliable temporal/spatial estimates of escapements by age/sex/length <u>for highly-utilized stocks.</u></p> | <p>High – include in 2008 Call</p> | <p>Obtaining reliable temporal/spatial estimates of salmon escapements by age/sex/length (ASL) is a very high priority. Escapement monitoring is a fundamental data need for sustainable salmon populations. Significant escapement monitoring shortfalls within the Westward Region have been identified during recent BOF EG reviews. This will enable development of stock-recruit based methods of EG analysis to estimate MSY.</p> <p>Temporally-stratified ASL estimates for coho and other stocks will allow for development of models to more precisely estimate potential productivity. Funding for this work has been lost over time; data from key weirs has been lost due to lack of funds.</p> |

| Objective 2A - Continued | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2A-2 - WW) Develop data analyses, databases, or models for <u>establishing escapement goals</u> (including standardizing and aggregating historical data; examination of ecological processes). | High – include in 2008 Call | |
| (2A-3 - WW) Develop, evaluate, and implement methods to estimate escapement, including developing cost effective technologies , evaluating existing escapement estimates and <u>developing cost-effective technologies</u> to estimate a larger proportion of total escapements without increasing cost | | |
| (2A-4 - WW) <u>Estimate freshwater juvenile salmon production for highly-utilized stocks.</u> Develop, implement and evaluate methods to estimate freshwater salmon production. | High – include in 2008 Call | Developing and implementing methods to estimate freshwater salmon production is a high priority, to determine cause of recent production shortfalls of several sockeye and Chinook salmon stocks of major importance, three of which have EG’s based on estimates of MSY. Also need to correlate with escapements to augment accuracy of annual run strength forecasting and refine stock-recruit EG analyses. Top priority for 2008 since freshwater production dynamics are unknown for all but one of the region’s significantly utilized, but currently depressed, salmon stocks. The region is currently studying freshwater production for Afognak Lake sockeye. Priority stocks to address are listed in the “Strategic Focus” statement, above. |
| (2A-5) Understand ecological conditions that drive early marine survival. | | (Deleted; addition in Goal 1 addresses environmental conditions) |
| ADD (2A-6 – WW) <u>Collect and evaluate data regarding harvest by stock by brood year for wild stocks.</u> | | |

Westward Region

| Objective 2B. Identify and catalog conservation units (stock aggregations <u>and</u> meta-populations). | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <u>ADD (2B-1 – WW) Collect additional genetic baseline material to fill in gaps in Westward baseline data. (Proposer must demonstrate through consultation with the agency genetics labs that a gap in baseline data exists.)</u> | High – include in 2008 Call | Collecting baseline genetic data is important in Westward to be able to define stocks or management units. |

| Objective 2C. Restore self-sustaining wild salmon stocks, where appropriate. | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (2C-1) Identify factors limiting wild salmon productivity. | Delete | These information needs are redundant. Limiting factors related to habitat would be assessed and addressed under Objective 1B. Limiting factors related to salmon management would be assessed under Objective 2A and could be addressed through management changes (Goal 3). The “strategic focus” statement for Objective 2A will focus stock assessment on wild stocks that have declined in abundance. |
| (2C-2) Address factors limiting wild salmon productivity through stock restoration efforts. | Delete | |

GOAL 3 – SALMON MANAGEMENT: Improve and maintain effective, biologically sound, ~~salmon~~ management systems to regulate human activities that affect salmon and steelhead.

Objective 3A. Implement ~~Improve~~ management systems for wild and enhanced fish production to achieve cultural, social, and/or economic benefits within acceptable biological limits.

| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
|---|-------------|--|
| <p>(3A-1 - WW) Collect sufficient information on the harvest and escapement of wild salmon from a particular drainage or set of drainages, and Evaluate the effect of management actions on cultural, social, and/or economic benefits.</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>In Westward region, there are currently several depressed salmon stocks where continued shortfalls in escapements have resulted in fishery restrictions and closures on sport, subsistence, and commercial users (e.g., Karluk Chinook, Afognak sockeye). The effects of these management actions on cultural, social, and economic benefits to users have yet to be assessed. (Delete first sentence, as is redundant to 2A-1 and new 2A-6.)</p> |
| <p>(3A-2 - WW) <u>Collect and analyze data, and develop databases and models, for forecasting and other fishery management needs.</u></p> <p>Collect sufficient biological and/or other information to improve forecasting and in-season management.</p> | <p>High</p> | |

| Objective 3A- Continued | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| <u>ADD (3A-3 – WW) Conduct ethno-historic and ethnographic research describing patterns of subsistence use of wild salmon and steelhead and investigate changes in those patterns of use through time. (Focus on projects that would not be funded by the Federal Subsistence Program.)</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | To meet Objective 3A, baseline and trend information about subsistence fisheries is needed. This is lacking for Westward region – particularly for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands areas (e.g., Chignik not studied since 1990; Akutan and Nikolski fisheries not studied at all). There have been no AKSSF projects funded for social science as envisioned under Objective 3A. Do not use AKSSF funding to replace Federal Subsistence funding that may be available within the WW region. |
| <u>ADD (3A-4 – WW) Collect and utilize stock assessment and fishery information to meet allocation and management objectives.</u> | | |
| <u>ADD (3A- 5 – WW) Develop, evaluate, and update fishery management plans, including regulatory plans, hatchery management plans, and other plans and regulations affecting wild salmon and steelhead stocks. Ensure that commercial, recreational, and subsistence uses of salmon and steelhead are addressed.</u> | | There are many existing plans, but need to be routinely updated. |

| Objective 3B. <u>Minimize adverse impacts to wild stocks from enhancement. Develop and implement methods for managing enhanced production while evaluating and minimizing adverse impacts to wild stocks.</u> | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3B-1 - WW) Assess effects of interactions between wild and hatchery (enhanced) stocks. | | In Westward region, there are not significant issues with wild stock protection. Most hatchery production is harvested in terminal areas. |
| (3B-2 – WW) Develop, implement, and evaluate fish culture practices that minimize adverse interactions with wild stocks. | | |
| (3B-3 - WW) Determine appropriate levels of enhancement. | | Addressed by the Kodiak Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan. |

| Objective 3C. Identify, assess, and minimize interaction and impacts of invasive species, including aquatic plants (exotics). | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (3C-1 - WW) Determine the effects and potential effects of <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species on wild salmon. | | Invasive species are not yet a significant issue in the Westward region. |
| (3C-2 - WW) Implement measures to control <u>invasive non-indigenous</u> species effects on <u>impacts to</u> wild salmon. | | |

Goal 4 – Long-Term Stewardship

AKSSF Goal 4 – Information and Education

The Expert Panel concurred on the following recommended Framework for Goal 4 for all three regions West of Cape Suckling for FFY 2008.

Changes from the language in the *draft* 2007 Call for Proposals for the regions West of Cape Suckling are shown below. New wording is underlined; words to be deleted are shown with ~~strikethrough~~.

| GOAL 4 – LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP: INFORMATION & EDUCATION | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Promote public involvement and support for sustained use and protection of salmon <u>and steelhead, and their habitat.</u> | | |
| Objective 4A. Assure an effective information and education program on salmon stewardship for the general public. | | |
| Information Need/Actions | Priority | Comments / Context |
| (4A-1) Develop and implement salmon information and education programs which foster public awareness and stewardship of salmon <u>and steelhead</u> populations and habitats. | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| Objective 4B. Increase public commitment to the sustained use and protection of salmon and steelhead. | | |
| (4B-1) Plan and implement programs and projects that result in on-the-ground measurable salmon <u>and steelhead</u> stewardship actions/results (e.g., creek clean up, bank revegetation, participation in outreach events, watershed studies, etc.) | High – Include in 2008 Call | |
| ADD Objective 4C under Goal 4: Establish information sharing systems. | | |
| ADD (4C-1) <u>Develop public access to data about salmon and steelhead and their habitat via the web.</u> | High – Include in 2008 Call | |

AKSSF Proposal Solicitation and Evaluation Process

The Expert Panel made the following recommendations regarding the AKSSF proposal solicitation, evaluation, and scoring process.

- Add the following scoring criteria, “Funding Considerations (4c): Project expenditure is warranted in view of the relative benefits to be gained.” (Note: This change to the scoring criteria will be made.)
- Rather than three groups of scorers per region, have one group per region that would review and score all proposals within the region for Goals 1-3. (Note: ADF&G will try to structure the groups in this manner if scorers are willing to assist with the increased numbers of proposals they would have to review.)
- Require scorers to meet via teleconference before assigning their final scores.
- Direct scorers to assign scores around a median score of 50 points to reduce the effect that an “outlying” scorer would have on a proposal’s average score. (Note: ADF&G will need to consider further whether this can be an instruction under the procurement regulations.)
- Scorers should be required to provide comments in addition to numerical scores. (Note: This will be done.)
- Proposal applicants should be provided with a score for each criterion (e.g., strategic importance, technical merit, etc.), not just the total score. (Note: This will be required of scorers.)
- Earlier submittal period to avoid due dates over winter holidays. (Note: Schedule has been adjusted.)
- Make sure the Call for Proposal provides the scoring criteria and explicitly requires applicants to fully address each. (Note: This is done.)

The Expert Panel encourages ADF&G to issue a Call for Proposals for Goal 4 as soon as possible. In addition, the Panel recommends that ADF&G request that the Alaska State Legislature provide the department with granting authority to resolve the issue of not being able to provide grant funds to NGOs for projects that implement AKSSF priorities. The Expert Panel requested that staff draft a letter from the Panel to the Commissioner of ADF&G addressing this issue.

Note that the Expert Panel considered a number of approaches that would have allowed them to participate more fully in the proposal evaluation and selection process. However, they determined that it is not feasible for them to take on the job of reviewing and scoring all of the proposals, as would have been required under the ADF&G procurement rules.

AKSSF Expert Panel – Regions West of Cape Suckling

Tom Brookover, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Region 5
Bob Clark, ADF&G, Sport Fisheries Division
Steve Fried, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)
Bill Heard, National Marine Fisheries Service, Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute
Doug McBride, USFWS, Anchorage Fisheries Office
Bill Smoker, University of Alaska, School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
Eric Volk, ADF&G, Commercial Fisheries Division

Staff Support for September 9, 2008 Expert Panel Meeting

Sue Aspelund, ADF&G Commissioner's Office
Hannah Baldwin, ADF&G Commissioner's Office
Debbie Maas, ADF&G Commissioner's Office
Jan Caulfield, Facilitator (janc@gci.net, 907-5623-4610)

Interagency Regional Group Members (met in July 2008 to advise Expert Panel)

AYK Region Group

Jeff Adams, USFWS
Tom Brookover, ADF&G Region 5
Richard Cannon, USFWS OSM (Don Rivard attended)
Matt Evenson, ADF&G Sport Fish
Jim Simon, ADF&G Subsistence Division
Eric Volk, ADF&G Comm. Fish

Southcentral Region Group

Phil Brna, USFWS
Bob Clark, ADF&G Sport Fish
Mike Edwards, USFWS
Jack Erickson, ADF&G Sport Fish
Lowell Fair, ADF&G Comm. Fish
Doug McBride, USFWS
Bill Rice, USFWS
Bill Simeone, ADF&G Subsistence
Bill Smoker, University of Alaska

Westward Region Group

Bob Clark, ADF&G SF
Steve Fried, USFWS OSM
Jim Fall, ADF&G Subsistence
Steve Honnold, ADF&G Comm. Fish
Donn Tracy, ADF&G Sport Fish

Public Comment

Public comment provided during the Expert Panel meeting included the following.

- Question whether AKSSF should be funding collection of Chinook bycatch tissue and evaluate where fish caught in bycatch originate (KRSA). (In reply, Eric Volk noted that work on this is being planned and is expected to be an industry-funded effort.)
- Appreciate the time and attention that the Expert Panel is giving to crafting the Call for Proposals. (YRDFA)
- There is high interest in having Goal 4 – Education and Outreach put out as a Call for Proposal or Request for Proposal. Do not reallocate that funding to Goals 1-3. If a non-government organization must partner with another entity to receive the funding, that can be done. ADF&G should provide instructions regarding how to partner and who to partner with (YRDFA, KRSA, AWC).
- NGOs would be willing to help communicate the need for ADF&G to have granting authority to the Alaska State Legislature. (KRSA)
- Under Goal 4, it would be best to use a “programmatic approach” to funding education and outreach. Provide a block of funding for several years, rather than requiring funding for each outreach project that is conducted. (KRSA)

Public and Agency Attendance

Ken Cash, Normandeau Associates, Stevenson, WA
Bob DuBey, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)
Ricky Gease, Kenai River Sportsman’s Association (KRSA)
Jason Hale, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Holly Kent, Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC)
Steve Fleischman, ADFG Sport Fish Division

Also send information to: Gary Fandrei, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association