

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FEDERAL AID PROJECT
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Number: E-5-HP

Grant Segment: 1

Grant Title: HCP Alaska Coastal Species: Studies Related to Listed/Candidate Marine Birds

Project Number: 3.0

Project Title: Interaction of Eiders with Fisheries and Vessels

Project Duration: February 28, 2003 to December 31, 2006

Project Reporting Period: June 16, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Project Final Report Due: December 31, 2006

Location: Statewide

Project Objectives:

1. Describe the fisheries, spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort, and fisheries utilization of ports of landing near and in the winter range of the Steller's eider.
2. Determine whether low-light imagery from DMSP/OLS sensors can describe the distribution of lighted fishing vessels in nearshore areas. If vessels can be detected, describe the distribution of fishing fleets near Steller's eider winter habitat for areas and days with cloud-free OLS imagery from 1992-2002.
3. Establish baseline coastal light intensity levels for the Alaska Peninsula and other areas of concern for days with cloud-free OLS imagery from 1992-2002.
4. Enhance seabird monitoring in observer programs for state-managed fisheries.

Summary of Project Accomplishments:

1. Work on fishery distributions with respect to Steller's eiders was completed during the last reporting period and will be synthesized in the final report.
2. Distribution of lighted fishing vessels in nearshore areas—This project component will occur during the final reporting period, following the description of coastal light intensity (below).
3. Baseline coastal light intensity for the Alaska Peninsula—Analysis of OLS imagery will be completed during the final reporting period.
4. Enhanced seabird monitoring in observer programs—Completed in prior reporting period.

Problems or Deviations from Work Plan: None.

Anticipated Focus Next Reporting Period: Detailed investigation of OLS imagery (objectives 2 and 3), and synthesis of project findings.

Interim Project Costs (estimated): No expenditures this period.

Prepared By: Fritz Funk, ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries