

**FEDERAL AID  
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
State Wildlife Grant**

**Grant Number:** T-3 **Segment Number:** 1  
**Project Number:** 7.11  
**Project Title:** Developing an ice seal harvest monitoring program  
**Project Duration:** July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009  
**Report Period:** July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008  
**Report Due Date:** September 30, 2008  
**Principal Investigator:** Mark Nelson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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**Project Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Develop a harvest-monitoring program that is flexible enough to accommodate different villages and is effective, inexpensive and voluntary. After three years this project will result in a viable harvest monitoring program or significant recommendations for how to develop such a program.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A. A long-term nonpermanent Fish and Wildlife Technician IV (Mark Nelson) will work with 10 villages to develop monitoring methods that can be expanded to other villages in the future. Those villages are Barrow, Pt. Hope, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Nome, Shishmaref, Gambell or Savoonga, Hooper Bay, Mekoryuk, and Togiak.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Mark travelled to Kotzebue, Anchorage, Togiak, Juneau, Bethel, and Hooper Bay during FY08 to assist in the development to two ice seal harvest monitoring programs and to attend meetings about ice seal harvest monitoring. The Y-K Delta region has been involved in the least amount of harvest monitoring of any of the five regions, therefore we are making this region a priority. Mark is developing a draft report for the Ice Seal Committee (ISC) that summarizes the results of existing ice seal harvest monitoring programs across the state from 2000 to 2006. The report will provide basic information about seal harvest by region that will show where current harvest monitoring efforts are and where they are needed.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: In the Y-K Delta region, Mark working with Jennifer Hooper from the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) was successful in obtaining funds from the ISC to hire local people to conduct harvest surveys in three villages. The first step was to hold an Imapigmiut Ungungsiit Murillkestiit (IUM) meeting, which consists of a member from each of the 26 coastal tribes in the region. Seal harvest surveys were discussed at the meeting and it was decided that each village should decide for themselves whether or not to participate. So the next step is for Jennifer and Mark is to visit the villages to seek approval to

conduct the surveys. If the surveys are approved, a local surveyor will be hired and trained to conduct the surveys during spring 2009.

In Bristol Bay, Mark travelled to Togiak with Molly Chythlook from Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) to meet with the Togiak Traditional Council to talk about adding three seal species to a survey that was already being conducted. The Togiak Traditional council approved the pilot project as did the nearby village of Twin Hills. The ice seal species were added to these surveys and the results should be available by winter 2008. Mark produced a harvest calendar using drawings from local students that was provided to the hunters to help keep track of their harvest by recording how many seals were harvested by species throughout the year. The calendar could then be used during the household survey to make sure accurate numbers get recorded.

**Prepared By:** Mark Nelson

**Date:** August 21, 2008