



INDEX COMMUNITY PROGRAM

PHASE 3

Project to estimate and monitor subsistence harvests of fish and wildlife in rural Alaska

PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a program to monitor subsistence harvests of fish and wildlife in all areas of the state through a system of index communities. The Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game is charged with quantifying subsistence harvests by conducting studies, including collecting data from subsistence users. The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game apply this information to define nonsubsistence areas, identify fish stocks and game populations with customary and traditional subsistence uses, and establish the amounts reasonably necessary to provide opportunities for Alaskans to participate in these subsistence activities.

Maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date database of subsistence harvests is increasingly challenging due to the diversity of harvest patterns across the State, large number of rural communities, vast distances between rural communities primarily off the road system, and the consequent high costs of conducting research. There are approximately 300 rural communities in Alaska located outside urban nonsubsistence use areas. Of these, since 1980, the Division of Subsistence has conducted systematic household surveys in 271 (90%), the results of which appear in the on-line Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). While at least one year of data is available for most communities in southeast, southcentral, and southwest Alaska, due in large part to the availability of special project funds from federal sources, comprehensive data are lacking for the majority of communities in the remainder of the state, including most communities on the Alaska Peninsula where subsistence harvests are largest. In addition, of the 271 communities with available data, the data for 66% of these communities are at least 10 years old, and for 44% of these

communities, the data are more than 20 years old.

Due to the large number of communities in rural Alaska and the high cost of conducting research, it is not possible to update comprehensive data for most communities on a regular basis. Therefore, this project was developed to identify a set of index communities to represent areas of the state. Comprehensive surveys will be conducted on a regular, rotational schedule in these communities, and results will be used to estimate total harvests in the area which the index communities represent.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

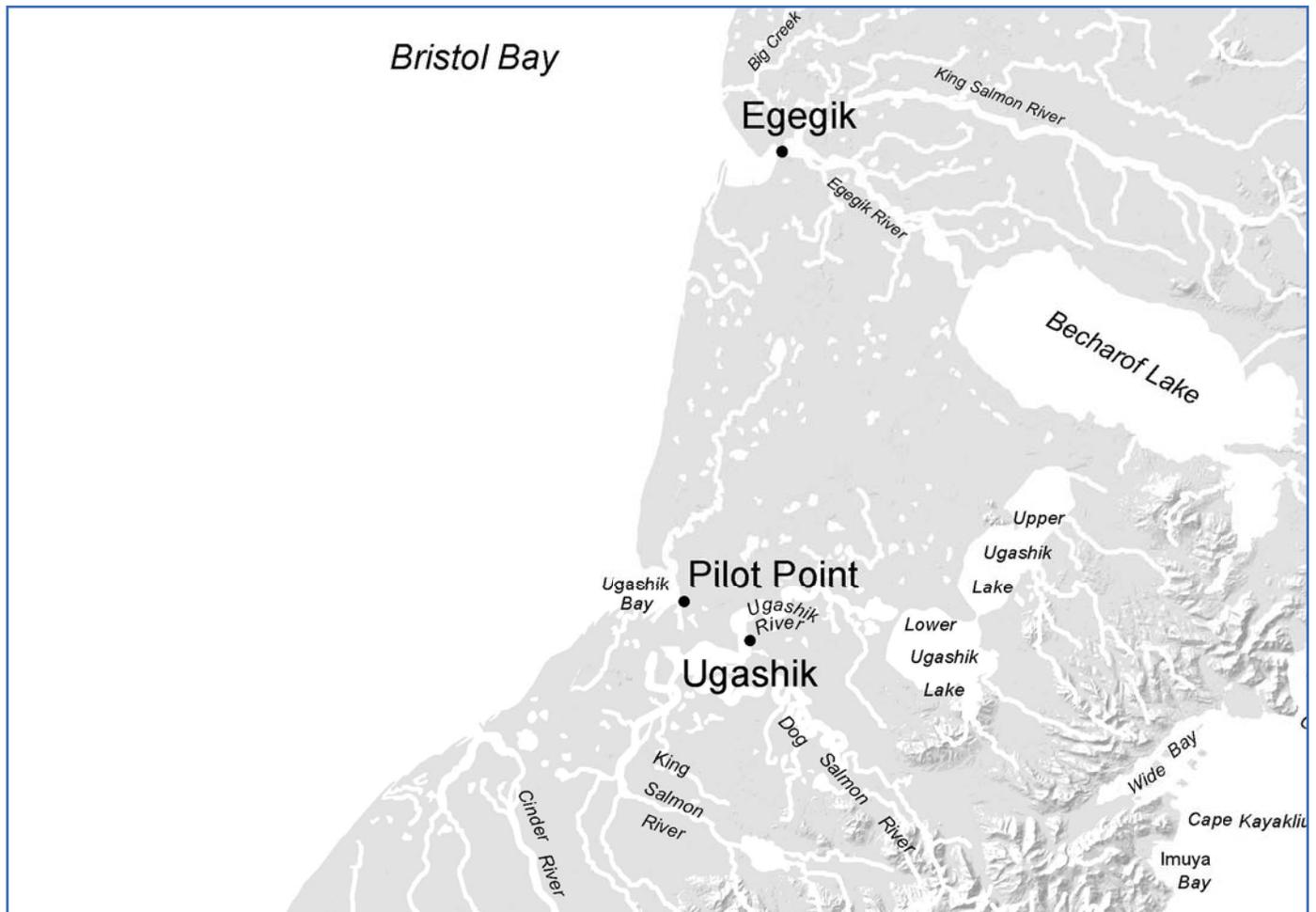
In addition to providing comprehensive subsistence harvest data on a regular basis, the program will include training of local researchers in each study community and partnerships with local governments and regional organizations to support implementation and maintenance of the project.

YOUR COMMUNITY

The first phase of the project was to complete the CSIS data set by identifying and surveying communities where data is either outdated or nonexistent. Your community was identified as one where adequate subsistence harvest information is lacking. Although comprehensive subsistence harvest studies were conducted on the Alaska Peninsula less than 10 years ago, the data from the identified communities are at least 30 years old. The communities that have been identified for phase 3 of this study include: Egegik, Pilot Point, and Ugashik.

TIMELINE

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| December 2014 | Community approval |
| February – March 2015 | Household surveys |
| October 2015 | Community review of study findings |
| January 2015 | Complete study findings report |
| February 2015 | Final report sent to communities |



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DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE