



Whitefish Trends in Lake Clark and Iliamna Lake

Project to update subsistence whitefish harvest and use information for the communities of Igiugig, Iliamna, Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, and Port Alsworth

WHY CONDUCT THIS RESEARCH

The purpose of this project is to document trends in the subsistence harvest of whitefish in the Lake Clark and Iliamna Lake region of Bristol Bay. This project aims to answer the following three key research questions:

1. What are the contemporary harvest and use patterns of each whitefish species used by the study communities?
2. What factors have shaped the harvest efforts of each whitefish species over time and why are whitefish harvests declining?
3. What factors are influencing the ability of residents to harvest the varied species of whitefish?

The Division of Subsistence of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is charged with quantifying subsistence harvests by conducting studies, including collecting data from subsistence users. The Division of Subsistence has conducted systematic household surveys in 216 rural communities in Alaska, the results of which appear in the on-line Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS) and in our Technical Paper series, which is also available online.

This research is funded by the federal Office of Subsistence Management. It will allow the Division of Subsistence, the National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to fill in gaps in our database by producing up-to-date whitefish harvest estimates and by providing local

knowledge for use in further understanding whitefish conservation issues in the Lake Clark and Iliamna Lake area. This project as shown on the map is to occur in the study communities during 2013. A second year of studies is planned in communities for 2014.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to providing subsistence harvest data, this research will include training of local researchers in each study community and creating partnerships with local governments and regional organizations to support implementation and maintenance of the project. Communities will also have the opportunity to review and comment on the data collected before it becomes final.

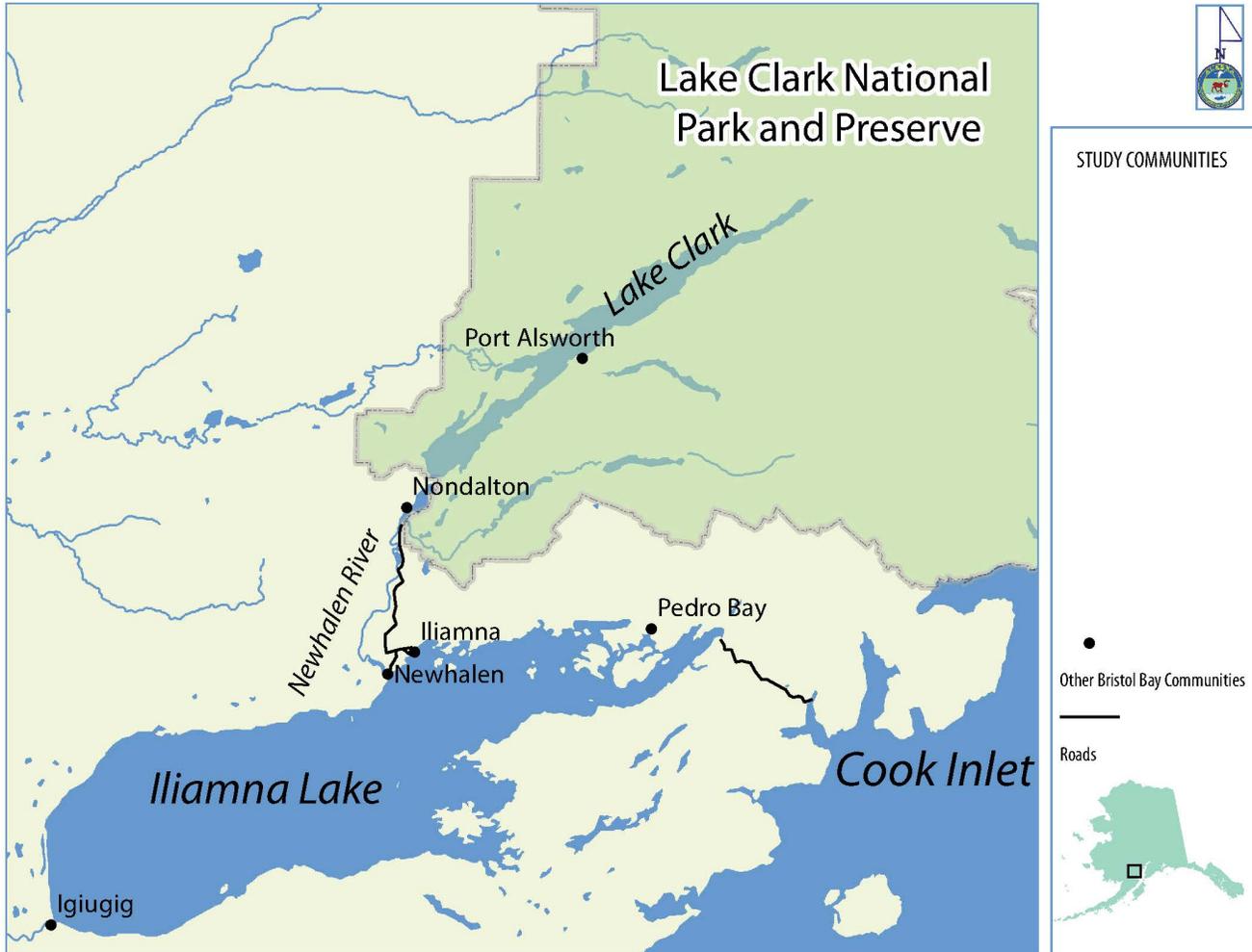
HOW WE USE THIS DATA

The information from this project will assist state and federal managers in their management responsibilities of wild resources. Local and regional advisory councils can use this information to make recommendations for regulatory changes, and it will assist the State of Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board to make informed decisions concerning management of fish and wildlife in the region. Final results will be summarized in a technical report as well as included in the Division of Subsistence Information System (CSIS). Both are available online from the Division of Subsistence, ADF&G.

TIMELINE

December 2012 – January 2013	Community Scoping Meetings
February – March 2013	Household Surveys and Local Traditional Knowledge Interviews
May – September 2013	Spring, Summer, and Fall Whitefish Participant Observation
December 2013 – January 2014	Household Surveys and Follow-Up Interviews
April 2014	Community Review of Study Findings
July 2014	Final Report Sent to Communities

PROPOSED STUDY COMMUNITIES



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DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE



**Nondalton
Tribal
Council**



For a copy of our OEO statement, see www.adfg.alaska.gov