



## LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHINOOK SALMON IN THE STIKINE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

A PROJECT TO COLLECT LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHINOOK SALMON POPULATIONS AND HABITAT ON THE STIKINE RIVER OVER TIME

---

### PROJECT

This project will seek to collect and understand local and traditional knowledge (LTK) about Stikine River Chinook salmon to supplement and enhance knowledge obtained through contemporary fisheries science initiatives. LTK often contains detailed ecological information acquired through a lifetime of observations and experiences on local landscapes. The spatial and temporal scale of LTK is frequently broader than other forms of available knowledge. Information gleaned from LTK, combined with natural science data, can sometimes provide a more complete picture of ecological occurrences and the reasons behind ecological changes.

The goal of this project is to record local observations pertaining to changes in Stikine River Chinook salmon populations and habitat, especially observations concerning historical ecological patterns that may aid in understanding recent declines in this species. To collect LTK, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Subsistence is seeking to conduct in-person interviews to record local observations of Stikine Chinook populations over time, especially observations related to fish ecology and habitat. Knowledge bearers who have or do participate in commercial, sport, and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing on or near the Stikine River will be asked to participate. A list of knowledge bearers will be established based on recommendations from community members, and ten of these will be interviewed from each community.

Division of Subsistence staff, alongside of a local assistant, will conduct key respondent interviews in three communities: Petersburg,

Wrangell, and Telegraph Creek. These communities were chosen because of their close ties and proximity to the Stikine River. This project is scheduled for November 2013 in Wrangell and Petersburg, and in the spring and/or summer of 2014 for Telegraph Creek, B.C.

### WHY CONDUCT THIS RESEARCH

Chinook salmon productivity and abundance has in decline since 2001 across Alaska, creating social and economic hardships in many Alaskan communities. To help to better understand the reasons for these statewide declines the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) developed the Chinook Salmon Stock Assessment and Research Plan 2013 (CSSARP) which identified critical knowledge gaps about Chinook salmon and outlined stock-specific and life history-based research to remedy these knowledge gaps. Within this initiative a specific need for LTK related to Chinook salmon on the Stikine River was identified, thus providing the opportunity for this research to occur.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to providing LTK data on Chinook salmon to local communities and resource managers, the project will hire and train a local research assistant (LRA) from each community and build partnerships with local governments and regional organizations to support implementation and maintenance of the program. Communities will also have the opportunity to review the data collected before it becomes final.

---

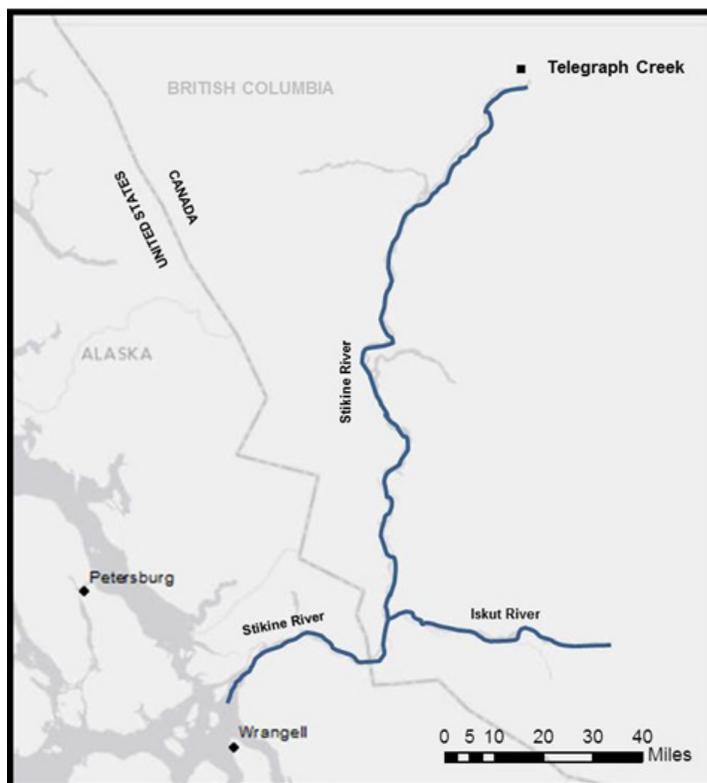
## HOW WE USE THIS DATA

The resulting information will assist state and federal managers in their subsistence management responsibilities, be of use to local and regional advisory councils in making recommendations for regulatory changes, and will assist the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Federal Subsistence Board in the informed management of fish in the region. Final results will be summarized in a technical report that will be made available online from the Divisions of Subsistence, ADF&G.

## TIMELINE

September-October 2013	Community Scoping Meetings (Wrangell & Petersburg)
November 2013	Key Respondent Interviews (Wrangell & Petersburg)
Spring 2014	Community Review of Study Findings (Wrangell & Petersburg) Complete Study Findings Report (Wrangell & Petersburg) Community Scoping Meeting (Telegraph Creek, B.C.) Key Respondent Interviews (Telegraph Creek, B.C.)
Fall 2014	Community Review of Study Findings (Telegraph Creek, B.C.)
Spring 2015	Final Report Sent to Communities

## PROPOSED STUDY COMMUNITIES



## ADF&G Project Leads

Joshua Ream, ADF&G Project Coordinator  
Division of Subsistence  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
907-267-2368  
joshua.ream@alaska.gov

Rosalie Grant, ADF&G Project Coordinator  
Division of Subsistence  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
907-465-2629  
rosalie.grant@alaska.gov



**DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE**