

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT NO.: F-10-33

GRANT TITLE: Sport Fish Investigations in Alaska

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

STUDY NO. AND TITLE: C-0-1 Statewide Coordination of Federal Aid Projects

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

1. Administer and provide oversight for the State of Alaska DJ/WB program, and other grant programs administered by the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program office, to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
2. Provide quality assurance for study plans, analysis, and reporting for all projects funded by grants administered by the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program office.
3. Provide all required documents in a timely fashion including: study plan synopses and annual performance reports.
4. Coordinate the non-boating (angler) access portion of the program.
5. Process 98% of all Fish Resource and associated permits within 30 days of complete application receipt.

RESULTS/DISCUSSIONS:

Objectives 1 through 3

All Performance Reports were submitted on time for the state fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017 (state FY17). Performance Reports were received in August from the Regional Research Coordinators for Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) grant projects and were reviewed, edited if necessary, and question asked before being sent in to the USFWS for 47 *Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska* (F-10) grant projects, four *Aquatic Education Program* (F-31) grant projects, six *Sport Fisheries Enhancement and Development in Alaska* (F-32) grant projects, the F-40 *Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery*, and the two projects in the F-41 *William 'Jack' Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery Operations & Maintenance* grants.

Changes to project objectives were received from regional research coordinators throughout the year and submitted to the WSFR Regional Office in April, 2018. Grant amendment documents including administrative amendments to obligate additional funds

and equipment pre-approvals were submitted during the reporting period for the F-10-32, F-31-28, F-32-26, F-40-8 and F-41-7 grants.

Documents for the initial SFR grants for state fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – Jun 30, 2019) were prepared and submitted to the WSFR office in May, 2018. These initial grants included:

- *Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska* grant, F-10-34, with 58 projects;
- *Aquatic Resource Education* F-31-30 grant, with four projects;
- *Sport Fisheries Enhancement and Development in Alaska* F-32-28h&s grants, with five projects;
- *Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery, Operations and Maintenance* F-40-10 grant; and
- *William 'Jack' Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery, Operations and Maintenance* F-41-9 grant, with two projects.

In early 2018, Sheila telephonically attended Division of Sport Fish regional project review meetings. The presentations and discussions provided insight into new and ongoing SFR funded research and management projects. She also worked with the Division Leadership Team to identify which new projects could be placed onto DJ funding in the future.

Sheila worked with the WSFR training branch to organize, coordinate, and attend three Project Leader's Courses in Alaska in February, 2018 (in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks).

Sheila kept division staff apprised on the status of the ongoing Wildlife TRACS enhancement changes, including coordinating ADFG staff comments on multiple components of the TRACS system, potential changes to 50 CFR80, and ongoing national WSFR policy issues.

Sheila attended the WSFR Federal Aid Coordinator's (FAC) training conference for Regions 1, 7 & 8 in Kona, Hawaii, in October, 2017. As part of the FAC meeting, she prepared a poster highlighting technology being used in the Department (both funded by DJ and PR) and presented it during the poster session. A site visit to assist in the northern pike work on the Minto Flats (R-3-14) was conducted in June, 2018 along with Mary Price, WSFR Region 7.

As a member of the Federal Aid Coordinator's Working Group, she attended Joint WSFR Chiefs/ FACWG meeting in Alexandria, VA in April, 2018. This opportunity allowed her to remain cognizant of nationwide trends, future actions, and concerns which she in turn shared with staff in Alaska as well as Regions 1 and 8. As a member of the TRACS Working Group, she attended a TRACS WG meeting in Denver, Colorado in February, 2018 to discuss the upcoming rewrite of the TRACS system and system requirements.

Objective 4

No new non-boating (angler access) projects were implemented during this grant period.

Objective 5

Over 99% of all Fish Resource Permits were processed within 30 days of the receipt of a completed application packet.

During the reporting period there were 231 Fish Resource Permit (FRP) applications for scientific or educational fresh-water collections processed. Of these, 228 were issued and 3 were denied. In addition to collection permits, 18 Educational Fishery Permits were reviewed and issued. The number of permit applications remain high and new activities are arising which are requiring additional time to research and appropriately permit. In January, 2018, new regulations were passed under 5 AAC41.600 that renamed the Fish Resource Permit to Aquatic Resource Permits. The application and processing remain the same.

FINAL REPORT STATUS: This report constitutes the final report for project C-0-1 for the reporting period.

PREPARED BY: Sheila Cameron and Paul Cyr

DATE: September 1, 2018