

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-1-1 Southeast Regional Research Coordination

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

1. Supervise the regional research program.
2. Prepare and coordinate with the Federal Aid Coordinator all Federal Assistance contracts and program amendments.
3. Direct the development of Region I operational plans for Federal Assistance funded research, and assist in the administration of the region's research program.
4. Coordinate research activities at the regional level as necessary with other divisions in the Department, other state and federal agencies, local government entities, and the public.
5. Review and edit all annual research reports, annual performance reports and other such reports as needed according to federal and department format and standards.

RESULTS/DISCUSSIONS:

Objective 1: The Southeast Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) worked closely with all salmon, freshwater assessment, and creel project leaders and supporting biometric staff to assure research goals and objectives were realistic and appropriate (based on regional management needs), and that research programs were conducted in a manner that met operational planning policies and reporting obligations. Research priorities were established through close communication and coordination with the Sport Fish Regional Supervisor, Regional Management Coordinator, and Fish and Game Coordinator, as well as supervisory staff from the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Field operations were supervised during July through October of 2017 and March through June of 2018. Office operations were similarly supervised throughout the reporting period.

Objective 2: The Southeast RRC coordinated the preparation of 13 synopses in the spring of 2018 for the next fiscal year covering the F-10 (n = 10), F-31 (n = 1), and F-32 (n = 2) Federal Aid grants. Revisions (Amendments) were submitted for three projects in early 2018, one associated with grant F-10-33, S-1-1 (change in Principal Investigator), one associated with

grant F-10-33, S-1-13 (change in Principal Investigator), and the last associated with grant F-10-33, C-1-3 (new objective); in addition to those amendments, preapproval for equipment was received for 1 project within the F-10-33 grant (S-1-3) related to an outboard motor necessary for addressing objectives 1 and 2.

Objective 3: The Southeast RRC worked with project leaders and supporting biometric staff to complete and publish 8 operational plans and 2 operational plan amendments during the grant period. Operational plans were developed, reviewed, and approved for all projects during July through November of 2017 and January through June of 2018. Activities related to the administration of the region's research program included the aforementioned Operational Planning tasks, in addition to involvement in prioritizing ongoing and emerging research needs related to salmon stock assessment (primarily Chinook and coho salmon) and recreational (sport) harvest accounting. These activities occurred throughout the reporting period.

Objective 4: Regional staff again participated in a variety of research planning efforts with the following groups and organizations: U.S. Forest Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Whitehorse); several of Canada's First Nations groups; the U.S. section of the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission; and the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission. Coordination of research and planning across State of Alaska agencies included communication with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Participation and coordination extended beyond state, federal, and tribal entities on occasion, including outreach to NGO's, such as the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership, and local southeast Alaska watershed groups. Regional staff also presented information on Chinook salmon research in a number of public venues at the request of members of the public, fishery advisory groups, and other special interest groups. As always, these cooperative efforts served to improve the Division's research direction and research programs conducted by the other agency/groups involved.

Objective 5: Analysis and reporting of these projects was ongoing through the entire contract period. Fifteen performance reports were prepared for all Federal Aid contracts for the prior fiscal year contract period during the fall of 2017. One Fishery Data Series report, two Special Publications, and one Fishery Manuscript were submitted for publication during the reporting period for Sport Fish Restoration funded research. Southeast staff performed internal peer review on one Fishery Data Series draft report submitted from the Southcentral region of the Sport Fish Division.

FINAL REPORT STATUS: This performance report constitutes the final report of activities for study C-1-1 during the F-10-33 grant period.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Nichols

DATE: August 10, 2018