

## Section 6: Watch-out Words

This list and explanations for correct usage of some problematic words will help you minimize common writing mistakes. *The Gregg Reference Manual* has excellent guidance in Section 11, addressing word usage; also see Appendix D, References Cited.

### A

#### affect/effect/impact

*Affect* is normally used as a verb meaning to influence, change, or modify. *Effect* is normally a noun; it is also a verb meaning to bring about. When you *affect* something, you have an *effect* on it.

Use: The decision will not *affect* the outcome. [influence, change or modify]  
 This will *effect* a restructuring of the department. [to bring about]  
 The regulation takes *effect* on November 20, 2011.  
 The weather has had a major *effect* on migration patterns. [noun]

*Impact* as a verb means strike with a blow or to pack firmly together.

Use: The wisdom tooth *impacted* the molar.

*Impact* as a noun means a collision.

Use: The *impact* of the car into the tree killed all the occupants.

Avoid incorrectly using *impact* as a verb in place of *affect* or as a noun in place of *effect*.

Avoid: The moisture level *impacts* the growth rate. [used as a verb in place of *affect*]

Avoid: The *impacts* of dumping industrial waste on surrounding wildlife are significant. [used as a noun in place of *effect*]

#### aging/ageing

Although commonly used in biological writing, *aging* is not recognized by any dictionary as meaning the determination of age, so the public and international audiences may interpret the word to mean the process of growing older, which is the dictionary definition. Therefore, use *aging* with caution, or define parenthetically on first mention. Also, the British spelling, *ageing*, is not recommended.

#### Alaska/Alaskan

*Alaskan* is commonly misused when *Alaska* is the correct term. *The Associated Press Stylebook for Alaska* explains that *Alaskan* is a noun referring to a person who lives in Alaska. It is never an adjective except in a proper name.

Use: Alaska vacation                      Alaska lifestyle                      Alaskans prefer Maui  
 Avoid: Alaskan vacation                      Alaskan lifestyle

**allocate/apportion**

Use these words when you or others do the apportioning or allocating (e.g., *allocation* plans for fisheries or hunts). Do not use the words when you are trying to estimate the proportions or parts of a natural population (e.g., ...the run was *allocated* to user groups by) because we are not *allocating* or *apportioning* the parts or components of the population—the populations themselves are.

Use: We estimated hatchery *portions* of the run.

**all right/alright**

Like *all wrong*, the expression *all right* should be spelled as two words. *Alright* is nonstandard.

**alternate/alternative**

As nouns, the difference between these terms is clear. When these words appear as adjectives, some find their usage confusing. As a verb or adjective, *alternate* means occurring in turns or every other one, and *alternative* is a noun meaning possibilities.

Use: We *alternated* day and night observations.  
The team discussed six *alternative* sites for the weir.  
We rejected the *alternative* hypothesis.

**6****among/between**

Use *among* when comparing three or more. Use *between* when comparing two.

**and/or**

Avoid using this term. *And/or* is used when two items can be taken either jointly or separately. The form *and/or* may be appropriate in legal or other kinds of writing where redundancy is not important, but this form should not be used in educational, informational, or scientific and technical writing. Reword the sentence instead.

Use: Recent advances in molecular biology should be useful to geneticists, bacteriologists, or both.

Avoid: Recent advances in molecular biology should be useful to geneticists and/or bacteriologists.

**appraise/apprise**

*Appraise* means to evaluate. *Apprise* means to inform.

**as/because/since**

Use *as* when signifying a comparison (for instance) or a degree of equality (to specify a relationship). Use *because* to mean for the reason that. Use *since* in a temporal sense, not as a synonym for *because*. *As* cannot be used as a synonym for *because*; it is not a clause of reason.

- Use: The season was closed *because* population levels were low. [for the reason that]  
 Avoid: The season was closed *since/as* the population levels were low. [*since* is temporal, *as* is not a clause of reason]

Ambiguity is not evident in the first example, so using *because* simplifies reading. In the second example you need the rest of the sentence to determine whether *since* has a temporal meaning or is being used as a synonym for *because*.

- Use: The fishery, as an early-season entry in the area, opened May 15. [for instance; degree of equality]  
 The fishery has been open *since* May 15. [temporal]  
 The fishery opened May 15 *because* the managers wanted to supply an early-season opportunity. [clause of or reason]

### as/ like

*Like* is correctly used as a preposition. Although *like* is also widely used as a conjunction in colloquial speech, use *as*, *as if*, or a similar expression in written material.

- Use: Duck hunting, *like* deer hunting, requires a great deal of skill.  
 The moose calf looks *as if* it has not eaten in days.

### assure/ensure/insure

All three words have essentially the same meaning. However, when referring to financially guaranteeing life or property, use *insure* exclusively. *Assure* should only be used when it refers to a person (e.g., to *assure* someone). Use these two words only in these limited senses. In most of our writing, therefore, *ensure* will be the correct choice.

- Use: I assure you we will finish on time. [to set a person's mind at ease]  
 I want to ensure we do this correctly. [to make certain]

### Athabascan/Athabaskan/Athapaskan

*Athabascan* is the preferred spelling. Previously, the Alaska Native Language Center used *Athabaskan* as linguists do not like using a *c* for the *k* sound because in English *c* can also be pronounced like an *s*. Although the *Smithsonian Handbook* uses *Athapaskan*, ADF&G writers should use *Athabascan*, following the lead of the Alaska Native Language Center.

### average/mean/median/midpoint

The *mean* and the *average* are interchangeable synonyms, meaning the arithmetic average of a set of measurements. The *median* is a value or quantity lying at the midpoint of either a frequency distribution or a set of observed values or quantities. The *midpoint* is the point of a line segment or curvilinear arc that divides it into two parts of the same length.

**awhile/a while**

The meaning of *awhile* is for a period; *for* is part of the meaning. Consequently, it is redundant to write *The policy will work for awhile*. As a preposition, *for* can introduce *a while*, but must not be used to introduce *awhile*.

Use: The policy will work awhile. [The policy will work for a period.]  
The policy will work for a while.

Avoid: The policy will work for awhile. [redundant, *awhile* means for a period]

**B****because**

See *as/because/since*.

**between**

See *among/between*

**bi/semi**

*Bimonthly* and *biweekly* can mean either every two months/weeks or twice a month/week. *Semimonthly*, on the other hand, means twice a month. If the words must be used, use *bimonthly/biweekly* for every two months/weeks and *semimonthly/semiweekly* for twice a month/week.

Also, note that *biannually* means two times a year and *biennially* means every two years.

**bush/rural**

Rural is the preferred term.

**bycatch/harvest/incidental catch/take**

Use *bycatch* only as a noun or adjective. Never use as a verb.

Use: crab incidentally harvested in cod pots

Avoid: crab bycaught in cod pots

Use: Last season, Chinook salmon *bycatch* was reduced in the Bering Sea.

Avoid: In 1999 and 2000, fewer Chinook salmon were *bycaught* in the Bering Sea.

Agency definitions for these terms may differ. Federal marine mammal regulations, for example, define *take* as harvest plus struck and lost. The Alaska Administrative Code definition of *take* includes *pursuit*, among other activities. Careful authors will be aware of the ambiguities and define their terms early in the publication.

**C****calf**

Use *calf* when writing about moose or caribou only when the animal is less than one year old.

**complement/compliment**

*Complement* means something that completes or brings to perfection. *Compliment* means an expression or act of courtesy or praise.

Use: These findings *complemented* their study. [completes]

Use: We *complimented* Terry on her brilliant speech. [act of courtesy or praise]

**compose/comprise**

*Compose* means to make up or create by putting together parts or elements. *Comprise* means to include, contain, consist of. The parts compose (make up) the whole; the whole comprises (includes) the parts; the whole is composed of (never is *comprised* of) the parts.

Use: ADF&G *comprises* [consists of] six major divisions.

Six divisions *compose* [make up] ADF&G.

ADF&G is *composed* of [is made up of] or *comprises* [includes] six divisions.

**concern/stock<sup>1</sup>/stock of concern**

ADF&G writers must often use technical or specialized jargon and various terms of art that are particular to people involved in our fisheries. If the writer is talking about a salmon *stock* that someone has expressed a *concern* over, then *concern* can express our need to closely monitor the stock, or *concern* can mean something much more specific and defined in regulation. There is a formal process leading up to an Alaska Board of Fisheries finding of *stock of concern*, as jargon, for stocks with escapement goals. There are specific legal definitions for *yield concern* (inability to maintain yields or harvestable surplus above escapement needs) *management concern* (inability to maintain escapements within the bounds of a biological escapement goal, sustainable escapement goal, or optimal escapement goal) and *conservation concern* (inability to maintain escapements above a sustainable escapement threshold). Each level of *concern* triggers very specific management actions.

When discussing *concern* and *stock of concern*, we are using terms of significant interest to large numbers of people in the public, permit holders, and processors who pay very close attention to the formal *stock of concern* process and findings. Because in the context of Alaska salmon fisheries management and research the terms *concern* and *stock of concern* have such specific technical meanings, it is not appropriate to use these terms in their commonly used way when referring to salmon stocks. Writers should reserve those terms for their specialized meaning, and find other terms to express their interest or anxiety about a stock.

**continual/continuous**

*Continual* means intermittent, but frequently repeated. *Continuous* means without interruption.

Use: The weir was *continually* monitored inseason; for specific dates see Table 5.

Nutrients were *continually* added to the fish tank.

The fish tank leaked *continuously* until we were able to repair it.

**D****data/data point**

The singular form of *data* is *data point* and the plural is *data*. Although *data* as a singular is allowed in popular writing, this should not be used in technical writing. The term *datum* is no longer used.

Use: Data are gathered for the lower drainages.

Avoid: Data is gathered for the lower drainages.

**different from/different than**

Use *different from* for comparison between two persons or things. Use *different than* when the object of comparison is expressed by a full independent clause.

Use: My report is *different from* yours. [between two persons or things]

The department is *different than* it was 20 years ago. [object of comparison is expressed by a full clause]

**discreet/discrete**

A *discreet* person is cautious and prudent and exercises good judgment. *Discrete* means separate and distinct, as *discrete* stocks of fish.

**dominant/predominant**

Both can be used as adjectives or verbs having similar meanings relating to power, influence, authority, or superiority. *Predominant*, however, is the better choice when referring to greater prevalence in numbers.

**6****E****each other/one another**

Use *each other* to refer to two persons or things. Use *one another* for more than two.

Use: The two candidates seem to enjoy insulting *each other*.

The three candidates compete with *one another* for space on the front page.

**e.g./for example/i.e./that is**

The abbreviation *e.g.* is derived from the Latin term *exempli gratia*, meaning for example. The abbreviation *i.e.* comes from the Latin term *id est*, meaning that is. When using either of these terms, always put a comma after the second period.

Use: The primary guide (i.e., [that is] Alaska Department of Fish and Game Writer's Guide) will be followed.

There are many books providing standards for writing (e.g., [for example] Chicago Manual of Style).

**ensure**

See *assure/ensure/insure*.

## Eskimo

*Eskimo* is considered derogatory in Canada, but not in Alaska. *First Nations* or *Native* is preferred in Canada. *Inupiat* is used instead of *Eskimo* for people of northwest Alaska, *Aleut* and *Alutiiq* for peninsula-region people, and *Yupik* for southwest Alaska and St. Lawrence Island peoples.

## ex-/former

*Ex-* should be used to refer to the person who immediately preceded the current titleholder (*ex-husband*); *former* refers to an earlier title-holder (*former President Ford*).

See also *former/latter*.

## experimental fishery/fish population sampling/sample fishery/test fishery

Under Alaska Statute 16.05.050(a)(9), the commissioner can allow an *experimental fishery*. An *experimental fishery* permits fishermen<sup>2</sup> to try out new vessels, gear, or techniques on a case-by-case and experimental basis.

A *sample fishery*, or *fish population sampling*, is a method by which biologists estimate fish populations or contribution rates (i.e., wild vs. hatchery returns) using methods such as mark-recapture, coded wire tagging, or thermal marking.

*Test fishery* is an Alaska term for the experimental fisheries often run pre-season or throughout a given season to monitor run strength and timing. The commissioner has the authority to designate a test fishery using any kind of gear at any time under Alaska Statute 16.05.050(a)(5) and to sell the fish caught under Alaska Statute 16.05.050(a)(14). *Test fisheries* are also occasionally conducted to generate revenue to offset management costs, and are conducted by ADF&G employees or contractors. Depending on the type of test fishery, the catch may be retained or released. If retained, it is sold to the highest-bidding processor or given to the contractor as payment. The term should always be parenthetically defined. Do not use this term to describe any sort of fish population sampling conducted by department staff. That is, fish population samples should be called that, or something similar, not *test fisheries* or *test catches*.

## F

### factor of/-fold/percentage/times

Quantifications for increases and decreases from an original value are frequently expressed incorrectly. When using percentage (%) to indicate an increase or decrease, the base must be subtracted. When percentage is used correctly it is often misunderstood.

In the following examples of an increase, the starting average equals 7 cm and the average increases by 14 cm to 21 cm.

Use: A 300% increase... [Unless you need to focus on the amount of the increase itself, it may be best to reconstruct, focusing instead on how the average changed: The average increased 300% (or 3-fold).]

- Use: The final average was 3 times (or 3-fold) the initial average.  
The final average was 3 times the initial average of 7 cm.  
The final average was 300% of the initial average.
- Avoid: The average increased by a factor of 3 (or by 3 times). [This says the average increased by  $3 \times 7$  (the base) or by 21; that would mean the new average was  $7 + 21$ , or 28.]
- Avoid: A 300% (3-fold) increase in the average was noted. [The increase was 14 (200%), not 21 (300%).]
- Avoid: The average increased by a factor of 2 (or by 2 times). [This statement is correct: the average increased by  $2 \times 7$  or 14. However, it may be misunderstood; readers could assume the new average was 14, not 21.]

### farther/further

*Farther* refers to distance only. Use *further* in all other cases.

- Use: *Farther* upriver we found the beaver dam.  
This finding *further*s our hypothesis.  
This finding should be *further* analyzed.

### fish hook/single hook(n)/single-hook(adj)

According to ADF&G sport fishing regulations, a *single hook* is a hook that has only one point, with or without a barb. If referring to terminal tackle in general, use *fish hook* unless you know the angler specifically used a *treble hook*, or a *single hook*, or some combination. A *treble hook* is legally referred to as a *multiple hook*. A *multiple hook* is a fish hook with two or more points, with or without barbs.

### fewer/lesser

Use *fewer* when referring to countable items; use *lesser* for amounts that are not countable.

### forgo/forego

*Forgo* means to abstain from or give up or abandon. *Forego* is an alternate spelling; *forgo* is the preferred spelling.

- Use: We will *forgo* the test fishery this year.  
The director was willing to *forgo* travel to save money.

## G

### gauge/gage

A *gauge* is an instrument for or a means of measuring a dimension or for testing mechanical accuracy, or an instrument with a graduated scale or dial for measuring or indicating quantity. *Gage* is an alternate spelling. *Gauge* is the preferred spelling; however, when referring to interagency documents it is important to be consistent with use of the term.



**H****handheld line/handline**

The terms are synonymous. Do not confuse these terms with *hook and line* or *rod and reel*.

**harvest**

See *bycatch/harvest/incidental catch/take*.

**herring sac roe fishery/sac roe herring fishery**

The preferred term is *herring sac roe fishery*. Despite the fact that the only sac roe fishery currently authorized is for herring, ADF&G prefers to have *herring* modify *sac roe* or *sac roe fishery*.

**historic/historical**

*Historic* refers to noteworthy events in history. Use *historical* when referring to past events in a cumulative or generic sense.

Use:     the *historic* enactment of ANILCA set  
          the *historical* migration period has been

**hook and line/hook and a line**

A *hook and line* is handheld, with the line attached to a pole or rod which is held in the hand or closely attended. *Hook and line* is the preferred term.

**hybrid crosses**

When depicting hybrid crosses, use the following formats: *Chionoecetes bairdi* × *Chionoecetes opilio*; or *C. bairdi* × *C. opilio*; or Tanner crab × snow crab. The female partner is always first (left of ×).

**I****ice fishing/fishing through the ice**

The terms are synonymous. *Ice fishing* (verb) is a title, *fishing through the ice* is a description.

**i.e./that is**

See *e.g./for example/i.e./that is*.

**imply/infer**

*Imply* means to suggest. You imply something by your own words or actions.

Use:     Victor *implied* [suggested] that data would be available.

*Infer* means to assume, to deduce, to arrive at a conclusion. You *infer* something from another person's words or actions.

Use: I *inferred* [assumed] from Victor's remarks that we would never see that data.

### incidence/prevalence

*Incidence* is a particular percentage at a point in time (one data point). *Prevalence* is a rate over time (several data points).

### incidental catch

See *bycatch/harvest/incidental catch/take*.

### Indian/Native

When *native* is capitalized, it refers to an Alaskan who is Indian, Eskimo, Tlingit, or Haida.

### insure

See *assure/ensure/insure*.

### Inupiaq/Inupiat

*Inupiaq* is the name of the Eskimo language of Northern Alaska that is spoken from Unalakleet to the Canada border. It is also an adjective or a singular noun. *Inupiat* is the plural form. In referring to several people from Barrow, you would say "these *Inupiat* speak *Inupiaq*" (Alaska Native Language Center, UAF).

Use: An Inupiaq person from Barrow. [a singular noun (one person)]  
People from Barrow are *Inupiat* [plural adjective], and speak *Inupiaq*.

### irrespective/regardless

*Irrespective* and *regardless of* (not *irregardless*) are synonyms meaning ignoring.

Use: equal rights for all, *irrespective of* [regardless of] class or race.

### its/it's

*Its* is the possessive form of *it*, whereas *it's* is the contraction for *it is*.

Use: The moose injured *its* foot on the fencing.

## L

### latter/former

For a table or figure reference you must specifically reference that table or figure. Do not use the phrase *the following table* in technical reports. Avoid the words *latter* and *former* whenever possible. They force the reader to stop and search back over previously read material to locate the intended reference. Avoid the phrases *see above* or *see below* for the same reason.

See also *ex-former*.

**lesser**

See *fewer/lesser*.

**lie/lay**

The following is taken from *The Gregg Reference Manual*.

*Lay* (principal forms: *lay, laid, laying*) means to put or to place. This verb requires an object (noun/pronoun) to complete its meaning.

Use: Please *lay* the boxes on the pallets with extreme care.  
I *laid* the message right on your desk.  
He had *laid* two other notes there yesterday.  
He is always *laying* the blame on his assistants. [Putting the blame.]

*Lie* (principal forms: *lie, lay, lain, lying*) means to recline, rest, or stay or to take a position of rest. It refers to a person or thing as either assuming or being in a reclining position. This verb cannot take an object (noun/pronoun).

Use: Now he *lies* in bed most of the day.  
The mountains *lay* before us as we proceeded west.  
This letter has *lain* unanswered for two weeks.  
Today's mail is *lying* on the receptionist's desk.

In deciding whether to use *lie* or *lay* in a sentence, substitute the word *place, placed, or placing* (as appropriate) for the word in question. If the substitute fits, the corresponding form of *lay* is correct. If it does not, use the appropriate form of *lie*.

Use: I will (lie or lay?) down now. [You could not say *I will place down now*. Therefore, write *I will lie down now*.]  
I (laid or lay?) the pad on his desk. [*I placed the pad on his desk* works. Therefore, write *I laid the pad*.]  
I (laid or lay?) awake many nights. [*I placed awake* does not work. Write *I lay awake* (past tense of lie).]  
These files have (laid or lain?) untouched for some time. [*These files have placed untouched* does not work. Write *These files have lain untouched*.]  
He has been (laying or lying?) down on the job. [*He has been placing down on the job* does not work. Write *He has been lying down*.]

**like/likely**

*Like* is correctly used as a preposition. Do not use *like* as a conjunction, instead use *as, as if* or a similar expression.

Use: Rockfish, *like* other reef fishes, are found in deep water.  
Rockfish are found in deep water, *as* are other reef fishes.  
Companies such as Dell and Cisco [refers specifically to Dell and Cisco]  
Companies *like* Dell and Cisco [refers to other companies that are like Dell and Cisco but not specifically to those two companies]

Avoid: The exvessel value was lower this year, *as* {not *like*} we were expecting.

Avoid using *likely* as a substitute for *probably*. Avoid using *likely* as an adverb unless it is immediately preceded by a modifier, such as *very likely*, *most likely*, etc.

Use: The deer, which *probably* are found near the beach, may starve.

Avoid: The deer, which *likely* are found near the beach, may starve.

Use: The deer, which *very likely* are found near the beach, may starve.

## M

### mean/median/midpoint

See *average/mean/median/midpoint*.

### multiple hooks

See *single hook*.

## P

### Pacific herring (or Pacific halibut)

Use *Pacific herring* and the scientific name on first usage in the document. Use just *herring* thereafter (exception: if your document involves both Atlantic and Pacific herring, the qualifier will probably be needed throughout). Also, the following terms should be used when characterizing herring populations and fisheries.

Use: run biomass – harvest or catch = escapement biomass [for herring use]  
run – harvest or catch = escapement [equivalent in salmon]

Note: The *run* and *run biomass* are composed of mature fish that are participating in spawning, and excludes immature fish remaining at sea. Therefore, when referring to an entire herring or salmon population consisting of both the mature and immature fish, use *total population*.

### parameter

Use *parameter* only as a mathematical variable or constant. Avoid using this word as a synonym for a characteristic element or a fixed limit or boundary.

Use: We were able to define limits of use for depth, velocity, and substrate conditions but could not demonstrate statistically significant preferences within each parameter.

Growth of Fielding Lake Arctic grayling was successfully modelled with a two-parameter version of the von Bertalanffy growth equation.

Parameter estimates of allometric length-weight relationships ranged between 6.16 and 8.54 for parameter *a*, and between 2.71 and 3.37 for parameter *b*.

Avoid: The stream data was within the parameters of the investigation. [a fixed limit or boundary]

### percent/percentage/percentage points

Use the written word for general audiences, department correspondence, and in table headings. Use the percent symbol (%) for scientific audiences when associated with a number.

The noun *percentage* is not interchangeable with *percent*; *percent* means per hundred (25% is 25 per 100), whereas *percentage* refers to a quantity or rate expressed as the unit *percent* (the percentage used was 25%), or a fraction or ratio with 100 understood as the denominator. Also, the difference between 7% and 15% is not 8% but 8 *percentage points*.

Use: Only 25% of the bears found in Anchorage are reliant on human produced food sources. (number per 100 units)

The percentage of bears found to rely on human food sources was 25%. (a quantity expressed as a unit percent)

In a table, a column of figures representing percentages may be headed *Percent of Total* or *Percent of Catch* or a similar designation. When the column or row header designates data as percentages, it is not necessary to append the symbol to numbers within that column or row (CSE 2006; Gregg 2005).

See also *factor of /-fold/percent symbol/times*.

### predominant

See *dominant/predominant*.

### plant/release/stock/transplant

A lake or stream is *stocked* with fish, but fish are *planted* into a lake or stream. A lake or stream is *stocked* or *planted* with fish through the act of *releasing* them. Use *transplant* rather than *plant* when you want to reinforce that fish being planted originated from a source other than the source being stocked.

Note: Do not use transplant for animals and birds; instead, use or *reintroduce*.

### prevalence

See *incidence/prevalence*.

### principal/principle

*Principal* is an adjective or a noun used in law or finance, but in general use it refers to a person holding a high position. It is usually the correct word to use when *principle* is not what is meant. *Principle* is a noun meaning rule of conduct, especially of right conduct.

Use: Principal land managers include private individuals, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Native corporations, and the State of Alaska.

We moved the weir, following the principle that a clear channel supports better fish counts.

## Q

### quasi

*Quasi* is a prefix that indicates to a degree or to some extent. Avoid using this term for half as in a semicircle or semimonthly; instead, refer to *bi/semi*. *Quasi* is a stand-alone adjective used to modify nouns (*quasi contract*, *quasi population*).

Quasi is also a combining form that is hyphenated to form an adjective or adverb (quasi-essential, quasi-legal, quasi-normally, quasi-governmental).

## R

### radio- words

*Radio-* words are either objects or processes. They may be spelled as one word or two, or even hyphenated. The spelling of *radio-* words is highly stable and follows common and powerful language principles. Along with the examples, the language principle that determines the spelling is explained. When in doubt, look up your *radio-* word in the dictionary to find the “agreed upon” spelling. If you do not find it in the dictionary, feel confident that you can spell it using one of the models presented here.

#### **Radio- words representing a process**

*Radio-* words signifying processes are spelled as one word.

- Use: We *radiotagged* 69 adult sockeye salmon to document lake spawning. [verb]  
 We *radiocollared* the caribou in the fall. [verb]  
 The *radiocollared* caribou were included in the spring survey. [participial adjective]  
*Radiocollaring* black bears assisted our understanding of cub size. [noun as subject of sentence]  
*Radiotagging* the salmon was more expensive this year. [noun as subject of sentence]

#### **Radio- words signifying objects**

In words that do not signify processes, *radio-* words are generally spelled as two words.

- Use: The *radio wave* was interrupted by lightning.  
 We found a *radio tag* in the rainbow trout’s abdomen. [sentence is about the tag as an object rather than about the process of radiotagging]

When the combining form *radio-* is used to form an action verb or an adjective that describes a noun following it, spell the word as one.

- Use: The *radiocollared* bear crossed the glacier several times. [adjective]  
 We tested *radiotracking* devices. [adjective describing the noun devices]  
 The *radiotagging* analysis turned up some unexpected results. [adjective describing what kind of analysis]  
 Over 10% of *radiotagged* fish reached known spawning areas. [adjective describing which fish]
- Avoid: All *radio tagged* fish resumed upstream movement after tagging. [adjective describing a noun, should be one word]

### Adjectival *radio-* words spelled with a hyphen

In some *radio-* words, a hyphen is used to break apart noun strings in order to emphasize a main noun (topic). With three nouns in a row (radio wave pattern), often the first two are hyphenated to modify the third. When the first two nouns are hyphenated, their function changes from a noun to a compound adjective.

Use:     *radio-wave* pattern [compound adjective]                     a *pattern of radio waves* [noun]  
           *radio-tag* implant [compound adjective]                     an *implanted radio tag* [noun]

When compound adjectives made from nouns come before another noun, you hyphenate the describing pair to emphasize the noun you are describing. There is very little chance for ambiguity when two nouns working together follow the noun they describe, so there is generally no need for a hyphen in that instance. For more detailed information on compound adjectives see Section 4.3 Hyphenating Nouns and Adjectives.

### raise/rise

*Raise* means moved upward by someone or something, not of its own volition.  
*Rise* means to move upward by itself or upon its own volition.

### random

Use *random sample* only in its strict statistical sense; i.e., every possible individual sample has an equal probability of being selected.

### regard/regards

When used to mean *consider*, *as* should be used. Do not follow *regards* with an infinitive.

Use:     He *regards* it as dishonest. [used to mean *consider*]  
           The department *regards* this report as the most comprehensive source of sport fishing information. [used to mean *consider*]

Avoid:   He *regards* it to be dishonest. [followed with an infinitive]

The terms *with regard to* and *in regard to* mean with reference to. Do not use *regarding* and *in regard to* for introducing a subject. As a noun, use the plural *regards* only in the formal expression.

Use:     A budget analysis is also presented *with regard to* the cost of maintaining a fully developed interactive information access system. [with reference to]

Avoid:   *Regarding* the budget analysis presented, the cost of maintaining a fully developed interactive information access system is prohibited. [with reference to]

Use:     Give my *regards* to the commissioner. [formal expression]

**regardless**

Use *regardless* to mean in spite of everything. Do not use *irregardless*, which is nonstandard and a double negative.

Use: Anglers were selective towards harvesting fish greater than 300 mm in fork length regardless of age or sexual maturity.

See also *irrespective/regardless*.

**relation/relationship**

Both can be used to describe ties or kinship between people. Use *relationship* to denote a temporary state, such as when referring to a condition or fact of being related, or a particular instance of connection. Use *relation* to refer to a logical or longstanding truth, a natural association between two or more things, or the manner in which they are connected.

Use: The relationship between the governor and the commissioner was fraught with tension. [temporary state or a particular instance of connection]

Their marital relationship was happy and fulfilling. [a particular instance of connection]

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the relation between length and sexual maturity for male and female cutthroat trout in Baranof Lake. [longstanding truth, a natural association between two or more things, or the manner in which they are connected]

**respectively**

This word is often overused in scientific writing. It makes reading difficult because it forces the reader to cross-reference parts of the sentence. Its use should be minimized.

Use: Sample A was 45 mm and B was 65 mm.

Avoid: Samples A and B were 45 mm and 65 mm, *respectively*.

**return/run**

*Return* refers to an aggregation of salmon over several or more years that represent the surviving adult offspring from a single brood year. *Run* refers to the total number of mature salmon returning in a given year from ocean-rearing areas to spawn.

**rise**

See *raise/rise*.

**rod and pole/rod and reel**

A *pole* does not use a reel (e.g., a *cane pole*). A *rod* has guides and a reel.



## S

**sac roe herring fishery**

The preferred term is *herring sac roe fishery*. On first use, state the term as *Pacific herring sac roe fishery*. See *Pacific herring (or Pacific halibut)* for introduction of the term *Pacific herring*.

**salmon life stages**

Terms denoting salmon life stages are often misused, in part because many writers are unaware of correct usage, as defined in the following chronology of stages:

- ovum*: A mature egg, or an unfertilized female reproductive cell(s). [synonym: *gamete* or sometimes *egg*]
- egg*: Used interchangeably with *ovum*; *egg* is not synonymous with *embryo*.
- embryo*: Developing fertilized egg up to hatching. [synonym: *fertilized egg*]
- sac fry*: Hatched fry with a yolk sac; this stage remains relatively inactive in the incubation gravel.
- alevin*: Also *emergent fry*: fry that have utilized their yolk sac. *Alevin* refers to those still within the gravel, and *emergent fry* to those recently emerged or emerging from the gravel.
- fry*: Larval stage following emergence that lasts until pigmentation and parr marks are visible.
- parr*: Applies to only freshwater-rearing species (sockeye, coho, Chinook, trout, char) and denotes the stage between the development of pigment/parr marks and the smolt stage; note that pink and chum salmon skip this and the smolt stage and go from the fry stage directly to the juvenile stage.
- smolt*: For freshwater-rearing species (sockeye, coho, Chinook) it is the time that parr are able to osmoregulate and migrate to salt water.
- immature*: This stage lasts from the first day of January following saltwater entry until gonadal development becomes noticeable; pink and coho salmon skip this stage and enter the mature stage immediately following the juvenile stage because their gonads begin to develop around the first of January following saltwater entry.
- maturing*: The ocean-rearing stage that begins when gonadal development becomes noticeable and lasts until the adult stage. Chum, sockeye, and Chinook salmon enter this stage from the immature stage. However, pink and coho salmon enter this stage from the juvenile stage: i.e., on the first day of January following saltwater entry because their gonads begin to develop at that time.
- adult*: Generally covers the period from the beginning of the spawning migration or run until death; note that *spawning fish* should be used only for those adults constituting the escapement.

Terms that aggregate two or more successive stages can be developed as needed but should be defined on first usage (e.g., *subadult* to refer to immature and maturing salmon); however, the *freshwater-rearing* and *ocean-rearing* stages are common enough and sufficiently intuitive to enable usage without introduction. For more information on definitions of the ocean-rearing stages of Pacific salmon, see

International North Pacific Commission Bulletins Godfrey et al. 1975; French et al. 1976; Neave et al. 1976; Major et al. 1978 and Takagi et al. 1981. In these studies on the early ocean life history of Pacific salmon, *juvenile salmon* are defined as the early marine stage of all species that begins with their entry into salt water, and continues through the end of that calendar year. Otherwise, the term *juvenile* generally refers to both freshwater-rearing and saltwater-rearing stages.

**since**

See *as/because/since*.

**sonar (words)**

See *radio-* words.

**spawn on kelp**

Use *spawn on kelp* rather than *roe* or *eggs on kelp*. Hyphenate when used as an adjective. Other variations include *pound spawn on kelp* or *pound spawn-on-kelp fishery* or *wild spawn-on-kelp fishery*; *suspended spawn on kelp* or *suspended spawn-on-kelp fishery*. When referring to the herring *spawn-on-kelp* fisheries, use the following qualifiers to describe harvests: *equivalent herring harvest* or *harvest in product weight*.

**special harvest area/terminal harvest area**

A *special harvest area* is an area where private hatchery returns segregate from wild stocks and the private hatchery harvests fish for cost recovery; noncommercial anglers are sometimes also allowed to fish in the *special harvest area*. A *terminal harvest area* is an area where fishermen<sup>1</sup> (both commercial and noncommercial) may harvest segregated hatchery returns. A *terminal harvest area* may be separate and adjacent to a *special harvest area* or be the same as a *special harvest area* but open at different times; or a *terminal harvest area* may include, but extend beyond, a *special harvest area*. Use *terminal harvest area* when referring to common property harvests taken in the *terminal harvest area*; use *special harvest area* when referring to private hatchery cost recovery.

**stock of concern**

See *concern/stock/stock of concern*.

**T**

**take**

See *bycatch/harvest/incidental catch/take*.

**that/which**

*That* is an identifier of the noun that precedes it. *That* is used when introducing an essential clause (i.e., a clause needed to understand the full and correct meaning of the sentence). Such clauses are not set off from the rest of the sentence by com-

mas. *Which* is used to introduce a nonessential clause (i.e., a clause that includes extra information that is useful but not necessary for correct interpretation of the sentence). These nonessential clauses are set off by commas. The considerate author will avoid ambiguity and help readers select the intended interpretation.

Use: The samples *that were collected on Friday* all tested positive. [*that* signals an essential clause, helping the reader identify that the positive samples were all collected on Friday]

Use: The samples, *which were collected on Friday*, all tested positive. [*which* signals a nonessential clause, telling the reader that all samples were positive; the independent clause supplies extra information about the collection date]

Note that careless use of *that/which* can cause misreading of the sentence. For example, in the following carelessly constructed sentence, readers can extract two different meanings.

Avoid: The samples *which* were collected on Friday all tested positive. [*Which* signals a nonessential clause, but because independent clauses need a comma separation, the sentence construction signals that this is an essential clause. The reader does not know if all samples were positive, or if only samples collected on Friday were positive.]

Rarely does the word *that* introduce a nonessential clause. Also, remember to avoid *that/the* pile-ups.

Use: The data indicate *that* herd population is declining.

Avoid: The data indicate *that the* herd population is declining.

### toward/towards

Use *toward*. *Toward* is the preferred form in American English. In British English, *towards* is more common than *toward*.

### treble hook

See *single hook*.

## U

### United States

When *United States* is used as a noun, spell it out. When it is abbreviated as part of a government agency, use periods. Periods are not used in acronyms.

Use: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
U.S./Canada

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

## V

### village/villager

The terms *community* and *resident* are preferred.

**W****while**

Use *while* in a temporal sense only (e.g., *While* sampling, we discovered...). Otherwise, in place of *while* use *although*, *but*, *whereas*, or *and*. Do not use *while* as a conjunction.

Use: Bears were studied, *although* [but] birds were not.

Avoid: Bears were studied, *while* birds were not.

**who**

The word *who* carries either essential (identifying information that is needed to understand the correct meaning of the sentence; e.g., *The manager who works in the Anchorage office received the award.*) or nonessential (extra information that is useful but not necessary for correct interpretation of the sentence; e.g., *The manager, who is in Hawaii this week, received the award.*)

Essential information does not require a comma; nonessential information requires a comma or a pair of commas midsentence. The comma visually separates nonessential messages so the reader can easily discern the sentence's main point.

Use: The publisher will consider proposals from biologists *who* submit their plans before June 30. [essential, no comma]

Select people *who* want to be on this committee. [essential, no comma]

Terry Smith, *who* graduated from Montana State University, is the new regional supervisor. [nonessential information is set off by a pair of commas]

When a modifying phrase with the word *who* follows a proper noun, it is usually nonessential and requires commas.

Use: Jane Smith, *who* works for the current administration, is a member of the survey team.

For information on when to use *that*, see *that/which*.

**who/whom**

The traditional rules that determine the use of *who* and *whom* are simple but require remembering grammar. Use *who* when the words *I*, *he*, *she*, *they*, or *we* are appropriate substitutes, and use *whom* when *him*, *her*, *them*, *me*, or *us* are appropriate substitutes.

Use: *Who* washed the dishes? [can substitute *I*, *he*, *she*, *they*, or *we*]

You gave something to *whom*? [can substitute *him*, *her*, *them*, *me*, or *us*]

**with**

Do not use *with* as a conjunction. Use *and*, *but*, or a semicolon (;).

Use: Temperatures were taken daily, and water samples were taken every week.  
Temperatures were taken daily; water samples were taken weekly.

Avoid: Temperatures were taken daily with water samples taken every week.

## X

## Y

## Yupik/Yup'ik

*Yupik* refers to the combination of languages (the *Yupik* languages). Language names are *Siberian Yupik* or *Central Yup'ik*. *Central Yup'ik* also refers to people (plural); singular person is *Yuk'*.

There are three *Yupik* Eskimo languages spoken in Alaska:

1. *St. Lawrence Island* or *Siberian Yupik*, spoken on St. Lawrence Island,
2. *Central Yup'ik* in Southwestern Alaska, spoken from Unalakleet south to the Alaska Peninsula, and
3. *Alutiiq* (*Sugpiaq*, *Sugcestun*), also called *Pacific Yupik*, is a Pacific Gulf variety of *Yupik* Eskimo spoken in two dialects in several communities on the Alaska Peninsula, on Kodiak Island, at the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, and in Prince William Sound.

*Alutiiq* and *Sugpiaq* are also adjectives. *Alutiiq* is also a singular noun (one person); the plural is *Alutiit*.

The correct term for referring to these groups collectively is *Yupik* (never *Yup'ik*). Use *Yupik* to refer individually or collectively to the three *Yupik* Eskimo languages in Alaska. *Yup'ik* is correct only for Central *Yup'ik*. So you can say that Central *Yup'ik* is a *Yupik* language.

<sup>1</sup> The term stock, especially as applied to salmon, has different meanings ascribed by management, conservation biology (genetics), and the Endangered Species Act. Geiger and Gharrett (1997) have recommended that stock be used only in management and the word deme—instead of stock—be used for applications to conservation biology. Van Alen (1998) and Wilbur et al. (1998) provide appropriate definitions for stock, stock group, and deme/local population. To mitigate the semantical turmoil in which these terms have become embroiled, staff should use these terms as provided in these three papers:

Geiger, H. J., and A. J. Gharrett. 1997. Stocks at risk: what's the stock and what's the risk? *Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin* 4(2):178–180.

Van Alen, B. W. 2000. Status and stewardship of salmon stocks in Southeast Alaska. Chapter 13 [In] Knudsen, E. E., et al., editors. *Sustainable fisheries management: Pacific salmon*. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton, FL.

Wilbur, R. L., J. Seeb, L. Seeb, and H. J. Geiger. 1998. Is it a deme, a stock, or a subspecies? These and other definitions. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report 5J98-09, Juneau.

<sup>2</sup> Fisherman/men is the historically-used term and is acceptable. However, writers should strive to provide gender-neutral fish harvester terms when possible. Consider using gillnetter, seiner, troller, etc. to identify commercial fishing parties, and angler instead of fisherman when referencing sport fishing activities. Fisher is the standard term used in the Division of Subsistence.