



How are comprehensive subsistence survey data used?

1. Document customary and traditional uses of Alaska fish and wildlife to assist Boards of Fisheries (BOF) and Game (BOG) in making subsistence determinations.
2. Assist the BOF and BOG in providing opportunities for Alaskans to participate in subsistence hunting and fishing with a reasonable chance of success.
3. Establish baselines of community patterns of wild resource uses so that proposed development projects can evaluate potential impacts to subsistence ways of life.
4. Assist communities and regional organizations in demonstrating the importance of subsistence resources to community and economic well-being.

What topics are covered in a comprehensive survey?

1. Demography (household size, age, ethnicity)
2. Harvest and use (harvest amounts and areas, giving and receiving)
3. Sources of income (jobs and other income)
4. Harvest trends
5. Ethnographic information (seasonal timing, changes over time)
6. Community questions and concerns

Why collect harvest data?

1. Harvest assessment programs provide an opportunity for communities and ADF&G to work together.
2. Collection of subsistence harvest data documents subsistence harvests and uses.
3. Data collection provides a means for fishers and hunters to report information and observations.
4. Data help establish local use levels and protect reasonable opportunities for subsistence.
5. Data provide the basis for compensation (such as disaster relief or impacts from oil spills).

Photos courtesy of: Donna Sarrar, Takotna; James A. Fall, Ken Marsh, Brittany Retherford, Lisa J. Slayton, Alida Trainor, and James M. Van Lanen, ADF&G.

How to obtain technical papers

Most of the Subsistence Division's research findings are published in the Technical Paper (TP) Series.

Technical Papers are available on the Internet at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications>.

You may print Technical Papers directly from any computer.



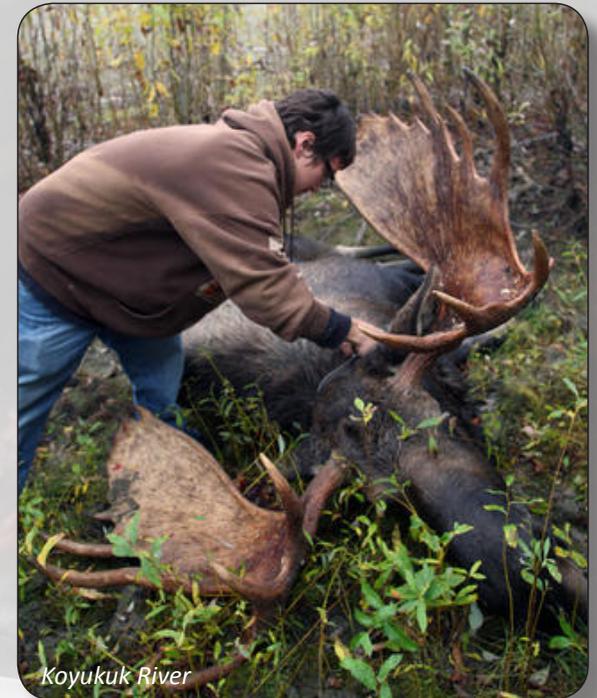
Division of Subsistence Mission Statement:

To scientifically quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources.

The core services of the Division of Subsistence are to:

1. Research, quantify, and provide the resulting information to the public about customary and traditional uses by Alaskans of fish and wildlife resources.
2. Provide scientifically-based information for fisheries and wildlife management programs; and to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game for their use in evaluating reasonable opportunities for customary and traditional uses.

Guide to Comprehensive Subsistence Surveys



ADF&G Division of Subsistence

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What is a comprehensive subsistence survey?

Alaska law directs the ADF&G Division of Subsistence to gather information on all aspects of [the role of subsistence hunting and fishing in the lives of Alaska residents](#). The division works with local governments to conduct household comprehensive surveys on a voluntary and confidential basis. A comprehensive survey primarily collects information on the [types and amounts of fish and wildlife harvested for subsistence uses](#). It also documents traditional and local knowledge of fish and wildlife, general harvest locations, information on employment and income, social organization of subsistence hunting and fishing, subsistence processing and preservation techniques, and how people share subsistence resources.

Subsistence research has helped communities [ensure continued access to subsistence foods](#) and a priority for subsistence uses during times of resource shortages.

How is a comprehensive subsistence survey conducted?

Step 1.

ADF&G presents the project and requests approval from the community.



Step 2.

ADF&G hires and trains community members to help conduct the surveys.



Step 3.

Individual households participate in surveys and mapping.



Step 3 continued.

Researchers interview key respondents: elders and other knowledgeable people.



Step 4.

ADF&G researchers analyze the data, and the community reviews the results.



Step 5.

ADF&G publishes the research findings and sends a summary to each household in the community.

