

Collection and Genetic Analysis of Chum Salmon Tissues in Western Alaska **FY2010 Request: \$750,000**
Reference No: AMD 42050

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Planning
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Tanana **Contact:** John Hilsinger
House District: Interior Villages (HD 6) **Contact Phone:** (907)267-2324
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2014

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This amendment reduces the project by \$750,000 due to the State's current economic situation, and removes sockeye salmon from the scope. This amended project proposes to continue the use of genetic stock identification to identify the stock composition of western Alaska fisheries for chum salmon collected in FY10. Upon completion, ADF&G and the stakeholders will have unprecedented information on the numbers and distribution in space and time of the various stocks of AYK salmon to allow improved estimation of productivity and fishery impacts on a stock-specific basis.

Funding:	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total
Gen Fund	\$750,000	\$750,000					\$1,500,000
Total:	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

FY07 AR 43397 for \$400.0; FY08 AR 43616 reappropriation for \$1,542.5; FY09 AR 43604 for \$2,375.0

Project Description/Justification:

This project proposes to continue and improve the use of genetic stock identification to determine the stock composition of western Alaska chum salmon fisheries' harvests from 2006 to 2009. Upon completion, ADF&G and stakeholders will have unprecedented information on numbers and distribution in space and time of the various stocks of Western Alaska salmon to allow improved estimation of productivity and fishery impacts on a stock-specific basis. There is a strong commitment by stakeholders all the way from Chignik to Norton Sound to obtain the data and scientific analyses necessary to inform the Board of Fisheries, Department of Fish and Game, and public and help Alaskans generate solutions to reduce conflict and assure the sustainability of the stocks and the fisheries that depend upon them. The debate over effects of fisheries on the various stocks of chum salmon in western Alaska has been going on for several decades and the information provided by this project is critical to helping resolve it.

Stock composition studies are conducted by 1) developing baseline DNA data for all of the stocks potentially present in the fisheries, 2) sampling the fisheries comprehensively through space and time, and 3) analyzing fishery samples for the same DNA markers in the baseline so that standard

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mathematical procedures can allocate catch to stock of origin. Baseline DNA data are routinely updated through the addition of collections and genetic markers as a part of the learning and proofing process in DNA studies. Comprehensive sets of samples have been collected from the fishery harvests in 2006, 2007, and 2008 and laboratory analysis has begun. However, deficiencies in the first year of chum salmon sampling require that an additional year of samples be taken to meet the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) Advisory Panel prerequisite that three years of complete harvest samples be available before the analysis can proceed.

Improvements to the chum salmon baseline have already been funded and are proceeding according to schedule. Funding of a third complete year of chum salmon sampling should provide all the information necessary to complete the chum salmon analysis.