

Over the course of the past year, ADF&G has conducted a project scoping process. During the scoping process, ADF&G formed two advisory committees that included representatives of local coastal communities, seafood processors, limited entry permit holders, commercial crew members, state and federal agencies, policy analysts, and academics on the type of information to be collected and various options for collecting that information. Using a \$150.0 capital project provided by the Alaska Legislature during the 2008 session, an information technology contractor was hired in late 2009 to conduct a feasibility analysis and cost estimate of the options selected by these two advisory committees.

This project is needed, because, while individuals participating as commercial crew members are required to purchase a license from the State of Alaska, no information has ever been collected on the actual fishing activities of Alaska's commercial crew members. The lack of this information has prevented accurate estimates of the average earnings of commercial crew members; their dependence on particular fisheries; how they might be affected by changes in fisheries management policies or changes in the productivity of various fisheries; what the contributions are to local communities from the earnings of their residents in particular commercial fisheries; and what the impacts to local communities might be from changes in fisheries management policy or changes in productivity. Commercial crew members are concerned that without information documenting their participation in specific fisheries they will be disadvantaged when restricted access programs or individual fisheries quotas are implemented. The lack of information regarding commercial fishing crew also makes it impossible to develop complete and accurate estimates of the total economic impact of commercial fishing on the Alaskan economy and the economy of local communities and regions of the state.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK