

Project Title: Using Local Traditional Knowledge to Understand Long-Term Variability in Norton Sound Salmon Populations

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Project Period: May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2009.

**Abstract:** Norton Sound residents have long depended upon the resources of the land and water to support their traditional subsistence lifestyle. Because of their long-term, multi-generational understanding of the region, local residents can often recall short- and long-term changes in harvest opportunities, escapement, colonization, climate change and harvest pressure, as well as other related topics. When these types of events are placed in relation to the milestones of their own lives, local people can attach dates to these stories and, in essence, develop a timeline of change. A multi-dimensional understanding of the ecology of the region, and specifically salmon cycles over time, could be provided by a) recording this knowledge, b) tying it to biological information, and c) placing it into a geographic context. The primary goal of this project is to describe observed changes to the salmon resources and environment in a geographic context so that information can be applied to aid in current fisheries challenges, including fisheries management (i.e. escapement goal development) and freshwater and marine ecosystem research (i.e. climate change). The intent is to augment on-going and new biological research with social science, and through this approach increase the capacity of the local regional Native non-profit organization to become more meaningfully involved in both biological and social research projects.