Promoting Coastal Resilience through a Shared Understanding of Subsistence Fisheries in the Chukotka and Alaska Arctic

Martin Robards WCS Arctic Beringia A Wildlife Conservation Society Program

Why Study Fish and Subsistence Fisheries?



• Cultural Importance of Coastal and Freshwater Fisheries to Local Food and Economic Security

 Scientific Importance for Understanding Diversity and Adaptation of Fish Populations (Particularly non-Salmon Species)

Importance for International Diplomacy







WHITEFISH TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING

IN THE KOTZEBUE SOUND REGION, ALASKA

SUSAN GEORGETTE & ATTAMUK SHIEDT Alaska Department of Fish and Game • Maniilaq Association

> TECHNICAL PAPER No. 290 JANUARY 2005

"Whitefish have proven to be a consistently abundant and highly reliable food source over the lifetimes of respondents, and guite likely for generations before that. In many parts of the region, whitefish have played a critical role in seeing people through years of failed salmon runs, diminished caribou herds, and other resource shortages"

Native Village of Kotzebue HARVEST SURVEY PROGRAM 2002 – 2003 – 2004



Lola Kenworthy

Results of Three Consecutive Years Cooperating with *Qikiqtagrugmiut* to Understand their Annual Catch of Selected Fish and Wildlife

> Alex Whiting - Environmental Specialist March 2006

"Fish made up 40 to 55 percent of the total harvest by weight, followed by marine and land mammals comprising 20 to 29 percent each" When the fish come, we go fishing: Local Ecological Knowledge of Non-Salmon Fish Used for Subsistence in the Bering Strait Region





Kawerak, Inc. Social Science Program Natural Resources Division

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

2013 For Community Distribution

"...non-salmon fish remain important to individuals and communities in contemporary times. ...residents of these communities put significant effort into harvesting non-salmon fish and that they are shared widely within communities. Subsistence harvested nonsalmon fish have important economic roles in study communities."



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health



Article Traditional Diet and Environmental Contaminants in Coastal Chukotka I: Study Design and Dietary Patterns

Alexey A. Dudarev^{1,*}, Sveta Yamin-Pasternak², Igor Pasternak³ and Valery S. Chupakhin¹



Figure 7. Structure (%) and average annual consumption of local foods (kg/person/year) by coasta native people residing in the settlements of Enmelen, Nunligran, and Sireniki.

What are the long term changes in fish populations and their habitats?

















Evgeny Syroechkovskiy 1968-2022











Biogeography of Beringian Fishes After the Molecular Revolution and Into the Post-Genomics Era

Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries

Matthew Campbell (UAF) Randy Brown (USFWS) Kevin Fraley (WCS) Dmitry Politov (RAS) Andrés López (UAF) Martin Robards (WCS) Significant progress in our knowledge of Beringian biodiversity and in the technologies available for biodiversity research has been made in the several decades since a comprehensive biogeographic synthesis of Beringian freshwater fishes was compiled and published in 1986.

We find that Beringian fishes may poorly fit traditional taxonomic categories and the designation of conservation units below the species level may be of great practical application.



Biological Conservation Volume 248, August 2020, 108685



Migratory diversity in an Arctic fish supporting subsistence harvest

Emma E. Hodgson^a 🝳 🖂 , Rachel A. Hovel^b, Eric J. Ward^c, Sarah Lord^d, Jonathan W. Moore^a

"Across individuals, we found large variability in migratory patterns ... this diversity may buffer whitefish and reliant human communities against change, but indicates dependence on a large, intact watershed."





h

A.

An

P

F

Stan STATES OF 41

EMBASSY



