

Priority Information Needs (2020)

The 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Southwest Alaska Region identified the following seven priority information needs:

- Reliable estimates of the harvest and use of fish used for subsistence - Of particular interest are harvest trends in the communities of Kodiak, Manokotak, Nondalton, Ouzinkie, Port Alsworth, and Port Lions.
- Local observations of change in fish populations (quality, run timing, sex ratios, age composition, etc.) in the Southwest Alaska Region, and associated effects on subsistence uses.
- Comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of Sockeye Salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake watersheds, and the assessment of (1) declines of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities, and (2) effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems.
- Reliable estimates of abundance of salmon populations in the Kodiak Archipelago and Aleutian Islands areas important for subsistence use and assessment of changes in these populations. Specific areas of concern are McLees Lake, Mortensen's Lagoon, and Kodiak Archipelago stocks.
- Annual estimates of Sockeye Salmon escapement in the Lake Clark watershed
- Reliable estimates of Chinook Salmon escapement and evaluation of "quality of escapement" measures (for example, potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization) for determining the reproductive potential of spawning stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River, Meshik River, and Togiak River.
- Evaluation of Chinook and Sockeye salmon populations in the Chignik River area to understand the decline in salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities, such as reliable estimates of escapement, quality of escapement, and environmental impacts.

Priority Information Needs (2018)

For the Southwest Alaska Region, the 2018 Notice of Funding Opportunity focused on the following priority information needs:

- Reliable estimates of salmon in the southwest region to determine health and abundance and address region-wide declines in populations and/or loss of funding for existing research.
- Obtain subsistence harvest survey data for salmon and non-salmon fish by residents of southwest communities, particularly those with outdated information and/or not currently surveyed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence. Emphasis was given to address harvest trends in Unalaska Bay, Togiak and Southwest Kodiak Villages.
- Comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of subsistence Sockeye Salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, Alaska including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake watersheds; assessment of 1) the decline of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities and (2) the potential effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems.
- Abundance and assessment of critical subsistence salmon stocks in priority areas such as the Buskin River.
- Abundance and assessment of critical subsistence salmon stocks in priority areas such as McLees Lake.
- Investigate crab populations in Women's Bay.
- Reliable estimates of Sockeye Salmon escapements in the Lake Clark watershed.
- Reliable estimates of salmon escapement and evaluation of "quality of escapement" measures (for example, potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization) for determining the reproductive potential of spawning stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River, Nushagak River Chignik River, Meshik River and Togiak River.
- Harvest survey of Dolly Varden in the Togiak River drainage.