

Seafood Processing and Marketing Training in Western Alaska

presentation to the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center
Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
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Seafood Processing and Marketing Training in Western Alaska

Goals

- Capacity Building
- Increased value of seafood to local residents

Characteristics

- Extension agent network
- Itinerant training when possible
- Adapt training to local needs

Marine Advisory Program Faculty

Participating

- Liz Brown, Dillingham
- Terry Reeve, Bethel
- Dr. Donald Kramer, Seafood tech specialist
- Dr. Chuck Crapo, Seafood tech specialist
- Greg Fisk, Fisheries Business Consultant
- Paula Cullenberg, Coastal Community Dev Specialist



Training in 2006

- **Trainings held in over 300 residents, held in 20 communities from 26 communities**
- **Community partners – CDQ groups, regional non-profits, state of Alaska, fishermen's associations**

Leadership and management training

- **Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute (ASPLI)**
 - State of AK Salmon revitalization
 - 13 students (5 from Western Alaska)
 - Mentorship and financial sponsor required
- **Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit (this week)**



Yukon and Kuskokwim regions (growth in salmon runs)

- Small salmon processing ventures
- Chilling all salmon
- Catcher-seller fresh product (limited markets in Bethel)
- Fish plant operations



MAP role

- **Training in salmon quality – chilling and bleeding at the point of harvest – at villages on the Yukon River**
- **Slush bag model and demonstrations**
- **Catcher-seller operation training**
- **Business development training**
- **Technical assistance to small processors in Kaltag, Marshall, Quinhagak and Akiachak**

MAP role

- **Bristol Bay**
 - Training focus on small salmon processing operations
 - Canning, smoking, direct marketing, chilling fish
- **Norton Sound Region**
 - Hiring of Nome-based, NSEDC funded MAP agent
 - King crab, herring and a returning salmon fishery



Teaching materials developed

- Quality is in Your Hands: Salmon Skiff Fishermen DVD
- Alaska Fishing Business Assistance Project
 - www.alaskafishbiz.org
 - Publications
 - Slide presentations
 - Workshop archives



Impacts and Future plans

- **Seafood processing development**
 - Kaitag processing plant will operate in 2007
 - Togiak and Akiachak processing plants, beginning consultations, help with use of grant funds
 - Marshall and Quinhagak, new market options
 - Potential to work with Norton Sound Seafoods
- **Fish chilling and bleeding**
 - Bristol Bay and Yukon River
- **Catcher-seller fresh fish**
 - Bethel
- **Assistance with the new Bristol Bay RSDA?**
- **Norton Sound – help with salmon markets and potential for offshore groundfish training in Nome**

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