Proposal to the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

Proposed by: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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Proposal: This proposal would provide funding to sample Egegik District commercial setnet harvest for age, sex, length, and stock composition and is directly applicable to BB-RSDA strategic objectives 2 (research) and 4 (sustainability).

Description: ADF&G annually collects biological information from commercial catches as part of its current research program. Reliable information on age, sex, size, and stock composition of salmon catches is essential. This information is used to assess run timing, run strength, and important biological characteristics of returning salmon. In addition, this information is used to create brood tables, determine spawner-recruit relationships, and aid in forecasting future returns.

The operational period is timed to coincide with historic commercial fisheries. If funded this project would have four objectives:

1) Accurately identify sockeye salmon using genetic stock identification
2) Determine if stock composition among setnet and drift fisherman are similar,
3) Produce more accurate estimates of total run abundance, and
4) Provide a better understanding of population productivity.

Project operation sampling dates would be 15 June through 15 July with data analysis and season summary complete by 15 December annually.

Cost: ADF&G combined annual Bristol Bay catch sampling budget is approximately $250,000. This project would cost approximately $87,000 annually for staff, logistical support, and data analysis.

Funds requested from BB-RSDA:- $87,000/per year for 5 years ($435,000 total).