Proposal to the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

Proposed by: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Contact info: Bert Lewis, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage AK, 99518

Phone: (907) 267-2173; email: bert.lewis@alaska.gov

Proposal: This proposal would fund the upgrade of hardware used for the standard age, sex, size and stock composition (ASL) sampling conducted on salmon encountered in the commercial harvest and escapement and is applicable to BB-RSDA strategic objectives 2 (research) and 4 (sustainability).

Description: Reliable information on age, sex and size composition of salmon catches and escapement is essential. This information is used to assess run timing, run strength, and important biological characteristics of returning salmon. In addition, this information is also used to determine spawner-recruit relationships, establish spawning escapement goals, and forecast future returns. Current sampling technologies are outdated. Modernizing and standardizing the ASL sampling program will increase efficiency of data collection, processing and analysis, provide more accurate and timely age composition reports and inseason run projections. Additionally, data base errors are likely to be reduced producing more reliable and accurate total run and brood tables used to forecast future returns.

Under this proposal, ADF&G provides project management and staff time (IT), while Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute (BBSRI) assists with software development and BB-RSDA assists with the concurrent hardware requirements in the form of ruggedized handheld PCs.

Cost: ADF&G and BBSRI combined budget to upgrade current ASL software is $100k. Requested budget is $30,000 to cover the cost of 10 ruggedized handheld PCs.

Funds requested from BB-RSDA: $30,000.