Proposal to the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

Proposed by: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG).

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Proposal: This proposal would fund starting ADFG escapement counting tower projects in Bristol Bay one week early and is applicable to BB-RSDA strategic objectives 2 (research) and 4 (sustainability).

Description: As part of the fisheries management program ADF&G operates escapement monitoring projects on 8 major river systems around Bristol Bay. Counting tower projects are located in the Wood and Igushik rivers in the Nushagak District; on the Kvichak and Naknek rivers in the Naknek/Kvichak District, as well as Egegik and Ugashik rivers in their respective districts. The Togiak River also has a counting tower and the Nushagak River has a sonar project, which we are not including in this request.

The operational periods for each counting project are timed to coincide with historic "average" run timing of each system. If this proposal is accepted, funding would permit counting towers to begin operation one week early to monitor run timing and determine if significant numbers of early fish are present.

Cost: ADFG annual budget is approximately $300,000 for the 6 tower projects – extension would cost approximately $10,000 per project plus an additional cost of $20,000 for administrative and logistical support.

Funds requested from BB-RSDA: $80,000/per year for 6 counting towers for 5 years ($400 k total).