

North Pacific Research Board -- Semiannual Progress Report

Project #: 615

Title: Habitat Mapping Technology Workshop for Alaska

Principal Investigator(s) and Recipient Organization(s):

Jennifer R. Reynolds, University of Alaska Fairbanks
H. Gary Greene, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

jreynolds@guru.uaf.edu
greene@mlml.calstate.edu

Contract Period and Amount of Funding: September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2008, extended to December 31, 2008 (\$149,950)

Report Period: January 1, 2008 to June 31, 2008

Report Date: November 25, 2008

Lead Author of Report: Jennifer R. Reynolds, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Project Summary:

In the marine science community, there is now broad recognition that a comprehensive ecosystem approach is necessary for effective management of marine resources. An important step in defining essential fish habitat and potential mitigative measures is to understand the relationship between habitat characteristics, fish distribution, and fishing effort and other human activities. We are conducting a workshop on the topic of marine habitat mapping technologies specifically for marine regions around Alaska, emphasizing (a) available tools and techniques, including potential applications and costs; (b) methodologies for classifying seafloor habitats; (c) a synthesis approach, to aid those who are not experts in the field; (d) a focus on needs specifically in the three large marine ecosystems around Alaska, i.e., Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, and Arctic; and (e) a workshop format that includes and educates a wide range of interested groups such as local community leaders, commercial fishing organizations, and NGOs. The workshop format will serve both the wider community and the managers/researchers who need specific technical knowledge about marine habitat mapping.

Progress Summary:

Activity during this reporting period has focused on peer-review of manuscripts for the monograph Marine Habitat Mapping Technology for Alaska. As of June, all 16 chapters have been peer-reviewed, revised, and accepted for publication. Alaska Sea Grant staff are converting them to publication format. The workshop report, not yet complete, will be Chapter 17. Producing this monograph has involved efforts from 2 editors, 38 authors and co-authors, 46 peer reviewers, and the staff of Alaska Sea Grant.

Dr. Brian Allee (Director, Alaska Sea Grant) is no longer listed as a Co-PI on the award because he retired from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in May, 2008. Jennifer Reynolds is now working directly with the staff of Alaska Sea Grant to manage the project.