

## North Pacific Research Board -- Semiannual Progress Report

Project #: 615

Title: Habitat Mapping Technology Workshop for Alaska

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### 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 the second half of 2007 has focused on preparation of the peer-reviewed monograph from this workshop, to be published in late summer, 2008. The monograph will contain papers by the invited speakers, developed from their presentations at the workshop. This monograph is to be published and distributed by Alaska Sea Grant on CD-ROM, and the papers will also be posted on the NPRB web site.

At present, 13 manuscripts have been submitted and up to four more are expected. Of the submitted manuscripts, 10 are in various stages of peer review. Three have been accepted for publication and have been transferred to Alaska Sea Grant for digital 'typesetting.'