Seafood Processing and Marketing Training in Western Alaska

Goals
• Capacity Building
• Increased value of seafood to local residents

Characteristics
• Extension agent network
• Itinerant training when possible
• Adapt training to local needs

Marine Advisory Program Faculty Participating
• Liz Brown, Dillingham
• Terry Reeve, Bethel
• Dr. Donald Kramer, Seafood tech specialist
• Dr. Chuck Crapo, Seafood tech specialist
• Greg Fisk, Fisheries Business Consultant
• Paula Cullenberg, Coastal Community Dev Specialist
Training in 2006

- Trainings held in over 300 residents, held in 20 communities from 26 communities

- Community partners – CDQ groups, regional non-profits, state of Alaska, fishermen’s associations
Leadership and management training

• **Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute (ASPLI)**
  - State of AK Salmon revitalization
  - 13 students (5 from Western Alaska)
  - Mentorship and financial sponsor required

• **Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit (this week)**
Yukon and Kuskokwim regions
(growth in salmon runs)

- Small salmon processing ventures
- Chilling all salmon
- Catcher-seller fresh product (limited markets in Bethel)
- Fish plant operations
MAP role

• Training in salmon quality – chilling and bleeding at the point of harvest – at villages on the Yukon River

• Slush bag model and demonstrations

• Catcher-seller operation training

• Business development training

• Technical assistance to small processors in Kaltag, Marshall, Quinhagak and Akiachak
MAP role

- **Bristol Bay**
  - Training focus on small salmon processing operations
    - Canning, smoking, direct marketing, chilling fish

- **Norton Sound Region**
  - Hiring of Nome-based, NSEDC funded MAP agent
  - King crab, herring and a returning salmon fishery
Teaching materials developed

• Quality is in Your Hands: Salmon Skiff Fishermen DVD

• Alaska Fishing Business Assistance Project
  www.alaskafishbiz.org
  – Publications
  – Slide presentations
  – Workshop archives
Impacts and Future plans

- Seafood processing development
  - Kaltag processing plant will operate in 2007
  - Togiak and Akiachak processing plants, beginning consultations, help with use of grant funds
  - Marshall and Quinhagak, new market options
  - Potential to work with Norton Sound Seafoods

- Fish chilling and bleeding
  - Bristol Bay and Yukon River

- Catcher-seller fresh fish
  - Bethel

- Assistance with the new Bristol Bay RSDA?

- Norton Sound – help with salmon markets and potential for offshore groundfish training in Nome
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