



# Harvest Management

Marine Mammal Management plans for the Lower  
Cook Inlet



# Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission Mission Statement

- *To ensure that harbor seals remain an essential, cultural and nutritional way of life and to promote the health of harbor seals in order to carry forward the cultural, nutritional and spiritual traditions of Alaska Natives....*



# Background

- For the past 15 years the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission (ANHSC) with the Fish & Game Division of Subsistence has collected harvest data from the subsistence takes of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives.
- The ANHSC received informed consent and assured confidentiality of household information.
- ANHSC has a strong co-management agreement with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) since 1999
- Through that agreement ANHSC has an equal say in regards' to harbor seal issues, statewide.

# Assessment of Harbor Seal Stocks

Stock	Proposed Name	Pop. Estimate	SE	Nmin	Fr	Recent Trend	Overall Trend	PBR	Average Harvest ('02-'08)
1	Aleutian Islands	3579	329	3313	0.5		decline	99	90
2	Pribolof Islands	232		242	0.5*			7	0
3	Bristol Bay	18577	1080	17690	1	10.9%	7.0%	1061	141
4	N. Kodiak	4509	290	4272	1	8.1%	7.5%	256	131
5	S. Kodiak	11117	573	10645	1	8.1%	7.5%	639	78
6	Prince William Sound	31503	5599	27157	0.5	3.3%	1.7%	815	439
7	<b>Cook Inlet/Shelikof</b>	<b>22900</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>21896</b>	<b>1*</b>			<b>1314</b>	<b>233</b>
8	Glacier Bay/Icy Strait	5042	377	4735	0.5	-13.8%	-14.7%	142	52
9	Lynn Canal/Stephens	8870	473	8481	0.5*			254	30
10	Sitka/Chatham	8586	443	8222	0.5	0.6%	-4.2%	247	222
11	Dixon/Cape Decision	14388	860	13682	1*			821	157
12	Clarence Strait	23289	989	22471	1	0.4%	4.3%	1348	164

\*Trend parameter evaluated from a qualitative assessment of NMML survey data



# Why management plans?

- Alaska Natives have a long history of self-regulation based on their need to maintain a sustainable harvest of food and to use for handicrafts
- To preserve traditional knowledge and pass on to future generations.
- Helps to guide development in habitat rich areas
- Management before depletion
- Could increase funding opportunities
- Can create new jobs



# Why...

- Endorses tribal authority to manage natural resources
- Plans can be flexible and designed by the community members to reflect customs and traditions
- Tribes can conduct research and or work collaboratively through a co-management process with state and federal agencies
- Demonstrates self-determination of a tribe
- Allows Alaska Natives tribes to act as advocates
- May improve local needs, tribal enforcement, resource monitoring and education



# How to create a plan....

- Decide what is important to the community, provide a forum for listening to elders and other tribal members to determine natural resource and subsistence priorities.
- Use examples from other Alaskan Tribes or other organizations with plans and authorized by tribal statute.
- Find support with existing organizations that have expertise specific resources and have skills in building or expanding capacity.



# How

- Create and adopt tribal ordinances that support the plan and vice versa .
- Determine traditional hunting areas protocols also incorporating scientific data and federal laws.
- Bring forward information to tribal council and the community.
- Include methods for over abundance or depletion of populations.
- Include Non-wasteful take methods as well as methods for educating non-tribal members and frequently asked questions.



# Tribal Ordinances

- Definition: an authoritative decree or direction: a law set forth by a governmental authority.
- Local governments may pass ordinances to specify certain land uses in certain areas.
- A short summary of the ordinance is required to be published at least once in a newspaper published within the community. If there is no newspaper published in the community, then the short summary may be posted in three public places for at least 5 days.



# What is the difference between Ordinances and Resolutions ?

- A resolution deals with matters of special or temporary character and an ordinance creates some permanent rule of government.
- A Resolution is used only to exercise administrative powers. All legislative functions must be done by Ordinance.



## Here are some shared thoughts from our elders about management plans....

- The traditional protocols of respect, patience, being thankful, taking only what you need, and sharing should form the foundation for developing management plans.
- Management plans should be based not on preservation but on conservation-minded wise use.
- They will be used to demonstrate sustainable use and to document the continued importance of marine mammals to Alaska Native culture.
- They will record hundreds of years of knowledge to ensure wise use by future generations.
- It is an honor to be a hunter and provide for the village, but among the younger generation so few people hunt marine mammals that it has almost become an art.
- Management plans can also address who can hunt and sell marine mammal products
- Proactive creation of management plans by Alaska Natives will lessen the likelihood that federal agencies will be able to impose their own management plans if a species becomes depleted.



# What's next.....

- Provide a resolution to ANHSC in support of the project
- Identify a Local Research Assistant (LRA)
- Community potluck? To introduce the project
- Create and adopt tribal ordinances
- Create a draft management plan

For More information

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