

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has published this set of maps in order to accompany *Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries – Alaska* in order to provide a broad and reliable socioeconomic overview of those communities in Alaska that are engaged in harvesting fishery and aquatic resources. These maps create profiles of selected Alaskan communities that are comprehensive, thorough, and accurate, and that can be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and other related state and federal agencies to shape government policy and to evaluate the social and economic impact of existing regulations on these communities. In order to generate these complex maps and community profiles, the AFSC relies on the Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN) to acquire and process the best available data on Alaska commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries. Using a complex database management system, AKFIN is able to process a vast quantity of diverse data into functional information that allows AFSC to construct fact-based community profiles which can guide state and federal agencies in developing and deploying the most effective policies for the Alaska fisheries.

Under the direction of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), AKFIN was established in 1997 in response to the pressing demand for a comprehensive information management center that would be able to process, store and distribute the growing volume of data being accumulated by the Alaska fisheries. AKFIN functions as an intermediary network that supports the collection and processing of fisheries' statistics gathered in Alaska. Moreover, AKFIN consolidates this information within a single comprehensive database, provides value-added analysis and interpretation, and then disseminates this information to fishery analysts, managers, and scientists. AKFIN operates in accordance with the objectives of the PSMFC, which is to support and promote policies that contribute to the conservation, development, and management of our fishery resources in Alaska and on the West Coast of the United States.



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