

Title: **Socioeconomic Data for Fisheries off Alaska: Current Status and Needs**

Authors: Brian Garber-Yonts, NOAA Fisheries (USA)
Ron Felthoven, NOAA Fisheries (USA)

Abstract: Management actions considered by regional fishery management councils can generate significant impacts on the magnitude and distribution of the economic and sociocultural well-being of stakeholders. It is therefore important that policy analysts be able to account for the relevant parties whose economic well-being is affected by fisheries and derive estimates of the elements that comprise each party's net economic benefits derived from utilization of resources. We survey the primary state and federal socioeconomic data that are systematically collected for analyzing fishery management actions in and off Alaska and note the critical areas in which data collection should be enhanced to improve socioeconomic analyses. By designing data collections to better encompass the appropriate group of stakeholders for whom impacts should be considered and to capture the relevant costs and revenues in fisheries, analysts can provide fishery managers with a significantly heightened ability to evaluate the trade-offs associated with different policies and management actions. Many of the lessons learned in analyzing data capabilities and needs in this region can be of use to analysts elsewhere, whether they are trying to best utilize existing data or implement new data collection programs.