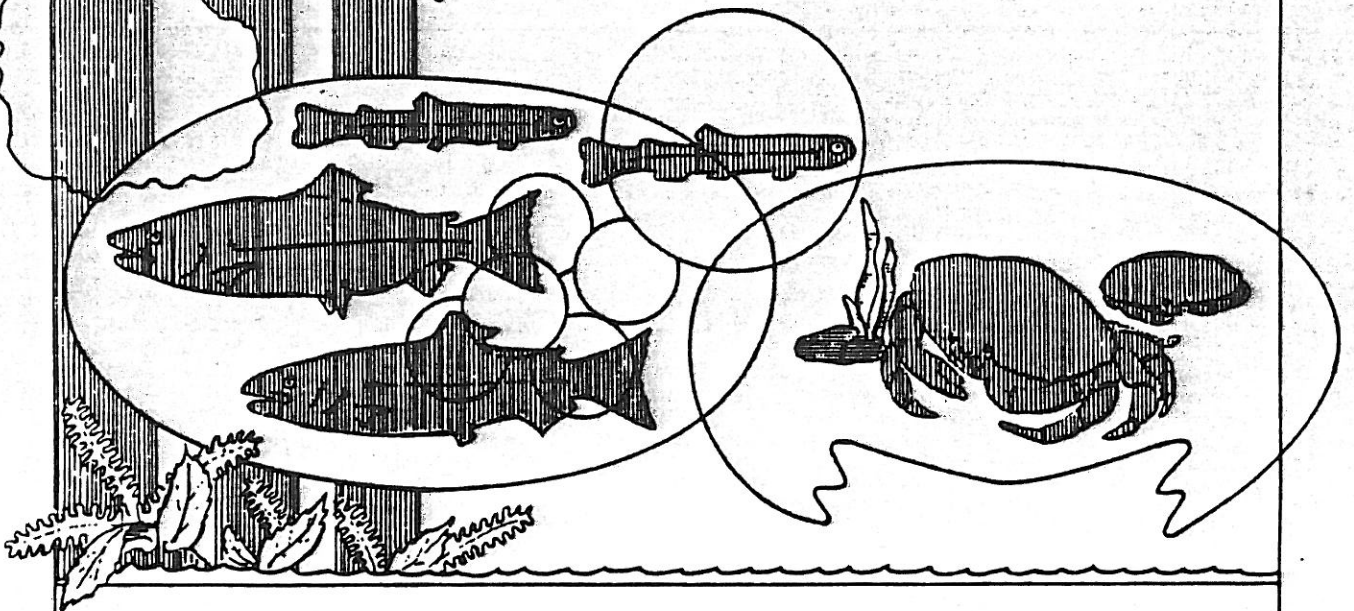




**MISSION
AND ORGANIZATION**

**INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT 91-01
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**ALASKA WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATIVE FORESTRY
FISHERIES RESEARCH**

THE ALASKA WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATIVE
FORESTRY/FISHERIES RESEARCH

The Alaska Working Group on Cooperative Forestry/Fisheries Research is an inter-agency/industry group that is dedicated to conducting cooperative applied research that will lead to better forest management. Members include state and federal governmental agencies, the timber and fishing industries, Alaska Native organizations, fisheries and aquaculture organizations, and environmental groups.

The Working Group was formed via an inter-agency memorandum of understanding as the result of a 1981 Annual Meeting between the U.S. Forest Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Group was established to foster cooperative research on habitat issues in which inter-agency coordination, implementation, and monitoring is desired. The Group has focussed on effects-of-logging, and stream ecology research in Southeast Alaska, where timber harvest occurs on federal, state, and private lands. Most of the harvest in the region occurs on the Tongass National Forest and on Native lands acquired through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

ALASKA WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATIVE FORESTRY/FISHERIES RESEARCH

MISSION

The mission of the Alaska Working Group on Cooperative Forestry/Fisheries Research is to:

1. Facilitate coordination between state and federal agencies and private industry in the identification, planning, initiation, and support of cooperative research on issues involving forest practices and fish habitat.
2. Improve communications to enable the research community, resource management agencies, and the private sector to develop a better understanding of forestry/fisheries interactions through improved scientific understanding.
3. Provide scientific information that can be used in formulation of public policy.

This revised Mission Statement is the implementation vehicle of the cooperative agreement made under the aegis of the charter for the Alaska Working Group on Forestry/Fisheries Research, dated April 5, 1982.

GOALS

The goals of the Working Group are to:

1. Coordinate state, federal, and private participant efforts in order to identify problems, establish priorities, and develop cooperative research programs.
2. Encourage the incorporation of research results into resource management policy. Resource management includes protection of water quality and aquatic habitat while maintaining fish and timber production.

ORGANIZATION

The Alaska Working Group on Cooperative Forestry/Fisheries Research is organized into three levels.

1. Oversight Committee
2. Standing Committee
3. Technical Working Committee

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five members from each regional Standing Committee. The members of this committee shall be appointed for indefinite terms by a consensus of the regional committee they represent.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Coordinate activities on a state-wide basis where necessary.
2. Update other groups on each regional group's progress and priorities.
3. Act as the agent for requesting funds for state-wide projects.
4. Meet a minimum of twice per year.

STANDING COMMITTEE (S.E. Alaska, tentative)

Membership

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station / Forestry Sciences Lab.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center / Auke Bay Lab.
The University of Alaska
Alaska Regional Native Corporation
Alaska Village Native Corporation
United Fishermen of Alaska
Alaska Forestry Association
Conservation Organization
Regional Aquaculture Associations
National Forest Timber Sale Purchaser
Alaska Region, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Each organization listed will be a formal member. Other organizations, or individuals, with an interest in forestry/fisheries research are also welcome to participate and provide input. In an effort to maintain structure and membership stability, and to thus more efficiently accomplish tasks, each represented agency or group will be asked to appoint a permanent designee plus an alternate.

In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be represented by members from the Sport Fish, Commercial Fish, F.R.E.D., and Habitat Divisions. The U.S. Forest Service will be represented by members from the Fisheries Staff and the Timber Management Staff. Representatives from any other organization or group may attend, but will be considered ad hoc and advisory and may not participate as formal members. An agency or organization with more than one attendee will speak as one voice when Working Group members are asked for consensus on an issue.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. To the extent possible, each member shall act as the appointed representative of the organization he/she represents.
2. Identifies research needs and objectives which could most effectively be conducted through cooperative efforts by two or more members.
3. Coordinates research plans and activities between members.
4. Explores opportunities for coordination and cooperation with others doing similar research in Alaska and serves as a coordinating entity for studies related to forestry management and fish habitat.
5. Prioritizes research and recommends specific plans for sharing funding, manpower, facilities, and/or equipment to the State Board of Forestry, the Legislature, and each member's respective organization.
6. Publishes an annual report of accomplishments and work in progress.
7. Helps arrange participation of appropriate experts to assure the best possible research planning and execution.
8. Operates and makes decisions on a concensus basis.
9. Elects a chairperson for a one year term. This post may be multi-term. The chairperson for each standing committee will be responsible for representing committee positions or products to the Oversight Committee.
10. Meets at least quarterly.
11. Creates technical working committees as needed to accomplish specific assignments by the Standing Committees.

TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEES

The membership of each technical committee will be determined by its respective Standing Committee and will reflect the needs related to a particular assignment or study. Generally, technical committees will be formed for a particular assignment and will be disbanded upon completion of the assignment.

10/3/91