

PSC Northern Fund 2008 Project Completion Report



PROPONENT IDENTIFICATION

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
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Project Title: Electronic Data Collection Equipment

Project Deliverables –

The purchase and use of hand held data collectors was the primary objective for this proposal.

The purchase and use of the data collectors is the specific measure of success for this proposal.

The overall project has been very successful with port sampling personnel in outlying towns and villages of Southeast Alaska now routinely collecting field data using handheld computers, the data is reliably transferred to databases electronically with minimal human intervention. Specific criteria identified for success included:

1. No detectable increase in time required for electronic collection of field data.

This was easily met and samplers greatly prefer the handheld collectors over paper forms.

2. Reduced frequency of errors using electronic data collection over paper-based methods.

This is a bit harder to measure but we find more errors on paper forms than with electronically collected data. Part of the reason is no doubt due to the computers prompting the samplers for information and providing immediate feedback if a value is not recognized as valid.

3. Reduced frequency of non-resolvable specimen numbers over paper-based methods.

There has been a great improvement in this measure.

4. Transmission of data from field devices to central databases must be reliable and cost-effective, and rarely require assistance or technical support from IT staff.

Data transmission has worked well and the process for validation and error checking work well. The amount of support from IT staff has been significant but we are fortunate to have highly skilled IT staff that provides the necessary support.

Project Schedule –

This project ran as scheduled. Purchasing of handhelds was finished by May 2008.

Benefits –

The following table illustrates the changes in sampling from paper to handheld computers.

| sampled paper vs electronic | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Samples | | Fish Sampled | | Heads Recovered | |
| Year | Paper | Electronic | Paper | Electronic | Paper | Electronic |
| 2004 | 7,760 | 0 | 1,113,929 | 0 | 17,278 | 0 |
| 2005 | 10,664 | 0 | 1,370,509 | 0 | 18,117 | 0 |
| 2006 | 4,915 | 3,267 | 461,822 | 602,110 | 6,774 | 7,309 |
| 2007 | 2,393 | 5,393 | 167,677 | 412,453 | 4,129 | 10,433 |
| 2008 | 2,574 | 5,473 | 136,858 | 521,472 | 2,873 | 12,975 |
| 2009 | 1,583 | 6,420 | 148,527 | 658,419 | 2,868 | 15,504 |

Project Budget:

The project was funded at \$26,105 US. Of this amount \$23,000 was available for direct costs and \$3,105 was needed for ADF&G indirect costs. There were 14 hand held computers purchased at a cost of \$21,907, travel costs were \$1,130. Costs were greater than budgeted and ADF&G covered the additional costs. There were no unspent funds.