

HCR

23

STATE OF ALASKA

HR 23
JAY S. HARMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SUPPORT BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

April 1, 1981

The Honorable Frank R. Ferguson
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Ferguson:

This letter is written in response to your March 12, 1981 request for Department assistance in preparation of a fiscal note for SCR 15 (your letter attached). I directed the Commercial Fisheries Division staff to develop a five-year approach or plan to the gathering and evaluation of comprehensive data concerning salmon stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. I directed the staff to consider the projects recommended by Douglas Pope which you provided and to consider the following assumptions as they developed the five-year plan:

- (1) the level of program currently represented in the FY 82 Governor's operating budget request would be continued through the five-year period;
- (2) only a limited number of the countless possible field projects can be implemented over the next few years due to logistic, personnel, and needed quality control considerations;
- (3) an approach to better documentation and utilization of existing data must be identified;
- (4) comprehensive studies keying on: (a) stock enumeration, identification, and migratory patterns and timing; (b) mixed stock fishery problems and solutions; and (c) juvenile salmon abundance must be considered in relation to improving the existing resource and fishery monitoring and management regime; and
- (5) as a general guideline for the number of projects to include while addressing your specific requests, the total cost of the continuation and new proposed program cannot exceed more than one-half of the commercial value of the AYK salmon resource over the next five-years (five-year commercial fishery value is estimated at \$40 million and five-year continuation cost is estimated at \$10 million).

April 1, 1981

The staff has responded to my request and prepared a draft five-year plan. Because only a few weeks of time were available to prepare these materials and because of the magnitude of the A-Y-K Region, and the diverse nature of its fisheries, the resulting plan and component proposals should be considered provisional and subject to change. Even with these limitations, I believe the subject plan with associated proposals will provide you with an evaluation of what the Department believes it could accomplish over the next five years. Following is a list and abstract of proposals prepared by the staff which address the concerns of SCR 15 with associated fiscal information. Detailed proposals are attached for those projects that could be implemented the first year.

Again, I would stress that the FY 82 Administration operating budget request contains the Department's highest priority projects for A-Y-K and other areas of the State, given the budget ceilings we have operated under. The attached proposals represent extensions of this program. Details of projects included in the FY 82 request have been sent to you under separate cover.

Projects planned for the gathering and evaluation of comprehensive information about salmon stocks in the A-Y-K region.

Title of Proposal	Department priority	Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total Cost
Origins of Chinook Salmon Intercepted by the Japanese Mothership Fishery	High	3 years	85.2	120.0	130.0	0	0	337.2
Stock Biology of Yukon River Chinook Salmon	High	Continuous	291.2	220.1	251.0	276.0	303.7	1350.0
Kotzebue Chum Salmon Stock Separation Studies	High	3 years	84.6	78.1	85.9	0	0	248.6
Test Fishing in the North Mouth of the Yukon River	High	Continuous	49.4	41.2	45.4	49.9	54.9	240.8
Assessment of Salmon Run Size in the Main Stem Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers by Sonar	High	3 years	212.5	127.4	140.1	0	0	480.0
Horton Sound Salmon Escapement Studies	High	Continuous	70.9	57.1	62.8	69.1	76.0	335.9
Sonar Evaluation of Salmon in the Unalakleet River	High	Continuous	129.8	37.5	41.3	45.4	49.9	303.9
Biometric Analysis of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Information	High	Continuous	224.4	140.9	163.0	180.2	198.2	915.5
Administrative Support for an Expanded A-Y-K Salmon Program	High	Continuous	709.9	252.9	278.2	306.0	336.6	1083.6
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region Subsistence Salmon Surveys	High	Continuous	49.3	54.2	59.7	65.6	72.2	301.0
Upper Tanana Chinook Salmon Optimum Escapement Studies	Medium	5 years	169.0	84.6	93.0	102.4	112.6	561.6
Kobuk River Escapement Studies	Medium	Continuous	92.9	90.2	99.2	109.1	120.1	511.5
Lower Yukon River Juvenile Salmon Abundance Index	Medium	5 years	50.0	55.0	60.5	66.6	73.2	305.3
Eastern Horton Sound Fisheries Monitoring	Medium	Continuous	53.6	59.0	64.9	71.3	78.5	327.3
<u>Stebbins-St. Michael Salmon Study</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>35.1</u>	<u>32.0</u>	<u>35.2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>102.3</u>
Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Tag and Recovery Study	Low	3 years	34.4	38.0	20.0	0	0	92.4
Yukon and Kuskokwim River Salmon Forecast Study	Low	5 years	89.2	82.2	90.4	99.5	109.4	470.7
Commercial Fishery Gear Selectivity Research	High	3 years	0	45.0	50.0	55.0	0	150.0
Sonar Enumeration of Salmon in the Upper Yukon River	Medium	4 years	0	110.0	50.0	55.0	60.0	275.0
Upper Tanana Coho and Chum Salmon Studies	Medium	3 years	0	34.5	30.0	41.7	0	114.2
Port Clarence Salmon Research	Medium	3 years	0	40.0	45.0	50.0	0	135.0
Yukon and Kuskokwim Smolt Studies	Low	4 years	0	150.0	100.0	110.0	121.0	481.0
False Pass Tagging Research	Low	3 years	0	0	150.0	165.0	121.5	436.5
TOTAL			2431.4	1965.9	2155.4	1917.0	1947.0	10,419.3

Origins of Chinook Salmon Intercepted by the Japanese Mothership Fishery

The Japanese Mothership drift gill net fishery operating in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean continues to intercept significant numbers of chinook salmon despite regulations imposed on it. In fact, the 1980 harvest of 704,000 exceeded the combined Alaskan inshore and troll harvest. While one small study indicated that Alaskan stocks are intercepted by this fishery, no comprehensive study has been made. A more detailed understanding of the contribution of Alaskan chinook salmon to the past and present Mothership fishery will permit consideration of high seas interceptions to the inshore management of the resource and will be instrumental in assisting the United States delegation to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission in requesting time and area closures to protect Alaskan stocks. Specific objectives of this proposal are to: update and summarize existing information on the origin of chinook salmon intercepted by the Japanese Mothership fishery; gather, compile and analyze basic biological data on chinook salmon collected by various agencies during the period 1966-1980; estimate the past and present interception of Alaskan chinook salmon to river of origin whenever possible. The expected cost of this project is \$337,200 over a three-year period and the research would be contracted to scientists presently engaged in similar research at the University of Washington.

Stock Biology of Yukon River Chinook Salmon

The chinook salmon resource of the Yukon River Basin is a vital segment of the region's economic base and is also heavily utilized by subsistence fishermen. The physical size of the river, multitude of component stocks and nature of the fishery make achievement of optimal sustained yield difficult. Knowledge of the biology of the component stocks would greatly enhance the Department's ability to maximize the harvest while achieving optimal escapements. This study addresses three key areas of research identified as critical to management. First, to continue a pilot study to identify the origin of component stocks (based on scale pattern recognition techniques) as they enter the fishery. Secondly, to determine the age composition and sex ratios of the resulting escapement. Thirdly, to expand the Department's aerial survey coverage of spawning streams. The first year cost of implementing this project is \$291,200 and will require 12 man months of permanent employee services and 46 man months of seasonal employee services.

Kotzebue Chum Salmon Stock Separation Studies

Chum salmon originating in the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers presently support the commercial chum salmon fishery in Kotzebue Sound and subsistence fisheries along these rivers. A major chum hatchery is proposed for the Noatak River. Management will be complicated by the addition of hatchery returns to the commercial fishery, and the absence of a terminal harvest area where discrete harvest and management for these hatchery stocks can occur. The proposed project would establish the timing and migration patterns of Kobuk and Noatak River wild stocks so that management strategies may be developed which conserve

wild chum stocks while fully utilizing surplus hatchery stocks. The project consists of tagging studies and scale pattern analysis, and would require 19 man months of seasonal time annually over a three year period. First year costs total \$84,600.

Test Fishing in the North Mouth of the Yukon River

Management of the lower Yukon River commercial salmon fishery is dependent upon the analysis of catch per unit of effort data to assess run strength. Test fishing projects are presently located in the south mouth (Kwikluak Pass) and in the middle mouth (Kawanak Pass) of the lower Yukon River. Significant numbers of salmon also enter the river via the north mouth (Apoon Pass) in some years. In years when this occurs, substantial underestimation of run strength may result in underharvesting of the run. Deployment of a test fishing project in the north mouth will permit more complete assessment of the spatial and temporal abundance of salmon entering the Yukon River. First year project costs total \$49,400 and the project continues indefinitely. Eight man months of seasonal technician time would be required annually.

Assessment of Salmon Run Size in the Mainstem Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers by Sonar

The large silt-laden rivers of western Alaska present problems to effective salmon management because of the inability to visually enumerate escapement. The run strength of chinook, chum, and coho salmon is therefore currently assessed using a combination of test fishing indices and commercial catch statistics. Reliable indices of the total run of each species are possible only after the major segment of the return has passed through the fishery and entered the tributary streams to spawn. Implementation of a sonar enumeration project on the lower portions of the mainstem of these rivers would provide run strength data in the time frame required to assist in daily management decisions. Such a project would greatly enhance the Department's ability to maximize the harvest while insuring optimum escapement.

The 1978 Alaska State Legislature appropriated funds to develop adult salmon sonar enumeration capabilities for large rivers. The Department contracted with Bendix Corporation to develop a "fan scanning" sonar system. Two prototype transducer units and one control unit were received in 1980. The sonar unit scans the water column from the river bottom out to a maximum distance of 50 feet in a fan-shaped arc of 180 degrees. Preliminary testing of the new system occurred in 1980. This proposal requests additional operational funds for comprehensive testing of the fan scanning sonar system in the Kuskokwim River over a three year period.

A second segment of this project is to purchase, deploy and evaluate a shorebased, multiple transducer sonar unit in the lower Yukon river. This unit is different from the fan-scan system in that for a river as large as the Yukon, an estimate of the total escapement is possible. The fan-scan system will provide only indices of abundance on the Yukon. This project will cost \$212,500 the first year and requires an additional 11 man months of seasonal employee services.

Norton Sound Escapement Studies

The Department relies heavily upon aerial surveys to gather escapement information for the major salmon producing streams in Norton Sound. Two factors make this technique undesirable. First, pink and chum salmon enter the rivers simultaneously, and it is extremely difficult to distinguish between them from the air. This is complicated by the fact that chum salmon are the target species of the commercial fishery. Hence, errors in species identification may lead to over or underharvest of the resource. Secondly, inclement weather often precludes aerial surveys. These problems can be circumvented on two of the principle rivers in Norton Sound by deploying counting tower field stations. The two rivers are the North River (a tributary of the Unalakleet River), and the Nome River. This project will require \$70,900 the first year and 15 man months of seasonal technician services.

Sonar Enumeration of Salmon in the Unalakleet River

The Unalakleet District (Norton Sound) salmon fishery is based primarily upon harvest of Unalakleet River spawning stocks of chinook, chum, pink, and coho salmon. Present management strategy strives to achieve conservation of Unalakleet River salmon stocks while allowing fishing time commensurate with perceived run size. Salmon abundance estimates are presently derived from catch per unit effort data taken from the commercial fishery and from aerial escapement surveys made during and after the season. Both abundance estimation techniques suffer from lack of precision and lead to the possibility of substantial over or underharvest of Unalakleet River salmon stocks. Aerial surveys have been particularly difficult to accomplish with regularity due to turbid river conditions, inclement weather conditions which often prevail in the area, and the presence of numerous pink salmon, which reduces the precision of aerial estimates for other species present. The objectives of the proposed project are to provide reliable, real-time estimates of salmon escapement by species in the Unalakleet River through sonar technology. This project will result in an improved system of regulatory management which will contribute to optimum sustained production of Unalakleet River salmon stocks. Two new permanent/seasonal employees are required for the project and first year and continuing costs total \$129,800 and \$34,100 respectively.

Biometric Analysis of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Information

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been collecting catch and effort statistics on the salmon fisheries of the AYK Region since statehood. While these data provide the basis for management in most of the region, their value is not being fully utilized. This problem stems from a lack of access to the data in useable form and lack of staff support to analyze and interpret the data base. The proposal addresses each of these needs. The data bases collected on the predominant species taken in each of the primary fisheries of the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River and Bay, Kotzebue Sound and Norton Sound will be coded into a machine

readable form and detailed analysis of the migratory timing will be conducted. This will greatly assist in the development of catch estimation procedures which will assist area managers in maximizing the harvest while insuring adequate escapements. The first year cost of this project is \$224,400 and would require 12 man months of permanent employee time and 32 man months of seasonal employee services.

Administrative Support for an Expanded Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Salmon Program

This project is an element of the overall research and management program directed at substantially increasing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's activities in the AYK Region to improve collection and dissemination of fishery information. The expanded program is composed of 22 major new projects with a first year cost of \$1,721,500 and a total cost of \$8,535,700 over the next five years. These projects call for the addition of five new permanent full-time employees and 251 man months of seasonal employee services. Addition of these new projects will significantly contribute to the administrative workload of the region. In order to meet this demand for supervisory, clerical, budgetary and personnel services the Department has identified a need for: a Regional Management Coordinator, an Assistant Regional Research Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant; and a clerk typist for the regional office in Anchorage. Six man months of clerk typist support for both the Fairbanks and Nome offices is also requested. The second element of this proposal is to provide warehousing, shop and bunkhouse space to support the ongoing and new projects out of the Fairbanks and Nome Area offices. First year cost is estimated at \$709,900 and subsequent continuation cost is estimated at \$229,900.

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Subsistence Salmon Surveys

Annual surveys of the various subsistence salmon fisheries in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region have been conducted since the early 1960's to collect and compile catch and effort data. This information has been of extreme importance in documenting yearly trends in harvest and fishing effort. Prior to 1979, these surveys were funded from the Division of Commercial Fisheries budget. In 1979 and 1980, funding was provided by the Subsistence Section. The Subsistence Section did not request funds to conduct these surveys in 1981 (FY 82) because of a change in program priorities. This project proposal requests first year funds in the amount of \$49,300 to reinstate this vital project. Thirteen man months of seasonal technician time will be required to implement this project.

Upper Tanana Chinook Salmon Optimum Escapement Studies

Within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage the Chena and Salcha Rivers of the upper Tanana are the primary producers of chinook salmon. The available data on the escapements to these systems is however limited to aerial survey estimates. This dearth of information makes proper estimation of optimum

escapement imprecise. Determination of optimum escapement for these rivers would greatly enhance evaluation of management practices and contribute significantly to realization of maximum sustained yield from this resource. The primary method by which optimum escapements will be estimated is by relating escapements and subsequent egg deposition to resulting smolt production. Enumeration of adults on the Chena and Salcha Rivers will be by visual observation. Observations on the Chena will be made as the fish migrate through existing flood control gates. A moderately sized weir will have to be erected on the Salcha River. Smolt production will be determined on both rivers with a fyke net enumeration effort. The first year cost of the project is \$169,000 and will require 24 man months of seasonal employee services.

Kobuk River Escapement Studies

The chum salmon fisheries of the Kotzebue District are based upon stocks which originate in the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers. Previously, but limited, tagging studies suggest that differences exist in run timing to these rivers. The current management strategy emphasizes commercial harvest of the more abundant Noatak run while attempting to reserve the Kobuk stocks for subsistence. Because no in-season estimates of the escapement to the Kobuk River are available, a very conservative approach must be taken to insure a Kobuk River harvest and escapement. The addition of in-season escapement enumeration would greatly enhance the Department's ability to maximize the commercial harvest while at the same time insuring escapement goals and subsistence harvests. The first year cost of this project is \$92,900, and will require an additional 12 man months of permanent employee time and 6 man months of seasonal employee time.

Lower Yukon River Juvenile Salmon Abundance Index

Formal forecasts of the annual run of chinook and chum salmon to the Yukon River are not presently made because of a lack of certain kinds of data. A key element in many salmon forecast models is an estimate of the freshwater survival of the juveniles. This proposal addresses the need to provide information on the freshwater production of lower Yukon River chum and chinook salmon. The objective of this project is to develop indices of juvenile salmon abundance at three key tributary streams in the lower Yukon River drainage, and to develop a model capable of forecasting adult returns based on these and other indices. By constructing relationships of fry production to brood year escapement, the staff will also be able to better estimate optimum escapement levels. This project would greatly assist the processing industry in pre-season logistic and financial planning, and help reduce the risk of either over or underharvesting of the run. First year project costs are \$50,000 and will require 6 man months of seasonal employee time.

Eastern Norton Sound Fisheries Monitoring

Management responsibility for Norton Sound, Kotzebue and Port Clarence is vested in a single area management biologist stationed in Nome. The salmon fisheries in eastern Norton Sound have grown substantially during the past six years. Because of a lack of personnel and the immense size of these areas, only minimal monitoring of these expanding fisheries has been possible. This proposal addresses the need perceived by both the public and the Department to upgrade management activities in eastern Norton Sound. This proposal would provide the funds to establish a new assistant area management biologist position for eastern Norton Sound. This position would compile and analyze data required to effectively manage this expanding fishery. Implementation of this project would cost \$53,600 the first year most of which would be used to support 12 man months of permanent employee services.

Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Tag and Recovery Study

Fishermen in the Goodnews Bay district of the Kuskokwim River management area have petitioned the Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game to expand the legal fishing district to include waters outside of the Goodnews Bay entrance. This request was made because much of the area currently open to fishing becomes exposed mudflats during the daily tidal cycle. This severely limits the number of adequate fishing sties. The Board of Fisheries had not permitted an expansion of the boundaries because of the possibility that salmon bound for the other areas may be intercepted. The Department of Fish and Game has no information on the origins of salmon which may be intercepted if the boundaries were expanded. In order to determine if boundary expansion would result in significant interceptions, we would propose to conduct a tag and recovery program in the proposed expanded boundary area. The first year cost is \$34,400 and the project requires 9 man months of seasonal employee time.

Yukon and Kuskokwim River Salmon Forecast Study

Forecasts of the annual runs of salmon returning to the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are not currently being made. The Department is rapidly upgrading management and research activities on these river systems and will soon have large data bases from which forecasts can be made. In addition, a substantial amount of information which could be used to make forecasts is available in various Departmental publications. This proposal will provide funding for a staff biologist to: (1) organize the existing data bases and construct computer data files, (2) examine existing data for utility in forecasting and identify critical information gaps, and (3) plan methods by which needed information can be acquired to improve the forecast. The first year cost of this project is \$69,200 and would include 12 man months of permanent employee services and 8 man months of seasonal employee time.

Stebbins-St. Michael Salmon Study

In recent years local residents have expressed interest in developing a commercial salmon fishery adjacent to the villages of Stebbins and St. Michael in southern Norton Sound. The Board of Fisheries has rejected these proposals because it is presumed that local streams do not support stocks of sufficient size to support a commercial fishery and that this fishery would intercept stocks bound for other river systems where they are fully utilized. The proposed research would determine: (1) the abundance and species composition of salmon in the streams which drain southern Norton Sound; (2) the timing and origin of salmon migrating through the nearshore waters adjacent to Stebbins and St. Michael; and (3) the feasibility of establishing a commercial fishery in this area. The research requires four new seasonal positions, would take three years to complete and consists of a tagging study, a survey of local spawning streams, and collection of data from the existing subsistence fishery. First year costs of the three-year project totals \$35,100.

Commercial Fishery Gear Selectivity Study

Mesh size restrictions for Alaskan commercial fisheries have been employed extensively by the Board of Fisheries. The rationale for these various restrictions has been quite complex and has been based upon local area fishery concerns, either biological or socioeconomic in nature. Mesh size in gill nets primarily affects the size of fish captured, regardless of species. Because the age at sexual maturity for males and females varies both between and within chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon populations, the actual sex ratio and age class composition of escapements can be significantly affected by the mesh size regulations pertaining to any gill net fishery that the populations pass through. Likewise, any regulation that affects the composition of the effective breeding population of any species may cause long-term changes in the genetic composition of that population and certainly has the potential to alter the long-term yield derived from exploited stocks. However, the Board of Fisheries has not been provided with a comprehensive study of the biological and economic consequences of various mesh size restrictions that might be employed in Alaskan fisheries. In order to provide such a planning document for the Board of Fisheries the Department proposes to gather, compile and analyze new and existing information on this subject over the course of three years. First year cost is estimated at \$45,000.

Sonar Enumeration of Salmon in the Upper Yukon River

Limited aerial survey data suggests that significant spawning populations of Yukon River chinook and chum salmon are located in the Yukon Territory, Canada. Accurate information on the timing and magnitude of the escapement of these stocks would provide fishery managers a valuable tool in regulating the harvest so as to achieve maximum sustained yield. In addition, recent and planned expansion of the commercial fishery at Dawson, Y.T., Canada requires that the

Department have precise estimates of the contribution of Canadian stocks to the fisheries of the Yukon River. Such information would be of significant value in formulating an Alaskan position during U.S.-Canadian fishery interception negotiations. Estimation of the escapement of salmon into Canada would be made by deploying a specially designed sonar enumeration system near the U.S.-Canadian border at Eagle. The first year cost of this project is estimated at \$110,000.

Upper Tanana Coho and Chum Salmon Studies

The upper Tanana River and its tributaries produce significant numbers of chum and coho salmon which contribute to commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries in the region. This study is directed at gathering basic biological information on these chum and coho stocks. Distribution, abundance, and age composition information of the contributing stocks coupled with assessment of egg density and survival would provide valuable information to fishery managers in making regulatory decisions and in assessing subsequent affects of those decisions. The anticipated first year cost of this three year project is \$34,500.

Port Clarence Salmon Research

In the Port Clarence management district pink, chum and sockeye salmon stocks are heavily utilized by subsistence fisheries. The sockeye salmon run to Salmon Lake appears to be depressed while pink and chum salmon runs in the same vicinity are healthy. Insufficient data is currently available to implement a stock specific management program which will protect the sockeye salmon resource while permitting harvest of the pink and chum salmon runs. The Department proposes to collect and analyze the data required to develop more stock specific management for this area. Specifically, the Department will collect information on the temporal and spatial pattern and magnitude of the subsistence catches, and escapements of these stocks. The first year cost of this project is estimated at \$40,000.

Yukon and Kuskokwim Smolt Studies

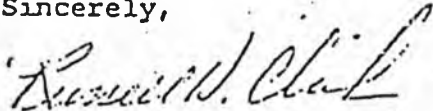
Enumeration of emigrating salmon smolt is used by the Department to forecast future years' returns and as an aid in evaluating optimum escapements in several rivers of the State. Implementation of similar efforts in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers may be useful to accomplish similar objectives for the chinook, coho and chum salmon resources of these rivers. Unfortunately, application of existing technology which was designed for much smaller rivers is not readily applicable to the main stems of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Because of this problem, the Department would have to either research and develop new methods for enumerating the smolt migrations in the main stems or deploy numerous enumeration sites along key tributary rivers. A careful cost and feasibility study would have to precede any large scale field studies. The Department estimates that first year costs for such a study would be \$150,000.

False Pass Tagging Research

Tagging studies conducted in the vicinity of False Pass show that many chinook, chum, coho, sockeye and pink salmon bound for rivers of Western Alaska pass through this area on their spawning migration. A more complete knowledge of the run timing and migration patterns of the various stocks passing through that area may be useful in formulating improved stock specific management strategies. This project would be accomplished by charter of a large purse seine vessel to capture salmon for tagging in the False Pass Area. Each salmon captured would be tagged and recovery would primarily rely upon returns by commercial fisherman in the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound and Kotzebue areas. The first year cost of the project is estimated at \$150,000.

I hope this information is useful to you and should you require any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,



RS Ronald O. Skoog
Commissioner
465-4100

Attachments

cc: Senator George Hohman
Senator John Sackett
Doug Pope
Ron Lehr
Steve Pennoyer
Ron Regnart