

Forum on Managing Wildlife, Fish, and Recreation Interactions
KEY FINDINGS OF THE WORK-GROUP SESSIONS

GOAL: Fully integrated and compatible programs in wildlife, fisheries, and recreation management.

Each group was challenged to envision how to achieve this goal by “brainstorming” on two key questions:

- What changes in organizational structure, professional culture, and working relationships would accelerate progress toward the goal? How or why?
- What current and future information needs are most important with respect to this goal? (e.g., research, inventory and monitoring, assessments, modeling).

The findings of the groups were distilled and synthesized into the findings below.

- ◆ The Alaska Region needs a data-informed strategy to project and manage the effects of future recreation and tourism growth on wildlife and fish populations, habitats, and local users. Key to the strategy is a jointly-developed “vision of success.”
- ◆ Coordination of the Recreation, Wildlife, & Fisheries programs must become standard practice across all organizational levels and activities. Joint development of budget proposals and project plans is essential. We need to explore additional opportunities such as cross-training and shared positions.
- ◆ Similarly, inter-agency coordination needs to be strengthened. For example, we need to work more closely with the Department of Natural Resources on permitting uses in tidelands.
- ◆ Understanding the “human dimensions” is key to achieving complementary management of wildlife, fish, and recreation resources. We need social scientists on our interdisciplinary teams.
- ◆ We need to develop multi-organizational approaches to fund recreation facilities and opportunities and to support investigations of interactions with wildlife, fish, and local users. The recreation and tourism industry should become a significant investor in research, mitigation, and problem-solving.
- ◆ Carrying capacity determinations are required as a basis for management. “Capacity” must consider both visitor satisfaction and potential effects on wildlife and fish populations, habitats, and local users.

- ◆ Spatial databases are required to map, analyze, and monitor recreation use in relation to wildlife, fish, and other resource concerns.
- ◆ Site-specific research is required to identify effects of recreation (e.g., aircraft disturbance) as a basis for developing guidelines and regulations to protect wildlife, fish, and access for subsistence use.
- ◆ We need to develop basic information on recreation use (e.g., kinds of activities, distribution in time and space) for assessing inter-user conflicts and impacts on wildlife, fish, and subsistence users.
- ◆ We need to identify use patterns of local recreation users (patterns, trends, preferences) as a basis for mitigating conflicts and fostering complementary relationships with commercial users.
- ◆ We need to make greater use of commercial permit holders for data collection in support of inventory and monitoring.