

FOR RELEASE:
April 12, 2011

Office of Public Affairs

**BOEMRE Awards \$858,900 to Study Health of
Important Subsistence Fish Populations in Alaska**
Project Will Obtain Baseline Data for Arctic Fish Species

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant for \$858,900 to the state of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources. These funds will enable the department to study the life cycles of a variety of fish species, used for subsistence purposes by area residents, that inhabit the waters around Admiralty Bay, about 40 miles southwest of Barrow on Alaska's far northern coast.

The studies funded by this CIAP grant will focus on the Chip/Ilkpikpu, Topagoruk, Meade and Inaru river systems, which together form a web of small waterways that drain into Admiralty Bay. This ecosystem is of vital importance to the region's local inhabitants, who rely on its flora and fauna to support a largely subsistence-based lifestyle.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil- and gas-producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

"With this grant, BOEMRE continues to support the collection of the critical scientific data that stakeholders and decision-makers need," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "We have been funding research on important subsistence fisheries in similar ecosystems for more than ten years, and this grant will enable Alaska's Department of Natural Resources to significantly add to that body of knowledge."

Researchers will sample local fish populations using traps, gill nets, seine nets and a variety of other methods. Collected fish will be analyzed for age/weight relationships, population size, age structure and other important population characteristics. Researchers will also track broad whitefish, one of the region's most important subsistence species, using radio telemetry.

CIAP received \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the fiscal years 2007-2010, to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states: Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

Contact: [BOEMRE Public Affairs-Alaska](#)