

Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document

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**Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)**

**Analysis of Fish Harvest in and Downstream of the
Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Area
Study Plan Section 9.15**

**Initial Study Report
Part C: Executive Summary and Section 7**

Prepared for

Alaska Energy Authority



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.

Prepared by

R2 Resource Consultants, Inc.

June 2014

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Analysis of Fish Harvest in and Downstream of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Area 9.15	
Purpose	The goal of this study is to compile and analyze baseline information on the harvest of resident and anadromous fishes in and downstream of the proposed Project area to understand the potential for Project construction and operation to alter harvest levels and opportunity. Baseline harvest levels for commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries for Susitna-River-origin resident and anadromous fish will be determined by compiling fish harvest statistics. Using data from other ISR studies, this study will also evaluate the potential for harvest rates to be altered as a result of potential Project effects.
Status	This study is scheduled for implementation in 2015.
Study Components	Major study components include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation and Apportionment of ADF&G Commercial Harvest Records • Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Sport Fisheries • Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Personal Use Fisheries • Compilation of Subsistence Harvest Data • Evaluation of Potential Project Effects
2013 Variances	This study was not implemented in 2013 (RSP Section 9.15.10). The two components of the study—compilation of harvest and effort statistics and apportionment of commercial harvest using genetics—are scheduled for 2015. AEA will meet the study objectives by completing the entire study in one study season.
Steps to Complete the Study	Completion of this study requires an integration of the results from multiple studies which are ongoing. All remaining data collection necessary to complete the analyses for this study will be completed during the 2015 study season and reported in the USR.
Highlighted Results and Achievements	No results specific to this study have been obtained as of this ISR.

7. COMPLETING THE STUDY

7.1. Proposed Methodologies and Modifications

To complete this study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan with no modifications. These activities include:

- Compilation and Apportionment of ADF&G Commercial Harvest Records (RSP Section 9.15.4.1)
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Sport Fisheries (RSP Section 9.15.4.2)
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Personal Use Fisheries (RSP Section 9.15.4.3)
- Compilation of Subsistence Harvest Data (RSP Section 9.15.4.4)
- Evaluation of Potential Project Effects (RSP Section 9.15.4.5)

7.1.1. Decision Points from Study Plan

There were no decision points in the FERC-approved Study Plan to be evaluated for this study following the completion of 2013 work.

7.1.2. Modifications to Study Plan

No modifications to the Study Plan are needed to complete the study and meet Study Plan objectives.

7.2. Schedule

In general, the schedule for completing the FERC-approved Study Plan is dependent upon several factors, including Project funding levels authorized by the Alaska State Legislature, availability of required data inputs from one individual study to another, unexpected weather delays, the short duration of the summer field season in Alaska, and other events outside the reasonable control of AEA. For these reasons, the Study Plan implementation schedule is subject to change, although at this time AEA expects to complete the FERC-approved Study Plan through the filing of the Updated Study Report (USR) by February 1, 2016, in accordance with the ILP schedule issued by FERC on January 28, 2014.

With regard to this specific study, AEA expects to complete the desktop analysis during the 2015 study season.

7.3. Conclusion

The successful completion of this study is dependent on an understanding of potential Project effects that will be addressed by seven interrelated studies (see Section 6). Modifications to the methods of these studies are not anticipated to affect meeting the objectives of ISR Study 9.15.