Community and Institutional Response to Environmental Changes in Southeast Alaska

Jim Powell
Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning
International Arctic Research Center, UAF
Partial funding: USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station
Research Question

How are communities and institutions in Southeast Alaska responding to environmental changes (perceived and observed)?

33 Communities – demographic sample
- ethnographic interviews
- Selected 3 Communities

Thorne Bay
Communities

Employed in-person conversations (videoed) with individuals, couples, and small groups in:

Yakutat – 28 individuals,
  1 experts group,
  1 elders group

Angoon – 32 individuals

Thorne Bay – 18 individuals,
  1 experts group

One draft short video completed,
Institutions:

Focus Group

Institutions:

Questionnaire – Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

- collaborate with SETC social scientists
- piloted 6 interviews
- completed 19 Nature Tourism Operators

Subsistence Division Household Survey

- added 2 questions on perceptions of environmental changes
Institutions

Major types of questions

1. current use and management of Berners Bay (SETC) and Southeast Alaska
2. changes in organizational processes and structures, barriers, responses, perceptions
3. information and communication processes
4. ecosystem services
5. adaptation and vulnerability
6. values (drew from 6 Americas survey)
Collaboration with SE Text Case

- EPSCoR assisted with community questionnaire.

- Conducted nature tourism operators’ interviews with Kristin Timm - 19 completed.

- Institutional questionnaire will be used on Resources Managers and local decision makers

- Baseline information for social scientists
Next Steps

Complete field work
Community interviews
  - Angoon and Thorne Bay
  - Video production, - 3 shorts, one long integrated video
Institutional Surveys
  - Federal, State, and Local reps
Analysis, and reporting

Propose
  - Case Study for SETC
  - Social Network Analysis
    (Resource Managers & Local Decision Makers)
THANK YOU