

## **Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Project: Format for Semiannual Progress Reports**

**Please Note:** Semiannual Progress Reports are due on October 1 or April 1 (whichever comes first) after the contract start date, and then every semester thereafter until the contract is completed. If the first report comes due before substantial progress has been made, please just note that in your initial report. If progress reports are delinquent, current and subsequent invoices will not be paid until programmatic requirements are met. Note that this report will be posted on the Board's BSIERP web site and is what Board members, the Science and Advisory Panels, other researchers and the public will see as representational of your research and its quality.

Email electronic copy to tvanpelt@nprb.org using **this subject line format:**  
**BSIERP Project XXX Progress Report**  
If you have questions, please contact Thomas Van Pelt at (907) 644-6715 or tvanpelt@nprb.org

**[Please be concise; aim for 2-5 pages depending on the scope of your project]**

**Project #: B69**

**Title: BSIERP-Local and Traditional Knowledge**

**Principal Investigator(s) and Recipient Organization(s): Henry P. Huntington, Huntington Consulting, hph@alaska.net**

**Contract Period and Amount of Funding: 1 October 2007-30 September 2009; \$153,348 (as amended, March 2009)**

**Report Period: 1 October 2008-31 March 2009**

**Report Date: 16 March 2009**

**Lead Author of Report: Henry P. Huntington**

**Proposed timeline and milestones within report period:**

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Start ( 2009)</i>	<i>Other key dates</i>
Hold initial CAB meetings	<b>Community Coordinators</b>	Fall 2009	Subsequent meetings to be held during research years of the project
Hold RAB meeting	<b>All RAB members</b>	13 October 2008	Meetings to be held annually; teleconferences to be scheduled as needed
Conduct harvest surveys	<b>ADF&amp;G, Kawerak, Savoonga, Emmonak, Togiak, Akutan</b>	Winter 2008-09	
Conduct harvest monitoring	<b>St. Paul</b>	Starting in fall 2008, continuing thereafter	
Plan LTK interviews	<b>Sepez, Hunn, et al.</b>	Winter 2008-09	Interviews to be conducted in winter 2009-10
Other activities as identified at the Oct. 2008 PIs meeting (e.g.,	<b>TBD</b>	TBD	

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modeling activities, coordination with other components, etc.)			
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### **Project Summary:**

1. Document, characterize, and quantify local harvest practices and changes thereto in order to better understand the relationship between Bering Sea communities and the Bering Sea ecosystem
2. Document and characterize local understanding of Bering Sea ecosystem structure and function to allow comparison with biological understanding and sharing of knowledge between both ways of knowing
3. Integrate the results of (1) and (2) across the communities involved, identifying key similarities and differences as well as regional trends or associations with particular environmental features
4. Incorporate the results of (1), (2), and (3) into ecosystem models and other syntheses developed through BSIERP

This project has the potential to address all of the BSIERP hypotheses (perhaps excepting 5 a, c), depending on the nature of our findings from LTK interviews and subsistence harvest surveys (Tables 2 and 3). We expect our results will be most relevant to hypotheses 2 a,d; 3 a; 4 a-b; and 5 b; but we will seek information relevant to other hypotheses as well.

### **Progress Summary:**

RAB meeting was held on 13 October 2008, and participants stayed in Girdwood for the BSIERP/BEST PIs meeting.

Initial CAB meetings have been held in all communities.

Harvest surveys have been completed in Togiak and Savoonga, are underway in Akutan, and are planned for early April in Emmonak. Harvest monitoring is underway in St. Paul.

LTK interview planning is underway, with preliminary work done during the harvest surveys. The LTK work in Savoonga has been moved forward to summer 2009 to take advantage of the opportunity to work with Caleb Pungowiyi and to coordinate with seabird fieldwork in the area.

Identification of common interests between LTK project and other BSIERP components is underway.

LTK section of website has been started, with updates from three of five communities so far.

Trophic level analysis has begun, more work is needed and will take place this fall and winter to examine other communities.

Discussions with the data group have begun.

**Lessons learned and project adjustments:** Community coordination takes time and does not always proceed on the project's schedule, but in general things have progressed according to the overall schedule. We have not had to make any significant adjustments, other than moving the LTK research on Savoonga forward to summer 2009 as noted above.

**Integration activity:** At the 2008 PIs meeting, we started working with several other project components on a cross-cutting assessment of fisheries and ecosystem changes, which was continued in a side meeting at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January 2009. Huntington continues to work with that small group, with plans to have ideas to present at the PIs meeting in October 2009. In addition, we have been coordinating with David Irons about seabird research in Savoonga in summer 2009, connecting our LTK interviews with the potential for seabird counts at colonies near the community.

**Education and Outreach:** We have been working with Nora Deans on plans around our Savoonga LTK work this coming summer. In addition, Nora has been working with several communities concerning visits by other BSIERP/BEST researchers.

### **Next year's Work plan (not part of the 5 page target length):**

BSIERP B69, LTK Component, Henry P. Huntington, [hph@alaska.net](mailto:hph@alaska.net), 907-696-3564

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2009-2012 Tasks, Assignments, Timeline

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Start ( 2009)</i>	<i>Other key dates</i>
Complete harvest surveys, Akutan and Emmonak	<b>ADF&amp;G Akutan Emmonak</b>	Spring 2009	
Complete harvest monitoring	<b>St. Paul</b>	End 2009	
Conduct LTK interviews, Savoonga	<b>Huntington, Noongwook</b>	Summer 2009	
Plan LTK research, other communities	<b>All</b>	Summer, Fall 2009	
Conduct LTK research, other communities	<b>All</b>	Winter 2009-10	
Hold RAB meeting	<b>All</b>	October 2009	To be held annually
Hold CAB meetings	<b>All communities</b>	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue coordination with other project components	<b>Huntington, All</b>	Ongoing	Ongoing