

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 April 2009-30 September 2009

Report Date: 28 September 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>
Conduct harvest surveys	ADF&G, Kawerak; Savoonga, Emmonak, Togiak, Akutan	Winter 2008-09	
Conduct harvest monitoring	St. Paul	Starting in fall 2008, continuing thereafter	
Plan LTK interviews	Sepez, Hunn, et al.	Winter 2008-09	Interviews to be conducted in winter 2009-10
Conduct LTK interviews, Savoonga	Noongwook, Huntington	July 2009	

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

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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:

Harvest surveys have been completed in Togiak, Akutan, and Emmonak.. Data processing is nearly complete, with community review planned for this coming winter. Harvest monitoring is underway in St. Paul. The harvest survey in Savoonga was not completed in winter 2009, so has been re-scheduled for winter 2010.

LTK interviews were completed in Savoonga in July 2009 and the notes have been reviewed by the community. Huntington wrote an article for the BSIERP website about the research in Savoonga. LTK planning for the other four communities is underway, with preliminary work done during the harvest surveys. Identification of common interests between LTK project and other BSIERP components is underway and will be continued at the PIs meeting in October 2009.

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

Trophic level analyses have been done on some existing harvest data as well as the preliminary data from Akutan, Togiak, and Emmonak.

Discussions with the data group have begun and development of a data template for LTK interview data will be discussed at the RAB meeting in October 2009.

Lessons learned and project adjustments: The harvest survey in Savoonga has been postponed a year. It was started in February 2009, but staff turnover prevented its completion. Rather than attempt a recall survey many months into 2009, we decided to start over in early 2010. Kawerak, which is responsible for the harvest survey in Savoonga, offered to complete the task in 2010 at no extra cost to BSIERP.

Integration activity: The cross-cutting assessment of fisheries and ecosystem changes that had begun at the 2008 PIs meeting has been put on hold for the time being, at the suggestion of Mike Sigler. Tom Van Pelt conducted counts of murrelets near Savoonga as part of the LTK interview work there in July 2009, connecting with research that David Irons has done there for years. Chad Jay also took part in the LTK interviews in Savoonga, allowing us to make a strong connection with walrus research. Huntington has been following up with other BSIERP/BEST PIs on local observations of sea ice in Savoonga.

Education and Outreach: Nora Deans has been working with several communities concerning visits by other BSIERP/BEST researchers. Huntington wrote an article for the BSIERP web site describing the LTK interviews and related activity there.

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

BSIERP B69, LTK Component, Henry P. Huntington, hph@alaska.net, 907-696-3564

2009-2012 Tasks, Assignments, Timeline

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Start (2009)</i>	<i>Other key dates</i>
Complete harvest surveys, Savoonga	Kawerak	Winter 2010	
Complete harvest monitoring	St. Paul	End 2009	
Conduct LTK research, Akutan, Togiak, St. Paul, Emmonak	All	Winter 2009-10	
Hold RAB meeting	All	October 2009	To be held annually

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Hold CAB meetings	All communities	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue coordination with other project components	Huntington, All	Ongoing	Ongoing