

## Salmon Dependent Community Sustainability and Well-Being Breakout Session

More than 20 people participated in the breakout session: Community Sustainability and Well-Being. Participants shared perspectives and ideas from across salmon dependent Alaska communities including King Cove, Cordova, St. Paul, Bethel and several more from southeast, Bristol Bay, the Aleutian Islands and along the Yukon River. (Generally speaking) Questions guiding group discussion included:

1. What does well-being look like,
2. What challenges do we face to ensure well-being in salmon-dependent communities,
3. Recommendations for change: What opportunities and solutions exist to affect positive change and enhance well-being,

Given the large group size, participants broke into three smaller subgroups to enhance dialogue and ensure input from all members. Although each group discussion took its own specific direction, salient themes emerged across subgroups. We elaborated on more fully below. Key themes centered on the importance of:

- Inter-generational knowledge, learning and engagement with salmon
- Keeping fishing rights and livelihoods in Alaska, and especially in rural and salmon dependent communities
- Local participation, input and power in decision-making processes and resource management
- Healthy salmon fisheries, ecosystems and food systems, including ability to address climate change and other impacts, and manage the resource and sustainable harvest levels amidst drastic state budget cuts

### 1. What does well-being look like?

#### Social and Community Dimensions

- Healthy Salmon & Healthy Communities
- Counter to well-being & forced assimilation
- Strong community foundations: schools, gathering places, infrastructure
- Taking care of elders in community (not just physically)
- Happy, healthy homes: households
- Safe environment for families (emotional, physical)
- Celebrating culture
- Values in actions: respect, community, elders, experiential learning, language
- Sense of cultural pride, confidence

#### Physical Dimensions

- Full tree/er or full smoke-house
- Mental health (trauma, nutrition, vitamin <1)
- Physical health (and caring about oneself)
- Movement through landscape (and ability to adapt to changes)
- Increased access to landscape, food, transport, tools, gear

#### Knowledge and Learning

- Alaskans teaching in Alaska, returning home to contribute to community

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- Funding for monitoring: accurate management: knowledge and understanding from biology: ecology
- Some big things are beyond our immediate control (e.g. climate change, ocean temperatures, etc.)
- Wild vs hatchery fish: competition for resources
- Wide differences in salmon returns to specific regions
- Local effects are often not considered
- More demands on the resource than in the past, need balance between users
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- Making salmon a priority (e.g. school example in Sweden)
- Build from historic knowledge of other regions/states/countries to achieve best understanding of salmon and how to value salmon and get salmon right. =We can learn from the mistakes of the 30+er-IJ.>
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