



SASAP

State of Alaska's Salmon and People

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Putting the Power of Salmon Knowledge in the Hands of Alaskans

New online resource to support sustainable and equitable salmon management

Access to data and research about Alaska's salmon has never been more important, especially as resource managers and communities need to make decisions to sustain this keystone species amid climate and other fast-moving changes that could threaten its survival.

Now, there is a wealth of such information available at Alaskans' fingertips with the launch of the **Alaska Salmon and People** Website, the first-ever [knowledge and data web portal](#) about the 10,000-year-long relationship between Alaska's people and salmon, including new insights into factors that are supporting or undermining that relationship today. The online resource is designed to increase salmon literacy and public engagement with salmon management and decision-making in the state.

Produced by the State of Alaska's Salmon and People (SASAP) project, the website contains the most comprehensive collection of accurate and relevant information about Alaska's salmon and salmon-dependent people. It uniquely aggregates western science and Indigenous knowledge with the aim of making salmon decision-making more inclusive and equitable.

The collection represents the work of over 100 experts from Alaska and beyond who synthesized fundamental and current understandings about salmon that are important for sustainable management. The SASAP project is co-led by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and Anchorage-based Nautilus Impact Investing, and it is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

"The information available will help Alaskans better understand the evolution and interdependence of salmon and people systems, so they can better contribute to future

decision-making about salmon management,” said the SASAP project’s co-principal investigator Ian Dutton, who formerly led Nautilus Impact Investing.

Salmon are not just ecologically important in Alaska, they also underpin Alaskans’ economy, culture, and identity. The information available through the website mirrors their multifaceted significance.

Examples of the kind of information people will find include over 100 datasets about biological, sociocultural, economic, and governmental trends and insights; in-depth narratives and data visualizations about the issues faced by salmon and people in the state’s major salmon regions; and a historical essay that sheds light on the deep relationship Alaskans have with salmon.

“Alaskans remain extraordinarily connected to salmon, but they are not well connected to the science and data that informs the management decisions that impact their lives,” said Peter Westley, one of the lead scientists and a professor of salmon ecology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. “A key goal of [the project] has been to level the playing field and give access to salmon-related data to all.”

Westley hopes that by better connecting Alaskans with salmon science and data, they can feel more empowered to be active participants in decision-making.

Major partners on the SASAP project included the Alaska Department and Fish and Game, the University of Alaska, and representatives from tribes, nonprofits, businesses, and other academic and governmental institutions.

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About NCEAS

The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, or NCEAS, is a research center affiliated with UC Santa Barbara that conducts transformational science to inform solutions that will allow people and nature to thrive. It accelerates discoveries and sheds light on the big picture of complex environmental challenges by connecting diverse experts, data, and ideas. Learn more at www.nceas.ucsb.edu.

About Nautilus Impact Investing

Nautilus Impact Investing helps funders and implementers achieve a greater return on social and environmental investments through strategy development and implementation, evaluation, and knowledge sharing. Learn more at www.nautilusii.com.