

**Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)**

**Analysis of Fish Harvest in and Downstream of the
Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Area
Study Plan Section 9.15**

**Part D: Supplemental Information to
June 2014 Initial Study Report**

Prepared for

Alaska Energy Authority



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.

Prepared by

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1. INTRODUCTION

Section 1 (Part A) of the June 2014 ISR for this Analysis of Fish Harvest in and Downstream of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Area (Study Plan 9.15) details the development of this study from the Revised Study Plan (RSP) in 2012, through the end of the 2013 study season. Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), filed in June 2014, sets forth AEA's plan and schedule, at that time, for completing this study and meeting the objectives of the RSP.

As detailed in Section 2.2 of the ISR Part D Overview, various circumstances have required AEA to extend the original timeframe for completing the Commission-approved Study Plan. As explained in the June 2014 ISR, this Study 9.15 was not implemented in the 2013 study season. Since that time, this study continues to be deferred.

The primary purpose of this Part D Supplemental Information to the ISR for Study 9.15 is to identify all documents associated with this study, provide a summary of variances and modifications presented in the ISR (Parts A and C), and identify AEA's plans for completing Study 9.15 in a manner that meets the objectives of the Commission-approved Study Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Purpose of Study

The goal of this study is to compile and analyze baseline information on the harvests of resident and anadromous fishes in and downstream of the proposed Project area to understand the potential for Project construction and operation to alter harvest levels and opportunity.

The study objectives are established in RSP Section 9.15.1:

- Describe baseline harvest levels and harvest locations for commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries for Susitna-River-origin resident and anadromous fish.
- Describe the potential for the Project to alter harvest levels and opportunities on Susitna-River-origin resident and anadromous fish based on potential Project-induced changes in fish abundance and distribution from flow- and habitat-related changes as estimated from other Project studies.

2.2. Study Components

This study consists of the following components:

- Compilation and Apportionment of ADF&G Commercial Harvest Records
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Sport Fisheries
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Personal Use Fisheries
- Compilation of Subsistence Harvest Data

- Evaluation of Potential Project Effects

3. STATUS, HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Section 7 of the ISR 9.15 (Part C), filed in June 2014, described that the implementation of this study was deferred to 2015. Since that time, AEA has not completed any additional work on this study. Therefore, there are no results or updates for this study.

4. SUMMARY OF STUDY 9.15 DOCUMENTS

Since filing of the RSP in 2012, AEA and FERC have prepared several documents pertaining to this study. To aid review by FERC staff and licensing participants, each of these documents is listed below. Each of these documents is accessible on AEA's Project licensing website (<http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents/>) by clicking on the entry in the "Link" column in the table. In addition, these documents are available on FERC's eLibrary system (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), in Docket No. P-14241.

Title	Date	Notes	Link
9.15. Analysis of Fish Harvest in and Downstream of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Area (Revised Study Plan)	12/14/2012	This document presents the plan for this study, including goals, objectives, the study area, and proposed study methods to evaluate current harvests of resident and anadromous fishes.	RSP for Study 9.15
FERC's Study Plan Determination for Study 9.15	2/1/2013	This document presents FERC approval of Study 9.15, which approved AEA's Revised Study Plan with no recommended adjustments.	FERC SPD for Study 9.15
Draft Initial Study Report for Study 9.15	2/3/2014	This draft of the ISR summarized the study methods and variances during the 2013 study season, and presented preliminary data collected for Study 9.15. This draft ISR was later republished as Part A of the final ISR.	Draft ISR for Study 9.15
Initial Study Report for Study 9.15	6/3/2014	This document is the Initial Study Report (Parts A, B and C) for Study 9.15. Part A republishes the Draft ISR. Part B identifies supplemental information and errata in Part A. Part C presents study modifications and plans for completing the study.	ISR Part A for Study 9.15 ISR Part B for Study 9.15 ISR Part C for Study 9.15
Initial Study Report Meetings, October 15, 2014 (Parts A and B)	11/15/2014	Transcripts and AEA's Agenda and Powerpoint presentations for the ISR meeting concerning the Project fish and aquatic studies filed by AEA.	Transcripts from ISR Meeting Materials from ISR Meeting

5. NEW STUDY DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTING THE ISR

Because this study has been deferred, no additional reports or documents are available to supplement the ISR for this Study 9.15.

6. VARIANCES

6.1. 2013 Study Season

The following variance is reported in the June 2014 ISR:

- This study was not implemented in 2013 (RSP Section 9.15.10). The two components of the study—compilation of harvest and effort statistics and apportionment of commercial harvest using genetics—are scheduled for 2015. AEA will meet the study objectives by completing the entire study in one study season.

6.2. 2014 Study Season

Because this study has been deferred, no variances were encountered during the 2014 study season.

7. STUDY PLAN MODIFICATIONS

7.1. Modifications Identified in ISR

As detailed in Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), AEA plans no modifications of the methods for this study.

7.2. Modifications Identified since the June 2014 ISR

AEA has identified no modifications of the methods for this study since the June 2014 ISR.

8. STEPS TO COMPLETE THE STUDY

The steps necessary for AEA complete this study, as described in the Study Plan (RSP Section 9.15) remain the same and are summarized below.

- Compilation and Apportionment of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Harvest Records (RSP Section 9.15.4.1)
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Sport Fisheries (RSP Section 9.15.4.2)
- Compilation of Harvest and Effort from Personal Use Fisheries (RSP Section 9.15.4.3)
- Compilation of Subsistence Harvest Data (RSP Section 9.15.4.4)

- Evaluation of Potential Project Effects (RSP Section 9.15.4.5)