

Prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Member Wood

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Past Division of Subsistence research has shown that across rural communities in Alaska, a relatively small proportion of households typically produces most of the wild foods by weight harvested within a given community (Wolfe 1987; Wolfe et.al. 2010). This is known as the “30-70 rule” where approximately one-third of high-producing households produce about 70% of the total community harvest and distribute those wild foods to other households, primarily through sharing patterns. In a study of 67 rural Alaska communities, household characteristics associated with high production included multiple working age males, commercial fishing involvement, and higher wage incomes (Wolfe 1987). This pattern has remained remarkably stable over the last several decades across rural Alaska. In the Alaska Peninsula Area, the division has conducted recent studies with specialization data in 5 of the 6 communities (False Pass data are unavailable due to not having undergone community review yet).

Table 1. Household specialization, Alaska Peninsula Area, by most recent study year.

Community	Study Year	Percentage of households harvesting approximately 70% of the total harvest
Port Heiden	2018	30%
Nelson Lagoon	2023	17%
Sand Point	2016	21%
King Cove	2016	26%
Cold Bay	2016	35%

References Cited

Wolfe, R.J. 1987. *The super-household: specialization in subsistence economies*. Paper presented at the 14th annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, March 1987, Anchorage, Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence: Juneau.

Wolfe, R.J., C.L. Scott, W.E. Simeone, C.J. Utermohle, and M.C. Pete. 2010. *The “super-household” in Alaska Native subsistence economies*. Final Report to the National Science Foundation, Project ARC 0352611.