

## BBRSDA Grant Report 2016

Dave Bendinger

KDLG news director

Thanks to your generous support, KDLG once again had a successful year covering the dynamic Bristol Bay fishery (and summer). We consider it our mission and our privilege to put the most important and interesting information over the AM airwaves 24/7. We know we reach listeners in fish camp and on boats from Koliganek to Sand Point, and even pilots call to say they keep it dialed in flying fishermen out to trout holes or running the route to Unalaska. Nearly a thousand people per day followed the fishery online at KDLG.org.

The centerpiece of our coverage in the summer is the [Bristol Bay Fisheries Report](#), which for year two was back on seven days a week (airing at 6:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m., and 2 a.m.). We aired 40 shows this year, starting on June 13 and continuing till July 22, when the run had hit the preseason forecast, the districts were wide open, the price was published, the two billionth salmon had been landed, and most were wrapping up their season.



During the first week, we aired conversations with the managers about their districts and their initial thoughts on management. Along the way through the season we talked with BBRSDA's Mike Fricerro, NOMAR's Kate Michell, Icicle's Warner Lew, Howard Knutsen (the oldest skipper in the bay), FRI's Curry Cunningham, and more than a dozen other guests. We visited the [new walrus haul out at Ugashik](#), talked [chilling fish](#), covered the Area M action, followed that [two billionth fish from net to processing line](#), stopped by [court as violations](#) were prosecuted, and talked to a greenhorn before and after her first season. Every day we waited for the latest catch and escapement tally from Fish and Game and the test fishery data and analysis

from Port Moller to include in the show. New this year we took “letters from home,” and broadcast them over the airwaves each evening. (Wildly popular!)



KDLG reporting traveled far and wide, frequently airing on Alaska Public Radio programs and stations, reprinted in the Bristol Bay Times and Alaska Dispatch, and aggregated often in other trade publications like Undercurrent. Through the season we received a lot of positive feedback for our efforts by phone, email, text, Facebook, and in person. One skipper summed it up nicely for the [last BBFR of the season](#).

*“Well I just wanted to mention you’re fishery reports that you put on the radio, I found them very informative. I really liked the mix of people that you had in, from Warner Lew to Michael Link and all the managers in between,” Robert Heyano (F/V Lady Mindy) told us on our final show. “I think you mixed them up real well. More so this year than in the past, because you know most of us have GCI cell service here, but this year for whatever reason there was no signal, you couldn’t get any emails downloaded, so a lot of the information we were getting through that system was not available to us. So your reporting was extremely helpful for us to keep track of what’s happening not only in Bristol Bay, but appreciated your information on the Area M fishery as well. It’s extremely important.”*

*(We’re pretty proud of the summaries both the [2015](#) and [2016](#) final shows offered, don’t be shy to click and take another listen.)*



This wouldn't be possible without the BBRSDA support. **The Fisheries Report takes an average of 8 hours per day for the host to produce, host, and post online.** Since we increased its airtime to 7 days a week through the season, it becomes the task of one full time employee, plus a backup, to put together. Additionally, we keep our five other daily newscasts and Friday show [Bristol Bay and Beyond](#) running as usual. Then there's managing the Fish and Game announcements on the air, tending to the music selection, answering the phones, and ... well, suffice to say behind the scenes we keep plenty busy as we aim for a solid broadcast every day of the week.



Like all types of operations in the Bay in the summer (counting towers, drift boats, processing lines), without enough manpower, something would have to give. Your grant ensures our broadcast stays as is. It's essential to put a full time employee on the Fisheries Report and still have others to host the regular newscasts and get out to report stories on the scene. Right now we're looking for additional funding to have a fifth reporter who could untether from the office and cover the fishery/summer from the east side.



Your generous grant makes the Fisheries Report possible by allowing us to hire a full time seasonal reporter, buy new equipment, pay for travel, and increase our broadcast wattage 24/7. We skimped a little on the duration of the seasonal employee to keep some funds available to attend [Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle](#). (Last year, the extra funding allowed us to cover the Board of Fish in Anchorage.)

Reach out anytime with questions, comments, and concerns, and thanks again for the support!

Dave Bendinger

KDLG news director

[dave@kldg.org](mailto:dave@kldg.org)

o: 907.842.2200

c: 907.843.0832

