Sitka Community Food Security Assessment

Assessing Food Security in Alaska – the Sitka Experience
History

• Goal of the 2012 Health Summit
• Awarded SEARHC Community Transformation Grant in November 2012
• Hired Coordinator in December 2012
Sitka Health Summit Planning Day
Why complete a community food security assessment?

- Food costs in Sitka increased 44% between 2006-2011
- No community food cache in case of a natural disaster or emergency
- Estimated that 95% of food is imported
- What if the barges/airlines stopped arriving in Sitka?
Personal Food Security

Can all household members access enough nutritionally adequate, acceptable and safe foods in socially acceptable ways to support an active, healthy life?
Community Food Security

Can a community feed itself especially if faced with a disruption in the food supply chain?
Components of Sitka’s Community Food Assessment

- Community Food Resource Profile
- Focus Groups (N=49)
- Food Security Survey (N=422)
- Grounds truth findings at a Sitka Food Summit (N=60)
- Sitka Community Food Assessment Indicators Report
Sitka Community Food Assessment Indicators Report

- Sitka Food Facts
- Demographics
- Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow
- Food Shopping
- Food Assistance
- School Food Environment
- Food Production
SITKA COMMUNITY FOOD ASSESSMENT INDICATORS REPORT

2014
Did you know that...

• 48% of Sitka Food Security Survey respondents hunt & fish

• ~132,748 pounds of deer meat was harvested in Game Management Unit 4 in 2011

• ~9,998 pounds of sockeye salmon was harvested in 2010 & 2011 by Sitkans
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

Most Common Ways Sitkans Access Fish & Game (Source: Sitka Food Security Survey)

- Fish & Hunt: 240
- Someone shares fish: 180
- Buy from local mar...: 70
- Barter or trade for it: 50
- Buy from local fish...: 40
- Buy from fisherman...: 30
- Other: 10

Sitka Community Food Assessment
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

Average Fish Harvest for Personal Use in Pounds for 2010-2011 (Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game)

Species of Fish

- Sockeye Salmon
- Rockfish
- King Salmon
- Halibut
- Coho Salmon
- Pink Salmon
- Lingcod
- Chum Salmon
- Blackcod

Average Number of Pounds

- 10000
- 7500
- 5000
- 2500
- 0

Sitka Community Food Assessment
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

Estimated Pounds of Deer Meat over Time in Game Management Unit 4 (Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game)

Pounds of Deer Harvested

Year


0 50,000 100,000 150,000 200,000
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

**Frequency of Traditional Foods Consumption and Rank of Importance**
(Source: 2008 STA Tribal Needs Assessment)

- **Type of Traditional Food**
  - Halibut
  - King Salmon
  - Deer
  - Sockeye Salmon
  - Herring Eggs
  - Rockfish
  - Abalone/gumbles
  - Coho Salmon
  - Seal (meat and/...)
  - Crab
  - Clams/cocksles
  - Seaweed
  - Other wild plants
  - Berries
  - Dog Salmon (an...
  - Shrimp
  - Pink Salmon

- **Number of Households**

- **Color Legend**
  - Blue: 50+ times/year
  - Red: 26-50 times/year
  - Orange: 10-25 times/year
  - Green: <10 times/year

Sitka Community Food Assessment
Did you know that...

- 75% of Sitkans eat less than 5 fruits & vegetables per day
- 52% of Sitka Food Security Survey respondents garden
- 77% of Sitka Food Security Survey respondents preserve food
SLFN’s Garden Mentor Program
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

Other than gathering, foraging or growing, how do you get local or wild fruits & vegetables? (Source: Sitka Food Security Survey)
Hunt, Fish, Gather, Grow

How much food does your household have on hand or in storage in case of an emergency? (Source: Sitka Food Security...)

- None: 3.8%
- Enough for 1 Week: 14.5%
- Enough for 2 Weeks: 25.8%
- Enough for 1 Month or More: 37.9%
- Enough for 4-6 Days: 10.9%
- Enough for 2 Months or More: 7.1%
Did you know that...

• 415 of 422 Sitka Food Security Survey respondents food shop locally
• Between September 2003 and 2011, food costs rose 43.6% in Sitka.
• In March 2013, Sitka’s food prices were
  • 10.4% higher than Juneau
  • 13.6% higher than Ketchikan
  • 21.5% higher than Anchorage
Food Shopping

Distribution of Sitka Food Security Responders as to where they shopped in the last month (responders could check multiple options)
Food Costs

Food Costs

Comparative Food Costs in 4 Communities and the US for March and June 2013 using the Thrifty Food Plan for Family of 4 (Source: UAF CES F...
Did you know that...

- $1,645,702 Food Stamp dollars were redeemed in Sitka in 2012, an increase of $201,000 from 2011
- 1,410 Sitkans participated in the Food Stamp program in 2013
- 7,243 meals were served by the Salvation Army in 2013, up from 5,514 in 2012
Food Assistance

Sitka Food Stamp Participation 2007-2013
(Source: USDA)

- Individuals
- Households

Number of Sitka Individuals and Households

Fiscal Year


0 400 800 1200 1600
Food Assistance

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Meals Provided
January 2012-December 2013

Number of Meals Served

Month

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

2012
2013
Food Production

Sitka Community Food Assessment
Food Production

Food Producers in Sitka (Source: Community Food Resource Profile)

Number of Producers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Producers</th>
<th>Number of Producers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; kindred</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Gar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish &amp; Seafood</td>
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What Next?

• Review Sitka’s food policies
• Incentivize food production
• Seek funding for food system strategic planning
• Identify land that could be made available for food production
How to Access the Sitka Food Assessment Indicator Report?

Go to:
http://sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org/?s=sitka+community+food+assessment