

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence Research Update

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Presentation to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council
October 21 - 23, 2025





Yukon Comprehensive Harvest Surveys

Funder: Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation Fund, NOAA 2020 & 2021 Chum Salmon Disaster Fund

Purpose:

- Fill Data Gaps
- Update harvest data

Work to date:

- 2022: Hooper Bay, Chevak
 - Coleman, J., C. Sommerville, C. Wilcox, and L.S. Navarro. 2023. *The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Hooper Bay and Chevak, Alaska, 2021*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 496: Fairbanks. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/tp496.pdf>
- 2023: Huslia and Koyukuk
 - Coleman, J., C. Sommerville, I. Tiller, and L.S. Navarro. 2024b. *The harvest and use of wild resources in Huslia and Koyukuk, Alaska, 2022*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 505: Fairbanks. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP505.pdf>
- 2024: Alakanuk and Kotlik
 - *Expected Publication, September 2025*



Yukon Comprehensive Harvest Surveys (*cont.*)

Work to date (cont.):

- March and April 2025: Harvest Surveys and Ethnographic Interviews in Ruby and Holy Cross
- June 2025 – Present: Data Analysis for Holy Cross and Ruby

Upcoming work:

- July 2025 – Present: Seeking approval from Tribal Councils in St. Mary's and Rampart
- February – May 2026: Data Collection



Use of Salmon in the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers

Funder: OSM

Purpose:

- Document salmon presence/habitat use
- Harvest surveys with Kotlik residents
- LTK/TEK interviews with Kotlik residents

Work to date:

- June 2023: Biological sampling
- February 2024: Household surveys and interviews

Project Complete, June 2025

Citation: Coleman, J.M., editor. 2025. The Presence and Use of Salmon in the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers, Alaska, 2023. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 512, Fairbanks.



Investigating Ceremonial Harvest of Game Populations in Alaska

Funder: Pittman-Roberson Funds

Purpose:

- Compile existing ceremonial harvest data
- Document regional ceremonial practices
- Design and implement a robust outreach program

Work to date:

- June 2024 – February 2025: Interviewed DWC Area Biologists
- March 2025: Kaltag Stickdance

Upcoming:

- Compile and analyze existing harvest data
- Participate and attend additional potlatch ceremonies throughout the State



Kuskokwim Management Area Postseason Salmon Harvest Survey Project

Funder: OSM

Background: Conducted since 1960; DFG/ONC 20+ years

Purpose: To estimate subsistence salmon harvest in Kuskokwim River drainage communities

Sampling:

- **2024 season:**
 - In-person: 28 communities, 1,468 surveys complete (including Bethel)
 - Phone Follow-Up: 12 communities, 15 surveys
 - Bethel: Simple random sample of 25% of households achieved, 486 surveys complete
 - Final salmon harvest numbers are in draft status and still being finalized. They will be available in the final technical report on the ADFG website

Preliminary Estimates For Kuskokwim Area Salmon Harvests 2024

- **Lower River Total:**
108,413 salmon (+/- 9,018)
- **Middle River Total:**
7,979 salmon (+/- 1,044)
- **Upper River Total:**
2,956 salmon (+/- 866)
- **Kuskokwim River Total:**
119,348 salmon (+/- 9,112)
- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**
130,194 salmon (+/- 9,210)

Table. Preliminary estimates for Kuskokwim Area salmon harvests, 2024.

| Community | Chinook | | Chum | | Sockeye | | Coho | | Pink | | Total | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Estimate | CI +/- | Estimate | CI +/- | Estimate | CI +/- | Estimate | CI +/- | Estimate | CI +/- | Estimate | CI +/- |
| Tuntutuliak ^a | 3,181 | 475 | 1,864 | 359 | 1,856 | 331 | 602 | 183 | 36 | 16 | 7,538 | 1,007 |
| Eek | 1,378 | 484 | 538 | 196 | 2,044 | 989 | 520 | 437 | 2 | 0 | 4,483 | 1,802 |
| Kasigluk ^b | 1,228 | 250 | 1,378 | 271 | 2,105 | 432 | 581 | 220 | 9 | 9 | 5,301 | 891 |
| Nunapitchuk ^b | 1,716 | 210 | 2,420 | 359 | 2,162 | 300 | 314 | 105 | 20 | 18 | 6,631 | 783 |
| Atmauthuk ^b | 957 | 326 | 1,594 | 408 | 2,117 | 1,277 | 453 | 231 | 119 | 113 | 5,238 | 1,880 |
| Napakiak | 624 | 238 | 932 | 1,789 | 1,343 | 677 | 371 | 174 | 21 | 10 | 3,292 | 2,370 |
| Napaskiak | 1,828 | 1,056 | 1,804 | 959 | 2,764 | 749 | 1,061 | 574 | 16 | 16 | 7,472 | 2,914 |
| Oscarville | 71 | 13 | 251 | 129 | 444 | 187 | 85 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 854 | 345 |
| Bethel | 10,382 | 2,136 | 5,907 | 1,104 | 16,488 | 2,939 | 8,872 | 3,248 | 313 | 167 | 41,961 | 7,887 |
| Kwethluk ^b | 2,116 | 283 | 1,192 | 266 | 2,276 | 385 | 1,148 | 180 | 21 | 13 | 6,754 | 902 |
| Akiachak ^b | 3,387 | 1,207 | 1,542 | 309 | 3,473 | 671 | 2,533 | 1,018 | 61 | 28 | 10,996 | 2,229 |
| Akiak ^b | 1,144 | 213 | 452 | 109 | 1,440 | 329 | 1,189 | 431 | 12 | 6 | 4,237 | 700 |
| Tuluksak ^b | 854 | 129 | 881 | 283 | 1,480 | 187 | 348 | 86 | 92 | 124 | 3,655 | 622 |
| District Total | 28,865 | 2,670 | 20,755 | 1,667 | 39,991 | 3,448 | 18,076 | 3,482 | 725 | 226 | 108,413 | 9,018 |
| Lower Kalskag ^b | 453 | 159 | 546 | 162 | 355 | 117 | 63 | 44 | 14 | 20 | 1,432 | 382 |
| Upper Kalskag | 815 | 239 | 430 | 83 | 536 | 129 | 333 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 2,114 | 448 |
| Aniak ^c | 1,251 | 393 | 501 | 171 | 1,002 | 341 | 684 | 342 | 63 | 80 | 3,502 | 883 |
| Chuathbaluk | 375 | 106 | 235 | 60 | 219 | 36 | 102 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 931 | 208 |
| District Total | 2,895 | 475 | 1,713 | 245 | 2,111 | 376 | 1,182 | 364 | 77 | 80 | 7,979 | 1,044 |
| Crooked Creek ^a | 182 | 88 | 105 | 72 | 447 | 402 | 105 | 91 | 46 | 65 | 884 | 558 |
| Red Devil ^a | 139 | 162 | 28 | 25 | 356 | 445 | 49 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 571 | 620 |
| Sleetmute | 73 | 47 | 34 | 18 | 413 | 127 | 28 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 547 | 190 |
| Stony River ^a | 8 | 14 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 62 |
| Lime Village ^a | 14 | 16 | 120 | 136 | 240 | 272 | 120 | 136 | 12 | 14 | 506 | 574 |
| McGrath | 68 | 77 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 69 | 0 | 0 | 119 | 104 |
| Takotna | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nikolai ^a | 250 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 260 | 70 |
| District Total | 733 | 205 | 304 | 138 | 1,461 | 570 | 401 | 166 | 58 | 66 | 2,956 | 866 |
| Kuskokwim River Total | 32,493 | 8,067 | 22,772 | 1,688 | 43,563 | 3,509 | 19,659 | 3,503 | 860 | 242 | 119,348 | 9,112 |
| Quinhagak ^b | 2,470 | 206 | 1,146 | 241 | 3,207 | 569 | 1,092 | 212 | 72 | 26 | 7,987 | 1,234 |
| Goodnews Bay ^b | 678 | 151 | 97 | 24 | 969 | 389 | 349 | 246 | 36 | 5 | 2,129 | 647 |
| Platinum | 82 | 32 | 137 | 18 | 441 | 96 | 60 | 34 | 10 | 0 | 731 | 139 |
| District Total | 3,230 | 1,172 | 1,381 | 242 | 4,617 | 672 | 1,501 | 317 | 118 | 26 | 10,847 | 1,374 |
| Kuskokwim Area Total | 35,723 | 6,641 | 24,153 | 1,704 | 48,180 | 3,569 | 21,160 | 3,517 | 979 | 244 | 130,194 | 9,210 |

a ANOVA means tests from use-group classification were not significant at the 95% level. Estimates were derived from a single community mean.

b 28 households were re-classified into a higher-harvesting use group based on 2024 harvest levels as 1) their harvest was more than two standard deviations above the mean for the strata group and 2) sampling goals for the strata group were not met.

NOTE: household pre-season use-group classifications were evaluated based on 2023 harvests. New households or households classified as having 'Unknown' harvest levels were not reclassified.



Local and Traditional Knowledge of Salmon Declines and Effects of Increasing Salmon Fishery Management on the Lower Kuskokwim River

Funder: OSM

Purpose: Document local and traditional knowledge of historical and contemporary salmon fishing patterns as they relate to increasing management of the subsistence salmon fishery on the Kuskokwim River.

Communities: Napakiak, Nunapitchuk, Kasigluk, Eek

Project Complete, June 2025

Citation: Trainor A., G. Neufeld, I. Tiller, T. Bembenic, J. Litvin, and K. Sisk. 2025. Local and Traditional Knowledge of Salmon Declines and Effects of Increasing Salmon Fishery Management on the Lower Kuskokwim River. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 514, Fairbanks.

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