

2026 KUSKOKWIM REGON PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS

The following is a list of priority information needs identified by the two Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Councils for the previous funding cycle (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Councils). The Councils did not hold a working group meeting in Summer 2026 to develop PINs for the 2028 funding cycle, but this previous list can be used as a starting point for discussions at the fall 2026 Council meetings.

- Drivers of Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Sockeye salmon population declines in the Kuskokwim River drainage including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries.
- Chinook, Chum, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon inter- and intraspecies specific competition for resources in freshwater and marine environments.
- Northern Pike distribution, abundance, habitat preferences, and predation patterns upon juvenile salmon and other fishes in the Kuskokwim River watershed including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries (e.g. Kanektok River).
- Establish, develop, maintain, and collect long-term data sets of watershed-scale environmental variables to better understand their effects upon Chinook, Chum, and Coho salmon productivity within the Kuskokwim River watershed including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries.
- Reliable quantitative and/or qualitative estimates of salmon run size, escapement, and harvest in the entire Kuskokwim River watershed including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries.
- Explore new and cost-effective methods for conducting in-season salmon run and harvest assessments in the Kuskokwim River drainage, with an emphasis on community-based monitoring.
- Distribution, abundance, condition, and survival of juvenile and out-migrating Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage.
- Impacts of environmental change in continued harvest and use of fish and impacts of climate change on fish, for example fish migration, spawning, and life cycle, and abundance.