

# **Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence**

## **YKD Project Updates**

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Presentation to the YK Delta RAC  
Bethel, Alaska  
October 27 – October 29, 2026



# Project Background



Photo: Tim Bembenic, ADF&G

## Kuskokwim Management Area Postseason Salmon Harvest Survey Project

**Funder:** OSM

**Background:** Conducted since  
1960; ADF&G/ONC 20+ years

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

**Data Use:** Used in run  
reconstruction for the Kuskokwim  
River

# Project Status



Photo: Tim Bembenic, ADF&G

## KMA Postseason Salmon Harvest Survey Project – Current Status

### **Funding Status:**

Not currently funded. No surveys conducted in 2026

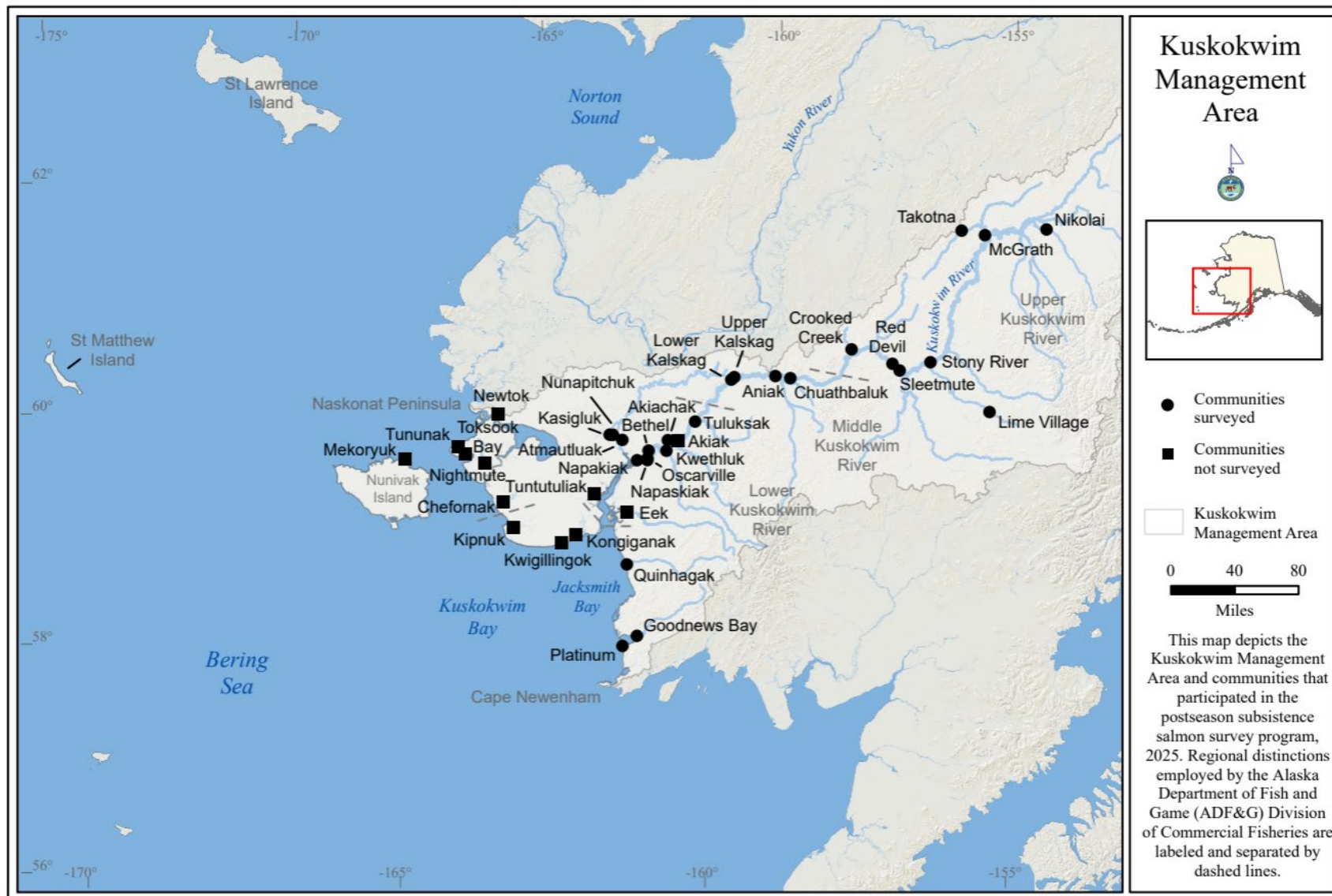
### **Internal Meeting:**

Meeting held between Subsistence and DCF staff discussing reduced sampling effort

### **Future Funding:**

Currently open to alternative funding and partnerships

# KMA Overview



## Which households are surveyed?

OUTLYING COMMUNITIES  
 $\leq 40$  HOUSEHOLDS:

100% SURVEY

OUTLYING COMMUNITIES  
 $\geq 40$  HOUSEHOLDS:

Stratified Random Sample

**BETHEL:**

Random Sample  
25% Survey

- Does not fish: 30%
- Light harvesters: 50%
- Medium harvesters: 100%
- High harvesters: 100%
- Unknown: 100%



| User Group           | # of fish harvested |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| U - Unknown          | ?                   |
| N - Non-harvester    | $X = 0$             |
| L - Light harvester  | $X < 100$           |
| M - Medium harvester | $100 \leq X < 200$  |
| H - High harvester   | $X \geq 200$        |



Photo: Isabelle Tiller ADF&G

## 2025 Sampling:

### In-Person:

24 communities, 1,363 surveys complete including Bethel, Lime Village\*

### Phone Follow-Up:

8 communities, 17 surveys

### Bethel:

Simple random sample of 25% of households achieved, 508 surveys complete with ONC

\*Note: Lime Village provided a community total harvest to researchers in-person in 2025

# Draft Results: KMA Salmon Harvests 2025

| Community                          | Households       |                     |                                   | Chinook                                 |                         |                       | Chum                                    |                         |                       | Salmon species<br>Sockeye               |                         |                       | Coho                                    |                         |                       | Pink <sup>a</sup>                       |                         |                       | Total <sup>b</sup>                      |                         |                       |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                    | Total households | Households surveyed | Percentage of households surveyed | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) | Estimated average harvest per household | Estimated total harvest | CI <sup>c</sup> (95%) |
|                                    |                  |                     |                                   |                                         |                         |                       |                                         |                         |                       |                                         |                         |                       |                                         |                         |                       |                                         |                         |                       |                                         |                         |                       |
| Tuntutuliak                        | 115              | 0                   | 0%                                | 27                                      | 3,055                   | 1,813                 | 12                                      | 1,328                   | 862                   | 23                                      | 2,663                   | 1,908                 | 2                                       | 239                     | 237                   | –                                       | –                       | –                     | –                                       | 7,285                   | –                     |
| Eek                                | 101              | 0                   | 0%                                | 17                                      | 1,726                   | 1,067                 | 7                                       | 663                     | 494                   | 12                                      | 1,199                   | 925                   | 5                                       | 473                     | 384                   | –                                       | –                       | –                     | –                                       | 4,061                   | –                     |
| Kasighuk                           | 105              | 44                  | 42%                               | 10                                      | 1,095                   | 183                   | 9                                       | 994                     | 184                   | 18                                      | 1,941                   | 301                   | 3                                       | 349                     | 123                   | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 42                                      | 4,379                   | 658                   |
| Nunapitchuk                        | 123              | 60                  | 49%                               | 18                                      | 2,203                   | 257                   | 15                                      | 1,868                   | 196                   | 16                                      | 2,022                   | 214                   | 4                                       | 512                     | 112                   | 0                                       | 18                      | 6                     | 54                                      | 6,623                   | 691                   |
| Atmautluak                         | 71               | 34                  | 48%                               | 13                                      | 912                     | 118                   | 17                                      | 1,196                   | 231                   | 24                                      | 1,711                   | 239                   | 3                                       | 199                     | 32                    | 0                                       | 17                      | 20                    | 57                                      | 4,035                   | 570                   |
| Napakiak                           | 92               | 35                  | 38%                               | 18                                      | 1,698                   | 745                   | 14                                      | 1,280                   | 483                   | 20                                      | 1,811                   | 706                   | 8                                       | 765                     | 342                   | 0                                       | 8                       | 9                     | 60                                      | 5,562                   | 1,979                 |
| Napaskiak                          | 106              | 57                  | 54%                               | 18                                      | 1,945                   | 278                   | 14                                      | 1,486                   | 214                   | 29                                      | 3,121                   | 431                   | 6                                       | 639                     | 145                   | 0                                       | 6                       | 5                     | 68                                      | 7,198                   | 949                   |
| Oscarville                         | 16               | 11                  | 69%                               | 11                                      | 174                     | 96                    | 14                                      | 225                     | 89                    | 37                                      | 593                     | 326                   | 5                                       | 81                      | 61                    | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 67                                      | 1,074                   | 514                   |
| Bethel                             | 1,802            | 508                 | 28%                               | 15                                      | 26,281                  | 1,681                 | 8                                       | 13,640                  | 928                   | 16                                      | 28,174                  | 1,636                 | 7                                       | 11,752                  | 849                   | 0                                       | 145                     | 31                    | 44                                      | 79,992                  | 4,295                 |
| Kwethluk                           | 183              | 85                  | 46%                               | 13                                      | 2,289                   | 263                   | 6                                       | 1,160                   | 153                   | 14                                      | 2,497                   | 290                   | 4                                       | 744                     | 113                   | 0                                       | 7                       | 3                     | 37                                      | 6,697                   | 686                   |
| Akiachak                           | 180              | 93                  | 52%                               | 24                                      | 4,247                   | 457                   | 10                                      | 1,816                   | 226                   | 19                                      | 3,439                   | 378                   | 9                                       | 1,683                   | 314                   | 0                                       | 4                       | 1                     | 62                                      | 11,188                  | 1,033                 |
| Akiak                              | 86               | 0                   | 0%                                | 21                                      | 2,171                   | 1,215                 | 24                                      | 2,457                   | 2,117                 | 24                                      | 2,761                   | 1,925                 | 11                                      | 1,095                   | 860                   | –                                       | –                       | –                     | –                                       | 8,483                   | –                     |
| Tuluksak                           | 96               | 37                  | 39%                               | 10                                      | 943                     | 246                   | 10                                      | 983                     | 318                   | 14                                      | 1,306                   | 304                   | 4                                       | 402                     | 132                   | 0                                       | 26                      | 14                    | 38                                      | 3,660                   | 845                   |
| Lower Kuskokwim River              | 3,076            | 964                 | 31%                               | 16                                      | 48,739                  | 1,960                 | 9                                       | 29,097                  | 1,178                 | 17                                      | 53,237                  | 1,965                 | 6                                       | 18,933                  | 995                   | 0                                       | 231                     | 39                    | 49                                      | 150,237                 | 5,129                 |
| Lower Kalskag                      | 76               | 30                  | 39%                               | 6                                       | 492                     | 135                   | 7                                       | 557                     | 220                   | 8                                       | 588                     | 191                   | 2                                       | 117                     | 47                    | 0                                       | 3                       | 6                     | 23                                      | 1,758                   | 533                   |
| Upper Kalskag                      | 53               | 16                  | 30%                               | 7                                       | 346                     | 229                   | 1                                       | 48                      | 44                    | 2                                       | 111                     | 106                   | 2                                       | 113                     | 121                   | 0                                       | 17                      | 29                    | 12                                      | 634                     | 467                   |
| Aniak                              | 130              | 62                  | 48%                               | 10                                      | 1,307                   | 217                   | 2                                       | 321                     | 65                    | 12                                      | 1,597                   | 273                   | 9                                       | 1,163                   | 219                   | 0                                       | 2                       | 0                     | 34                                      | 4,390                   | 606                   |
| Chumathluk                         | 30               | 24                  | 80%                               | 32                                      | 966                     | 110                   | 10                                      | 296                     | 50                    | 24                                      | 710                     | 106                   | 8                                       | 246                     | 55                    | 0                                       | 5                       | 1                     | 74                                      | 2,224                   | 272                   |
| Middle Kuskokwim River             | 289              | 132                 | 46%                               | 11                                      | 3,112                   | 340                   | 4                                       | 1,222                   | 231                   | 10                                      | 3,007                   | 345                   | 6                                       | 1,639                   | 251                   | 0                                       | 27                      | 30                    | 31                                      | 9,006                   | 909                   |
| Crooked Creek                      | 36               | 26                  | 72%                               | 6                                       | 217                     | 72                    | 14                                      | 508                     | 319                   | 21                                      | 745                     | 329                   | 51                                      | 1,851                   | 1,327                 | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 92                                      | 3,322                   | 1,975                 |
| Red Devil                          | 7                | 7                   | 100%                              | 9                                       | 60                      | 0                     | 1                                       | 5                       | 0                     | 25                                      | 176                     | 0                     | 11                                      | 77                      | 0                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 45                                      | 318                     | 0                     |
| Sleetmte                           | 29               | 20                  | 69%                               | 1                                       | 41                      | 17                    | 1                                       | 29                      | 15                    | 14                                      | 403                     | 148                   | 5                                       | 133                     | 55                    | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 21                                      | 606                     | 205                   |
| Stony River                        | 14               | 9                   | 64%                               | 2                                       | 28                      | 20                    | 1                                       | 14                      | 15                    | 6                                       | 91                      | 54                    | 2                                       | 25                      | 22                    | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 11                                      | 158                     | 96                    |
| Lime Village                       | 8                | 8                   | 100%                              | 3                                       | 20                      | 0                     | 4                                       | 35                      | 0                     | 140                                     | 1,120                   | 0                     | 5                                       | 40                      | 0                     | 1                                       | 6                       | 0                     | 153                                     | 1,221                   | 0                     |
| McGrath                            | 114              | 38                  | 33%                               | 1                                       | 71                      | 46                    | 0                                       | 24                      | 23                    | 0                                       | 19                      | 18                    | 2                                       | 266                     | 141                   | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 3                                       | 379                     | 172                   |
| Takotna                            | 20               | 15                  | 75%                               | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 1                       | 1                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 1                       | 1                     |
| Nikolai                            | 34               | 26                  | 76%                               | 7                                       | 226                     | 76                    | 0                                       | 4                       | 2                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 7                                       | 230                     | 78                    |
| Upper Kuskokwim River              | 262              | 149                 | 57%                               | 3                                       | 663                     | 109                   | 2                                       | 618                     | 320                   | 10                                      | 2,554                   | 360                   | 9                                       | 2,393                   | 1,332                 | 0                                       | 6                       | 0                     | 24                                      | 6,234                   | 1,991                 |
| Kuskokwim River Total <sup>d</sup> | 3,627            | 1,245               | 34%                               | 14                                      | 52,514                  | 1,990                 | 9                                       | 30,937                  | 1,235                 | 16                                      | 58,797                  | 2,024                 | 6                                       | 22,965                  | 1,659                 | 0                                       | 265                     | 48                    | 46                                      | 165,478                 | 5,543                 |
| Quinhagak                          | 168              | 88                  | 52%                               | 15                                      | 2,465                   | 242                   | 6                                       | 1,018                   | 116                   | 20                                      | 3,367                   | 609                   | 6                                       | 1,021                   | 147                   | 0                                       | 78                      | 18                    | 47                                      | 7,949                   | 829                   |
| Goodnews Bay                       | 71               | 29                  | 41%                               | 10                                      | 688                     | 258                   | 4                                       | 306                     | 127                   | 22                                      | 1,554                   | 635                   | 2                                       | 143                     | 97                    | 0                                       | 0                       | 0                     | 38                                      | 2,691                   | 823                   |
| Platinum                           | 16               | 9                   | 56%                               | 2                                       | 32                      | 16                    | 2                                       | 29                      | 19                    | 35                                      | 556                     | 165                   | 4                                       | 60                      | 23                    | 1                                       | 12                      | 7                     | 43                                      | 690                     | 202                   |
| South Kuskokwim Bay                | 255              | 126                 | 49%                               | 12                                      | 3,185                   | 326                   | 5                                       | 1,353                   | 156                   | 21                                      | 5,478                   | 779                   | 5                                       | 1,223                   | 171                   | 0                                       | 91                      | 19                    | 44                                      | 11,330                  | 1,085                 |
| Kuskokwim Area Total               | 3,882            | 1,371               | 35%                               | 14                                      | 55,699                  | 2,014                 | 8                                       | 32,290                  | 1,244                 | 17                                      | 64,275                  | 2,146                 | 6                                       | 24,188                  | 1,667                 | 0                                       | 355                     | 51                    | 46                                      | 176,808                 | 5,636                 |

Source: ADF&G Division of Subsistence household surveys, 2025.

Note: Dashes indicate that data are unavailable.

Note: Estimates depicted in italics have been generated using Bayesian imputation.

a. No Bayesian estimates were produced for Pink salmon.

b. Totals include Bayesian imputations, but no 95% credible set has been calculated for total salmon harvested.

c. 95% confidence intervals for Bayesian imputed harvest estimates are the 95% credible set. Summary rows do not include credible set confidence estimates.

d. Kuskokwim River total includes the lower Kuskokwim River, middle Kuskokwim River, and upper Kuskokwim River.



# Comparison with 2024: All Species

## 2024 Salmon Harvest Totals

- **Bethel Total:**  
42,047 salmon (+/- 7,898)
- **Lower River Total:**  
109,416 salmon (+/- 9,096)
- **Middle River Total:**  
7,942 salmon (+/- 1,037)
- **Upper River Total:**  
2,956 salmon (+/- 866)
- **South Kuskokwim Bay Total:**  
10,847 salmon (+/- 1,374)
- **Kuskokwim River Total:**  
120,314 salmon (+/- 9,188)
- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**  
131,160 salmon (+/- 9,286)

## 2025 Salmon Harvest Totals\*

- **Bethel Total:**  
79,992 salmon (+/- 4,295)
- **Lower River Total:**  
150,237 salmon (+/- 5,129)
- **Middle River Total:**  
9,006 salmon (+/- 909)
- **Upper River Total:**  
6,234 salmon (+/- 1,991)
- **South Kuskokwim Bay Total:**  
11,330 salmon (+/- 1,085)
- **Kuskokwim River Total:**  
165,478 salmon (+/- 5,543)
- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**  
176,808 salmon (+/- 5,636)

\*All 2025 data is preliminary and subject to change



# Comparison with 2024: Chinook Salmon

## 2024 Chinook Salmon Harvest Totals

- **Bethel Total:**  
10,403 salmon (+/- 2,139)
- **Lower River Total:**  
29,068 salmon (+/- 2,676)
- **Middle River Total:**  
2,892 salmon (+/- 482)
- **Upper River Total:**  
733 salmon (+/- 182)
- **South Kuskokwim Bay Total:**  
3,230 salmon (+/- 600)
- **Kuskokwim River Total:**  
32,693 salmon (+/- 2,721)
- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**  
35,923 salmon (+/- 2,784)

## 2025 Chinook Salmon Harvest Totals\*

- **Bethel Total:**  
26,281 salmon (+/- 1,681)
- **Lower River Total:**  
41,787 salmon (+/- 1,960)
- **Middle River Total:**  
3,106 salmon (+/- 340)
- **Upper River Total:**  
663 salmon (+/-109)
- **South Kuskokwim Bay Total:**  
3,183 salmon (+/- 326)
- **Kuskokwim River Total:**  
45,557 salmon (+/- 1,990)
- **Kuskokwim Management Area Total:**  
48,740 salmon (+/-2,014)

\*All 2025 data is preliminary and subject to change



# 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 (*Published*)
- 2023: Huslia and Koyukuk (*Published*)
- 2024: Alakanuk and Kotlik (*Published*)
- 2025: Ruby and Holy Cross (*Expected Publication: November 2026*)
- 2026: Nunam Iqua and Rampart (*Upcoming*)

# Life Histories of Salmon in the Yukon Area Coastal District



**Funder:** Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund

**Purpose:**

- Document Traditional Ecological Knowledge held by Scammon Bay and Chevak residents concerning 1) life histories of salmon in the Kun and Kashunuk rivers and 2) historical and contemporary uses of these river systems for subsistence fishing.
- Document subsistence fishing and harvest locations
- Describe salmon presence, life history patterns, and stock-of-origin information for salmon and other fish species in the Kun and Kashunuk rivers.

**Work to date:**

- December 2025: Funded
- July – September 2026: Start up and fieldwork planning

**Upcoming:**

- October – November 2026: Community outreach and Ethnographic and household survey fieldwork

# 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  
Lower Kalskag

## CONTACT

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