

2001
YUKON AREA
SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, AND COMMERCIAL
SALMON FISHERIES OUTLOOK AND
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



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By

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Waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII

Subject to federal restrictions and closures, waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII (including waters in which the United States has identified a reserved water right) are open to fishing under state regulations. However, if you are planning on subsistence fishing or other fishing activities in waters under federal subsistence jurisdiction, you must comply with federal subsistence regulations. If you are a federally qualified rural resident subsistence fishing in waters subject to federal subsistence jurisdiction, some state permit conditions or state regulations may be preempted. To familiarize yourself with the federal regulations and how they may affect your planned activity, you should consult the federal publication: *Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska* for details. Copies of this publication may be obtained at federal offices. It is also recommended that you contact the appropriate federal agency prior to fishing as in-season closures or temporary regulatory changes may occur at any time and may not be reflected in the annual regulatory publication.

For more information, or a copy of federal regulations, please contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management: 1/800-478-1456

Or any of the following agencies:

National Parks and Preserves: National Park Service 907/257-2649

National Wildlife Refuges: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1/800-478-1456

National Recreation Areas or National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska:
Bureau of Land Management 907/271-5960

National Forests: U.S. Forest Service 907/586-8806

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document informs fishermen, processors, and other interested individuals about the outlook for the 2001 Yukon Area salmon runs and management strategy for the subsistence, personal use, and commercial salmon fisheries. Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both the State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for Federal Public Lands before fishing on the Yukon River. Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon are harvested in Yukon River fisheries. The Yukon River chum salmon return consists of an earlier and more abundant summer chum salmon run and a later fall chum salmon run. No directed commercial fishing occurs for pink salmon within the Yukon River drainage.

The Yukon Area includes all waters of Alaska within the Yukon River drainage and coastal waters from Point Romanof, northeast of Kotlik, to the Naskonat Peninsula. For management purposes the Yukon Area is divided into seven districts and ten subdistricts (Figure 1). Commercial fishing is allowed along the entire 1,224 miles of the Yukon River in Alaska and along the lower 225 miles of the Tanana River. The Coastal District includes the majority of coastal marine waters within the Yukon Area and is open only to subsistence fishing. The Lower Yukon Area, Districts 1, 2, and 3, includes coastal waters of the delta and that portion of the Yukon River drainage downstream of Old Paradise Village (river mile 301). The Upper Yukon Area, Districts 4, 5, and 6, is the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Old Paradise Village. Aboriginal, commercial, domestic, and sport salmon fisheries also occur in Canada, with fishery management activities conducted by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

2.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2001

2.1 CHINOOK SALMON

Yukon River chinook salmon return primarily as age-5 and age-6 fish, although age-3, age-4, age-7 and age-8 fish also contribute to the run. Spawning ground escapements in 1995, the brood year producing 6-year-old fish returning in 2001, were judged to be above average in magnitude. However, the return of salmon in 1998, 1999 and 2000 appeared to be well below average in strength indicating abnormally poor production from parent year escapements. Additionally, the apparent low marine survival from age-5 fish returning in 1999, and sibling age-6 fish returning in 2000, continued to show recent below-average trends in survival. Based on continued recent below-average trends in survival rates of parent year escapements, and the number of 4- and 5-year-old fish that returned in 2000, the return of 5- and 6-year-old fish in 2001 is expected to be poor.

Overall, the year 2001 chinook salmon run is anticipated to be below average to poor in strength for the fourth year in a row. Given the uncertainties associated with recent declines in productivity, it is unlikely the run will support a commercial harvest and will potentially require reductions in subsistence harvest opportunity. The fisheries are managed based upon inseason assessments of the actual runs. If inseason qualitative indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska would be 0 to 20,000 chinook salmon (0 to 18,000 fish in the Lower Yukon Area and 0 to 2,000 fish in the Upper Yukon Area). This represents a range of catch well below all other years with the exception of 2000 during the previous 30-year period.

2.2 SUMMER CHUM SALMON

Based on above average escapements in 1996 and 1997, an above average return of 4- and 5-year-old summer chum salmon would normally be expected. However, it appears that, similar to many chinook and chum salmon stocks in the Bering Sea region, recent declines in the productivity of summer chum salmon are continuing. Specifically, production of Anvik River chum salmon, which represents the largest spawning stock of Yukon River summer chum salmon, has fallen well below 1 return per spawner in recent brood year returns. Causes for the observed drop in productivity are still largely unknown. There is uncertainty as to how long this situation might continue, and whether productivity could drop even further. While exact reasons for the run failures are unknown, it is widely speculated that poor marine survival related to localized weather and ocean conditions in the Bering Sea are primary factors. Weakness in the salmon runs has been attributed to reduced productivity and not the result of low levels of parent year escapements. Nearly all stocks are continuing to exhibit decreased production levels, in some cases bordering on production failure.

Overall, the year 2001 outlook is for a below average to poor summer chum salmon run. Given the uncertainties associated with recent declines in productivity, it is uncertain if the run will support a commercial harvest and could require reductions in subsistence harvest opportunity to provide for escapements. If inseason projections of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska would be 0 to 300,000 summer chum salmon.

2.3 FALL CHUM SALMON

Yukon River fall chum salmon escapements for the period 1974 through 1993 were estimated and have ranged from approximately 110,000 (1982) to 1,200,000 (1975) by ADF&G, based upon expansion of escapement assessments drainage-wide. These escapements have produced returns that ranged in size from approximately 301,000 (1988 production) to 1,400,000 (1975 production) fish. Corresponding return per spawner rates have ranged from 1.1 to 4.5 with an average of 2.5 for all years combined through 1993. Recent year runs have decreased significantly with production falling below one return per spawner.

Yukon River fall chum salmon return primarily as age-4 or age-5 fish, although age-3 and age-6 fish also contribute to the run. The parent year escapements of 1996 and 1997 will be producing the majority of the fish returning in 2001 (Appendix B.4). Drainage-wide escapements in 1996 were well above average while escapements in 1997 were slightly above average with weaknesses in the Tanana River drainage. Due to staff vacancies and time constraints, a projection of returning fall chum salmon to the Yukon River is not yet complete for 2001. However, very dramatic declines in salmon returns to Western Alaska have been occurring since 1997. While exact reasons for the run failures are unknown, it is widely speculated that poor marine survival related to localized weather and ocean conditions in the Bering Sea are primary factors. Weakness in the salmon runs has been attributed to reduced productivity and not the result of low levels of parent year escapements.

Even though parent year escapements appeared adequate, the 2001 fall chum salmon run is anticipated to be poor to below average in strength for the fifth consecutive year. Given recent trends in low productivity, it is very probable the 2001 fall chum salmon run will be less than 500,000 fish. There will likely be no directed commercial fishery and subsistence restrictions may be necessary in attempt to meet the optimal escapement goal.

2.4 COHO SALMON

Although comprehensive escapement information on Yukon River drainage coho salmon is lacking, it is known that coho salmon primarily return as age-4 fish and overlap in run timing with fall chum salmon. An average return of coho salmon would be anticipated in 2001, based upon parental escapement levels observed

in several spawning streams in 1997 and assuming average survival. However, should mortality factors that contributed to recent Western Alaska salmon run failures in recent years also affect marine survival of coho salmon from the 1997 brood year, then a below average run of coho salmon could be expected in 2001.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently readopted the Yukon River coho salmon management plan that would allow a directed commercial coho salmon fishery, but only under very unique conditions. Directed coho salmon fishing is dependent on the assessed levels of return for both coho and fall chum salmon since they return mixed together. A directed commercial coho salmon fishery is not likely to occur in 2001 because of the poor outlook for the fall chum salmon combined with an average to below average coho salmon run.

3.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2001

The department manages the various salmon runs under the policies and regulations established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Management of the Yukon Area commercial salmon fishery is complex due to the inability to determine stock specific run size and timing, increased efficiency of the commercial fleet, and allocation issues. Escapement goals in the Yukon River drainage have been based, in part, on historic escapements to key index spawning areas. In most cases, the average historic escapement level for a base period for each index area was considered a minimum escapement goal to be achieved.

The department has completed a review of escapement goals for several Yukon River chinook, summer chum, and fall chum salmon stocks where long-term escapement, catch, and age composition data exist. This enables the development of biological escapement goals based on analysis of production consistent with the department's escapement goal policy. These stocks include the Salcha and Chena River chinook salmon, the Anvik and Andreafsky River summer chum salmon, and the Toklat, Delta, Chandalar, Sheenjek, and Tanana River fall chum salmon. In addition, a Yukon River drainage-wide escapement goal review was also completed. Escapement goals for the chinook and summer chum salmon stocks have been finalized and will be used for management this season. Fall chum salmon escapement goals should be finalized prior to the fall chum season.

In addition to establishing new escapement goals for certain stocks, the department also changed some existing biological escapement goals (BEG) to sustainable escapement goals (SEG) based on the Escapement Goal Policy and the Sustainable Fisheries Policy. The Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy defines various levels of escapement in a manner consistent with sustained yield. Previous BEGs that were estimated in the absence of a stock specific catch estimate and were used as an index or an escapement estimate are now defined as an SEG. The following is a list of BEGs and SEGs that will be used for management this season.

List of current BEGs or SEGs for chinook salmon.

Stream	Previous Goal	Revised Goal
East Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	> 1,500 BEG	> 1,500 SEG
West Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	> 1,400 BEG	> 1,400 SEG
Anvik River Index Aerial Survey	> 500 BEG	> 500 SEG
Nulato River Aerial Survey	> 1,300 BEG	> 1,300 SEG
Gisasa River Aerial Survey	> 600 BEG	> 600 SEG
Chena River Index Aerial Survey	> 1,700 BEG	Eliminate goal
Chena River Tower		2,800-5,700 BEG
Salcha River Index Aerial Survey	> 2,500 BEG	Eliminate goal
Salcha River Tower		3,300-6,500 BEG
Canada Mainstem Tagging Rebuilding Goal	> 28,000	> 28,000

List of BEGs or SEGs for summer chum salmon.

Stream	Previous Goal	Revised Goal
East Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	> 109,000 BEG	35,000 – 70,000 BEG
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir		65,000 – 135,000 BEG
West Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	> 116,000 BEG	35,000 – 70,000 BEG
West Fork Andreafsky River Weir		65,000 – 135,000 BEG
Anvik River Sonar	> 500,000 BEG	400,000 – 800,000 BEG
Nulato River Aerial Survey	> 53,000 BEG	Eliminate goal
Clear Creek and Caribou Creek Aerial Survey	> 17,000 BEG	Eliminate goal
Salcha River Index Aerial Survey	> 3,500 BEG	Eliminate goal
Drainage-wide Escapement (Above Pilot Station)		800,000 – 1,600,000 *

* Inriver run goal – this is a specific management objective for salmon stocks that are subject to harvest upstream of the point where escapement is estimated.

List of BEGs or SEGs for fall chum salmon.

	Previous Goal	Revised Goal
Drainage-wide Escapement	400,000	300,000-600,000 BEG
Tanana River drainage	None	61,000-136,000 BEG
Toklat River	>33,000 BEG	15,000-33,000 BEG
Chandalar River	None	74,000-152,000 BEG
Sheenjek River	>64,000 BEG	50,000-104,000 BEG

3.1 BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTIONS

In response to the guidelines established in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy, the Board of Fisheries classified the Yukon River chinook and fall chum salmon stocks as a yield concern during the September, 2000 work session. This determination was based on the inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above the stock's escapement needs since 1998 and the anticipated low harvest level in 2001. In addition, the board classified the Yukon River summer chum and fall chum Toklat and Fishing Branch River salmon stocks as management concerns. The determination of the management concerns was based on the chronic inability to meet existing escapement goals for the summer chum stock since 1998 and for the Toklat and Fishing Branch Rivers fall chum salmon stocks since 1997.

Action plans were developed through the Board of Fisheries process to guide the department in managing each stock of concern. The action plans contained goals, measurable and implementable objectives, and provisions including fishery management actions needed to achieve rebuilding goals and objectives, in proportion to each fishery's use of, and hazards posed to, a salmon stock.

Regulatory actions adopted by the board to protect the Yukon River stocks of concern include a 70% reduction of the Area M/False Pass fishing time, an expansion of the Yukon River king salmon and summer chum salmon management plans, and development of a subsistence salmon fishing schedule. Other notable regulatory changes included Emergency Order (E.O.) authority to restrict subsistence

gillnets to no greater than 6-inch mesh size; allow the use of dip nets; and E.O. authority to establish methods, means, and seasons or bag limits for the rod and reel subsistence fishery in the AVCP Region. Most of the Board of Fish actions directly affect subsistence fishing in the Yukon River drainage. A complete summary of the most recent Board of Fish actions affecting the Yukon River drainage can be found in Appendix C.

3.2 SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

Subsistence fishing occurs throughout most of the Yukon Area and has the highest priority among uses of the resource. When the salmon stocks are healthy, it is necessary to place some restrictions on the subsistence fishery in order to enforce commercial fishing regulations. For example, subsistence salmon fishing is closed in most areas 24 hours prior to the commercial salmon season to discourage the illegal sale of subsistence caught salmon or salmon roe. However, substantially more fishing time is allowed throughout the fishing season for subsistence than for commercial purposes. Since the 2001 return is expected to be very low for chinook and chum salmon, it is unlikely there will be any commercial fishing periods and management will be focused on subsistence fishing.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently adopted a subsistence salmon fishing schedule in January 2001 to increase the quality of escapement, spread the harvest throughout the run to reduce the impact on any particular component of the run and spread subsistence harvest opportunity among users. When there are no commercial salmon fishing periods, the subsistence fishery will be based on a schedule implemented chronologically by the department, consistent with migratory timing as the run progresses upstream. The schedule is based on current or past fishing schedules and should provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence during years of normal to below average runs. The goal of the schedule listed below is to provide windows of time that salmon may migrate upriver unexploited.

Board of Fisheries Adopted Subsistence Fishing Schedule

<i>Area</i>	Regulatory subsistence fishing periods	Schedule Begins	Days of the week
District 1	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 31, 2001	Mon 8pm to Wed 8 am /Thu 8pm to Sat 8am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 3, 2001	Sun 8pm to Tue 8am /Wed 8pm to Fri 8am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 6, 2001	Sun 8pm to Tue 8am /Wed 8pm to Fri 8am
District 4	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 13, 2001	Sun 6pm to Tue 6pm /Wed 6pm to Fri 6pm
Subdistricts 5-B, C	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 22, 2001	Tue 6pm to Thu 6pm /Fri 6pm to Sun 6pm
Subdistrict 5-A	Two 42-hour periods/week	June 22, 2001	Tue 6pm to Thu Noon /Fri 6pm to Sun Noon
Subdistrict 6-A, B*	Two 42-hour periods/week	June 1, 2001	Mon 6pm to Wed Noon /Fri 6pm to Sun Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/week	June 1, 2001	Friday 6pm to Wednesday 6pm
Coastal District	7 days/week	June 1, 2001	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
Koyukuk River	7 days/week	June 1, 2001	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
Subdistrict 5-D	7 days/week	June 1, 2001	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours

* Subdistrict 6-C (Personal Use Area) is on the Subdistrict 6-A, B fishing schedule.

If inseason run strength suggests a sufficient abundance is present and a commercial fishery is warranted, then the subsistence fishing schedule shall revert to the schedule subsistence fishermen have been using prior to this season and is specified in 5 AAC 01.210 FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS.

It is anticipated that the 2001 season will be as poor as last year's 2000 season. In order to protect the

resource and meet minimum spawning escapements, commercial fishing on the Yukon River will likely remain closed, and the Yukon River chinook salmon subsistence fishery harvest may need to be reduced by at least half of the normal catch. In an effort to achieve a 50% reduction in the Yukon River subsistence salmon harvest that is spread throughout the river, subsistence fishing time may be reduced from the Board of Fisheries schedule as outlined below (unless it can be determined that the run is larger than the 2000 season prior to the dates listed below).

Reduced Subsistence Fishing Schedule

<i>Area</i>	Reduced subsistence fishing periods *	Schedule Begins	Days of the week
District 1	Two 24-hour periods/week	June 14, 2001	Mon 8pm to Tue 8pm /Thu 8pm to Fri 8pm
District 2	Two 24-hour periods/week	June 17, 2001	Sun 8pm to Mon 8pm /Wed 8pm to Thu 8pm
District 3	Two 24-hour periods/week	June 20, 2001	Sun 8pm to Mon 8pm /Wed 8pm to Thu 8pm
Subdistrict 4-A	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 24, 2001	Sun 6pm to Tue 6am /Wed 6pm to Fri. 6am
Subdistricts 4-B, C	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 27, 2001	Sun 6pm to Tue 6am /Wed 6pm to Fri 6am
Subdistricts 5-B, C	Two 36-hour periods/week	July 3, 2001	Tue 6pm to Thu 6am /Fri 6pm to Sun 6am
Subdistrict 5-A	Two 28-hour periods/week	July 3, 2001	Tue 6pm to Wed 10pm /Fri 6pm to Sat 10pm
District 6	Managed using inseason run abundance and escapement information in the Tanana River.		
Coastal District	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 14, 2001	Tue 6pm to Thu 6pm /Fri 6pm to Sun 6pm
Koyukuk River	Managed using inseason run abundance and escapement information in the Koyukuk River.		
Subdistrict 5-D	Two 48-hour periods/week	July 10, 2001	Tue 6pm to Thu 6pm /Fri 6pm to Sun 6pm

***This schedule may be reduced further inseason if indicators of run strength suggest this is necessary.**

During subsistence salmon fishing closed periods, subsistence fishing for whitefish, suckers, and other non-salmon species will continue to be allowed throughout the drainage. However, for salmon conservation purposes, gear restrictions may be announced in season such as limiting mesh size to 4 inches or less and gillnet length. This opportunity to target non-salmon species while protecting the salmon stocks of concern may be discontinued if found ineffective at reducing salmon harvest. Subsistence whitefish and sucker permits are required for the Tanana River drainage upstream of the Wood River, portions of District 5 in the upper Yukon River drainage near the Haul Road Bridge, and from above the village of Fort Yukon to the U.S./Canada border.

The department encourages fishermen to keep track of their subsistence salmon harvest on their subsistence catch calendar or subsistence fishing permit. Non-permitted fishermen who do not receive a subsistence salmon calendar by mail may obtain one by contacting the department in either Emmonak or Fairbanks. In an effort to encourage fishermen to use and return catch calendars, return postage for the 2001 calendar has been prepaid by the department. Additionally, a \$200 lottery will be conducted following the season for all households that have returned properly filled out calendars.

3.2.1 Districts 1, 2, and 3

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has changed the subsistence fishing schedule in Districts 1, 2, and 3 to two 36-hour periods per week throughout the entire fishing season as stated above. However, the 2001 salmon runs are expected to be poor and subsistence fishing time may be reduced to attain minimum spawning escapements. The board delegated authority to the department to eliminate the dorsal fin clip marking requirement for subsistence taken chinook salmon in Districts 1, 2, and 3 this season. If a commercial fishery should open, the marking requirement will be reinstated.

In years when commercial fishing occurs, subsistence fishing is allowed only between commercial periods. During the chinook and summer chum salmon commercial fishing season, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 18 hours before, during, and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period. During the fall chum season, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours following each District 1, 2 or 3 commercial salmon fishing period.

New regulation changes no longer require commercial fishermen in these lower districts to subsistence fish in the same district in which they are registered and provide managers the authority to specify mesh size as a means to target a salmon species during times of conservation.

3.2.2 District 4

In District 4, the subsistence fishing schedule has changed to two 48-hour periods per week throughout the fishing season. However, due to the expected poor returns of chinook and chum salmon to the Yukon River in 2001, it may be necessary to reduce subsistence salmon harvest to attain minimum spawning escapements. Regulations also separate subsistence fishing periods with set gillnet, fish wheel, and beach seine gear from commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 4-A. During the commercial salmon fishing season, subsistence salmon fishing with set gillnet, fish wheel, and beach seine gear will be closed 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours following a Subdistrict 4-A commercial salmon fishing period. However, chinook salmon may be taken with drift gillnet gear only for two 48-hour periods per week during the commercial salmon fishing season from 6:00 p.m. Sunday until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday until 6:00 p.m. Friday.

If the commercial salmon fishing season is opened in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, managers will attempt to coincide allowable commercial salmon fishing periods with the traditional subsistence salmon fishing schedule. When the department announces a commercial fishing closure that will last longer than five days in duration during the commercial salmon season, subsistence salmon fishing will revert back to the standard of two 48 hour periods/week.

3.2.3 District 5

In Subdistrict 5-D, subsistence salmon fishermen may take salmon seven days per week throughout the season. The Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C subsistence fishing schedule will be two 48-hour periods per week with fishing times from Tuesdays at 6 p.m. through Thursdays at 6 p.m. and from Fridays at 6 p.m. through Sundays at 6 p.m. Subdistrict 5-A has a subsistence salmon fishing schedule of two 42-hours per week from Tuesdays at 6 p.m. to noon on Thursdays and from Fridays at 6 p.m. to noon on Sundays. Subdistrict 5-A is managed using the Tanana River Salmon Management Plan. As in the other districts, subsistence salmon fishing may be reduced in an effort to conserve chinook and chum salmon.

If the commercial salmon fishing season were to open, subsistence salmon fishing periods in all three subdistricts would coincide with the commercial salmon fishing schedule. Additionally, subsistence only salmon fishing periods may also be scheduled. When the department announces a commercial fishing closure that will last longer than five days in duration during the commercial salmon season in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C, subsistence salmon fishing would revert back to the established fishing schedule.

In portions of District 5, regulations require subsistence fishermen to obtain subsistence fishing permits. Permit areas include the "Yukon River bridge area" and the Yukon River drainage from Twenty-two Mile Slough, located upstream of Fort Yukon, to the Canadian border. The Yukon River bridge area includes the Yukon River drainage from Hess Creek to the Dall River. Subsistence fishermen may obtain a permit by contacting the department's office in Fairbanks. Permits may be issued in person or by mail. All permit

holders are required to report harvest information on their permits and to return their permits to the department at the end of the fishing season.

3.2.4 District 6

Regulations require subsistence salmon permits in District 6, the Tanana River drainage, except for Subdistrict 6-C, which is managed under personal use regulations (see Section 3.3). Subsistence salmon fishermen can obtain a permit by contacting the department's office in Fairbanks. Subsistence permit holders in that portion of Subdistrict 6-B, from a point three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough to the upper boundary of Subdistrict 6-B, are required to report to the department each week the number of salmon taken. Permit holders can report their weekly catch on a message recording at (907) 459-7388. All Tanana River subsistence permit holders are required to record their harvest information on their permit and return expired permits to the department's office in Fairbanks at the end of the fishing season.

Within the majority of Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 12 noon Wednesday and from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 12 noon Sunday. One exception is within the Old Minto Area where subsistence salmon fishing is allowed five days a week from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. The Board of Fisheries changed the Old Minto Area lower boundary in January 2001. The area was extended downstream and now includes that portion of the Tanana River drainage from the downstream end of the Upper Tolovana Island up to a line three miles upstream from the mouth of Totchaket Slough. These subsistence salmon fishing schedules may be altered by emergency order.

3.3 PERSONAL USE FISHERY

Subdistrict 6-C falls entirely within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area and is managed under personal use regulations. Personal use salmon fishing permits are required in Subdistrict 6-C and can be obtained from the department's office in Fairbanks. Personal use fishermen must possess a valid State of Alaska resident sport fishing license and report their harvests to the department each week. There are fishery harvest limits in Subdistrict 6-C of 750 chinook, 5,000 summer chum, and 5,200 fall chum and coho salmon combined. If a harvest limit is reached inseason, the Subdistrict 6-C personal use fishery will be closed. However, due to the poor 2001 salmon return expectations, the Fairbanks personal use fishery will likely be restricted or closed in order to provide for subsistence needs and escapement requirements. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has amended the regulation on lawful gear for personal use salmon fishing to include dipnets as legal gear when allowed by emergency order for the conservation of a salmon species. Whitefish and suckers for personal use may also be taken with dipnets.

3.4 COMMERCIAL FISHERY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

One of the primary tools used in management of the commercial salmon fishery is the guideline harvest range established by the Board (Table 1). The department attempts to manage the commercial fisheries so that each district's harvest is proportionally similar to their respective guideline harvest range. Emergency orders are used to open and close the commercial fishing seasons, establish fishing periods, and implement gear specifications.

All processors, buyers, and catcher/sellers of salmon are required to register with the department before purchasing salmon in the Yukon Area. Processors, buyers, and catcher/sellers in Districts 1, 2, and 3 must register with the department's office in Emmonak. Processors, buyers, and catcher/sellers in Districts 4, 5, and 6 must register with the department's office in Fairbanks. Registered salmon buyers are required to provide a verbal report of their salmon purchases within 18 hours following the closure of a commercial fishing period. Buyers may verbally report harvest information in the Upper Yukon Area after office hours by

calling a 24-hour message recording at (907) 459-7388. Buyers are also required to mail or deliver fish tickets to the department within 24 hours following closure of a commercial fishing period in the Lower Yukon Area. In the Upper Yukon Area, buyers are required to mail or deliver fish tickets to the department within 36 hours following the closure of a commercial fishing period. If there is incomplete reporting, the department may delay commercial fishing until the needed harvest reports are received. In addition, it is very important for buyers to accurately report on each fish ticket the statistical area where salmon were harvested.

All salmon caught by CFEC permit holders during commercial periods in which salmon roe was sold shall be reported as numbers of fish on fish tickets. Buyers are requested to ensure this information is reported on fish tickets. Regulations also require commercial fishermen in Subdistrict 6-C to report, on each fish ticket, the number of salmon harvested but not sold during commercial fishing periods.

3.5 CHINOOK AND SUMMER CHUM SALMON COMMERCIAL SEASON

The Yukon River chinook salmon run will be managed to achieve escapement goals established for selected streams in the Alaska portion of the drainage. The conservation and stock rebuilding efforts developed between the U.S. and Canada will continue by managing the fishery with a view to delivering to the Canadian border the agreed spawning escapement objective plus the midpoint of the Canadian guideline harvest range. The Canadian mainstem spawning escapement goal of 28,000 chinook salmon has been suspended for the 2001 season to allow for subsistence and aboriginal harvest by Alaska and Canadian fishermen. As part of the US/Canada treaty process, the Yukon River Panel agreed the chinook salmon run in 2001 will be managed to provide for a spawning escapement goal into Canada of 18,000 and an Alaskan subsistence and Canadian aboriginal harvest of no more than 50% of average. The recent 10-year average subsistence harvest is 52,000 chinook salmon in the Alaska portion of the drainage. Should the chinook salmon run in 2001 support a limited commercial harvest, the spawning escapement goal into Canada would revert to 28,000 chinook salmon and a normal subsistence harvest would need to be met.

Inseason chinook salmon run assessment will be based on lower river test fisheries, subsistence catch reports, age and sex composition, and preliminary escapement monitoring information. As in years past, the department will participate in Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) teleconferences inseason to gather information from the public and to discuss run status and management actions. Additional coordination will occur this year with federal agencies concerning subsistence fisheries management on waters under federal jurisdiction.

The department will manage the chinook salmon run conservatively, based upon the unexpectedly poor returns the last three years and the low return of 5-year-old fish in 2000. The age composition of the 2001 chinook run will be closely monitored to determine the strength of the 6-year-old return. The commercial harvest outlook is zero to 20,000 chinook salmon for Districts 1-6 combined. This harvest is well below the lower end of each districts guideline harvest range. If the abundance of chinook salmon in 2001 is similar to that in 2000, the commercial harvest will be zero.

The Yukon River summer chum salmon run will be managed according to the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan [5 AAC 05.362]. This plan was modified at the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting to manage the summer chum salmon fisheries based on in-river run goals. The department shall use the best available data, including preseason run projections, test fishing indices, age and sex composition, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size for the purpose of implementing this plan as follows:

- (1) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 600,000 or less, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the:
 - (A) commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum fisheries; and

- (B) subsistence summer chum salmon fisheries except if indicators show an individual escapement goal in a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;
- (2) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 600,000 but not more than 700,000, then,
 - (A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum fisheries; and
 - (B) the department shall manage the subsistence directed summer chum salmon fishery so the drainage wide optimal escapement shall be no less than 600,000 summer chum salmon; except, if indicators show that individual escapement goals within tributaries within a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a less restrictive directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;
- (3) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 700,000 but not more than 1,000,000 then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a subsistence fishery according to the fishing seasons and periods specified in 5 AAC 05.360(b); and
 - (A) if indicators show that individual escapement goals within tributaries within a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed summer chum fishery for commercial, sport and personal use in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;
- (4) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 1 million, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a drainage wide commercial fishery with the harvestable surplus distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest ranges established by the Board (Table 1).

Escapement monitoring projects include Pilot Station sonar, Anvik River sonar, the Kaltag River tower operated by the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Fisheries and Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA); the Nulato River tower funded by BSFA and the department; the East Fork Andreafsky and Gisasa River weirs and Henshaw Creek weir operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and Clear Creek tower operated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The department will manage the summer chum salmon run conservatively, based upon the assumption that poor marine productivity will continue in 2001. The commercial harvest outlook is zero to 300,000 summer chum salmon for Districts 1-6 combined. If the abundance of summer chum salmon in 2001 is similar to that in 2000, the commercial harvest will be zero.

3.5.1 Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

It is anticipated the chinook salmon directed commercial fishery will not open in 2001. If a harvestable surplus beyond subsistence needs is identified, the commercial fishery would open on a staggered basis, beginning with District 1, when escapement and subsistence needs are assured to be met. The management strategy is to be conservative due to the poor outlook. Lower Yukon River set net test fishing catch per unit effort (CPUE) data will be used for relative timing and abundance information. The median cumulative test fishing CPUE on the date of the first commercial opening is 6.46 from 1989 through 1999, with a range from 2.36 to 15.80. Typically, the first opening occurs just after the first quarter point of the run. Conservative management this season would delay any possible commercial fishing to sometime beyond the mid point of

the run. Any restrictions to the subsistence fishery may prevent commercial fishing from occurring. The opening of the commercial fishing season is normally announced 48 hours in advance to provide fishermen and buyers adequate time to prepare. Subdistrict 5-A is managed by the *Tanana River Salmon Management Plan*, which does not provide a commercial fishing season for chinook and summer chum salmon. The amendments to the Tanana River management plan adopted by the Board in 1998 allow Subdistrict 5-A commercial activities only during the fall season.

3.5.2 Anvik River Management Area

Although a summer chum salmon directed commercial fishery it is not anticipated in 2001, the Anvik River may be opened to summer chum salmon commercial fishing if the escapement exceeds 500,000 fish. Fishing periods in the Anvik River will be based upon size of the surplus available for commercial harvest. The intent is to allow a harvest of Anvik River summer chum salmon that is in excess of the spawning escapement goal and to decrease harvest pressure on non-Anvik River summer chum salmon stocks. Permit holders are reminded that all chinook salmon caught during Anvik River commercial fishing periods must be released alive.

3.5.3 District 6

Due to the poor outlook and limited management tools available, the department will be conservative in management of District 6. Although a commercial fishery is not anticipated in 2001, District 6 may be opened to commercial fishing if a harvestable surplus beyond escapement and subsistence needs is identified. Any restrictions to the subsistence fishery may prevent commercial fishing from occurring. Inseason salmon run strength and timing indicators in the Tanana River drainage include test fish wheel catches near the village of Nenana, aerial surveys, and performance of subsistence fisheries. In addition, chinook and summer chum salmon escapement information collected by tower counting projects on the Chena and Salcha Rivers will be used for inseason run assessment.

3.6 FALL CHUM AND COHO SALMON COMMERCIAL SEASON

The 2001 outlook for fall chum salmon is poor and a commercial fishery for either chum or coho salmon is unlikely. In managing the 2001 Yukon River fall chum salmon run, the department will follow guidelines provided by the Board in 5 AAC 01.249. *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. This plan incorporates U.S. / Canada treaty obligations for border passage of fall chum salmon agreed to be necessary for escapement and prioritized uses. The plan stipulates that directed fall chum salmon commercial fisheries be allowed only when the run size projection is greater than 675,000 fall chum salmon for the entire Yukon River drainage (Appendix Table B.5). Additionally, only the harvestable surplus above 625,000 fall chum salmon may be targeted in the Alaska commercial fisheries. The department is anticipating a run of less than 500,000 fall chum salmon drainage-wide. Since the 2001 preseason projection is below that level needed to provide for an Alaskan commercial fishery, no commercial fall chum salmon fishery is anticipated and subsistence restrictions are likely.

The department will rely primarily on inseason run assessment tools to determine the 2001 fall chum salmon run size. As in past years, the department will participate in inseason YRDFA conference calls to gather information from the public and to discuss the status of the run and possible management actions. In accordance with the management plan, inseason indicators should project that the 2001 run will be

greater than 675,000 fall chum salmon prior to allowing commercial fishing activities. Therefore, given the recent run failures, fishermen and processors should be prepared for no commercial openings during the 2001 fall salmon season.

The 2001 coho salmon fishery will be managed consistent with regulation 5 AAC 05.369. *Yukon River Drainage Coho Salmon Management Plan*. The Yukon River coho salmon fishery is complicated because coho salmon have a slightly later, but overlapping, run timing with that of the fall chum salmon run. The coho salmon management plan allows a directed coho salmon commercial fisheries only under very special and unique situations. However, fall chum salmon will continue to be the primary species of management concern during the fall season and will likely pre-empt any possible commercial coho salmon fishery in 2001.

Based on the coho salmon management plan, the department may allow a directed coho salmon fishery in years when the return of coho salmon is above average, the fall chum salmon run size is greater than 625,000 and no directed fall chum salmon commercial fishing has occurred or is expected to occur. According to the fall chum salmon management plan, a run size of 675,000 fall chum salmon or greater is needed prior to consideration of a directed fall chum salmon commercial fishery. When the conditions of the coho salmon management plan are applied to past years, directed coho salmon commercial fisheries would have been allowed in only one of the past 20 years.

In most years, the commercial harvest of coho salmon will continue to be based upon the timing, frequency, and duration of periods established for the more numerous fall chum salmon. It is very unlikely that the conditions outlined in the coho salmon management plan will occur in 2001. Any commercial harvest of coho salmon in 2001 will most likely be dependent upon the abundance of fall chum salmon and accompanying management strategies used to harvest fall chum salmon.

3.6.1 Districts 1, 2, and 3

The department will monitor the run inseason by using the lower Yukon River set gillnet test fishery, Mountain Village drift gillnet test fishery (operated by Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council), Pilot Station sonar passage estimates, subsistence catch reports, and, if available, commercial catch statistics. This information, in combination with the preseason expectation, will be the basis for initial management decisions for Districts 1, 2 and 3 commercial fisheries. If poor marine survival conditions affect the 2001 fall chum salmon similarly to the effects in the past three years, a run size similar to last year is expected in 2001 for fall chum salmon that would not allow commercial fishing activities.

Because of the uncertainty in large river preseason projections, the department relies heavily on inseason run assessment tools to determine the returning fall chum salmon run size. The department will monitor the returns of earlier running summer chum salmon in the Yukon River, along with the returns of salmon in Norton Sound and the Kuskokwim River. If the returns of these other runs in 2001 indicate that poor marine survival conditions are continuing, a poor fall chum salmon return to the Yukon River will also be assumed. However, if the returns of these other runs are larger than expected, indicating better survival, the department will be more optimistic for the return of Yukon River fall chum salmon beginning to enter the Yukon River in mid-July. The first projection based on inseason indicators will not be made until late July or early August.

As a reminder to fishermen, if fall chum salmon return much stronger than expected, regulations require District 1 commercial fishermen to register for the coastal Set Net Only Area prior to opening of the fall commercial season. Registration "sign-in" sheets will be available at Lower Yukon Area village post offices and at the department's field office in Emmonak. A regulation adopted prior to the 1998 season allows fishermen to transfer into and out of the Set Net Only Area. After initial registration for the Set Net Only Area, a permit holder may not commercially fish for salmon in the remainder of District 1, or in another

district, until 72 hours after re-registration with a Department of Fish and Game employee. After the first fall season commercial fishing period, a permit holder not registered for the Set Net Only Area may transfer to the Set Net Only Area after re-registration with a department employee. The re-registration and 72-hour waiting period begins at the time the notification is received and noted by the department.

3.6.2 District 4

In January 2001, the Board of Fisheries took regulatory action to include Subdistrict 4-A with the Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C district guideline harvest range which remains 5,000 to 40,000 fall chum salmon. In managing the District 4 commercial fishery, the department will initially use the assessment of the overall Yukon River fall chum salmon run size and timing. In years with average run timing and a commercially harvestable surplus, the first fall season commercial fishing period normally occurs in early to mid-August. In the unlikely event a directed coho salmon commercial fishery is allowed, a commercial fishing period in Subdistrict 4-A may only occur on or after August 20 and would close by September 15. No more than 32 hours of commercial fishing time may be allowed per week. With the expectation of a poor fall chum salmon run, no commercial fishery for either fall chum or coho salmon is anticipated during the 2001 season.

3.6.3 Subdistrict 5-A

Management of Subdistrict 5-A is outlined in regulation 5 AAC 05.367. *Tanana River Salmon Management Plan*. This management plan directs the department to manage Subdistrict 5-A based on the stock status and timing of salmon bound for the Tanana River because it is believed the majority of fall chum and coho salmon harvested in Subdistrict 5-A are bound for the Tanana River. The allocative elements of the amendments to the Tanana River management plan adopted by the Board were originally developed by Subdistrict 5-A and District 6 fishermen and supported by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

The amendments to the Tanana River management plan adopted by the Board allow Subdistrict 5-A commercial activities only during the fall season. Additionally, commercial fishing is only allowed in years when it is assessed that a harvestable surplus of fall chum salmon is available. In most years, the Subdistrict 5-A commercial fishery would be managed for a guideline harvest range of 0 to 4,000 pounds of fall chum salmon roe. No waste of carcasses would be permitted. In adopting this regulation, the Board recognized that the carcasses produced by this commercial roe fishery should be easily absorbed by the relatively large subsistence take of households in the village of Tanana.

The department will initially manage the fall season in Subdistrict 5-A based on the run strength and timing of the overall Yukon River fall chum salmon return. However, depending on inseason Tanana River fall chum salmon run strength and timing indicators, the department does have the authority to manage Subdistrict 5-A for a different harvest level within the guideline harvest range or to exceed the guideline harvest range. Due to the limited inseason run assessment tools currently available, the department will be conservative in management of Subdistrict 5-A fisheries.

In years with average run timing and a commercially harvestable surplus, the first fall season commercial salmon fishing period normally occurs in early to mid-September. The 2001 fall chum salmon run is also expected to be poor for the Tanana River drainage and therefore no commercial fall fishery is anticipated.

3.6.4 Subdistricts 5-B, 5-C and 5-D

In managing the commercial fishery, the department will initially use the assessment of the overall Yukon River fall chum salmon run size and timing. The USFWS "Rapids/Rampart" mark and recapture project, along with upper Yukon River drainage escapement monitoring projects, will be reviewed when

determining the targeted commercial harvest levels for the subdistricts. In years with average run timing and a commercially harvestable surplus, the first fall season commercial fishing period in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C normally occurs in mid-August with Subdistrict 5-D starting later in August or early September. There will likely be no commercial fall salmon fishery in these subdistricts during the 2001 season because of the anticipated poor fall chum salmon runs throughout the drainage.

3.6.5 District 6

Tanana River inseason run strength indicators include test fish catches from a Subdistrict 5-A fish wheel located on the south (left) bank of the Yukon River near the village of Tanana, and from Tanana River test fish wheels located near the mouth of the Kantishna River and near the village of Nenana. The performance of subsistence, personal use, and if available, commercial fisheries is also taken into consideration when they occur.

Additionally, the department will continue to conduct the Tanana River drainage fall chum salmon tagging study, which has expanded in scope. In the past, the project provided not only a post-season abundance estimate of fall chum salmon bound for the upper Tanana River drainage, upstream of the confluence of the Kantishna River, but also provided periodic inseason abundance estimates which were used in managing this stock. During the past four years, the Tanana River tagging fish wheels were located above the confluence of the Kantishna River. However, the project in 1999 had been expanded to include estimating the number of fall chum salmon bound for the Kantishna River. The expanded scope of the Tanana River tagging project in 1999 required relocation of one tagging fish wheel to a site on the Kantishna River. The project plan for 2001 includes the addition of a recovery wheel in the upper Kantishna River and two recovery wheels in the Toklat River.

The department will initially manage the fall season in District 6 based on fall chum salmon guideline harvest ranges and the run strength and timing of the overall Yukon River fall chum salmon return. However, depending on inseason Tanana River fall chum salmon run strength and timing indicators, the department does have the authority to manage District 6 for a different level within the guideline harvest range or to exceed the guideline harvest range. Due to the limited inseason run assessment tools currently available and the expectations of a poor fall chum salmon run, the department will be conservative in management of District 6 fisheries. The first fall season commercial salmon fishing period normally occurs in early to mid-September, but no periods are likely during the 2001 fall salmon season.

4.0 U.S./CANADA YUKON RIVER SALMON PANEL AND NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations were initiated in 1985 between the U.S. and Canada regarding a Yukon River salmon treaty. On March 29, 2001 the United States and Canada initialed an agreement that set salmon harvest share target ranges based on a post-season assessment of run strength for chinook and fall chum salmon into the Canadian mainstem of the Yukon River. Furthermore, in 2001, the Alaska and Canadian fisheries will be managed consistent with stock rebuilding and conservation objectives that had been jointly developed out of concerns for the health of these salmon stocks. The escapement objective and harvest sharing of Canadian-origin Yukon River chinook salmon is:

1. The Parties agree that the spawning escapement objective for the rebuilt chinook salmon stock in the Mainstem Yukon River shall be 33,000 to 43,000 chinook salmon.
2. Harvest of Mainstem Yukon River chinook salmon shall be shared beginning in 2001, and continuing until amended by the Parties, on the following basis:

- a. when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is between zero and 110,000 chinook salmon, the guideline harvest range for Canada shall be between 20% and 26% of the TAC;
- b. when the TAC is above 110,000 chinook salmon, the guideline harvest range for Canada shall be between 20% and 26% of 110,000, i.e., 22,000 and 28,600 chinook salmon, plus 50% of the portion of TAC greater than 110,000 chinook salmon.

The escapement objective and harvest sharing of Canadian-origin Yukon River fall chum salmon is:

1. The Parties agree that the escapement objective for the rebuilt chum salmon stock:
 - a. in the Mainstem Yukon River in Canada shall be greater than 80,000 chum salmon; and
 - b. upstream from the Fishing Branch River weir site shall be 50,000 to 120,000 chum salmon.
2. Harvest of Mainstem Yukon River chum salmon shall be shared beginning in 2001, and continuing until amended by the Parties, on the following basis:
 - a. when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is between zero and 120,000 chum salmon, the guideline harvest range for Canada shall be between 29% and 35% of the TAC;
 - b. when the TAC is above 120,000 chum salmon, the guideline harvest range shall be between 29% and 35% of 120,000, i.e., 34,800 and 42,000 chum salmon, plus 50% of the portion of the TAC greater than 120,000 chum salmon.

Under the agreement, the U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel (Panel) will be established to implement the Agreement. The focus of the Panel is on the salmon stocks that spawn in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage. The Panel makes recommendations to the management agencies in Alaska and Canada. The Panel also administers a Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Fund).

A key component of the Agreement is administration of the Fund by the Panel to address the restoration and enhancement of Canadian spawned salmon stocks. The U.S. will contribute \$1,200,000 per year into the Fund. Monies from the Restoration and Enhancement Fund shall be disbursed by the Yukon River Panel according to the following rules:

1. 50% of the annual available funds shall be disbursed on Canadian programs and projects approved by the Canadian section of the Yukon River Panel based on recommendations by the Canadian section of the JTC and found by the Yukon River Panel as a whole to be consistent with the **Principles and Guidelines for Restoration, Conservation and Enhancement Programs and Projects** until amended by the parties; and
2. The balance of annual available funds shall be disbursed at the direction of the Yukon River Panel as a whole based on recommendations by the JTC as a whole.

In 2001, the monies from the original Fund (\$400,000) have been allocated to projects in both the Alaska and Canada portion of the drainage.

While the Whitehorse text will be reviewed in Washington and Ottawa before the final agreement is signed, the Delegations agreed that their intent was to apply the elements of the initialed text as soon as possible for organizational and planning purposes. The Yukon River Panel, to be established, will meet

this fall to resume management recommendations. The Panel advises the United States and Canadian Governments on conservation and management of the salmon originating in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River.

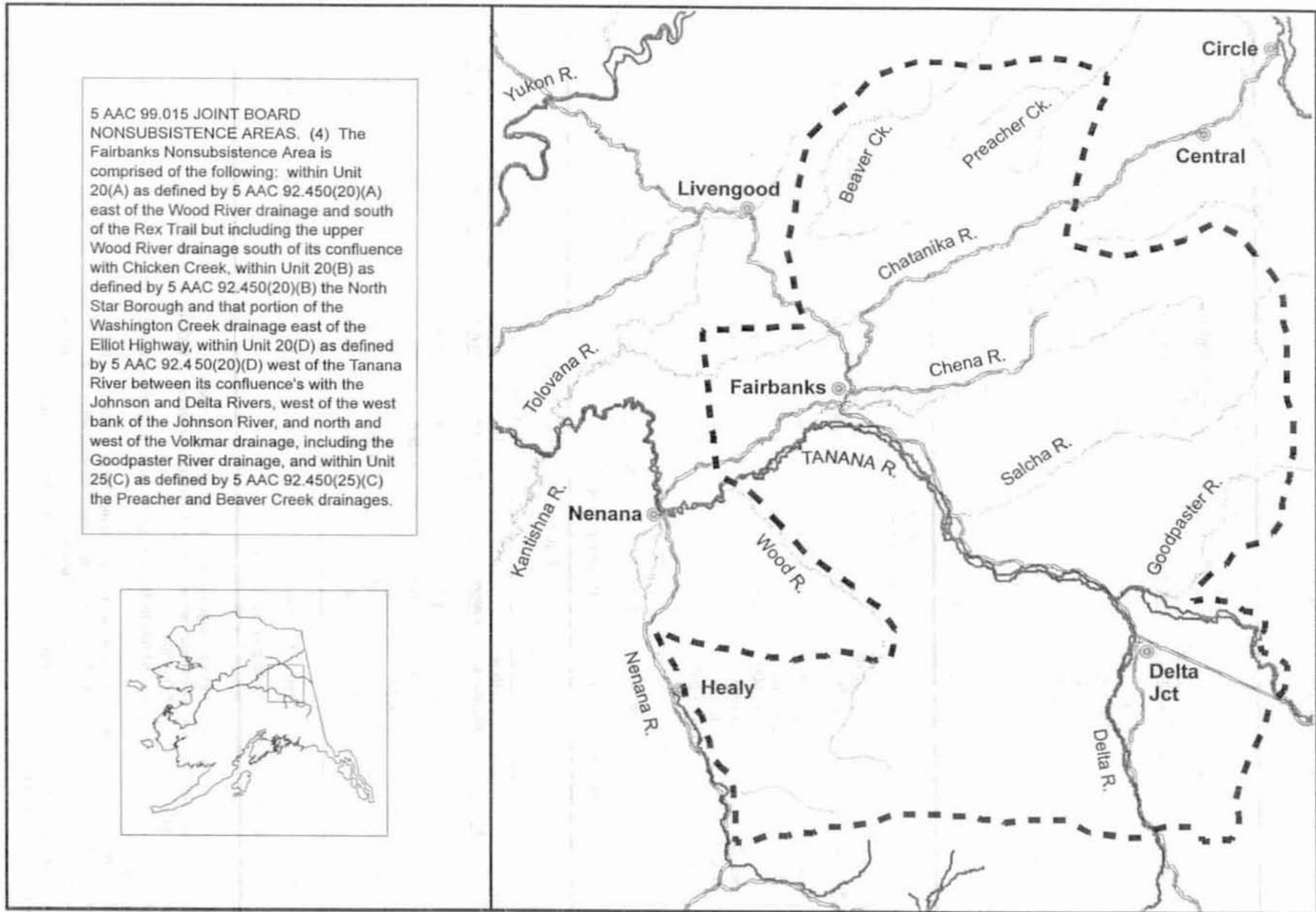


Figure 2. Map of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

Table 1. Guideline harvest ranges and mid-points for commercial harvest of Yukon River chinook, summer chum and fall chum salmon in Alaska, 2001.

Chinook Salmon						
District or Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range a					
	Lower		Mid-Point		Upper	
	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent
1 and 2	0 to 60,000	89.1	90,000	91.6	120,000	92.9
3	0 to 1,800	2.7	2,000	2.0	2,200	1.7
4	0 to 2,250	3.3	2,550	2.6	2,850	2.2
5B and C	0 to 2,400	3.6	2,600	2.6	2,800	2.2
5D	0 to 300	0.4	400	0.4	500	0.4
6	0 to 600	0.9	700	0.7	800	0.6
Total	67,350	100.0	98,250	100.0	129,150	100.0

Summer Chum Salmon						
District or Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range b					
	Lower		Mid-Point		Upper	
	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent
1 and 2	0 to 251,000	62.8	503,000	62.9	755,000	62.9
3	0 to 6,000	1.5	12,500	1.6	19,000	1.6
4A ^c	0 to 113,000	28.3	225,500	28.2	338,000	28.2
4B, C	0 to 16,000	4.0	31,500	3.9	47,000	3.9
5B, C, D	0 to 1,000	0.3	2,000	0.3	3,000	0.3
6	0 to 13,000	3.3	25,500	3.2	38,000	3.2
Total	400,000	100.0	800,000	100.0	1,200,000	100.0

Anvik River Management Area roe cap of 100,000 pounds^d

Fall Chum Salmon						
District or Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range e					
	Lower		Mid-Point		Upper	
	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent
1, 2, and 3	60,000	82.5	140,000	71.2	220,000	68.6
4B, C	5,000	6.9	22,500	11.4	40,000	12.5
5B and C	4,000	5.5	20,000	10.2	36,000	11.2
5D	1,000	1.4	2,500	1.3	4,000	1.2
6	2,750	3.8	11,625	5.9	20,500	6.4
Total	72,750	100.0	196,625	100.0	320,500	100.0

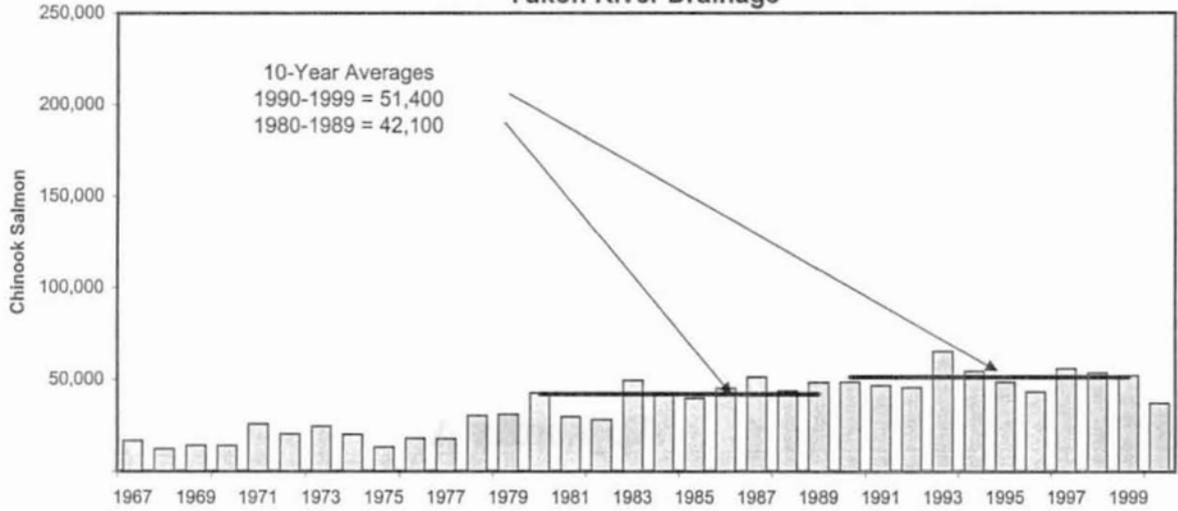
Subdistrict 5A range of 0 to 4,000 pounds of roe^f

- a The chinook salmon guideline harvest ranges have been in effect since 1981.
- b Summer chum salmon guideline harvest ranges were established in February 1990 based on the average harvest shares from 1975-1989.
- c Or the equivalent roe poundage of 61,000 to 183,000 pounds or some combination of fish and pounds of roe.
- d The current Anvik River Management Area roe cap was established in March 1996.
- e The current fall chum salmon guideline harvest ranges were established in 1990.
- f Subdistrict 5A was removed from the guideline harvest ranges for chinook and summer chum and a separate guideline harvest range of 0-4,000 pounds of fall chum salmon roe was established in November 1998.

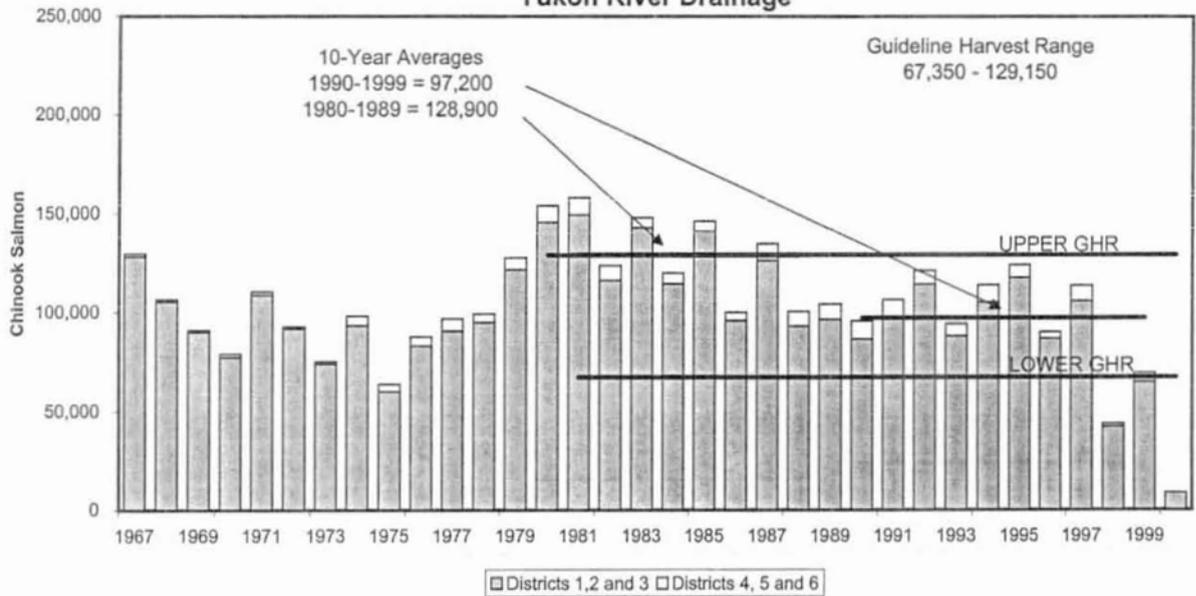
Appendix A

Historical Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon Harvest and Escapement Information

**Chinook Salmon Subsistence Harvest
Yukon River Drainage**

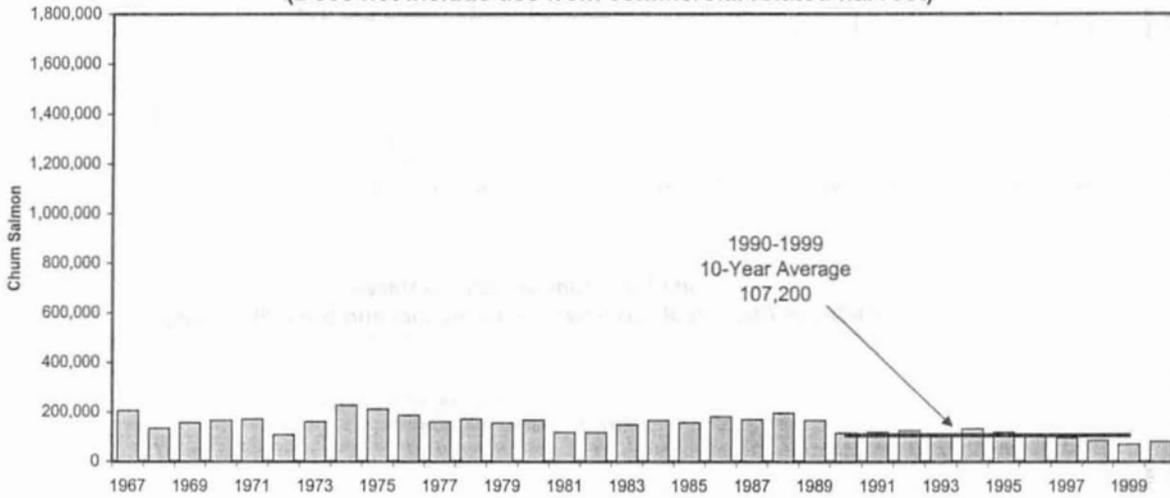


**Chinook Salmon Commercial Harvest
Yukon River Drainage**

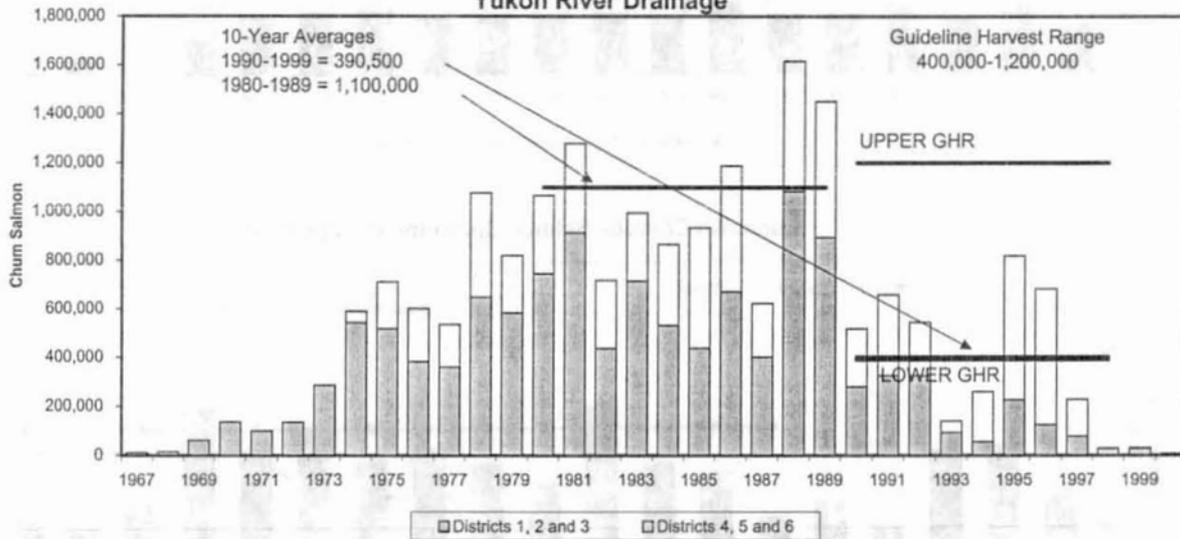


Appendix A.1. Subsistence and commercial harvest of chinook salmon, Yukon Area, 1967-2000.

**Summer Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvest
Yukon River Drainage
(Does not include use from commercial related harvest)**

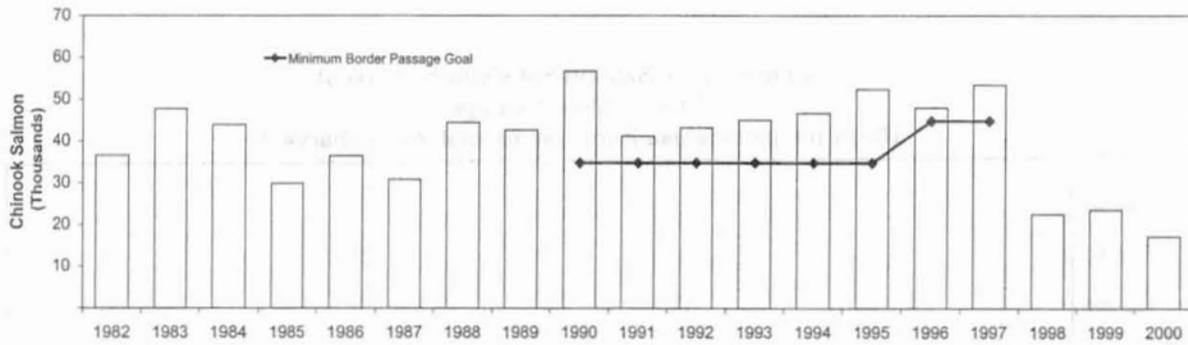


**Summer Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest
Yukon River Drainage**

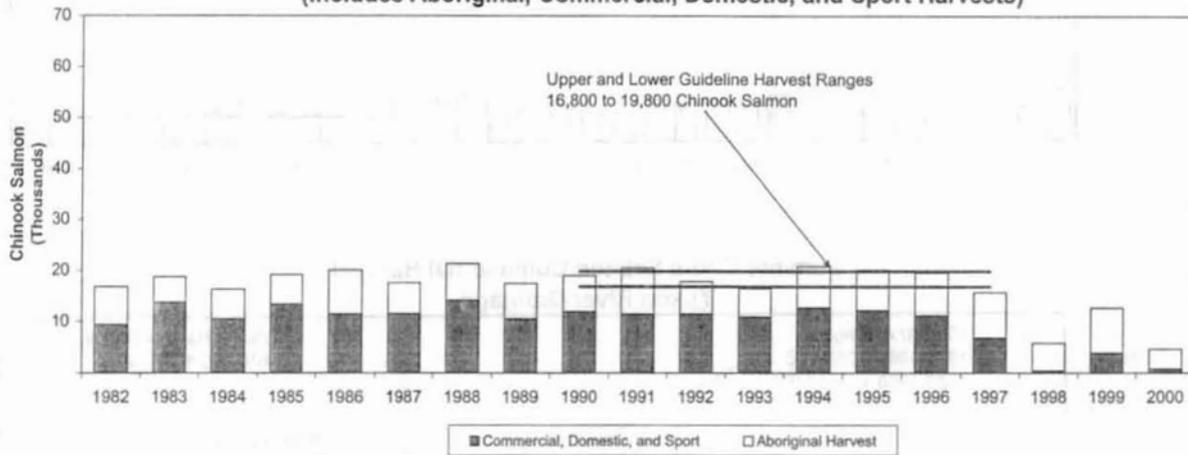


Appendix A.2. Subsistence and commercial harvest of summer chum salmon, Yukon Area, 1967-2000.

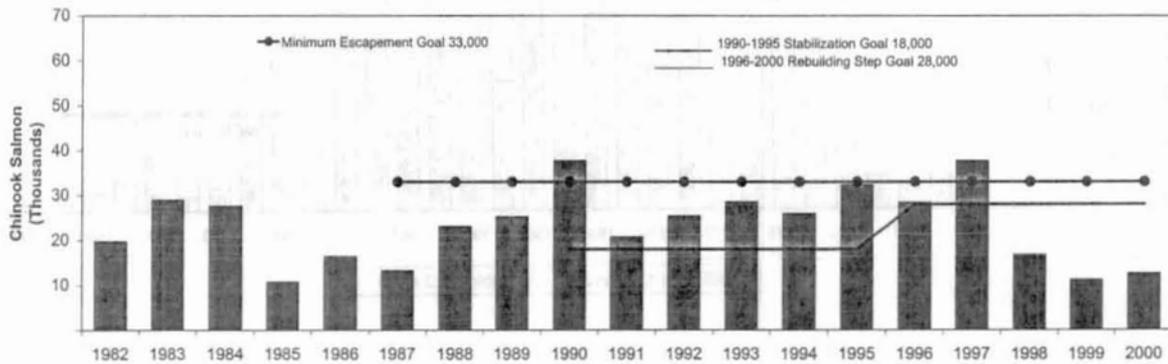
**CANADIAN MAINSTEM YUKON RIVER
Chinook Salmon Border Passage**



**Canadian Chinook Salmon Harvest
(Includes Aboriginal, Commercial, Domestic, and Sport Harvests)**

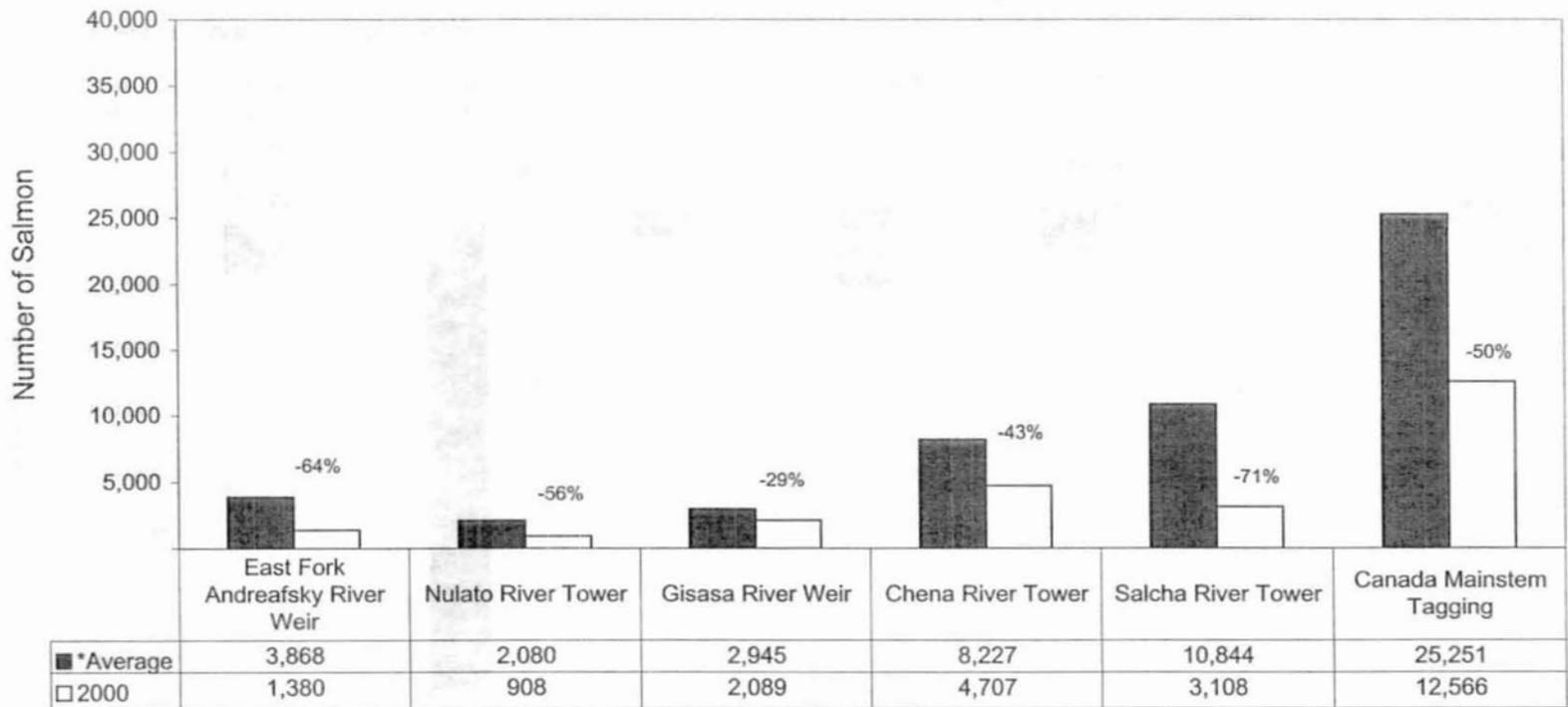


Canadian Chinook Salmon Spawning Escapement



Appendix A.3. Canadian mainstem border passage, harvest and escapement estimates, 1982-2000; and stabilization and rebuilding step escapement goals.

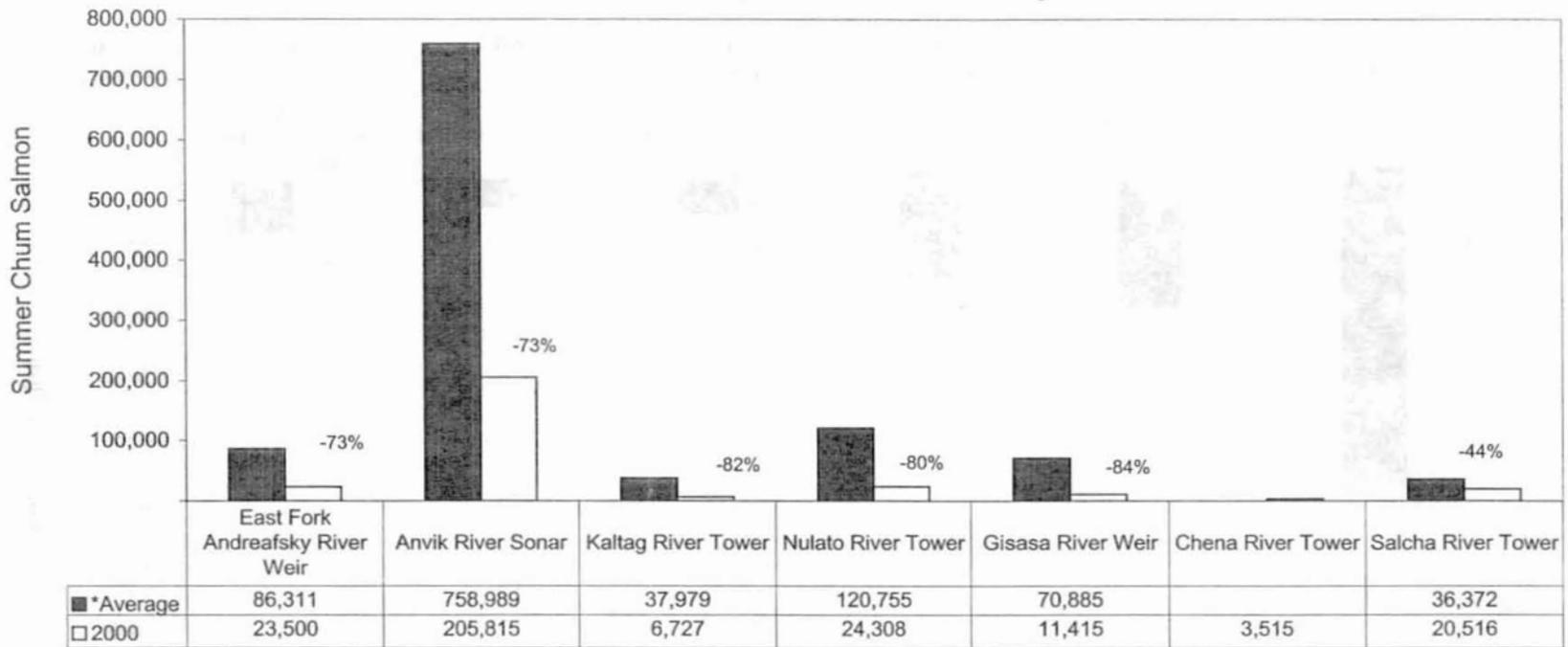
Yukon River Drainage Chinook Salmon Escapement



*Recent 5-Year Average (1995-1999)

Appendix A.4. Selected chinook salmon escapements, 5-year average compared to 2000, Yukon River drainage.

Yukon River Drainage Summer Chum Salmon Escapement



*Recent 5-Year Averages (1995-1999)

Appendix A.5. Selected summer chum salmon escapements, 5-year average compared to 2000, Yukon River drainage.

Chinook Salmon Commercial Harvest a									
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison of 2000 to 5-Yr. Average	Recent 5-Year Average (1995-1999)
Y-1		76,106	56,642	66,384	25,413	37,145	4,735	-91%	52,338
Y-2		41,458	30,209	39,363	16,806	27,070	3,783	-88%	30,981
<i>Subtotal Y1 & Y2</i>	60,000-120,000	117,564	86,851	105,747	42,219	64,215	8,518	-90%	83,319
Y-3	1,800-2,200	0	0	0	0	538	0		108
Y-4A		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Y-4BC	2,250-2,850	499	137	1,457	0	1,437	0		706
<i>Subtotal Y-4</i>	2,250-2,850	499	137	1,457	0	1,437	0		706
Y-5ABC	2,400-2,800	2,753	2,309	3,071	475	2,189	0		2,159
Y-5D	300-500	489	448	607	42	415	0		400
<i>Subtotal Y-5</i>	2700-3100	3,242	2,757	3,678	517	2,604	0		2,560
Y-6	600-800	2,747	447	2,728	963	689	0		1,515
<i>Total Alaska</i>	67,350-129,150	124,052	90,192	113,610	43,699	69,483	8,518	-90%	88,207
Canada b	16,800-19,800	20,091	19,546	15,717	5,101	12,455	3,562	-76%	14,582

Chinook Salmon Escapement									
Project	Spawning Escapement Goal	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison of 2000 to 5-Yr. Average	Recent 5-Year Average (1995-1999)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir		5,841	2,955	3,186	4,011	3,347	1,380	-64%	3,868
East Fork Andreafsky River Aerial c	>1,500 SEG j	1,635		1,140	1,027		1,018		N/A
West Fork Andreafsky River Aerial c	>1,400 SEG j	1,108	624	1,510	1,249 g	870 g	427		N/A
Pilot Station Sonar		240,000		224,000	134,000	188,000	69,000		N/A
Anvik River Index Aerial c	>500 SEG j	1,147	709	2,690	648 g	950 g	1,394		N/A
Nulato River Tower		1,412	756	4,766	1,536	1,932	908	-56%	2,080
Nulato River Aerial c	>1,300 SEG j	1,649			1,053				N/A
Gisasa River Weir		4,023	1,952	3,764	2,356	2,631	2,089	-29%	2,945
Gisasa River Aerial c	>600 SEG j	410		144 g	889 g				N/A
Chena River Tower/MR Tagging	2,800-5,700 BEG k	9,680 f	6,833 f	13,390	4,745	6,485	4,707 f	-43%	8,227
Chena River Index Aerial c		3,039	2,112	3,303	386 g	2,412	934 g		N/A
Salcha River Tower/MR Tagging	3,300-6,500 BEG k	13,643	7,958 f	18,396	5,027	9,198	3,108	-71%	10,844
Salcha River Index Aerial c		3,734	4,800	3,457 g	1,923 g	3,608	2,478 g		N/A
Canada Mainstem Tagging	>28,000	32,262	28,409	37,683	16,750	11,153	12,566	-50%	25,251
ESCAPEMENT INDEX h		66,861	48,863	81,185	34,425	34,746	24,758	-53%	53,216

a Commercial harvest includes the estimated harvest of females to produce roe sold.

b Total harvest for all fisheries in Canadian mainstem Yukon River.

c Aerial surveys rated good to fair unless noted otherwise.

d Two year average, 1996-1997.

f Mark and recapture tagging estimate; tower counts were minimum/incomplete due to late installation and/or early removal of project, or high water events/weather conditions.

g Aerial surveys rated poor/incomplete; data not comparable to other years.

h The escapement index is the summed escapements for East Fork Andreafsky weir, Nulato tower, Gisasa weir, Chena and Salcha towers, and Canada mainstem tagging.

j SEG = "Sustainable escapement goal", as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Policy

k BEG = "Biological escapement goal", as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Policy. Range established in 2001.

*Summer Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest a									
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison of 2000 to 5-Yr. Average	Recent 5-Year Average (1995-1999)
Y-1		142,266	92,506	59,915	21,270	16,181	3,315	-95%	66,428
Y-2		83,817	30,727	18,242	6,848	11,702	3,309	-89%	30,267
Subtotal Y-1 & Y-2	251,000-755,000	226,083	123,233	78,157	28,118	27,883	6,624	-93%	96,695
Y-3	6,000-19,000	0	1,534	0	0	0	0		307
Anvik River	Est. Fish	54,744	84,863	13,548	0	0	0		30,591
	lbs. Roe	100,000	43,477	76,318	13,067	0	0		27,572
Y-4A	Est. Fish	419,688	356,938	100,389	0	0	0		175,403
	lbs. Roe	61,000-183,000	159,252	181,050	56,301	0	0		85,321
Y-4BC	Est. Fish	80,155	68,639	10,734	0	1,267	0		32,159
	lbs. Roe	16,000-47,000	43,345	37,882	4,863	0	0		28,697
Subtotal Y-4		554,587	425,577	111,123	0	1,267	0		218,511
Y-5ABC		316	209	125	110	114	0		175
Y-5D		0	127	12	0	1	0		28
Subtotal Y-5	1,000-3,000	316	336	137	110	115	0		203
Y-6	Est. Fish	37,428	46,890	25,287	570	148	0		22,065
	lbs. Roe	13,000-38,000	9,475	18,332	9,036	140	24	0	7,401
Total	400,000-1,200,000	818,414	682,233	226,252	28,798	29,413	6,624	-98%	357,422

*Summer Chum Salmon Escapement									
Project	Spawning Escapement Goal	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison of 2000 to 5-Yr. Average	Recent 5-Year Average (1995-1999)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir	65,000-135,000 BEG k	172,148	108,450	51,139	67,591	32,229	23,500	-73%	86,311
Pilot Station Sonar		3,638,000		1,411,000	746,000	939,000	433,000		N/A
Anvik River Sonar	400,000-800,000 BEG k	1,339,418	933,240	609,118	471,865	441,305	205,815	-73%	758,989
Kaltag River Tower		77,193	51,269	48,018	8,113	5,300	6,727	-82%	37,979
Nulato River Tower		236,890	129,694	157,975	49,140	30,076	24,308	-80%	120,755
Gisasa River Weir		136,886	157,589	31,800	18,228	9,920	11,415	-84%	70,885
Clear Creek Tower		116,735	100,912	76,454	212 c	11,300	18,698	-81%	98,034 d
Chena River Tower		3,519 c	12,810 c	9,439 c	5,901 c	9,165 c	3,515 c		N/A
Chena River Aerial b		185 f	2,061	594 f	24 f	520 f	107 f		N/A
Salcha River Tower		30,784	74,827	35,741	17,289	23,221	20,516	-44%	36,372
Salcha River Aerial b		934 f	9,722	3,968 f	370 f	150 f	124 f		N/A
ESCAPEMENT INDEX g		1,993,319	1,455,069	933,791	632,226	551,216	295,796	-73%	1,113,124

a Commercial harvest includes the estimated harvest of females to produce roe sold, except for Districts 3 and 4, which also includes the estimated number of males harvested to produce roe sold.

b Aerial surveys rated good to fair unless noted otherwise.

c Project counts not comparable to other years; incomplete counts due to early removal of project or high water events/weather conditions.

d Three year average 1995-1997.

f Aerial surveys rated poor/incomplete; data not comparable to other years.

g The escapement index is the summed escapements for East Fork Andreafsky weir, Anvik sonar, Gisasa weir, Kaltag, Nulato, and Salcha towers.

k BEG = "Biological escapement goal", as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Policy. Range established in 2001.

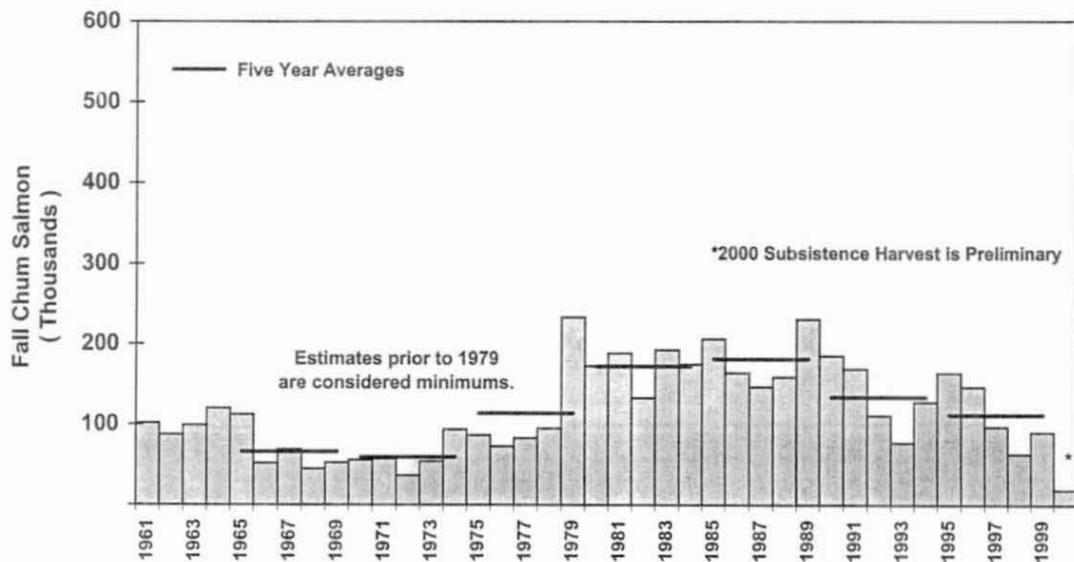
CHAPTER 2
MATERIALS
2.1

Appendix B

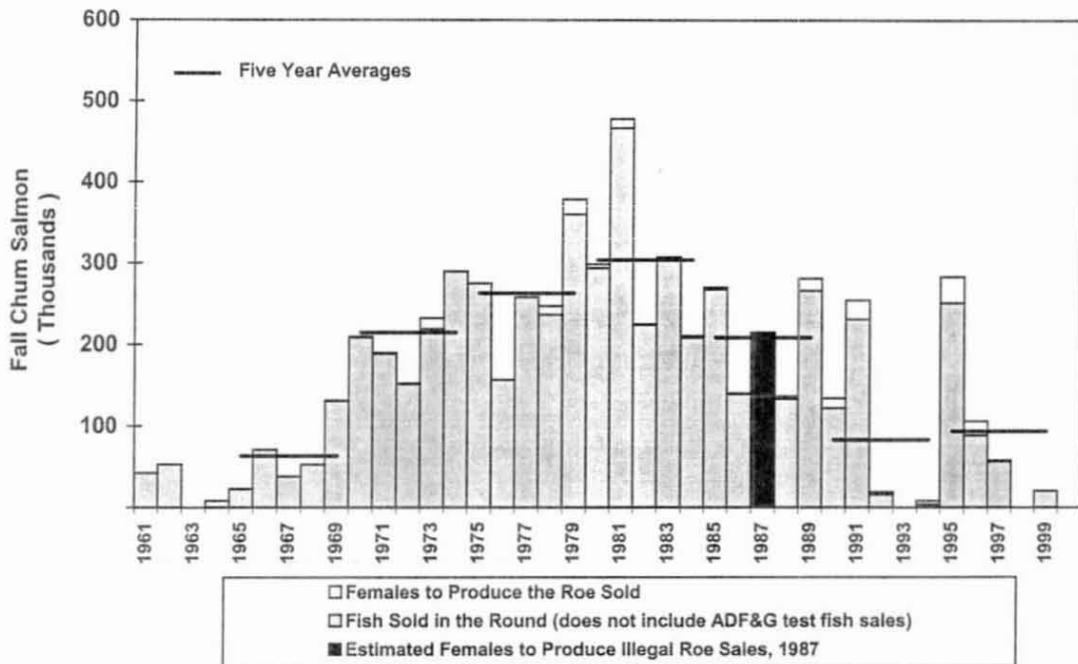
Historical Fall Chum and Coho Salmon Harvest and Escapement Information

ALASKAN PORTION OF YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE AREA, FALL CHUM SALMON

SUBSISTENCE HARVEST



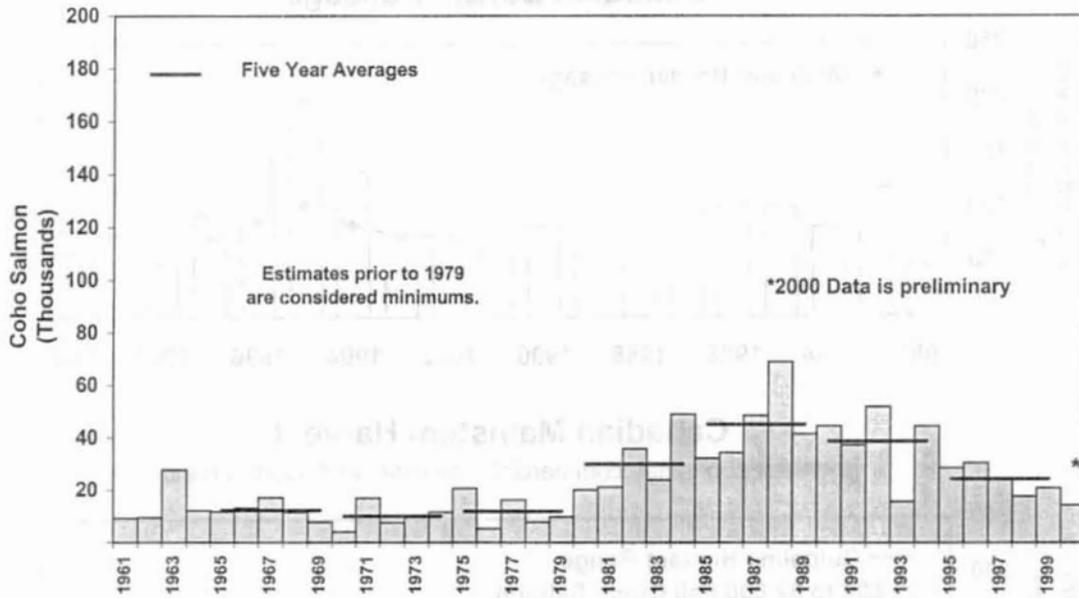
COMMERCIAL HARVEST



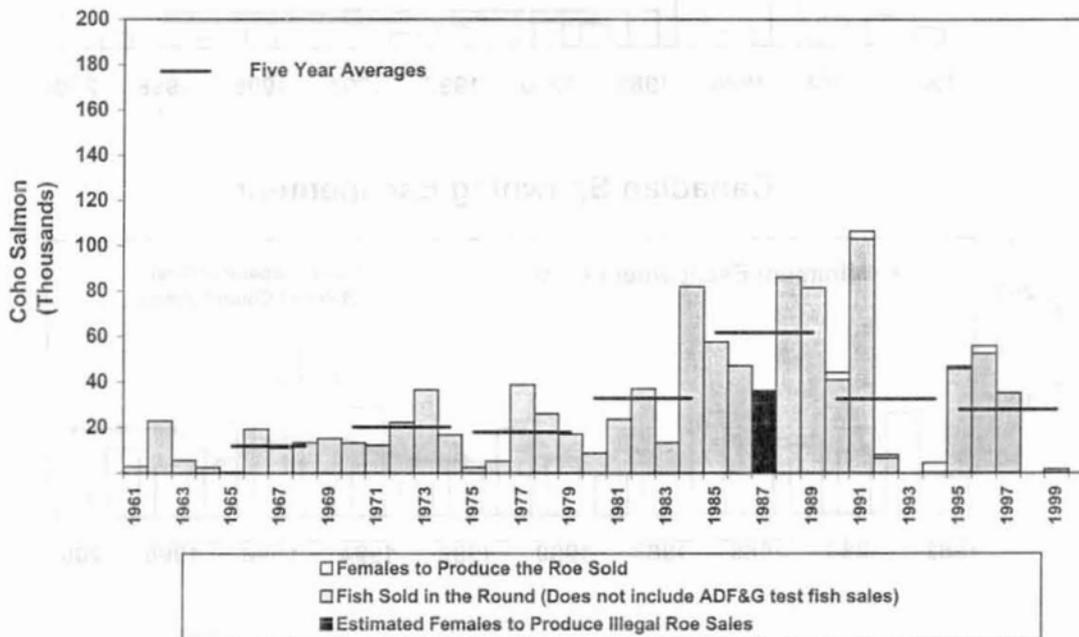
Appendix B.1. Subsistence and commercial harvest of fall chum salmon, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska, 1961 to 2000.

ALASKAN PORTION OF YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE COHO SALMON

SUBSISTENCE AND PERSONAL USE HARVEST



COMMERCIAL HARVEST

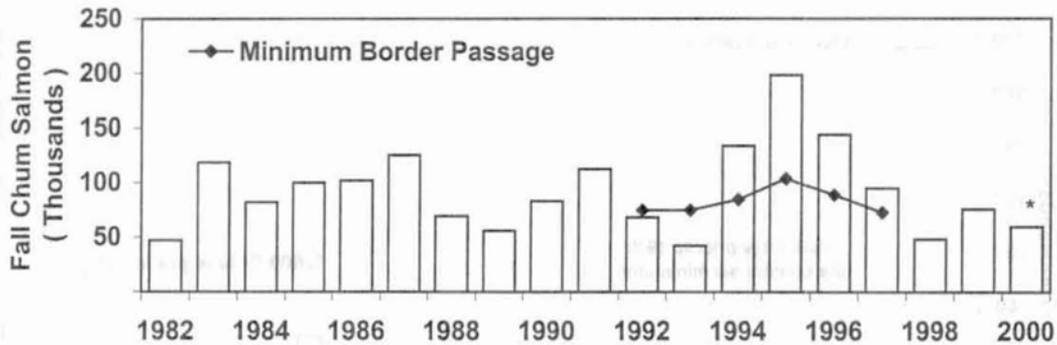


Appendix B.2. Subsistence and personal use, and commercial harvest of coho salmon, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska, 1961-2000.

CANADIAN MAINSTEM YUKON RIVER

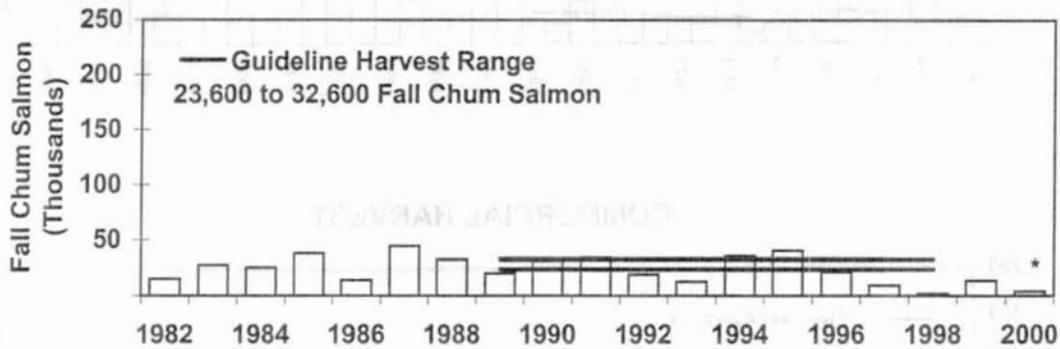
Fall Chum Salmon

Canadian Border Passage

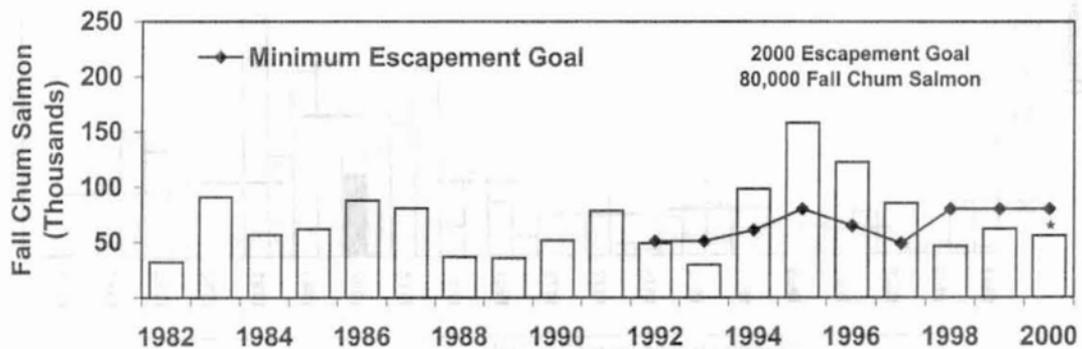


Canadian Mainstem Harvest

(Includes aboriginal, commercial, domestic, and sport harvests)



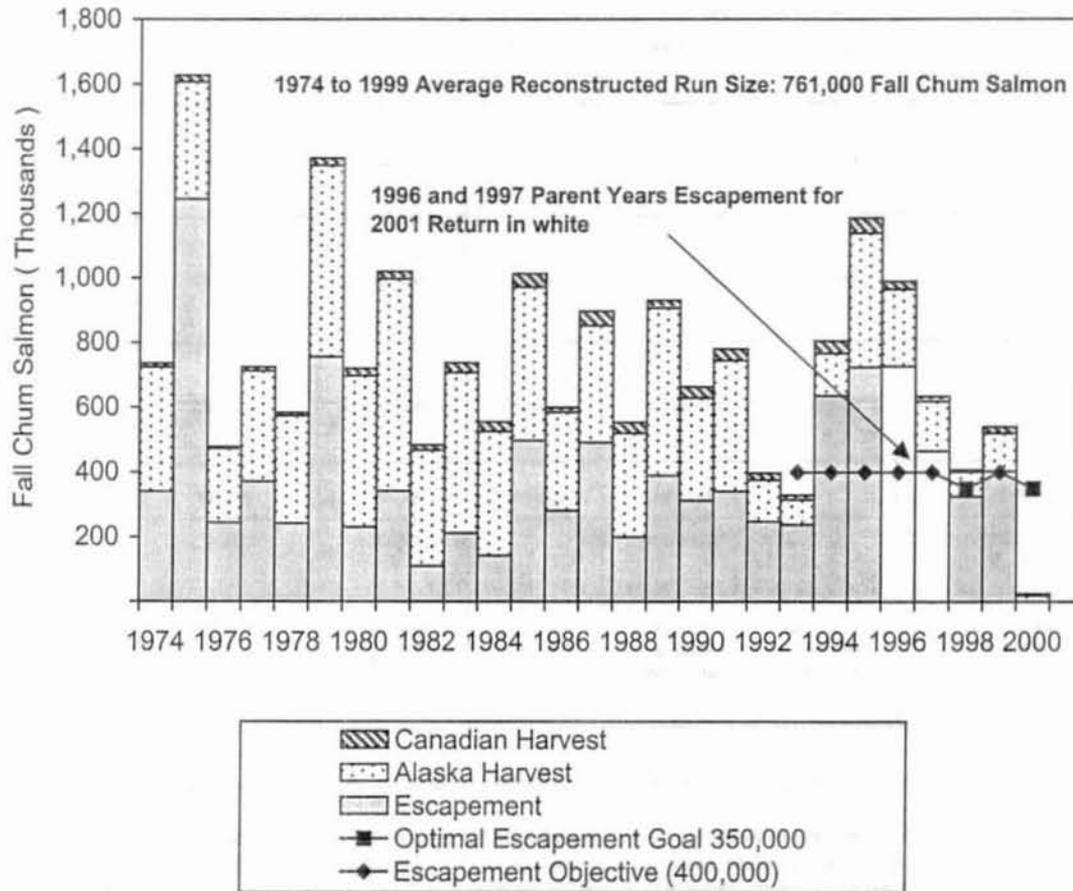
Canadian Spawning Escapement



* 2000 data is preliminary

Appendix B.3. Canadian mainstem border passage, harvest and escapement estimates, 1982 to 2000, and targeted goals for the rebuilding period from 1992 through 1997, along with the minimum escapement goals for 1998 to 2000.

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE ALASKA AND CANADA FALL CHUM SALMON HARVEST AND ESCAPEMENT



The drainage wide escapement goal is 400,000 fall chum salmon established in 1993. In 1996 an optimal escapement goal of 350,000 fall chum salmon was established in the Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan and was utilized in 1998 and 2000. Historical escapement and harvest estimates as provided in the Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Run Size, 1999, Memorandum, by L. Barton, dated April 21, 2000.

Appendix B.4. Estimated harvest and escapement, fall chum salmon, Yukon River drainage, 1974 to 1999. Year 2000 includes only harvest data.

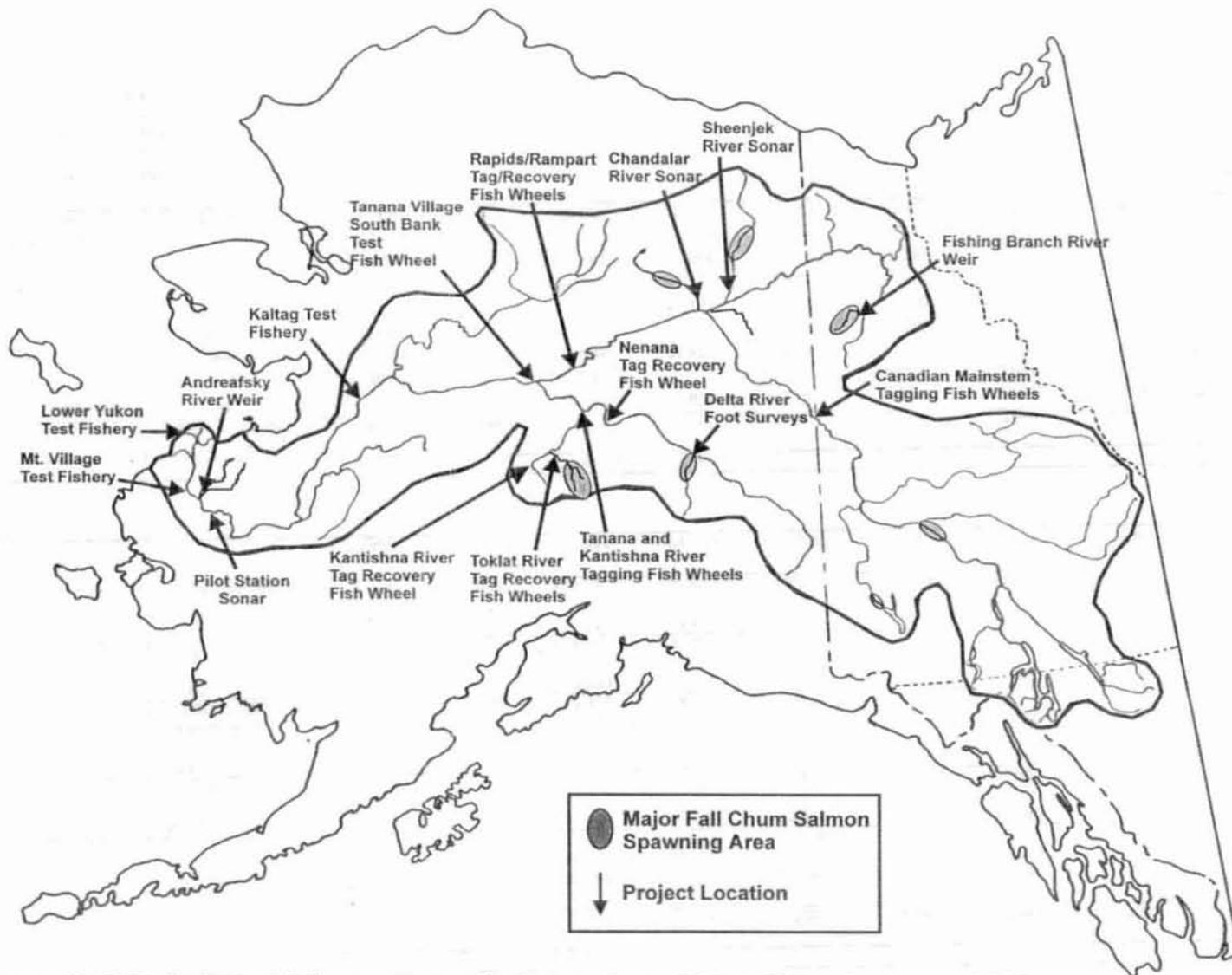
Appendix B.5. The Yukon River drainage fall chum salmon management plan, 2001.

Run Size Estimate <i>b</i> (Point Estimate)	Recommended Management Action <i>a</i> Fall Chum Salmon Directed Fisheries				Targeted Drainagewide Escapement
	Commercial	Personal Use	Sport	Subsistence	
350,000 or Less	Closure	Closure	Closure	Closure <i>c</i>	350,000
350,001 to 450,000	Closure	Closure	Closure	Restrictions <i>d</i>	350,000
450,001 to 550,000	Closure	Closure	Closure	Restrictions <i>d</i>	375,000
550,001 to 600,000	Closure	Closure <i>e</i>	Closure <i>e</i>	Restrictions <i>d</i>	400,000
600,001 to 675,000	Closure	Normal Fishing Schedules	Retention Allowed	Normal Fishing Schedules	400,000 or More
Greater Than 675,000	Commercial Fishing Considered <i>f</i>	Normal Fishing Schedules	Retention Allowed	Normal Fishing Schedules	400,000 or More

- a* Considerations for the Toklat River and Canadian Mainstem rebuilding plans may require more restrictive management actions.
- b* The department will use the best available data including pre-season projections, mainstem river sonar passage estimates, test fisheries indices, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size.
- c* The department may, by emergency order, allow subsistence chum salmon directed fisheries where indicator(s) suggest that the escapement goal(s) in that area will be achieved.
- d* The department may, by emergency order, allow a less restrictive or a normal subsistence fishing schedule in areas that indicator(s) suggest that the escapement goal(s) in that area will be achieved.
- e* The department may, by emergency order, allow personal use and sport fishing in areas that have normal subsistence fishing schedules and indicator(s) that suggest the escapement goal(s) in that area will be achieved.
- f* When the projected run size is more than 675,000 chum salmon, the department may allow for a drainage-wide commercial fishery with the targeted harvest of the surplus above 625,000 chum salmon distributed by district or subdistrict proportional to the guideline established in harvest range 5 AAC 05.365. The department shall distribute the harvest at levels below the low end of the guideline harvest range by district or subdistrict proportional to the mid-point of the guideline harvest range.

5 AAC 05.365. (4) manage the commercial fishery during the fall chum salmon season for a guideline harvest range of 72,750 to 320,500 chum salmon, distributed as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (A) Districts 1, 2 and 3: | 60,000 to 220,000 chum salmon; |
| (B) Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: | 5,000 to 40,000 chum salmon; |
| (C) Subdistrict 5-A: | 0 to 4,000 pounds chum salmon roe; |
| (D) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: | 4,000 to 36,000 chum salmon; |
| (E) Subdistrict 5-D: | 1,000 to 4,000 chum salmon; |
| (F) District 6: | 2,750 to 20,500 chum salmon. |



Appendix B.6. Selected fall season monitoring projects, Yukon River drainage, 2001.

Appendix B.7. Fall chum salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparison, Yukon River drainage, 2000. Data is considered preliminary for 2000. a

Fall Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest b											
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1995 to 1999)
Y-1		0	0	79,345	33,629	27,483	0	9,987	0	N/A	30,089
Y-2		0	0	90,831	29,651	24,326	0	9,703	0	N/A	30,902
Y-3		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-1, Y-2, & Y-3	60,000-220,000	0	0	170,176	63,280	51,809	0	19,690	0	-	60,991
Y-4BC	5,000-40,000	0	0	8,731	2,918	2,458	0	681	0	N/A	2,958
Subtotal Y-4	5,000-40,000	0	0	8,731	2,918	2,458	0	681	0	-	2,958
Y-5ABC	4,000-36,000	0	0	26,054	17,461	3,069	0	0	0	N/A	9,317
Y-5D	1,000-4,000	0	3,630	3,979	4,397	851	0	0	0	N/A	1,845
Subtotal Y-5	5,000-40,000	0	3,630	30,033	21,858	3,920	0	0	0	-	11,162
Y-6	2,750-20,500	0	4,369	74,117	17,574	0	0	0	0	N/A	18,338
Subtotal Y-6		0	4,369	74,117	17,574	0	0	0	0	-	18,338
Total Alaska	72,750-320,500	0	7,999	283,057	105,630	58,187	0	20,371	0	N/A	93,449
Canada ^c		12,422	35,354	40,111	21,329	9,286	1,742	13,506	3,795	-	17,195

Fall Chum Salmon Escapements											
Project	Spawning Escapement Goal	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1995 to 1999)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir ^d	N/A	-	-	2,584	2,978	2,048	1,276	763	619	-68%	1,930
Pilot Station Sonar	N/A	295,303	-	1,247,541	-	623,367	397,157	510,891	253,512	-50%	510,472 ^f
South Fork Koyukuk River Weir	N/A	-	-	19,485	21,651	11,340	-	-	-	-	17,492 ^g
Toklat River	>33,000	27,838	76,057	54,513	18,264	14,511	15,605	4,551	5,095	-76%	21,489
Delta River	>11,000	19,857	23,777	20,587	19,758	7,705	7,804	16,534	2,095	-86%	14,478
Chandalar River Sonar		-	-	280,999	208,170	199,874	75,811	88,662	65,894	-61%	170,703
Sheenjek River Sonar	>64,000	42,922	153,013	235,269	247,965	80,423	32,894	14,229	30,022	-80%	149,913
Canada Fishing Branch River Weir	50,000-120,000	28,707	65,247	51,971	77,278	26,959	13,248	12,904	5,053	-86%	36,472
Canada Mainstem Tagging	>80,000	29,743	98,358	158,092	122,429	85,439	46,305	62,035	55,803	-41%	94,860

a Data from the 1999 AMR and 2000 JTC used when available.

b Commercial harvest includes the estimated harvest of females to produce roe sold.

c Total harvest for all fisheries in Canadian mainstem Yukon River (Aboriginal, Domestic, and Commercial).

d (1993-1998) Data taken from 2001 Yukon Area Fall Season Data Notebook (Table C.1).

f Three year average 1997 to 1999.

g Three year average 1995 to 1997.

Appendix B.8. Coho salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparison, Yukon River drainage, 1993-2000. Data is considered preliminary for 2000. a

Coho Salmon Commercial Harvest										
District/Subdistrict	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1995 to 1999)
Y-1	0	0	21,625	27,705	21,450	0	855	0	N/A	14,156
Y-2	0	0	18,488	20,974	13,056	1	746	0	N/A	10,504
Y-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-1, Y-2, & Y-3	0	0	40,113	48,679	34,506	1	1,601	0	-	24,660
Y-4A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Y-4BC	0	0	0	161	814	0	0	0	N/A	195
Subtotal Y-4	0	0	0	161	814	0	0	0	-	195
Y-5ABC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Y-5D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Y-6	0	4,451	6,900	7,142	0	0	0	0	N/A	3,699
Subtotal Y-6	0	4,451	6,900	7,142	0	0	0	0	-	3,699
Total Alaska	0	4,451	47,013	55,982	35,320	1	1,601	0	-	28,553

Coho Salmon Escapements											
Project	Spawning Escapement Goal	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1995 to 1999)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir	N/A	-	-	10,901	8,037	9,462	5,417	2,963	8,199	11%	7,356
Pilot Station Sonar	N/A	41,620	-	154,462	-	153,502	176,792	94,532	183,192	29%	141,609 ^b
Geiger Creek	N/A	138	410	142	233	274	157	29	142	-15%	167
Barton Creek Weir	N/A	141	2,000	192	0	-	-	-	-	-	583 ^c
Lost Slough	N/A	484	944	4,169	2,040	1,524	1,360	1,002	55	-97%	2,019
Mainstem Nenana	N/A	419	1,648	2,218	2,171	1,446	2,771	745	66	-96%	1,870
Wood Creek	N/A	666	1,317	500	2,416	1,464	353	-	385	-68%	1,210 ^d
Seventeen Mile Slough	N/A	581	2,909	2,972	3,668	1,996	1,413	662	879	-59%	2,142
Delta Clearwater River	>9,000	10,875	62,675	20,100	14,075	11,525	11,100	10,975	9,225	-32%	13,555
Clearwater Lake & Outlet	N/A	3,525	3,425	3,625	1,125	2,775	2,775	-	1,025	-63%	2,745 ^d

a Data from the 1999 AMR and 2000 JTC used when available.

b Three year average, 1997 to 1999.

c Four year average, 1993 to 1996.

d Five year average 1994 to 1998.

Appendix C

Yukon Area Fishery Regulation Changes

Appendix C.1. Yukon Area fishery regulation changes adopted at the 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting.

YUKON AREA FISHERY REGULATION CHANGES

To keep Yukon Area salmon fishermen, processors, and other interested individuals informed of current fishing regulations, the Department of Fish and Game (department) is providing this partial summary of regulatory changes recently taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board). For more information concerning these or other regulations, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries office in Anchorage at 907-267-2131 or in Fairbanks at 907-459-7274. *The following summary is for informational purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect, or fully interpret reasons for the Board's actions.*

These regulations do not appear in print yet, but will be in effect for the 2001 Yukon-Northern Area commercial and subsistence fisheries.

5 AAC 01.236 CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL SUBSISTENCE USES OF FISH STOCKS. The board finds that in the Yukon-Northern Area the following amounts are reasonably necessary for subsistence use:

Chinook Salmon	45,500 - 66,704
Summer Chum Salmon	83,500 - 142,192
Fall Chum Salmon	89,500 - 167,100
Coho Salmon	20,500 - 51,980

5 AAC 05.360. YUKON RIVER KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Board added wording regarding management objectives and data used to manage king salmon fisheries including a subsistence salmon fishing schedule. Additionally, the Board set the percentage of harvest allocated by district or subdistrict when the harvestable surplus is in excess of subsistence needs, but below the established commercial guideline harvest ranges.

(a) The objective of this management plan is to provide the department with guidelines to manage for the sustained yield of the Yukon River king salmon resource. The department shall use the best available data, including preseason run projections, test fishing indices, age and sex composition, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size for the purpose of implementing this plan as follows:

(1) the department may open a directed commercial king salmon fishery when increasing subsistence or test net catches of king salmon have occurred over a seven to 10 day period;

(2) the department shall manage the Yukon River commercial king salmon fishery for a guideline harvest level of 67,350 to 129,150 king salmon, distributed as follows:

- (A) District 1 and 2: 60,000 – 120,000 king salmon;
- (B) District 3: 1,800 – 2,200 king salmon;
- (C) District 4: 2,250 – 2,850 king salmon;
- (D) District 5:
 - (i) Subdistrict 5-B and 5-C: 2,400 – 2,800 king salmon;
 - (ii) Subdistrict 5-D: 300 – 500 king salmon; and
- (E) District 6: 600 – 800 king salmon.

(3) when the projected king salmon harvest range for District 1 – 6 combined is below the low end harvest level from zero to 67,350 fish, the department shall allocate the commercial harvest available by percentage for each district as follows:

- (A) Districts 1 and 2: 89.1 percent;
- (B) District 3: 2.7 percent;
- (C) District 4: 3.3 percent;
- (D) Subdistrict 5-A, 5-B and 5-C: 3.6 percent;
- (E) Subdistrict 5-D: 0.4 percent; and
- (F) District 6: 0.9 percent.

(4) a person may not sell king salmon roe taken in Subdistrict 4-A.

(b) The subsistence fishery in the Yukon River drainage will be based on a schedule implemented chronologically, consistent with migratory timing as the run progresses upstream. The commissioner may alter this schedule for conservation by emergency order, if preseason or inseason run indicators show this is necessary. The schedule for subsistence salmon fishing in the Yukon River drainage is as follows:

(1) Coastal District, Koyukuk River and Subdistrict 5-D: seven days a week;

- (2) Districts 1 – 3: two 36-hour periods a week;
- (3) District 4, and Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: two 48-hour periods a week;
- (4) Subdistrict 5-A, and District 6: two 42-hour periods a week; and
- (5) Old Minto Area: five days a week.

(c) If inseason run strength suggests a sufficient abundance is present and a commercial fishery is warranted, then the subsistence fishing schedule shall revert to the schedule specified in 5 AAC 01.210.

(d) The sport fishery in the Yukon River drainage will be managed consistent with the commercial and subsistence fisheries and when sport fishing restrictions are necessary for conservation the restrictions will be based on the level of abundance as specified in this section.

5 AAC 05.362. YUKON RIVER SUMMER CHUM SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Board added wording regarding management objectives and data used to manage summer chum salmon fisheries including a subsistence salmon fishing schedule.

Additionally, the Board set the percentage of harvest allocated by district or subdistrict when the harvestable surplus is in excess of subsistence needs, but below the established commercial guideline harvest ranges. Amendments included 4 trigger ranges of up to 600,000 fish, 600,000 to 700,000 fish, 700,000 to 1,000,000 fish and over 1,000,000 fish to be used to guide management actions.

(a) The objective of this management plan is to provide the department with guidelines to manage for the sustained yield of the Yukon River summer chum salmon resource. The department shall use the best available data, including preseason run projections, test fishing indices, age and sex composition, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size for the purpose of implementing this plan as follows:

(1) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 600,000 or less, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the

(A) commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum fisheries; and

(B) subsistence summer chum salmon fisheries except if indicators show an individual escapement goal in a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;

(2) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 600,000 but not more than 700,000, then

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum fisheries; and

(B) the department shall manage the subsistence directed summer chum salmon fishery so the drainage wide optimal escapement shall be no less than 600,000 summer chum salmon; except, if indicators show that individual escapement goals within tributaries within a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a less restrictive directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;

(3) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 700,000 but not more than 1,000,000 then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a subsistence fishery according to the fishing seasons and periods specified in 5 AAC 05.360(b); and

(A) if indicators show that individual escapement goals within tributaries within a district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict will be met, then the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed summer chum fishery for commercial, sport and personal use in that district, subdistrict or a portion of either a district or subdistrict;

(4) when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 1 million, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a drainage wide commercial fishery with the harvestable surplus distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest levels established in this section;

(5) when the projected summer chum salmon harvest level for Districts 1 – 6 combined is between zero to 400,000, the department shall allocate the commercial harvest available by percentage for each district or subdistrict as follows:

- (A) Districts 1 and 2: 62.9 percent;
- (B) District 3: 1.6 percent;
- (C) Subdistrict 4-A: 28.2 percent;
- (D) Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C: 3.9 percent;
- (E) District 5: 0.3 percent;
- (G) District 6: 3.2 percent.

(b) The department shall manage the commercial summer chum fishery for a guideline harvest level of 400,000 – 1,200,000 summer chum to be distributed as follows:

- (1) Districts 1 and 2: 251,000 – 755,000 summer chum salmon;
- (2) District 3: 6,000 – 19,000 summer chum salmon;
- (3) Subdistrict 4-A: 113,000 – 338,000 summer chum salmon; or the equivalent roe poundage of 61,000 – 183,000 pounds or a combination of pounds of roe and numbers of fish;
- (4) Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: 16,000 – 47,000 summer chum salmon;
- (5) Subdistricts 5-B, 5-C, and 5-D: 1,000 – 3,000 summer chum salmon;
- (5) District 6: 13,000 – 38,000 summer chum salmon.

(c) All salmon caught by CFEC permit holders during a commercial fishing period when salmon roe was sold, shall be reported in numbers of fish on ADF&G fish tickets. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 05.368, no more than 183,000 pounds of summer chum salmon roe from Subdistrict 4-A may be sold annually; if this roe cap is reached fishing may continue, but all salmon must be sold in the round.

5 AAC 01.210. FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS. The Board added a fishing schedule for the subsistence salmon fisheries. The schedule will be implemented chronologically, consistent with migratory timing as the run progresses upstream. This schedule may be altered by emergency order if pre-season or in-season indicators indicate it is necessary for conservation.

Yukon River Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule

Area	Regulatory subsistence fishing periods
Coastal District; Koyukuk River drainage; and Subdistrict 5-D	seven days/week
Districts 1 -3	two 36 hour periods/week
District 4; Subdistricts 5-B and C	two 48 hour periods/week
Subdistrict 5-A; District 6	two 42 hour periods/week
Old Minto Area	five days/week

5 AAC 01.2XX. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS. The Board provided the department emergency order authority for waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limit; and special provisions for hook and line subsistence salmon and resident species in the AVCP Region.

5 AAC 01.249. YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FALL CHUM SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 01.248. THE TOKALT RIVER FALL CHUM SALMON REBUILDING MANAGEMENT PLAN. The current plans were reauthorized with the removal of the expiration date.

5 AAC 01.240. MARKING AND USE OF SUBSISTENCE-TAKEN SALMON. New language was adopted defining the use of chinook salmon as primarily human food with specific provisions for feeding them to dogs based on unfitness for human consumption. Chinook salmon may be retained for dog food after July 10 in the Koyukuk River drainage, after July 20 in District 6 and Tanana River drainages, and after August 10 in Subdistrict 5-D, upstream of Circle City.

5 AAC 01.210. FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS. The lower boundary of the "Old Minto Area" within the Tanana River (Subdistrict 6-B) subsistence fishing area was extended to the downstream end of Upper Tolovana Island within the Tanana River to accommodate changes in access to the area due to navigable water routes.

5 AAC 01.220. LAWFUL GEAR AND GEAR SPECIFICATIONS, 5 AAC 77.171. LAWFUL GEAR FOR PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHING, 5 AAC 77.173. PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS, and 5 AAC 77.190. PERSONAL USE WHITEFISH AND SUCKER FISHERY. Subsistence fishing gear changes included adding dip nets as a gear type to be available during times of salmon conservation and the "livebox" regulation utilized in times of conservation was modified to reduce the time from 12 hours to 6 hours maximum for checking the livebox. The Board also provided the department emergency order authority to restrict subsistence gillnets to no greater than six inch mesh size for the conservation of chinook salmon.

Gear specifications limiting operating distance within 200 feet of other gear types was clarified by specifying that there was no minimum distance between two operating dip nets.

Additionally the Board allowed personal use harvests of whitefish and suckers by dip nets that are strictly monitored through individual permit requirements.

5 AAC 01.245. RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN. Lower Yukon fishermen may subsistence fish in different districts other than the one District they are registered to commercial fish in.

5 AAC 01.225. WATERS CLOSED TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING. Beaver and Birch Creeks were removed from waters closed to subsistence fishing regulations. No subsistence fishing permits will be required in these creeks. However, gillnets used for subsistence fishing were restricted to those 3 inches or less stretch mesh to protect salmon.

5 AAC 05.369. YUKON RIVER COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The current plan was reauthorized with the removal of the expiration date.

5 AAC 05.367. TANANA RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The one 42-hour commercial fishing period per week provision was changed to not more than 42 hours fishing per week to provide more management flexibility. Language was also added to clarify that the Tanana River would be managed to achieve spawning escapement goals.

5 AAC 05.365. YUKON RIVER FALL CHUM SALMON GUIDELINE HARVEST RANGES. Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Guideline Harvest Range of 5,000 to 40,000 for Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C shall include Subdistrict 4-A and will be listed as District 4.

5 AAC 05.350. CLOSED WATERS. The closed area was redefined to be a rectangular box one mile south of Black River extending seaward one mile and enclosing the area to one mile north of Black River.

5 AAC 05.350. CLOSED WATERS. Enlarge closed area at Andreafsky River mouth.

5 AAC 05.200. FISHING DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS. (e)(1) Subdistrict 5-A consists of the Yukon River drainage from a point opposite the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek upstream along the south bank of the river to the easternmost edge of the Tanana River mouth and includes the following islands: **Second, Corbusier, Sixmile, Deet'laa', Swanson, Blind, Basco, Sword, Leonard, Still, Tanana and Mission.**

(e)(2) Subdistrict 5-B consists of the Yukon River drainage from the westernmost edge of Illinois Creek upstream along the north bank of the river to a point opposite the easternmost edge of the Tanana River mouth upstream along both banks of the Yukon River to the westernmost tip of Garnet Island and includes the following islands: **Willow I, II and III, Steamboat, Grant, Darwin, Little Joker, Station, Tozitna, Circle, Bull and Long.**

5 AAC 77.010. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL RESTRICTIONS. Allow fyke nets (hoop traps) as a legal personal use fishing gear for whitefish and suckers.