

**2004 YUKON AREA  
SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, AND COMMERCIAL  
SALMON FISHERIES OUTLOOK AND  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**



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By

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Commercial Fisheries Division  
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

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**2004  
YUKON AREA  
SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, AND COMMERCIAL  
SALMON FISHERIES OUTLOOK AND  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

**Emmonak Seasonal Field Office:  
(June through August)**  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Commercial Fisheries Division  
P.O. Box 127  
Emmonak, Alaska 99581  
**Telephone: (907) 949-1320**  
**Fax: (907) 949-1830**  
**Recorded Information (907) 949-1731**

**Fairbanks Office:**  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Commercial Fisheries Division  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
**Telephone: (907) 459-7274**  
**Fax: (907) 452-1668**

**Anchorage Office:**  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Commercial Fisheries Division  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
**Telephone: (907) 267-2109**  
**Fax: (907) 267-2442**

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To familiarize yourself with the federal regulations you should consult the *Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska* for details. Copies may be obtained at federal offices. Calling the federal agencies is also recommended as in-season closures or temporary regulatory changes can occur at any time and may not be reflected in their 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- 801-5108

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

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document provides the 2004 outlook for Yukon Area salmon runs as well as management strategies for the subsistence, personal use, and commercial salmon fisheries. Subsistence fishing in portions of the Yukon Area is under joint management authority of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 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 in the Yukon Area.

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 may be 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 Yukon River 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.

Chinook, chum, coho, and pink salmon are harvested in Yukon River commercial and subsistence fisheries. In recent years chinook salmon have become the primary commercial species in the Yukon River, even though chum and coho salmon once were important commercial species as well. Yukon River chum salmon consists of an earlier and typically more abundant summer chum salmon run and a later fall chum salmon run. No directed commercial fishing has occurred for pink salmon within the Yukon River. Aboriginal, commercial, domestic, and sport salmon fisheries also occur in Canada, with fishery management directed by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

## **2.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2004**

### **2.1 CHINOOK SALMON**

Yukon River chinook salmon return primarily as age-5 and age-6 fish, although age-4 and age-7 fish also contribute to the run. Spawning ground escapements in 1998 and 1999, the brood years producing 5- and 6-year-old fish returning in 2004, were near the upper end of the escapement goals in the Chena and Salcha Rivers but below the escapement objectives in Canada. However, the 5-year-old component in 2003 was average, indicating improved production. The years of 1985 and 1986 had similar escapements, which produced the 1991 run. The run in 1991 supported a near average subsistence and commercial harvest (47,000 and 105,000 fish). Escapement objectives established at that time were also met. With the exception of 2003, the return of chinook salmon since 1998 has been below average in strength indicating poor production from parent year escapements. Assuming a normal return of 6-year-old fish, and a weaker return of 5-year-old fish, the 2004 run is expected to be average to below average.

Overall, the 2004 chinook salmon run is anticipated to be improved over recent poor years of

1998-2002. Given the uncertainties associated with recent declines in productivity, it is anticipated the run will provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and a below average commercial harvest. Management of the fishery will be based on inseason assessments of the run. If inseason indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska could range from 20,000 to 60,000 chinook salmon. The upper end of this range of commercial catch is near the 10-year (1994-2003) average of approximately 62,800 chinook salmon.

## **2.2 SUMMER CHUM SALMON**

The summer chum salmon run in 2004 will be dependent on the production of the escapements from 2000 (age-4 fish) and 1999 (age-5-fish). Spawning escapements in 1999 were slightly above the low end of the recently established Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range in the Anvik River and below the BEG in the East Fork Andreafsky River. The 2000 run of summer chum salmon was the poorest on record and none of the escapement goals were met. Although these escapements were poor, escapements in the range of 200,000 to 250,000 have produced runs ranging from 1.1 to 1.3 million summer chum salmon. It appears that recent declines in the productivity of Yukon River summer chum salmon contributed in 2003. Specifically, production of Anvik River chum salmon, which represent the largest spawning stock of Yukon River summer chum salmon, has fallen well below one return per spawner for the most recent returning brood years. There is uncertainty as to how long this trend will continue, and whether productivity could be reduced even further. While exact reasons for the run failures are unknown, it is widely speculated that poor marine survival related to ocean conditions in the Bering Sea is the primary contributing factor. Weak Yukon River salmon runs is attributed to reduced productivity, not the result of overharvesting of parent year runs.

It is anticipated the summer chum salmon run will provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and possibly a small commercial harvest. If necessary, subsistence harvest opportunity may require reductions to provide for escapements. If inseason run assessment suggests sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska could range from 50,000 to 150,000 summer chum salmon.

## **2.3 FALL CHUM SALMON**

Yukon River fall chum salmon drainage wide escapements for the period 1974 through 1999 have been estimated to range from approximately 180,000 (1982) to 1,500,000 (1975), based upon expansion of escapement assessments for selected stocks to approximate overall abundance (Eggers 2001). Escapements in these years resulted in subsequent returns that ranged in size from approximately 312,000 (1996 production) to 1,400,000 (1975 production) fish, using the same approach to approximating overall escapement. Corresponding return-per-spawner rates range from 0.3 to 3.2, averaging 1.8 for all years combined (1974-1997).

Dramatic declines in salmon returns to western Alaska have been realized from 1997 through 2002 with a record low in 2000. Weakness in the recent salmon runs have been attributed to reduced productivity in the marine environment and not to low levels of parental escapement

since parent year escapements were considered good. To adjust for the run failures, beginning in 1999, the projections have been presented as a range that includes the normal point projection as the high end. The low end was determined by reducing the normal point projection by the average ratio of observed to predicted returns from 1998 through the current year.

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 (Table 15). The 2004 run will be comprised of the parent years 1998 to 2001. Estimates of return per spawner based on brood year return were used to estimate production for 1998 and 1999 and an auto-regressive Ricker spawner-recruit model was used to predict the returns from 2000 and 2001. The point estimate utilizes the 1984 to 1997 odd/even maturity schedules and the lower end of the range is based on the average proportion of 0.52 for observed to predicted returns, resulting in a 2004 run size projection in the range of 350,000 to 672,000 fall chum salmon, with the following approximate brood year composition:

Age-3 fish	11,000	(2001 Brood Year)	1.6 %
Age-4 fish	381,000	(2000 Brood Year)	56.7 %
Age-5 fish	274,000	(1999 Brood Year)	40.8 %
Age-6 fish	6,000	(1998 Brood Year)	0.9 %
Totals	672,000	Four Brood Years	100 %

The escapements for the primary parent years of 1999 and 2000 that will contribute to the 2004 run were extremely poor and below the minimum drainagewide optimal escapement goal of 350,000 fall chum salmon. The major contributor to the 2004 fall chum salmon run is anticipated to be age-4 fish returning from the parent year 2000 which was the worst return on record with an estimated escapement of 212,000. The return of age-4 fish from even-numbered brood years during the time period 1984 to 1997 averages 376,000 chum salmon, and ranges from a low of 166,000 for brood year 1996 to a high of 650,000 for brood year 1992.

The projection for 2004 is based on the combination of weak parent year escapements and the likelihood of a weaker return in an even numbered year, which advocates the use of a conservative run size estimate for 2004. However, improvements in production were evident in the 2003 return that included an unanticipated strong component of age-4 fish from the brood year 1999. If this affect of improved survival was maintained, a strong carryover of age-5 fish could materialize, which may bolster the run size enough to realize or surpass the upper end of the range.

The projected run size using the point estimate for the 2004 return should support normal subsistence fishing activities. Commercial fishing can occur on run sizes greater than 600,000 fall chum salmon. The run will be monitored inseason to determine the strength in relation to the estimated range and what amount of harvest can be provided based on the levels stipulated in the *Alaska Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*.

## 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. Based on Pilot Station sonar operations from 1995, and 1997 to 2003, the 2000 return was the second largest on record and will be the dominant age class in the 2004 return. However, in contrast to the high abundance estimated at Pilot Station sonar, escapements in the upper portions of the drainage were weak to poor in 2000. These low survey counts were possibly caused by warm fall weather maintaining high water levels. Typically, high water levels relate to poor survey conditions and may have caused fish to hold off moving to spawning areas. In at least one area it was noted, coho salmon moved in extremely late. Assuming average survival, the 2004 coho salmon run is anticipated to be average to above average based on the performance of Pilot Station sonar in 2000 and the fact that coho salmon abundance has been on the increase in recent years.

The Alaska *Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan* allows 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 commonly return mixed together. If fall chum salmon run size is near 600,000 and the coho salmon run size is expected above average, a small coho salmon directed commercial fishery is possible. However, harvest potential will wait to be determined by inseason run assessment.

### **3.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2004**

The department manages Yukon Area salmon according to policies and regulations established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). 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, allocation issues, and the complication of dual management regimes for the subsistence fishery in about half the drainage. The Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol provides guidelines for coordinated management with federal agencies concerning subsistence fisheries on federal applicable waters. However, state and federal managers may not agree on specific management actions, which could result in differing regulations for waters applicable federal management.

In the fall of 2002, the AYK Region escapement goal committee began the review process of current escapement goals. Additional data has been added to the data sets for summer chum salmon (Anvik and Andreafsky Rivers) and chinook salmon (Chena and Salcha Rivers). The BEGs for Chena and Salcha River chinook salmon and East Fork of the Andreafsky River summer chum salmon did not change. However, when adding in an additional three years of data to the Anvik River data set, the results indicated the BEG range should be 350,000 to 700,000 fish. However, this goal is still under review. The 2001 fall chum and coho salmon BEGs were also reviewed and presented to the BOF at the January 2004 AYK meeting with a recommendation of no change which the board accepted.

In addition to establishing new escapement goals for certain stocks in 2001, the department also changed some existing BEGs to sustainable escapement goals (SEGs) 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. Some escapement objectives that were previously 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, SEGs, and OEGs that will be used for inseason management and postseason assessment. Because aerial surveys are conducted postseason, this assessment method cannot be used as an inseason management tool. The Canadian chinook salmon objective and fall chum salmon escapement objectives are based on limited scientific information and is not a SEG or a BEG. These objectives are negotiated by the U.S./Canada Panel annually as stipulated in the treaty agreement.

List of current BEGs or SEGs for chinook salmon.

Stream	Goal	Type of Goal
East Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	960-1,900	SEG
West Fork Andreafsky River Aerial Survey	640-1,600	SEG
Anvik River Aerial Survey	1,100-1,700	SEG
Nulato River Aerial Survey	940-1,900	SEG
Gisasa River Aerial Survey	420-1,100	SEG
Chena River Tower	2,800-5,700	BEG
Salcha River Tower	3,300-6,500	BEG
Canada Mainstem Tagging Rebuilding Goal	28,000	*

\* For 2004, the US-Canada panel agreed to a spawning escapement objective of 28,000 into Canada.

List of BEGs, SEGs, or OEGs for summer chum salmon.

Stream	Goal	
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir	65,000 – 135,000	BEG
Anvik River Sonar	350,000 – 700,000	BEG
Drainage-wide Escapement (Above Pilot Station)	800,000 – 1,600,000	OEG

\* 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 for fall chum salmon.

Stream	Goal	
Drainage-wide Escapement	300,000-600,000	BEG
Tanana River drainage	61,000-136,000	BEG
Upper Tanana River	46,000-103,000	BEG
Delta River	6,000-13,000	BEG
Toklat River	15,000-33,000	BEG
Upper Yukon Tributaries	152,000-312,000	BEG
Chandalar River	74,000-152,000	BEG
Sheenjek River	50,000-104,000	BEG
Fishing Branch	13,000	*
Canadian Yukon River Mainstem	>65,000	**

\*Interim Goal agreed to by the Yukon River panel for the 2004 season.

\*\*Rebuilding goal agreed to by the Yukon River panel for the 2004 season.

### **3.1 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTIONS**

In response to the guidelines established in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy, the BOF determined the Yukon River chinook and fall chum salmon stocks to be yield concerns 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 BOF classified the Yukon River summer chum and Toklat and Fishing Branch River fall chum 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.

During the January 2004 BOF meeting, the BOF addressed stocks of concern action plan options and regulatory proposals. Chinook salmon will continue as a stock of concern at the yield level and summer chum at the management level. The drainage-wide fall chum salmon stock also remains unchanged as a yield concern. In 2001, the Toklat River fall chum salmon stock was declared a management concern because it did not meet the established escapement goal at the time. Since then, the BEG analysis has been finalized and the BOF found that the Toklat River stock does not meet the criteria of a management concern. Also, since the Fishing Branch River fall chum salmon stock is under the purview of the US/Canada Panel, the BOF removed the stock as a management concern. However, both the Toklat and Fishing Branch River fall chum salmon stocks are included in the drainage-wide Yukon River fall chum stock classification as a yield concern. A summary of the most recent BOF 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 all uses of the resource. When the salmon stocks are abundant and commercial fishing will occur, 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.

When there are no commercial salmon fishing periods, the subsistence salmon fishery will be based on a schedule implemented chronologically by the department, consistent with migratory timing as the run progresses upstream. In January 2001, the BOF modified the Yukon River King Salmon Management plan and subsistence fishing period regulations by adding a fishing schedule for the subsistence salmon fisheries. The objectives of the schedule are to 1) reduce harvest early in the run when there is a much higher level of uncertainty, 2) spread the harvest throughout the run to reduce harvest impacts on any particular component of the run and 3) spread subsistence fishing opportunity among all users during years of low salmon runs. The BOF addressed numerous proposals in January 2004 to change the current subsistence fishing schedule. Proposals ranged from reducing subsistence fishing opportunity in Districts 1-3 in half to lifting the schedule

entirely. Proposals to allow weekend subsistence fishing were adopted for District 3 and Subdistrict 4-A. Communities in Subdistrict 4-A have requested a weekend day to subsistence fish. However, during the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting, it was voted to unanimously stay on the current subsistence fishing schedule for Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. Subsistence fishing time was increased from two 42-hour periods per week to 2 48-hour periods per week in Subdistrict 5-A. 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 schedule is listed below and is in regulation (5AAC 01.210 & 5AAC 05.360). Depending on run strength, the schedule is subject to change.

### Regulatory Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule

<i>Area</i>	<b>Regulatory subsistence fishing periods</b>	<b>Schedule to Begin</b>	<b>Days of the week</b>
District 1	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 31, 2004	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am /Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 2, 2004	Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am /Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 8, 2004	<b>NEW:</b> Tue. 8 am to Wed. 8 pm /Fri. 8 am to Sat. 8 pm
District 4-A	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 14, 2004	<b>NEW:</b> Mon. 6 pm to Wed. 6 pm / Thu. 6 pm to Sat. 6 pm
District 4-B, C	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 13, 2004	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Subdistricts 5-B, C	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 22, 2004	Tue. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. 6 pm
Subdistrict 5-A	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 22, 2004	<b>NEW:</b> Tue. 6 pm to Thu. 6 p.m. /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. 6 pm
Subdistrict 5-D	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
District 6	Two 42-hour periods/week	By Regulation	Mon. 6 pm to Wed. Noon /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/week	By Regulation	Friday 6pm to Wednesday 6pm
Coastal District	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
Koyukuk River	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours

When there is a harvestable surplus in excess of subsistence uses, the subsistence fishing schedule can be reverted to the schedule specified in 5AAC 01.210, (c-h) FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS, unless modified by emergency order.

During closed subsistence salmon fishing periods, subsistence fishing for whitefish, suckers, and other non-salmon species will continue to be allowed throughout the drainage. To direct the harvest to non-salmon species during periods closed to subsistence salmon fishing, the BOF adopted regulations at the January 2004 meeting that require gillnets with greater than 4” mesh be removed from the water and fish wheels not be operated. In addition, gillnets used to take species other than salmon during subsistence salmon closures may be no longer than 60 feet. 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 summer and fall chum salmon management plans adopted by the BOF provide guidelines for managing subsistence salmon fisheries based on inseason run projections. If subsistence harvest reductions are necessary, efforts will be made to spread the burden of conservation throughout the drainage. Potential harvest reduction measures include gear restrictions, reductions in fishing time, or extended periods of closed fishing. Conservation of salmon may require fish wheels to be equipped with a live box or live chute.

The department requires fishermen to keep track of their subsistence salmon harvests on their permit in permit areas and encourages fishermen to use calendars to keep track of their harvest. Subsistence fishers in permit areas are reminded that they must have their permit in possession while fishing. 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. The department has prepaid postage for the 2004 calendar in an effort to encourage fishermen to use and return catch calendars. Additionally, a \$200 lottery will be conducted following the season for which all households that have returned properly filled out calendars will be entered.

### **3.2.1 Districts 1, 2, and 3**

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Districts 1, 2, and 3 will begin with two 36-hour periods per week. 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. Fishers are reminded that during the commercial season, dorsal fins are required to be removed from subsistence caught chinook salmon.

### **3.2.2 District 4**

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule in District 4, is two 48-hour periods per week. Regulations separate subsistence fishing periods from commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 4-A. During the commercial salmon fishing season, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours following a Subdistrict 4-A commercial salmon fishing period. 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 in District 4, subsistence salmon fishing may occur five days per week, unless modified by emergency order.

Also in January 2004, the BOF made regulatory changes for the Koyukuk River drainage that opens waters previously closed to subsistence fishing. The newly opened waters include the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River upstream of its confluence with the North Fork, and the South Fork of the Koyukuk River upstream from the mouth of the Jim River. A household subsistence fishing permit is required as a condition of this increased fishing opportunity. Furthermore, gill nets are considered a legal gear type in this area, but they may only be used from November 1 through June 31 and the mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches. This was done in an effort to allow subsistence users to target non-salmon species.

### **3.2.3 District 5**

The Subdistrict 5-A subsistence fishing schedule was changed at the 2004 Board of Fisheries meeting in Fairbanks. The Board adopted the proposal to return the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 5-A to its previous two 48-hour fishing periods per week. This mirrors the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. In Subdistrict 5-D, subsistence salmon fishermen may harvest salmon seven days per week throughout the season unless restricted by emergency order.

Attempts will be made to coincide the subsistence salmon fishing schedule with commercial periods. 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 may occur five days per week, unless modified by emergency order.

In portions of District 5, regulations require subsistence fishermen to obtain subsistence fishing permits. The permit requirement was changed during the recent Board meeting. Subsistence fishers will now be required to obtain a permit prior to subsistence fishing anywhere in the Subdistrict 5-C area. Subsistence fishing permits will be required on the Yukon River from the western tip of Garnet Island to the Dall River. The area includes the village of Rampart and the Haul Road bridge area. Subsistence fishermen may obtain a permit by contacting the department's office in Fairbanks. Permits can be issued in person, by mail, and more recently by email. All permit holders are required to report harvest information on their permits and return their permits to the department at the end of the fishing season.

### **3.2.4 District 6**

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. An 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.

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. In addition a new toll free number has been added for fishers outside the Fairbanks area, 1-866-479-7387. 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.

### **3.3 PERSONAL USE FISHERY**

Subdistrict 6-C falls entirely within the Fairbanks Non-subsistence 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. Only one permit per household is allowed annually. The annual possession limit per permit holder is 10 king salmon and 75 chum salmon for periods through August 15, and 75 chum and coho combined for periods after August 15. Fishery harvest limits in Subdistrict 6-C are 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.

The personal use fishing time is two 42-hour periods/week by regulation and fishing is from 6:00 p.m. Monday until Noon Wednesday and 6:00 p.m. Friday until noon Sunday. Whitefish and suckers may also be taken with dip nets under personal use fishing regulations.

### **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 BOF (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, catcher/processors, and catcher/sellers of salmon are required to register with the department before operating 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 additional 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 in numbers of males and females. 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

Inseason chinook salmon run assessment will be based on lower river test fisheries, subsistence catch reports, age and sex composition, and preliminary passage and 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, disseminate project information, and to discuss run status and management actions.

The department will manage the summer chum salmon run conservatively because of recent declines in run abundance. There is a King Salmon and Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan which guides the departments management actions. The table below summarizes the summer chum salmon management plan. If the abundance of summer chum salmon in 2004 is similar to that in 2002 and 2003, a limited summer chum salmon commercial harvest may be taken entirely incidental during fishing directed at chinook salmon. A limited direct summer chum salmon fishery may be allowed in the upper Yukon Area if indications are that escapements will be met and markets are available to sell the catch.

<i>Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan Overview</i>					
Projected Run Size <sup>1</sup>	RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTION				Targeted Drainagewide Escapement
	Commercial	Personal Use	Sport	Subsistence	
600,000 or less	Closure	Closure	Closure	Closure <sup>2</sup>	≥600,000
600,01 to 700,000	Closure	Closure	Closure	Possible Restrictions <sup>2</sup>	
700,001 to 1,000,000	Restrictions <sup>2</sup>	Restrictions <sup>2</sup>	Restrictions <sup>2</sup>	Normal Fishing Schedules	
Greater than 1,000,000	Open <sup>3</sup>	Open	Open	Normal Fishing Schedules	≥800,000

<sup>1</sup> PROJECTED RUN SIZES use the best available data (including preseason projections, mainstem river sonar passage estimates, test fisheries indices, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects)

<sup>2</sup> The fishery may be opened or less restrictive in areas that indicator(s) suggest the escapement goal(s) in that area will be achieved.

<sup>3</sup> DRAINAGE-WIDE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES may be open and the harvestable surplus will be distributed by district or subdistrict (in proportion to the guidelines harvest levels established in 5AAC 05.362 (f) and (g) and 5 AAC 05.365).

### **3.5.1 Districts 1, 2, and 3**

If the chinook salmon run in 2004 is similar to the run in 2003, a chinook salmon directed commercial fishery will be possible. Typically, the first commercial opening occurs after the first quarter point of the run. This management strategy provides for passage of a portion of the early run segment through the lower river districts before commercial fishing starts. Lower Yukon River set net test fishing catch per unit effort (CPUE) and Pilot Station sonar data will be used for relative timing and abundance information. The opening of the fishing season is normally announced 48 hours in advance to provide fishermen and buyers adequate time to prepare.

Directed chinook salmon commercial fishing periods with unrestricted mesh size gillnets are anticipated to be six hours in duration, but may be as short as four hours. In general, fishing periods are expected to begin at 6:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in District 1, and at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday in District 2. However, fishing periods may be scheduled further apart to spread the commercial harvest across the run. This strategy reduces harvest impacts on any particular portion of below average runs. Districts 1 and 2 have a combined guideline harvest range where the overall harvest level will determine when the directed chinook salmon fishery and the commercial salmon summer season will end. It may not be possible to allow an equal amount of fishing time for each district.

Although it is anticipated a small summer chum salmon directed commercial fishery may be possible, it is unlikely there will be any commercial openings in Districts 1-3 because of poor market conditions. Six inch maximum mesh size gillnets are utilized to direct the harvest toward summer chum salmon.

Commercial fishing periods may be established in District 3 based on input from buyers and fishermen. Regulations allow a permit holder registered in District 3 to transfer to District 1 or 2 following a 72-hour waiting period. Only one district transfer is allowed in the Lower Yukon Area prior to July 15.

### **3.5.2 District 4**

The first District 4 commercial fishing period usually occurs between June 18 and June 25. If the only commercial fishery allowed was a directed chinook salmon fishery, then only openings with set gillnets would be anticipated in Subdistrict 4-A because of the high incidental take of summer chum salmon with fish wheels. A new BOF regulation was passed to allow fish wheel permit holders to use set gillnets during commercial fishing periods established by emergency order. Management for summer chum salmon will be based, in part, on summer chum salmon spawning escapements and sex ratios monitored in the Anvik, Kaltag, and Gisasa Rivers and Henshaw and Clear Creeks.

If commercial fishing is allowed, it is anticipated Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C would initially be placed on a limited schedule of one or two 48-hour periods per week beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday and/or 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C may open earlier than Subdistrict 4-A to allow harvest of earlier migrating chinook salmon. Historically, there is a much lower harvest of summer chum salmon in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C than in Subdistrict 4-A when directing harvest at chinook salmon. If subsistence salmon fishing opportunities in District 4 are not sufficient to meet subsistence needs due to the commercial fishing schedule, additional subsistence-only fishing time will be allowed.

### **3.5.3 Anvik River Management Area**

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.

### **3.5.4 District 5**

The District 5 commercial salmon fishing season will open by EO once the chinook salmon run is distributed throughout the area and a harvestable surplus beyond escapement and subsistence needs is identified. Assessment of run abundance and timing from downstream districts, along with subsistence catch reports, will be used to determine a season opening. By regulation, no commercial fishing will be allowed in Subdistrict 5-A during the chinook and summer chum salmon fishing season.

If commercial fishing is allowed, it is anticipated Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C fishing periods during the early season would initially be 12 to 24-hours in duration. For Subdistrict 5-D, 24-hour commercial fishing periods are typical. This allows the department to monitor and maintain the harvest within guideline harvest ranges. In years with average returns and run timing, the first commercial fishing period usually occurs between June 25 and July 5 in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and between July 1 and July 10 in Subdistrict 5-D.

### **3.5.6 District 6**

District 6 is managed using inseason salmon run strength and timing indicators in the Tanana River drainage include test fish wheel catches near the village of Nenana, performance of subsistence fisheries, and escapement information on chinook and summer chum collected by tower counting projects on the Chena and Salcha Rivers. If it is determined that escapement goals and subsistence needs will be met, the District 6 commercial fishing season would likely open in early to mid-July. The department can exceed the upper end of the guideline harvest ranges in years it determines that escapement goals and subsistence needs will be met.

Directed summer chum salmon commercial fishing periods would likely occur later in July and into

August and will depend on inseason run assessment. The length and duration of commercial fishing periods will depend on run strength and buyer capacity.

### **3.6 FALL CHUM AND COHO SALMON COMMERCIAL SEASON**

The 2004 outlook for fall chum salmon is for a below average run with little or no commercial fishery anticipated for either chum or coho salmon anticipated. In managing the 2004 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*, which was amended by the BOF in January 2004. This plan incorporates U.S./Canada treaty obligations for border passage of fall chum salmon and for escapement and subsistence in Alaska. The plan stipulates that directed fall chum salmon commercial fisheries may only be allowed on the projected surplus of the run above 600,000 fall chum salmon for the entire Yukon River drainage (Appendix Table B.5). There is an exception to this plan where commercial fishing may be allowed in portions of the drainage where escapement and subsistence needs are projected to be exceeded and the drainage-wide run is projected to be greater than 500,000. Since the 2004 preseason projection is for a run between 350,000 and 600,000 fall chum salmon, it is anticipated that the run will provide sufficient abundance for escapement needs and subsistence harvest with little surplus available for commercial harvest.

The department will rely primarily on inseason run assessment tools to determine the 2004 fall chum salmon run size. As in past years, the department will participate in weekly YRDFA teleconferences to gather information from the public and to discuss the status of the run and possible management actions. Given the recent trend of poor runs, the stronger than expected run in 2003, and the amended fall chum salmon management plan, the department is optimistic that subsistence fishing will not require restrictions.

The 2004 coho salmon fishery will be managed consistent with regulation 5 AAC 05.369. *Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan*. Coho salmon have a slightly later, but overlapping, run timing with that of fall chum salmon. The coho salmon management plan allows a directed coho salmon commercial fishery only under very specific conditions, such as: when the return of coho salmon is above average and the fall chum salmon run size is greater than 625,000 fish and no directed fall chum salmon commercial fishing has occurred or is expected to occur. 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.

Fall chum salmon will continue to be the primary species of management concern during the 2004 fall season and may pre-empt possible commercial coho salmon fishing activity. The commercial harvest of coho salmon will likely be dependent upon the abundance of fall chum salmon and accompanying management strategies used to harvest fall chum salmon.

The department will monitor the fall run inseason by using the lower Yukon River drift gillnet test fishery near Emmonak, the 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 and the performance of the summer chum salmon run, will be the basis for initial management decisions for Districts 1, 2 and 3 commercial fisheries. If unusually poor production is realized in the 2004 fall chum salmon season as it had from 1998 through 2002, a commercial fishery would not be allowed and subsistence restrictions may be necessary. However, if the run size materialized similar to 2003, a commercial harvest exceeding 100,000 fall chum salmon may be allowed.

In addition to the performance of earlier running summer chum salmon, returns of chum salmon stocks in Norton Sound and the Kuskokwim River will also be monitored. If the 2004 returns of these other stocks indicate poor marine survival conditions are continuing, a poor fall chum salmon return to the Yukon River may also be assumed. Conversely, if the returns of these other stocks are larger than expected, indicating better survival, the department may become more optimistic for the return of Yukon River fall chum salmon. Due to uncertainty and the irregular entry pattern, it is likely the decision to prosecute a commercial fishery will not be made until near the midpoint in the run around late July or early August.

### **3.6.1 Districts 1, 2, and 3**

The majority of fall chum salmon enter the Yukon River from mid-July through early September in erratic surges (pulses) usually lasting two to three days. Typically, four or five such pulses occur each season. These pulses are often associated with on-shore wind events and/or high tides. This characteristic entry pattern makes it difficult to accurately assess run strength inseason, particularly early in the season. Out of concern for a potentially weak fall chum salmon run combined with the irregular and unpredictable entry pattern, the decision to allow a commercial fishery would not be made until near the midpoint of the run in Districts 1, 2, and 3.

As a reminder to fishermen, if fall chum salmon return 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 the department. 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 the department. 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 BOF took regulatory action to include Subdistrict 4-A with the Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C guideline harvest range for fall chum salmon, which remains at 5,000 to 40,000. 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 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 to below average fall chum salmon run, the potential for a commercial fishery for either fall chum or coho salmon is low during the 2004 season.

### **3.6.3 Subdistricts 5-B, 5-C and 5-D**

In managing the commercial fishery, the department will use the inseason 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 is only a small chance of a commercial fall salmon fishery in these subdistricts during the 2004 season because of the anticipated poor fall chum salmon runs throughout the drainage.

### **3.6.4 Subdistrict 5-A and District 6**

Management of Subdistrict 5-A and District 6 is outlined in regulation 5 AAC 05.367. *Tanana River Salmon Management Plan*. This management plan directs the department to manage Subdistrict 5-A and District 6 based on the stock status and timing of salmon bound for, and into the Tanana River. It is believed the majority of fall chum and coho salmon harvested in Subdistrict 5-A are bound for the Tanana River, located in District 6. 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 YRDFA.

The department will initially manage the fall season in Subdistrict 5-A and District 6 based on the run strength and timing of the overall Yukon River fall chum salmon run. As the run progresses into the Tanana River, the Tanana and Kantishna River mark-recapture tagging projects will be used to assess the run size in the Tanana River portion of the drainage. The performance of subsistence, personal use, and if available, commercial fisheries will also be taken into consideration in run assessment.

Other Tanana River inseason run strength indicators include test fish catches from 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 the village of Nenana. Postseason, ground surveys are conducted on the Toklat and Delta Rivers to assess escapement.

The Tanana River management plan adopted by the BOF allows 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 incorporated into the relatively large subsistence take of households in the village of Tanana.

Depending on the inseason Tanana River fall chum salmon run strength and timing indicators, the department does have the authority to manage Subdistrict 5-A and District 6 for a different harvest level within the guideline harvest range or to exceed the guideline harvest range. 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 2004 fall chum salmon run is also expected to be below average for the Tanana River drainage and therefore the potential for opening a commercial fall fishery is low.

#### **4.0 U.S./CANADA YUKON RIVER SALMON PANEL 2004 MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

Negotiations were initiated in 1985 between the U.S. and Canada regarding a Yukon River salmon treaty. In December 2002 the United States and Canada signed an agreement that set salmon harvest share target ranges based on a postseason assessment of run strength for chinook and fall chum salmon into the Canadian mainstem of the Yukon River. The Alaskan and Canadian fisheries will be managed consistent with stock rebuilding and conservation objectives that have 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 and chum salmon can be found in Appendix D.

For the 2004 season, the U.S./Canada panel has recommended to forego the 33,000-44,000 chinook salmon Canadian Yukon River Mainstem escapement goal and have agreed to a spawning escapement goal of 28,000 chinook salmon. The panel agreed to a fall chum salmon Canadian Yukon River Mainstem spawning escapement rebuilding objective of 65,000 chum salmon, and a spawning escapement goal of 15,000 chum salmon into the Fishing Branch. Management plans were laid out to rebuild the fall chum salmon Canadian Yukon River Mainstem stocks over three lifecycles which is considered a 12-year period while the Fishing Branch River escapement target of >13,000 is a small step towards rebuilding the stock.

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

Chinook Salmon						
District or Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range <sup>a</sup>					
	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
5-B & -C	0 to 2,400	3.6	2,600	2.6	2,800	2.2
5-D	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 <sup>b</sup>					
	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
4-A <sup>c</sup>	0 to 113,000	28.3	225,500	28.2	338,000	28.2
4-B & 4-C	0 to 16,000	4.0	31,500	3.9	47,000	3.9
5-B, -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 <sup>d</sup>						
Fall Chum Salmon						
District or Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range <sup>e</sup>					
	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
4-B & 4-C	5,000	6.9	22,500	11.4	40,000	12.5
5-B, -C, -D	4,000	5.5	20,000	10.2	36,000	11.2
6	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 <sup>f</sup>						

<sup>a</sup> The chinook salmon guideline harvest ranges have been in effect since 1981.

<sup>b</sup> Summer chum salmon guideline harvest ranges were established in February 1990 based on the average harvest shares from 1975-1989.

<sup>c</sup> Or the equivalent roe poundage of 61,000 to 183,000 pounds or some combination of fish and pounds of roe.

<sup>d</sup> The current Anvik River Management Area roe cap was established in March 1996.

<sup>e</sup> The current fall chum salmon guideline harvest ranges were established in 1990.

<sup>f</sup> 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**

Appendix Table 1. Chinook salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparisons, Yukon River, 1995-2003.

Chinook Salmon Commercial Harvest <sup>a</sup>										
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 <sup>m</sup>	Recent 5- Yr. Average (1998-2002) 2003 vs. 5- Yr. Avg.
Y-1		56,642	66,384	25,413	37,145	4,735		11,159	22,750	16%
Y-2		30,209	39,363	16,806	27,070	3,783		11,434	14,178	-4%
<i>Subtotal Y1 &amp; Y2</i>	60,000-120,000	86,851	105,747	42,219	64,215	8,518		22,593	36,928	7%
Y-3	1,800-2,200				538					0%
Y-4A										
Y-4BC		137	1,457		1,437				562	-61%
<i>Subtotal Y-4</i>	2,250-2,850	137	1,457		1,437				562	-61%
Y-5ABC	2,400-2,800	2,309	3,071	475	2,189			564	908	-16%
Y-5D	300-500	448	607	42	415			207	226	2%
<i>Subtotal Y-5</i>		2,757	3,678	517	2,604			771	1,134	-13%
Y-6	600-800	447	2,728	963	689			1,066	1,813	100%
<i>Total Alaska</i>	67,350-129,150	90,192	113,610	43,699	69,483	8,518		24,430	40,437	11%
Canada <sup>b</sup>		19,546	15,717	5,838	12,455	4,829	10,096	9,301	8,219	-3%

Chinook Salmon Escapement										
Project	Escapement Goal	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 <sup>m</sup>	Recent 5- Yr. Average (1998-2002) 2003 vs. 5- Yr. Avg.
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir		2,955	3,186	4,011	3,347	1,380		4,106	4,383	36%
East Fork Andreafsky River Aerial	>1,500 SEG <sup>o j</sup>		1,140	1,027		1,018	1,065	1,447		
West Fork Andreafsky River Aerial	>1,400 SEG <sup>o j</sup>	624	1,510	1,249 <sup>k</sup>	870 <sup>k</sup>	427	570	977		
Pilot Station Sonar			200,120	134,243	187,523	70,112	137,453	185,711	254,000	78%
Anvik River Index Aerial	>500 SEG <sup>o j</sup>	709	2,690	648 <sup>k</sup>	950 <sup>k</sup>	1,394	1,430	1,713		
Nulato River Tower		756	4,766	1,536	1,932	908		2,532	1,716	-1%
Nulato River Aerial	>1,300 SEG <sup>o j</sup>			1,053			1,884	1,584		
Gisasa River Weir		1,952	3,764	2,356	2,631	2,089	3,052	1,931	1,852	-23%
Gisasa River Aerial	>600 SEG <sup>o j</sup>		144 <sup>k</sup>	889 <sup>k</sup>			1,298	506		
Chena River Tower/MR Tagging	2,800-5,700 BEG <sup>k r</sup>	6,833 <sup>f</sup>	13,390	4,745	6,485	4,707 <sup>f</sup>	9,209 <sup>f</sup>	6,967 <sup>f</sup>	8,770 <sup>f</sup>	37%
Salcha River Tower/MR Tagging	3,300-6,500 BEG <sup>k</sup>	7,958 <sup>f</sup>	18,396	5,027	9,198	3,108	11,980	8,850 <sup>f</sup>	10,228 <sup>f</sup>	34%
Canadian Estimated Escapement	>28,000	28,409	37,683	16,750	11,153	12,166	43,933	34,246	49,781	110%
<b>ESCAPEMENT INDEX<sup>h</sup></b>		<b>48,863</b>	<b>81,185</b>	<b>34,425</b>	<b>34,746</b>	<b>24,358</b>	<b>68,174</b>	<b>58,632</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>74%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Commercial harvest includes the estimated harvest of females to produce roe sold.<sup>b</sup> Total harvest for all fisheries in Canadian mainstem Yukon River.<sup>c</sup> Aerial surveys rated good to fair unless otherwise noted.<sup>d</sup> 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.<sup>e</sup> Aerial surveys rated poor/incomplete; data not comparable to other years.<sup>f</sup> The escapement index is the summed escapements for East Fork Andreafsky weir, Nulato tower, Gisasa weir, Chena and Salcha towers, and Canada mainstem tagging.<sup>g</sup> SEG = "Sustainable escapement goal", as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Policy<sup>h</sup> BEG = "Biological escapement goal", as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Policy. Range established in 2001.<sup>i</sup> DATA ARE PRELIMINARY.<sup>j</sup> Weir counts incomplete due to late start-up. On average, missed approximately 75% of chinook passage. Total counts for 2001 were 1,148 chinook salmon.<sup>k</sup> No data due to incomplete operations.

Appendix Table 2. Summer chum salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparisons, Yukon River, 1995-2003.

Summer Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest a											
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 m	Comparison of 2003 to 5-Yr. Average
Y-1		142,266	92,506	59,915	21,270	16,181	3,315		6,333	3,579	-70%
Y-2		83,817	30,727	18,242	6,848	11,702			4,011	2,583	-60%
Subtotal Y-1 & Y-2	251,000-755,000	226,083	123,233	78,157	28,118	27,883	6,624		10,344	6,162	-66%
Y-3	6,000-19,000		1,534								
Anvik River	Est. Fish lbs. Roe	54,744	84,663	13,548							
	100,000	48,477	76,318	13,067							
Y-4A	Est. Fish lbs. Roe	113,000-338,000	419,688	356,938	100,389						
		61,000-183,000	189,252	181,050	56,301						
Y-4BC	Est. Fish lbs. Roe	16,000-47,000	80,155	68,639	10,734	1,267				62	-95%
			43,345	37,882	4,863						
Subtotal Y-4		554,587	425,577	111,123		1,267				62	-95%
Y-5ABC		316	209	125	110	114			6		
Y-5D		0	127	12		1					
Subtotal Y-5	1,000-3,000	316	336	137	110	115			6		
Y-6	Est. Fish lbs. Roe	13,000-38,000	37,428	46,890	25,287	570	148		3,218	4,461	240%
			9,475	18,332	9,036	140	24				
Total	400,000-1,200,000	818,414	682,233	228,252	28,798	29,413	6,624		13,568	10,685	-45%

Summer Chum Salmon Escapement											
Project	Escapement Goal	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 m	Comparison of 2003 to 5-Yr. Average
East Fork Andreafsky River We	65,000-135,000 BEG k	172,148	108,450	51,139	67,591	32,229	23,500	n	44,191	22,603	-46%
Pilot Station Sonar		3,438,655		1,342,650	745,919	939,348	410,528	394,078	1,022,942	1,235,483	76%
Anvik River Sonar	400,000-800,000 BEG k	1,339,418	933,240	609,118	471,865	441,305	205,815	227,449	462,101	251,358	-31%
Kaltag River Tower		77,193	51,269	48,018	8,113	5,300	6,727	o	13,583	3,056	-64%
Nulato River Tower		236,890	129,694	157,975	49,140	30,076	24,308	o	72,230	17,814	-59%
Gisasa River Weir		136,886	157,589	31,800	18,228	9,920	11,415	17,936	32,943	24,379	35%
Clear Creek Tower		116,735	100,912	76,454	212 c	11,300	18,698	3,674	13,150	5,230	-44%
Chena River Tower		3,519 c	12,810 c	9,439 c	5,901 c	9,165 c	3,515 c	4,209 c	o	c	
Salcha River Tower		30,784	74,827	35,741	17,289	23,221	20,516	19,671	18,640 o	c	
ESCAPEMENT INDEX g		1,993,319	1,455,069	933,791	632,226	551,216	295,796	269,265	643,688	319,210	-33%

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.

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

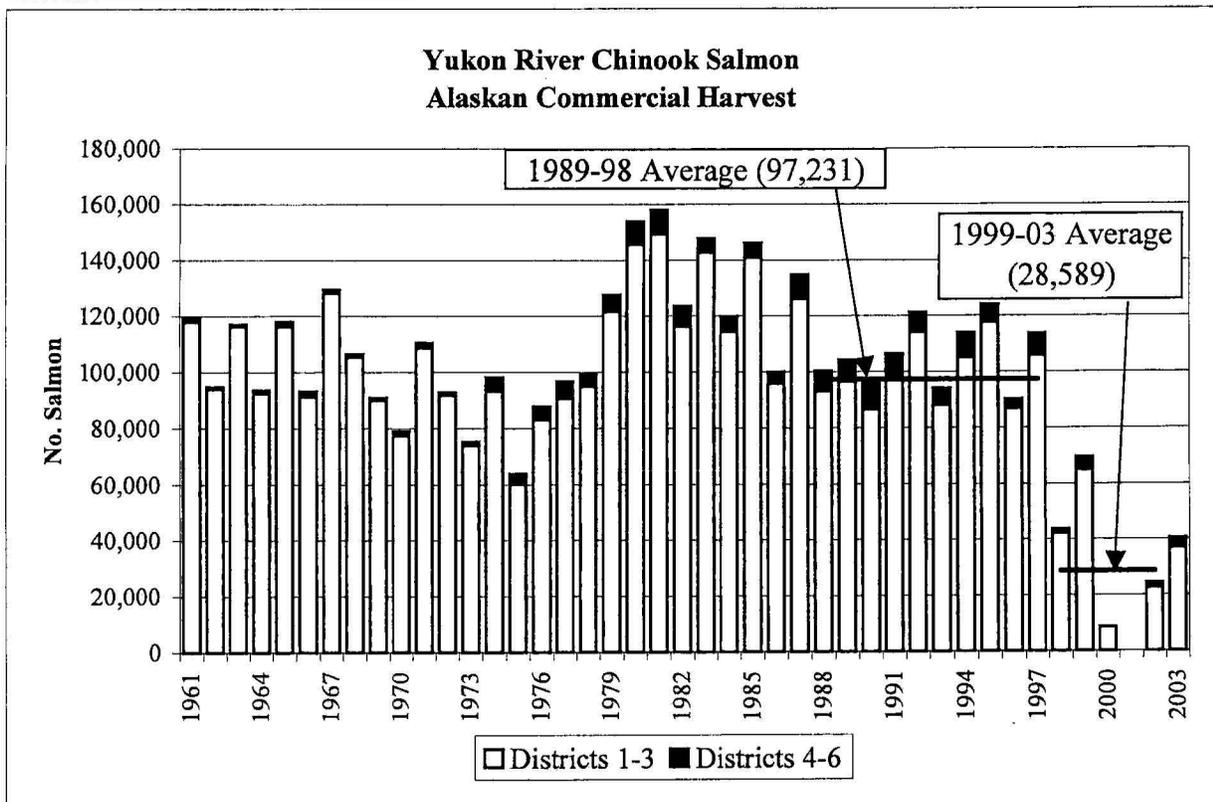
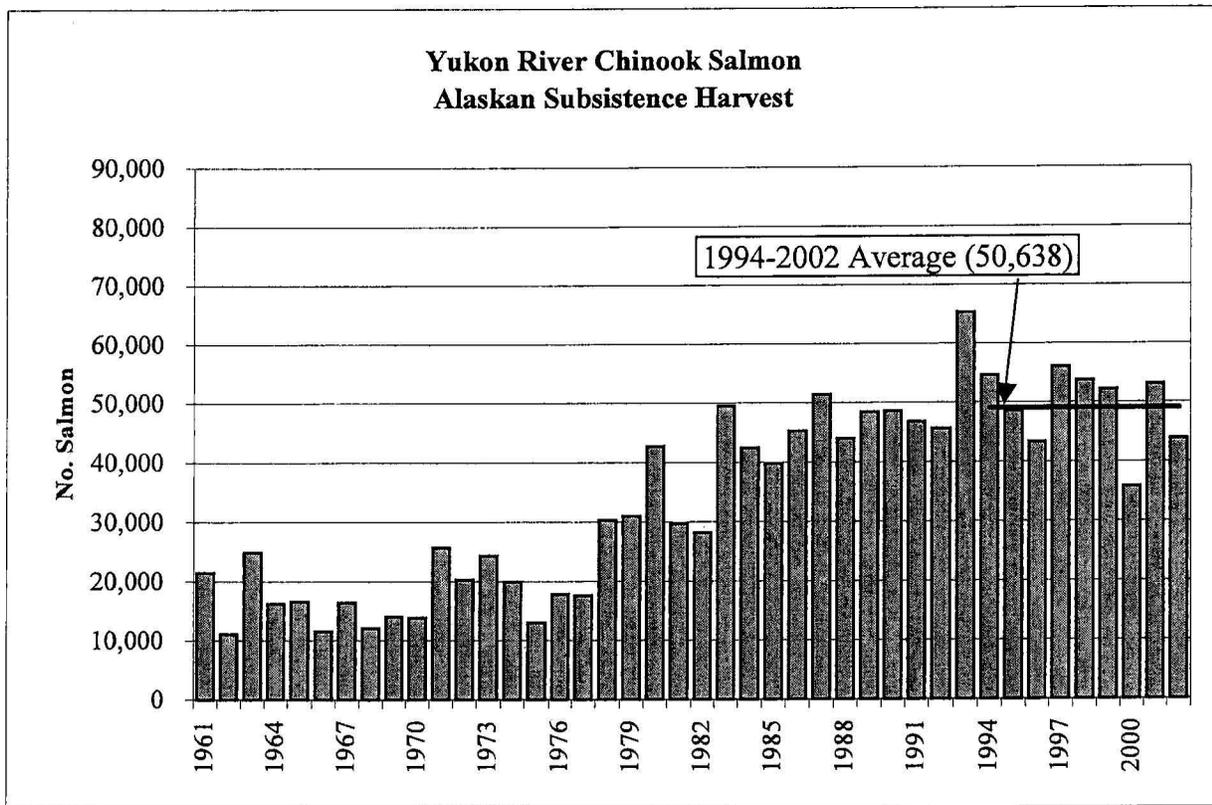
g The escapement index is the summed escapements for East Fork Andreafsky weir, Anvik sonar, Gisasa weir, Kaltag, Nulato, and Salcha towers.

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

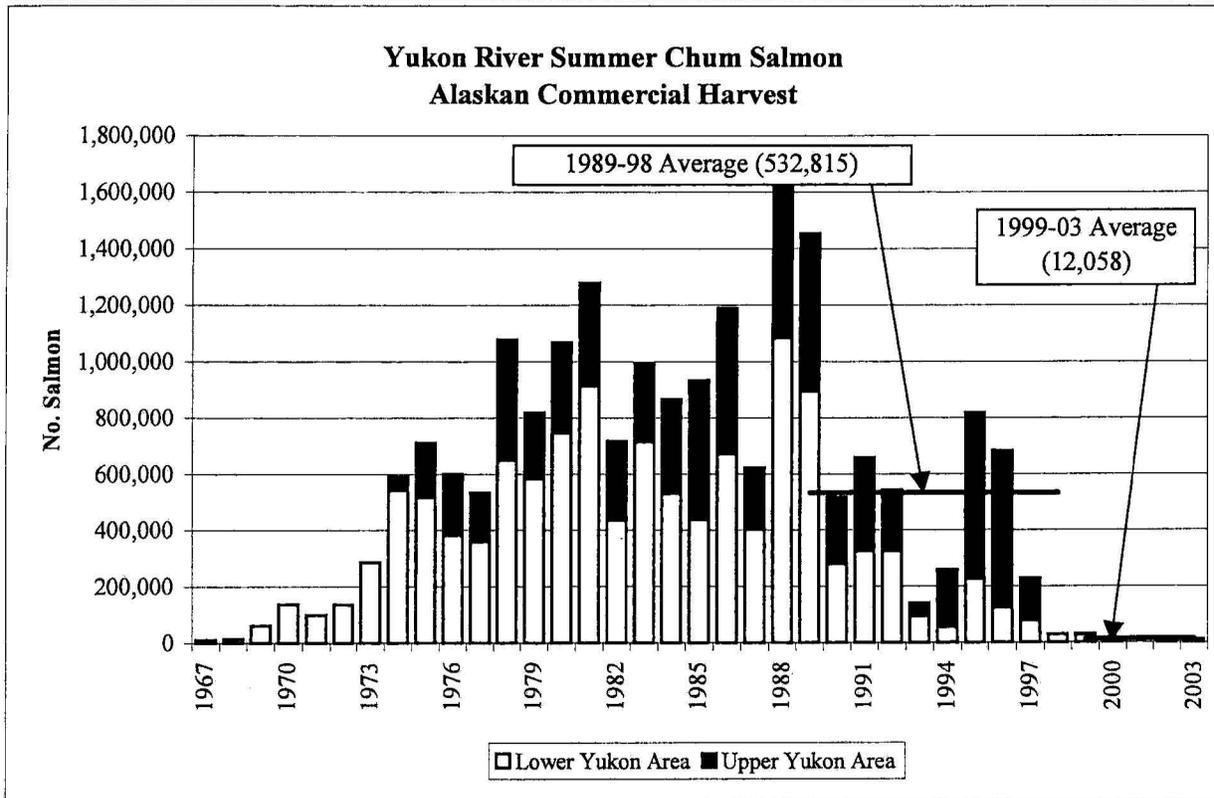
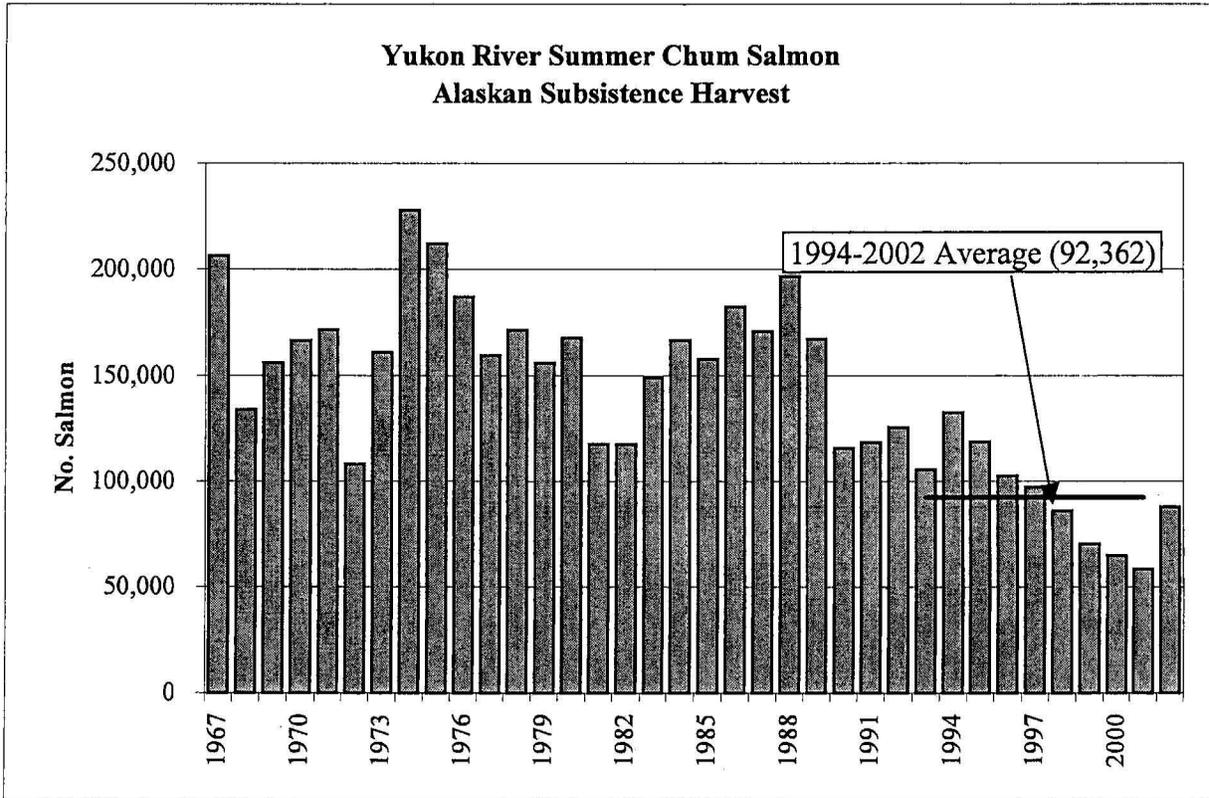
m DATA ARE PRELIMINARY.

n Weir counts incomplete due to late start-up. On average, missed approximately 75% of chinook passage. Total counts for 2001 were 2,086 summer chum salmon.

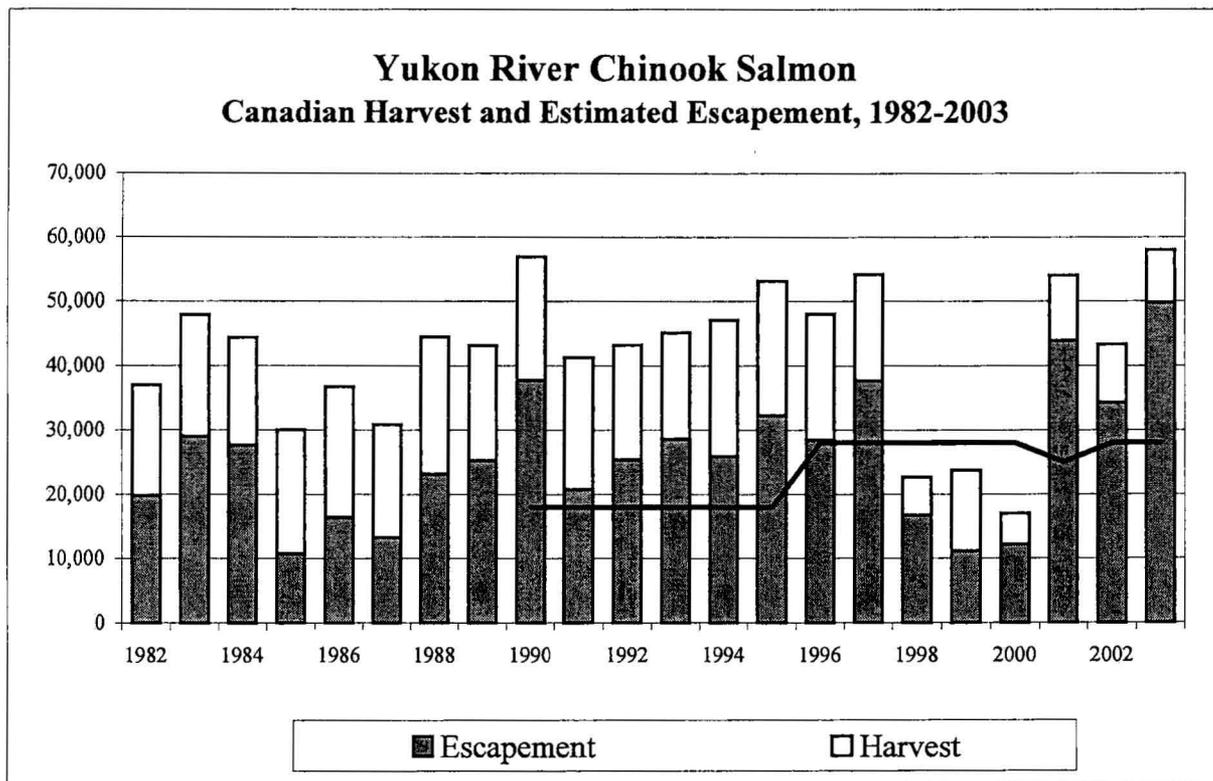
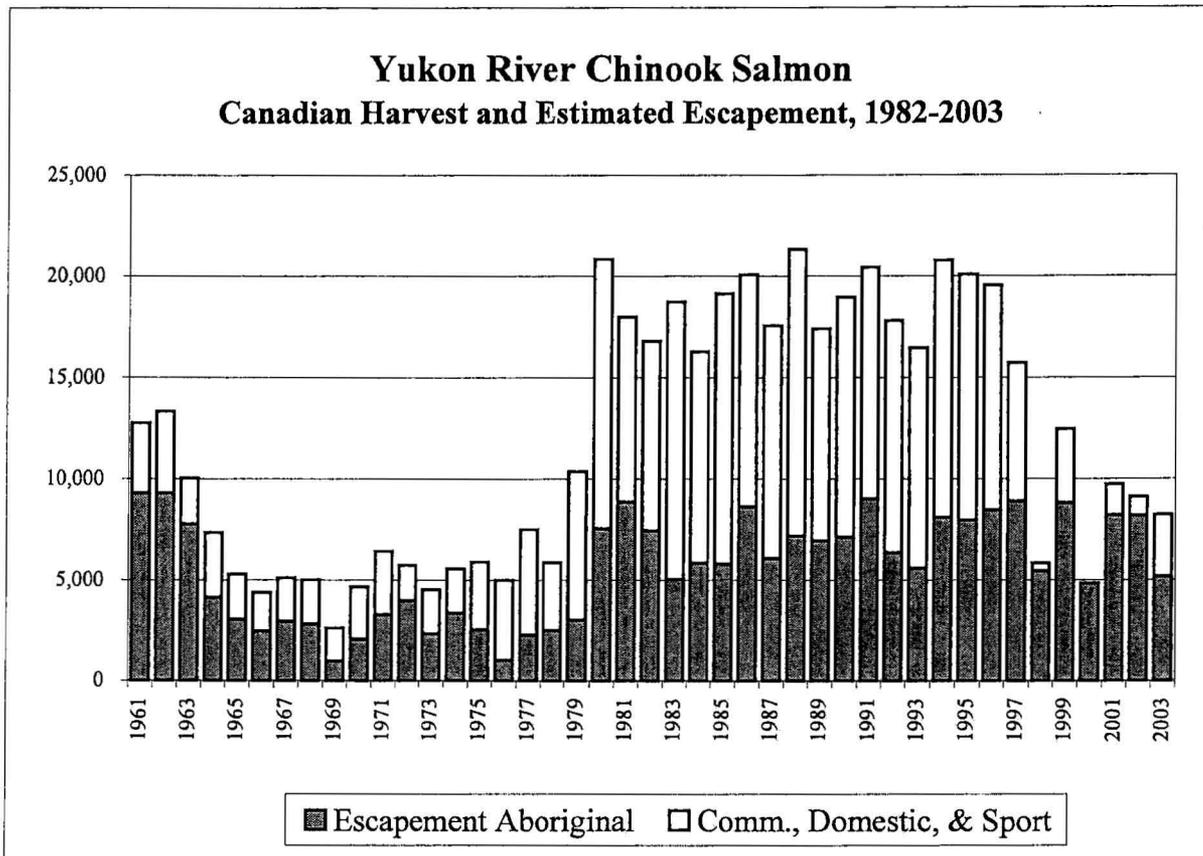
o No data due to incomplete operations, or data represents a minimum estimate due to partial operations.



Appendix Figure 1. Yukon River chinook salmon subsistence harvest 1961-2002, and commercial harvests, 1961-2003.

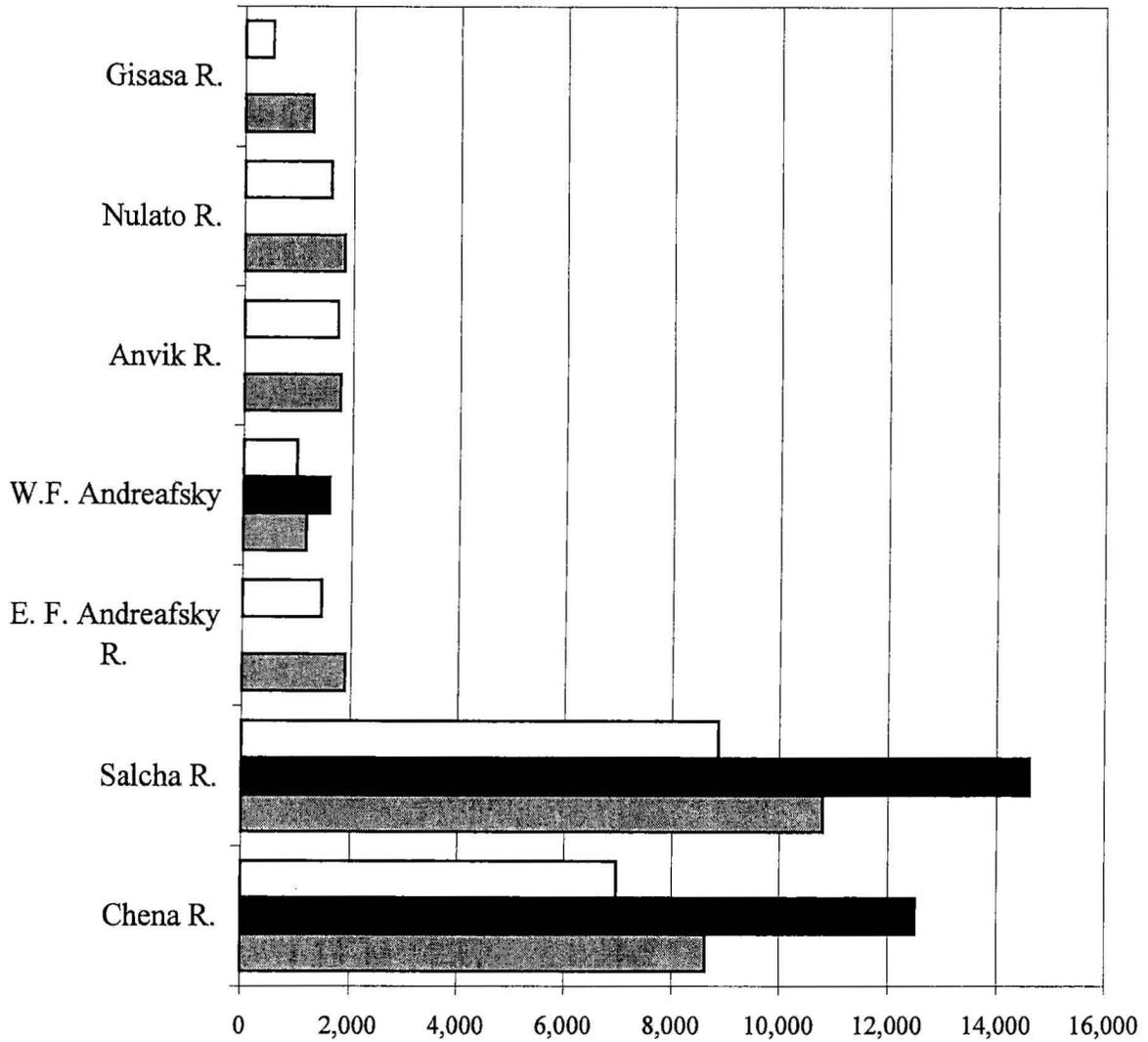


Appendix Figure 2. Yukon River summer chum salmon subsistence harvest 1961-2002, and commercial harvests, 1961-2003.



Appendix Figure 3. Yukon River chinook salmon estimated Canadian harvests and total run vs. escapement objectives.

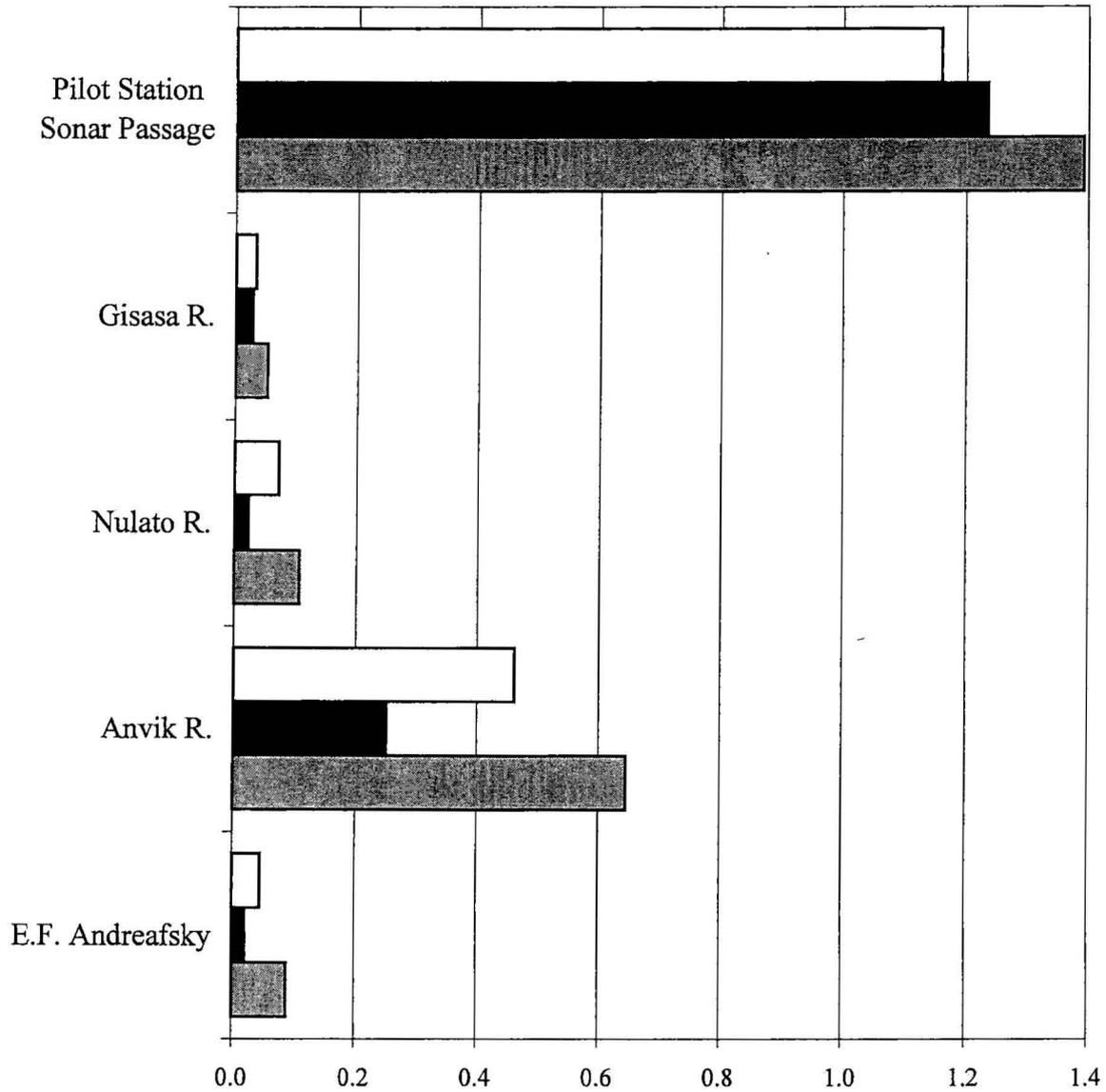
### Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon 2003 Escapement vs. 2002 and 1994-2002 Average



	Chena R.	Salcha R.	E. F. Andreafsky R.	W.F. Andreafsky	Anvik R.	Nulato R.	Gisasa R.
□ 2002	6,967	8,850	1,447	977	1,713	1,584	506
■ 2003	12,500	14,600		1,578			
▨ 10 Yr. Avg. (1993-2002)	8,617	10,791	1,884	1,154	1,762	1,832	1,242

Appendix Figure 4. Yukon River chinook salmon 2003 escapements compared to 2002 and the 10 year average (1993-2002)

**Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon  
2003 Escapement vs. 2002 and 1994-2002 Average**



	E.F. Andreefsky	Anvik R.	Nulato R.	Gisasa R.	Pilot Station Sonar Passage
□ 2002	45,019	462,101	72,230	32,943	1,158,475
■ 2003	20,644	251,358	23,452	28,245	1,234,553
▨ 1994-2002 Avg.	87,613	645,664	106,134	52,281	1,391,543

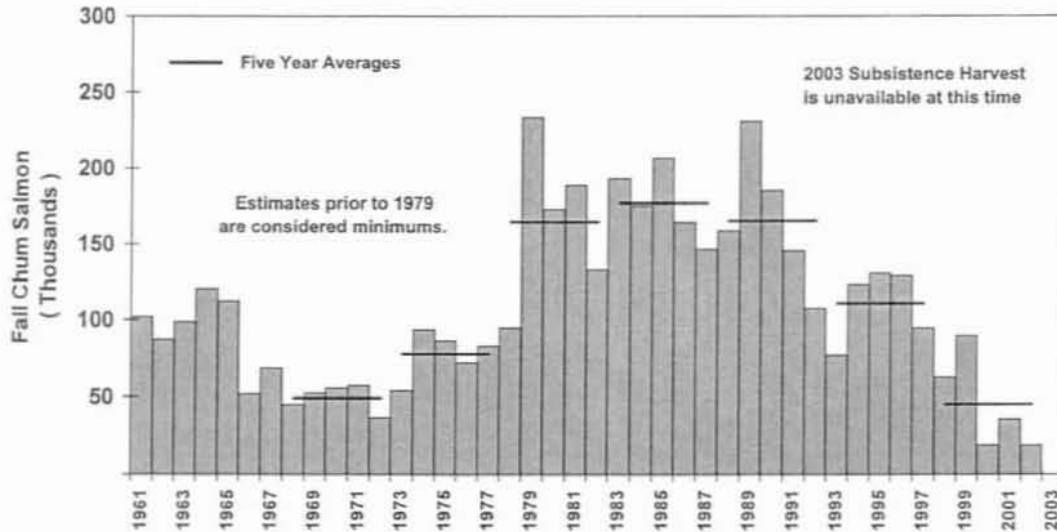
**No. of Salmon (millions)**

Appendix Figure 5. Yukon River summer chum salmon 2003 escapements compared to 2002 and the 9 year average (1994-2002)

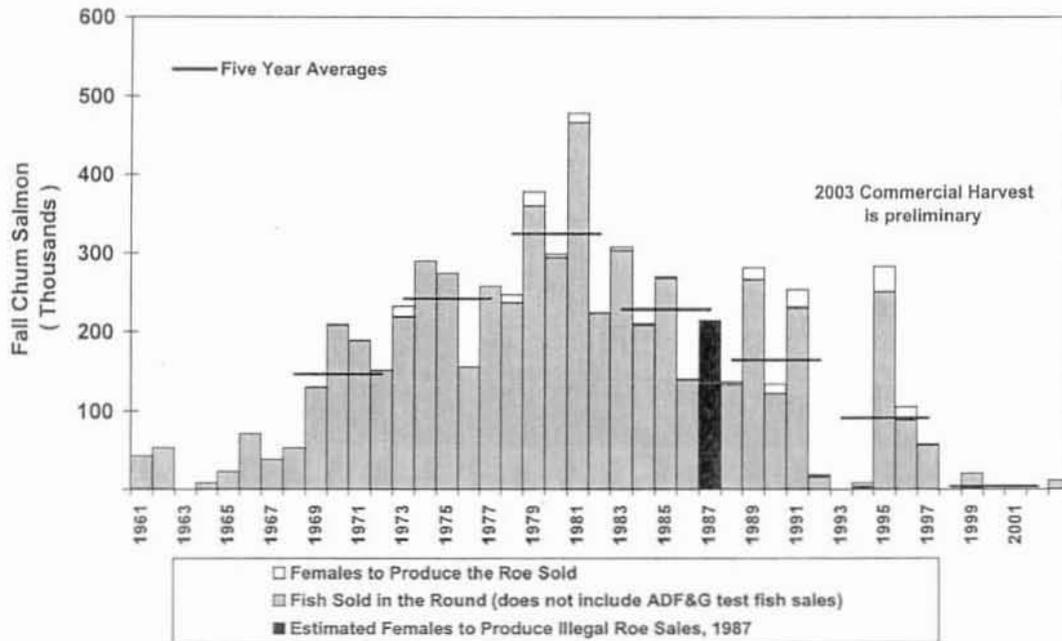
**Appendix B**  
**Historical Fall Chum and Coho Salmon**  
**Harvest and Escapement Information**

## ALASKAN PORTION OF YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE AREA, FALL CHUM SALMON

### SUBSISTENCE HARVEST



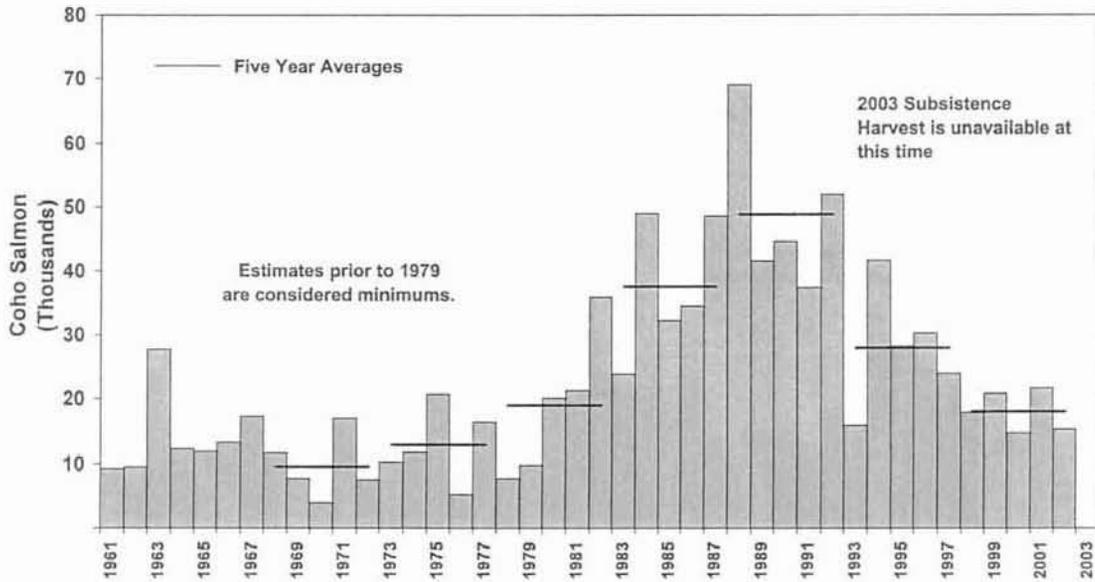
### COMMERCIAL HARVEST



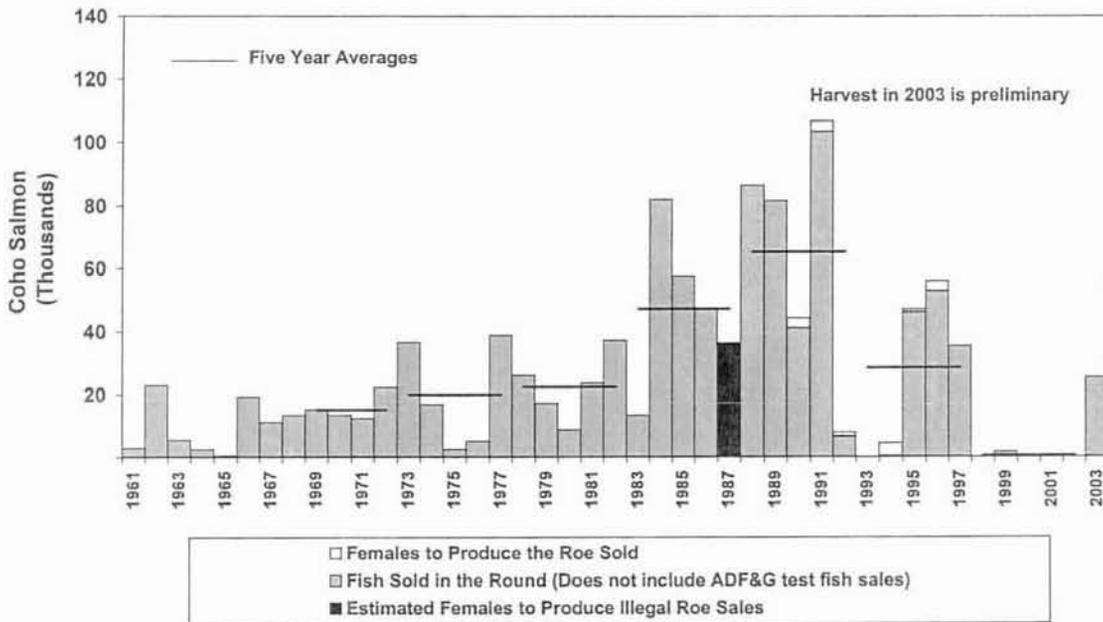
Appendix B.1. Subsistence and commercial harvest of fall chum salmon, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska, 1961 to 2003.

## ALASKAN PORTION OF YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE COHO SALMON

### SUBSISTENCE AND PERSONAL USE HARVEST



### COMMERCIAL HARVEST

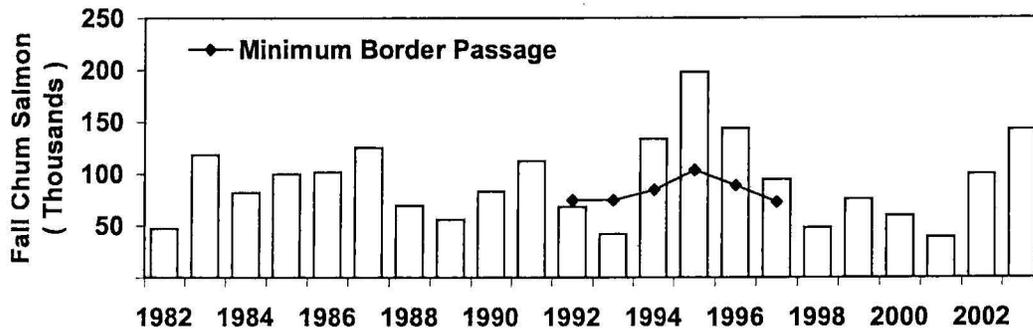


Appendix B.2. Subsistence, personal use, and commercial harvest of coho salmon, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska, 1961-2003.

# CANADIAN MAINSTEM YUKON RIVER

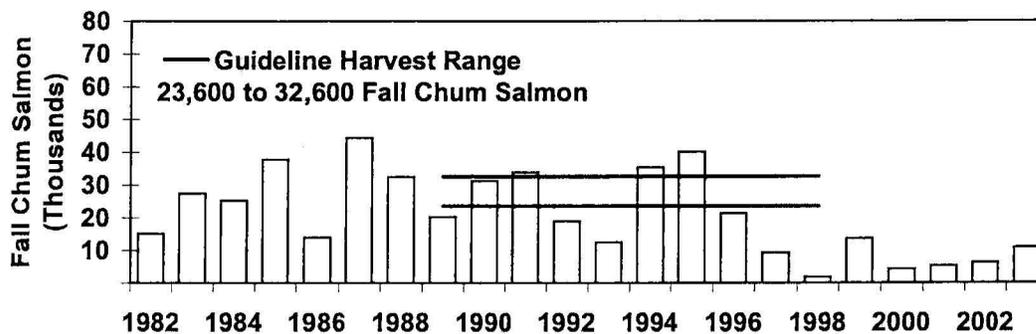
## Fall Chum Salmon

### Canadian Border Passage

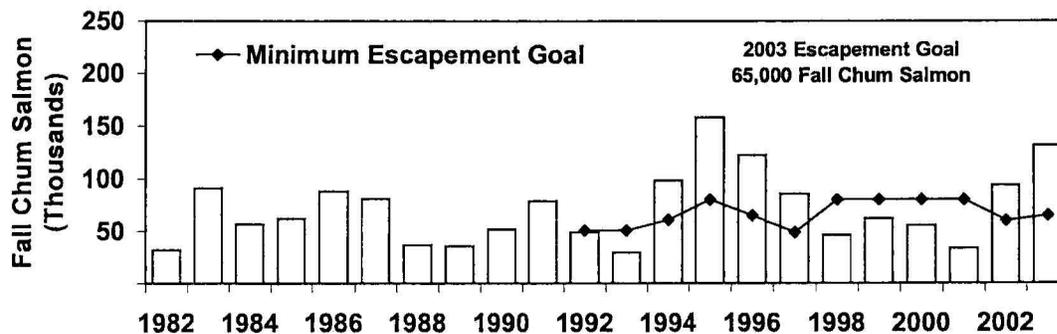


### Canadian Mainstem Harvest

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



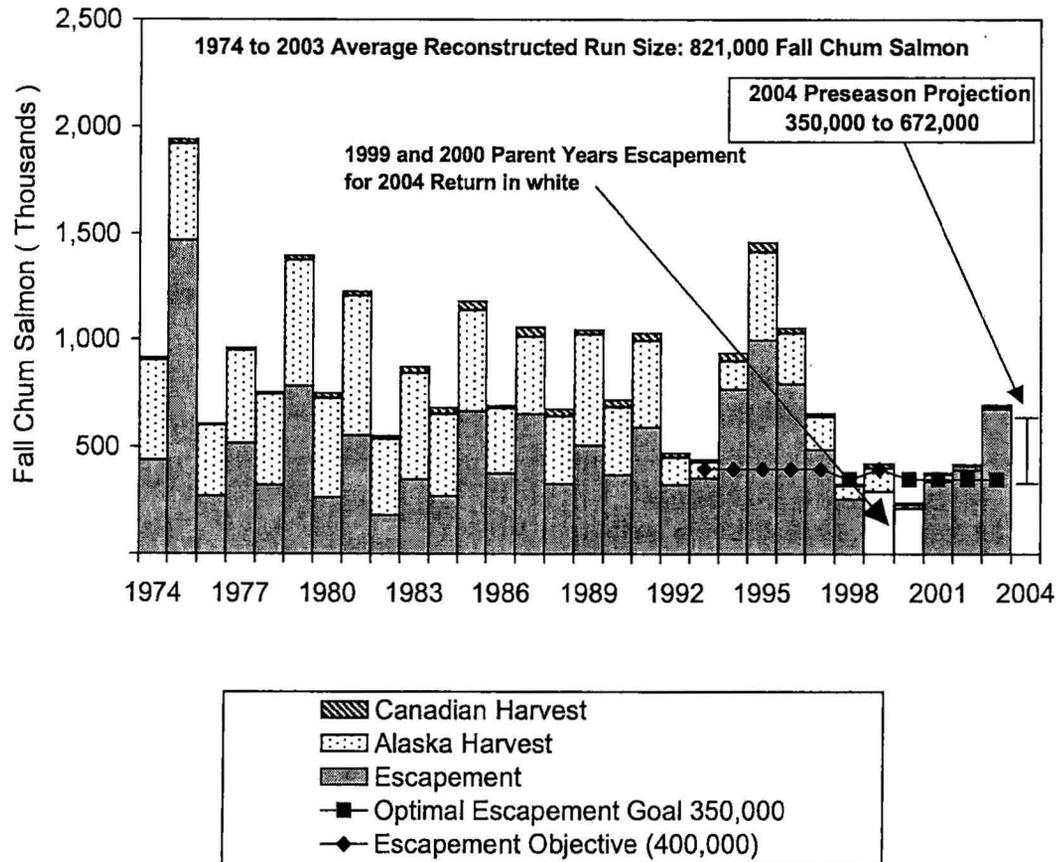
### Canadian Spawning Escapement



Data is preliminary

Appendix B.3 Canadian mainstem border passage, harvest and escapement estimates, 1982 to 2003, and targeted goals for the rebuilding period from 1992 through 1997, along with the minimum escapement goals for 1998 to 2003.

# 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 has been utilized in 1998, 2000, and 2001. Historical escapement and harvest estimates as provided in the 2004 Fall Chum Salmon Run Projection, 2004, Memorandum, by B. Borba.

Appendix B.4. Estimated harvest and escapement of fall chum salmon, Yukon River drainage, 1974 to 2003, and the 2004 preseason projection.

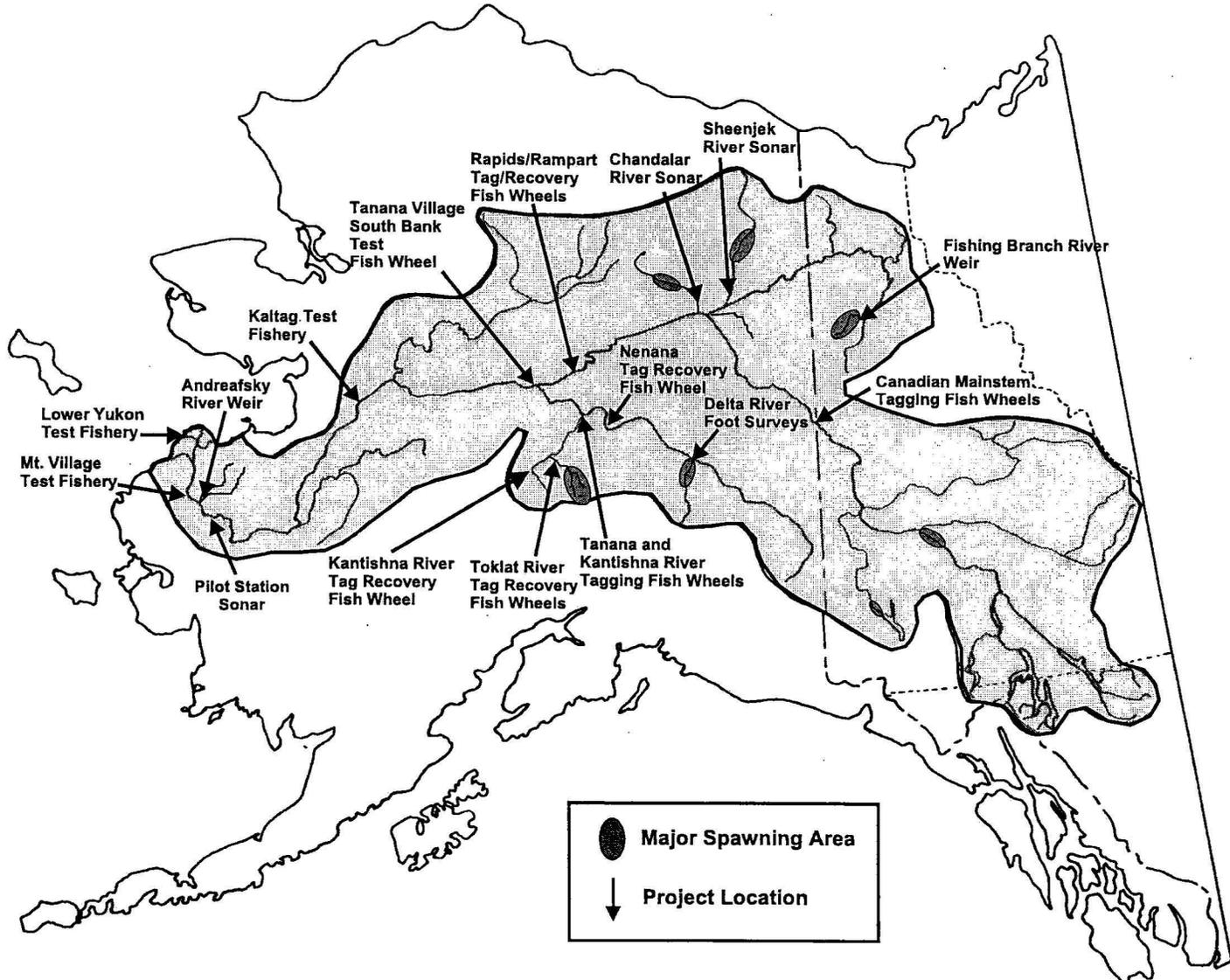
<b>Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan Overview</b>					
<b>Projected Run Size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTION</b>				<b>Targeted Drainagewide Escapement</b>
	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Personal Use</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Subsistence</b>	
300,000 or less	Closure	Closure	Closure	Closure <sup>2</sup>	300,000 to 600,000
300,001 to 500,000	Closure	Closure <sup>2</sup>	Closure <sup>2</sup>	Possible Restrictions <sup>2&amp;3</sup>	
500,001 to 600,000	Restrictions <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open	Pre-2001 Fishing Schedules	
Greater than 600,000	Open <sup>4</sup>	Open	Open	Pre-2001 Fishing Schedules	

<sup>1</sup> PROJECTED RUN SIZES use the best available data (including preseason projections, mainstem river sonar passage estimates, test fisheries indices, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects)

<sup>2</sup> The fishery may be opened or less restrictive in areas that indicator(s) suggest the escapement goal(s) in that area will be achieved.

<sup>3</sup> Subsistence fishing will be managed to achieve a minimum drainage-wide escapement goal of 300,000.

<sup>4</sup> DRAINAGE-WIDE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES may be open and the harvestable surplus above 600,000 will be distributed by district or subdistrict (in proportion to the guidelines harvest levels established in 5AAC 05.362 (f) and (g) and 5 AAC 05.365).



Appendix B.6. Selected fall season monitoring projects, Yukon River drainage, 2004.

Appendix B.7. Preliminary fall chum salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparison, Yukon River drainage, 2003. a

Fall Chum Salmon Commercial Harvest b														
District/Subdistrict	Guideline Harvest Range	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1998 to 2002)
Y-1		0	0	79,345	33,629	27,483	0	9,987	0	0	0	5,586	180%	1,997
Y-2		0	0	90,831	29,651	24,326	0	9,703	0	0	0	0	N/A	1,941
Y-3		0	0	0	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	0	0	5,586	42%	3,936
Y-4BC	5,000-40,000	0	0	8,731	2,918	2,458	0	681	0	0	0	1,315	865%	136
Subtotal Y-4	5,000-40,000	0	0	8,731	2,918	2,458	0	681	0	0	0	1,315	865%	136
Y-5ABC	4,000-36,000	0	0	26,054	17,461	3,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Y-5D	1,000-4,000	0	3,630	3,979	4,397	851	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-5	5,000-40,000	0	3,630	30,033	21,858	3,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	784
Y-6	2,750-20,500	0	4,369	74,117	17,574	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,095	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-6		0	4,369	74,117	17,574	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,095	-	0
Total Alaska	72,750-320,500	0	7,999	283,057	105,630	58,187	0	20,371	0	0	0	10,996	170%	4,074
Canada °		12,422	35,354	40,111	21,329	9,286	1,742	13,506	4,236	4,918	6,158	10,845	77%	6,112

Fall Chum Salmon Escapements														
Project	BEG Range	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1998 to 2002)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir <sup>d</sup>		-	-	2,584	2,978	2,048	1,276	763	619	302	289	1,140	-56%	650
Pilot Station Sonar		295,303	-	1,070,968	-	521,531	374,597	438,755	267,181	396,012	359,565	930,452	153%	367,222
South Fork Koyukuk River Weir		-	-	19,485	21,651	11,340	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	17,492 <sup>f</sup>
Toklat River	15,000-33,000	27,838	76,057	54,513	18,264	14,511	15,605	4,551	8,911	6,007	28,519	21,492	69%	12,719
Delta River	6,000-13,000	19,857	23,777	20,587	19,758	7,705	7,804	16,534	3,001	8,103	11,992	22,582	138%	9,487
Chandalar River Sonar	74,000-152,000	-	-	280,999	208,170	199,874	75,811	88,662	65,894	110,971	89,580	196,985	129%	86,184
Sheenjek River Sonar	50,000-104,000	42,922	150,565	241,855	246,889	80,423	33,058	14,229	30,084	53,932	31,642	44,047	35%	32,589
Canada Fishing Branch River Weir	50,000-120,000	28,707	65,247	51,971	77,278	26,959	13,564	12,904	5,053	21,635	13,563	29,519	121%	13,344
Canada Mainstem Tagging	>80,000	29,743	98,358	158,092	122,429	85,439	46,305	61,905	55,362	33,679	93,638	132,128	127%	58,178

a Data from the 2000 AMR and 2002 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 (1993-2001) Data taken from 2002 Yukon Area Fall Season Data Notebook (Table C.1).

f Three year average 1995 to 1997.

Appendix B.8. Preliminary coho salmon commercial harvest and escapement comparison, Yukon River drainage, 2003. a

Coho Salmon Commercial Harvest													
District/Subdistrict	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1998 to 2002)
Y-1	0	0	21,625	27,705	21,450	0	855	0	0	0	9,757	N/A	171
Y-2	0	0	18,488	20,974	13,056	1	746	0	0	0	0	N/A	149
Y-3	0	0	0	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	0	0	9,757	-	320
Y-4A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Y-4BC	0	0	0	161	814	0	0	0	0	0	367	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-4	0	0	0	161	814	0	0	0	0	0	367	-	0
Y-5ABC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Y-5D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Y-6	0	4,451	6,900	7,142	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,119	N/A	0
Subtotal Y-6	0	4,451	6,900	7,142	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,119	-	0
<b>Total Alaska</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,451</b>	<b>47,013</b>	<b>55,982</b>	<b>35,320</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,243</b>	<b>7779%</b>	<b>320</b>

Coho Salmon Escapements														
Project	BEG Range	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Comparison to Average	5 Year Average (1998 to 2002)
East Fork Andreafsky River Weir		-	-	10,901	8,037	9,462	5,417	2,963	8,199	9,054	3,534	7,970	37%	5,833
Pilot Station Sonar		41,620	-	154,462	-	153,502	176,792	94,532	183,192	143,213	135,737	277,000	89%	146,693
Geiger Creek		138	410	142	233	274	157	29	142	578	744	973	195%	330
Barton Creek Weir		141	2,000	192	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	583 <sup>b</sup>
Lost Slough		484	944	4,169	2,040	1,524	1,360	1,002	55	242	0	85	-84%	532
Mainstem Nenana		419	1,648	2,218	2,171	1,446	2,771	745	66	855	328	658	-31%	953
Wood Creek		666	1,317	500	2,416	1,464	353	-	385	699	935	3,055	544%	474
Seventeen Mile Slough		581	2,909	2,972	3,668	1,996	1,413	662	879	3,741	1,910	4,535	164%	1,721
Delta Clearwater River	>9,000	10,875	62,675	20,100	14,075	11,525	11,100	10,975	9,225	46,875	38,625	102,800	340%	23,360
Clearwater Lake & Outlet		3,525	3,425	3,625	1,125	2,775	2,775	-	1,025	4,425	5,900	8,800	212%	2,825

a Data from the 2000 AMR and 2002 JTC used when available.

b Four year average, 1993 to 1996.

**Appendix C**  
**Yukon Area Fishery Regulation Changes**

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



*Kevin Duffy, Commissioner*  
*Doug Mecum, Director*  
*Division of Commercial Fisheries*  
*Juneau, Alaska*

## News Release

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### Yukon Area Offices:

Summer Season  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99718  
(907) 267-2121  
Tracy Lingnau

Fall Season  
1300 College Rd  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 459-7274  
Fred Bue

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 28, 2004**

### **Results of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Board of Fisheries Finfish Meeting January 12 to 19, 2004 in Fairbanks, Alaska**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) met in Fairbanks from January 12 to 19 to decide on fisheries proposals concerning the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) areas. Proposals and action plans options affecting the Yukon Area are the subject of this news release.

The following is a brief summary of the action plan options and proposals the Board considered along with the decision taken regarding each option and proposal.

#### Stock of Concern Action Plan Options

- Stock of Concern Status
  - Chinook Salmon - continue Yield Concern
  - Summer Chum Salmon - continue Management Concern
  - Fall Chum Salmon - continue Yield Concern
    - Toklat River Stock - remove Management Concern
    - Fishing Branch River Stock - remove Management Concern
- Yukon Area Subdistrict 5-C Subsistence Salmon Fishing Permits:

The board increased the permit harvest area for subsistence salmon fishing to include all of Subdistrict 5-C as a means to track resource use changes due to the completion of the Rampart road construction project and the increased mobility of fishermen.

- Operation of gear during subsistence salmon fishing closures:  
The board adopted a regulation requiring gillnets greater than 4” mesh size to be removed from the water and fish wheels must stop rotating during subsistence closures. A similar regulation is in place on the Kuskokwim River system and this would make regulations for subsistence closures the same for both rivers.
- Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan:  
The board modified the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan by:
  - aligning the escapement goal threshold with the lower end of the established BEG range of 300,000 to 600,000
  - this will provide more subsistence fishing opportunity in years with poor runs
  - commercial fishing drainage wide will not be allowed until the run is projected to be 600,000 fish, which will provide for the subsistence priority and bolster escapement on strong runs.
  - key elements of the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan were incorporated into the Fall Chum Salmon Plan which included changing management of the Toklat stock from the OEG target to managing for the established BEG range of 15,000-33,000.
- Tanana River Salmon Management Plan:  
An amendment was made to remove the restriction requiring no more than 42 hours of commercial fishing per week after August 15, which provides the department with more flexibility to manage for escapement while accommodating unpredictable market interest.

**Proposal 155-** The main objective for this proposal was to revise the subsistence fishing schedule in Districts 3 and 4 to provide weekend subsistence fishing opportunity for fishers that work. This proposal would establish a start date for the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in regulation. **The Board voted to allow the department to set a weekend schedule day by emergency order and not to set the start date in regulation.**

**Proposal 156-** This proposal sought to increase the subsistence fishing schedule from two 42-hour periods per week to two 48-hour periods per week in Subdistrict 5-A and District 6. **The Board voted to allow the two 48-hour periods per week schedule in Subdistrict 5-A, but to keep District 6 on two 42-hour periods per week.**

**Proposal 157-** This proposal sought to allow a 24-hour per day seven day per week subsistence fishing schedule in the Tanana River (District 6) after October 1, provided that abundance of salmon was adequate. **This proposal was adopted with an amendment to change the proposed October 1 date to September 30.**

**Proposal 164-** This proposal sought to open the waters of the South and Middle Forks of the Koyukuk River to subsistence fishing and to allow the use of 3.5” mesh or smaller along the Dalton Highway corridor, during the period of November 1 to June 30. Subsistence fishing would be closed to the use of gillnets from July 1 to October 31. This proposal **was adopted with the amendment to require a subsistence fishing permit** to aid in assessing harvest by fishermen residing outside the immediate area who would not be covered by the post season community harvest survey.

**Proposal 169-**This proposal would have allowed commercial permit holders in Subdistrict 4-A to switch gear from the current set gillnet or fish wheel permits to drift gillnet gear when there is sufficient abundance for directed commercial fishing chinook salmon and when a conservation concern exists with summer chum salmon. **This proposal was passed with the amendment to allow all commercial permits to use set gillnet gear during such times, but not drift gillnet gear.**

**Proposal A-** This proposal was a Board generated proposal that resulted from an emergency petition to allow commercial fishing for herring throughout the entire Cape Romanzof herring district. **This proposal was adopted.**

## **Appendix D**

### **US/Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement Amendment**

## Escapement Objectives for and Harvest Sharing of Canadian-Origin Chinook and Chum Salmon

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 0 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 worded as follows:

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) was 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 advises the United States and Canadian Governments on conservation and management of the salmon originating in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River. For example, the Panel may recommend annual escapement goals different than that outlined in the treaty. 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 2004, the monies from the original Fund (\$1,200,000) have been allocated to projects in both the Alaska and Canada portion of the drainage.