

# **Subsistence Overview**

Presentation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries Anchorage, Alaska - February 23, 2024



RC 3, Tab 5

## **ADF&G Subsistence Research Unit Overview**

Our mission is to scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. AS 16.05.094



Quantitative and qualitative research



Most projects are partnerships



Research is voluntary and confidential



Inform **C&T** and **ANS** findings

Photo captions: Participant observation in Tyonek; Harvest area mapping in Chenega; King salmon drying in Tyonek.







# **Finding Subsistence Data**

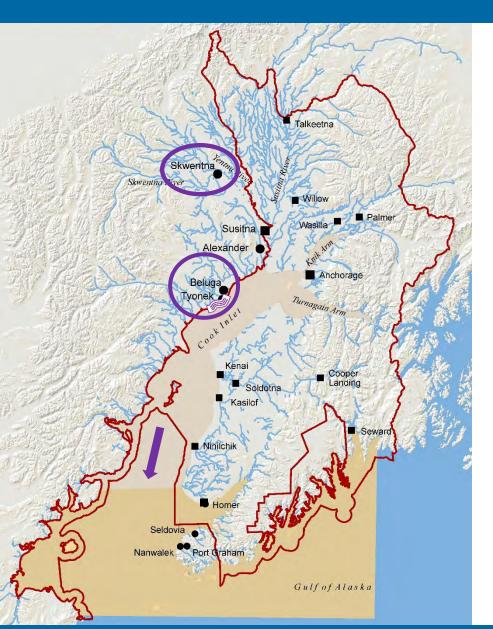


http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/



# **Overview of Upper Cook Inlet Area**

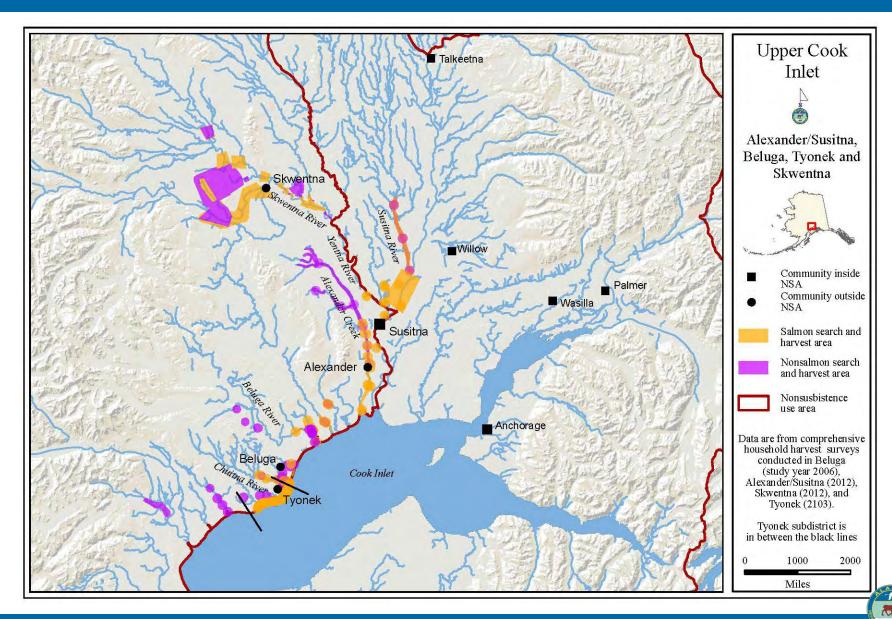




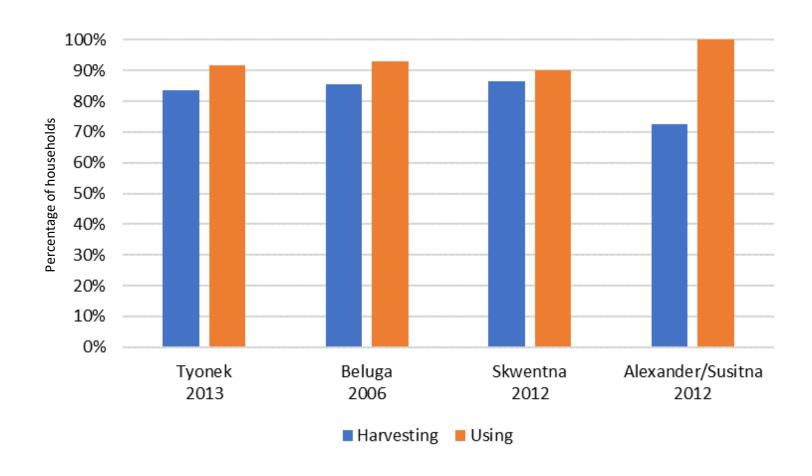
- 1. Tyonek Subdistrict salmon
- 2. Yentna River fishwheel fishery
- 3. Other positive C&T findings



## **Search and Harvest Areas**

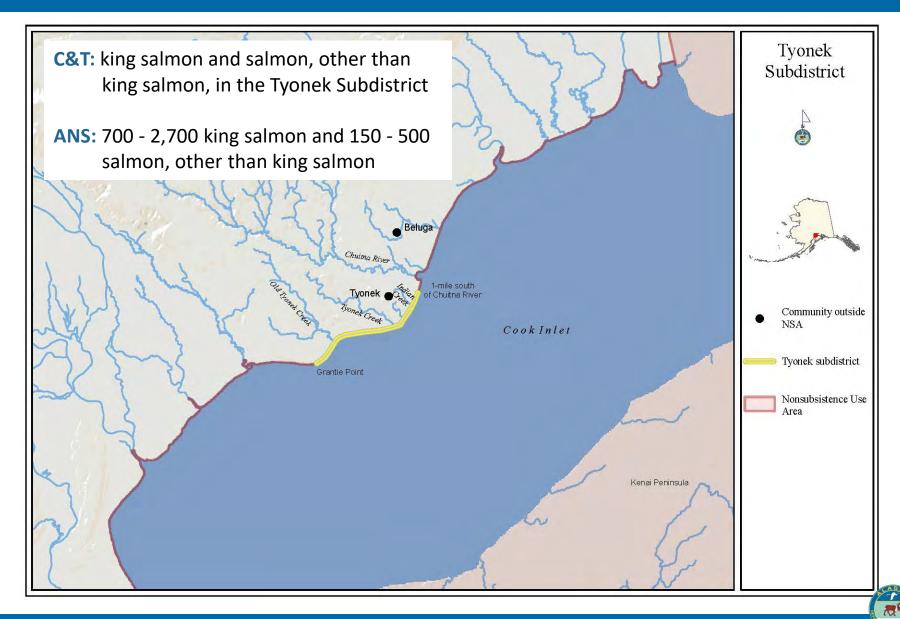


## **Harvest and Use of Fish**





# **Tyonek Subdistrict Overview**



# **Tyonek Ethnographic Background**

"Fishing is part of our heritage that can be handed down through generations. Tradition is very important."

-Qualitative data from key respondent interviews with Tyonek knowledge holders, 2016

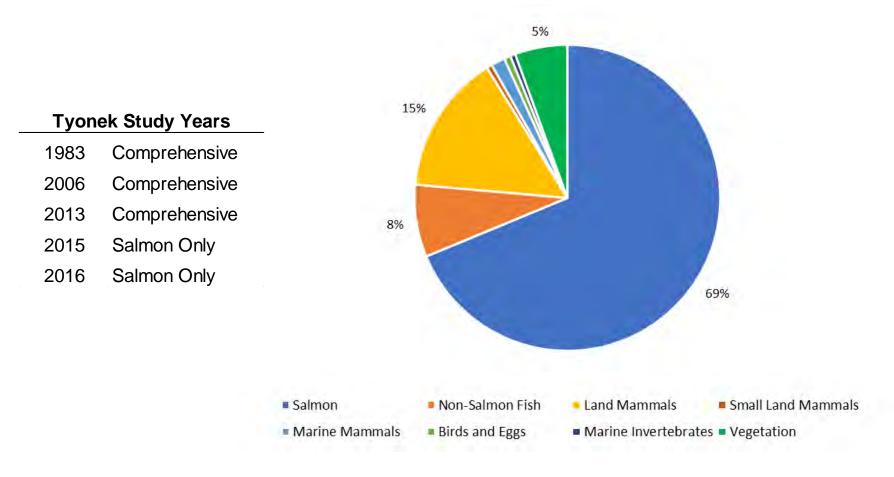


- In Dena'ina language, June is "liq'aka'a'n'u" which translates to "king salmon month"
- Families fish in the same locations annually; a stake is set in the mudflats at low tide each spring to set gillnets from the beach with a running line
- All parts of salmon are used
- Salmon are dried, smoked, rendered, fermented, and salted for preservation
- Salmon are shared throughout the community

Photo: Teaching the next generation to fish, 2004. Credit: ADF&G Subsistence



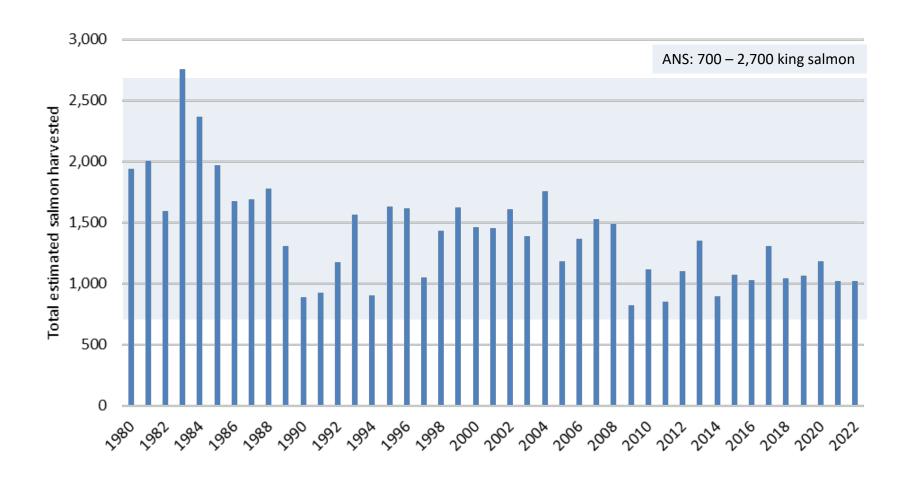
# **Tyonek Harvest Composition, 2013**



Salmon = 69% of harvest weight; 118 lbs. per capita.

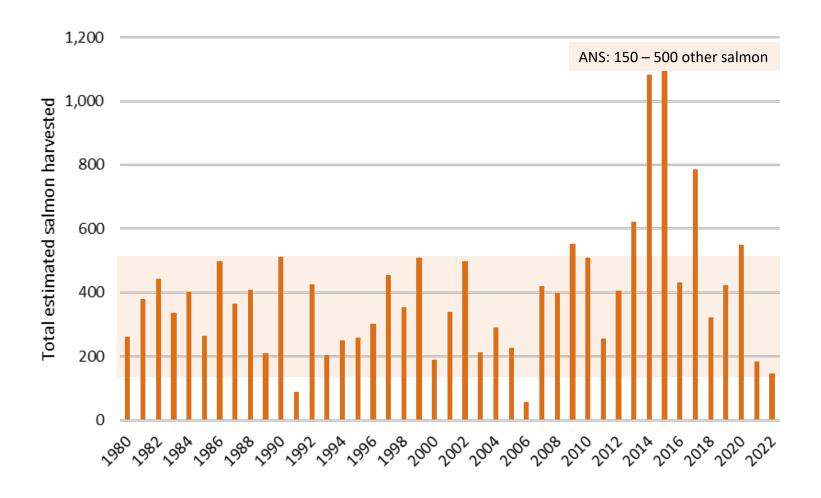


# **Tyonek Subdistrict Subsistence King Salmon Harvest Estimates**





# **Tyonek Subdistrict Subsistence other Salmon Harvest Estimates**





## **Yentna Subsistence Salmon**

Positive C&T for Salmon in the Yentna River drainage outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area

ANS: 400-700 salmon, other than king salmon (no ANS finding for king salmon yet, due to lack of harvest data)

- Salmon may only be taken in a portion of the mainstem of the river, and only with a fish wheel
- Permits administered by Division of Sport Fish; daily reporting requirements
- # Limit of 25 salmon other than king salmon, and 5 king salmon/permit holder, plus 10 salmon other than king salmon and 2 king salmon for each dependent of the permit holder



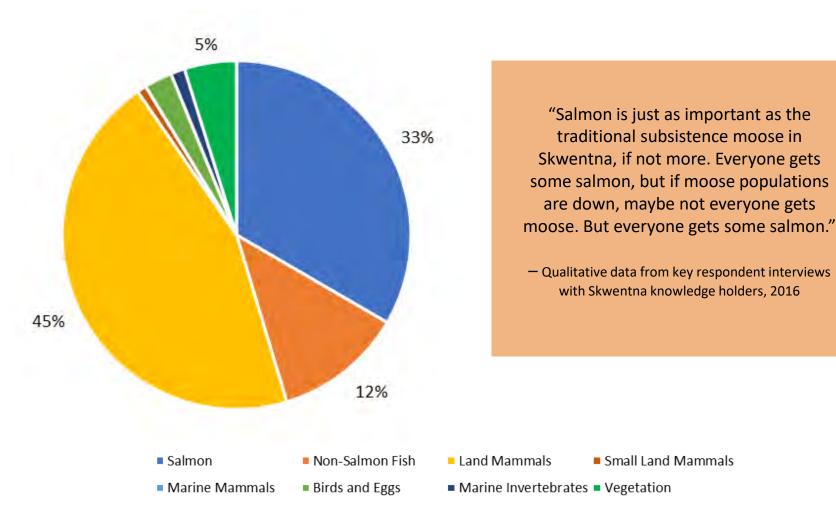
# **Yentna Ethnographic Information**

- Salmon were historically taken with fish traps, spears, dip nets, and weirs, and later gillnets and fish wheels
- Preservation methods include drying, smoking, fermenting, salting, canning, and jarring
- Documentation through the last 100 years shows an effort to efficiently harvest and preserve fish early in the season
- 50% of Skwentna households received salmon from other households during the 2012 study year

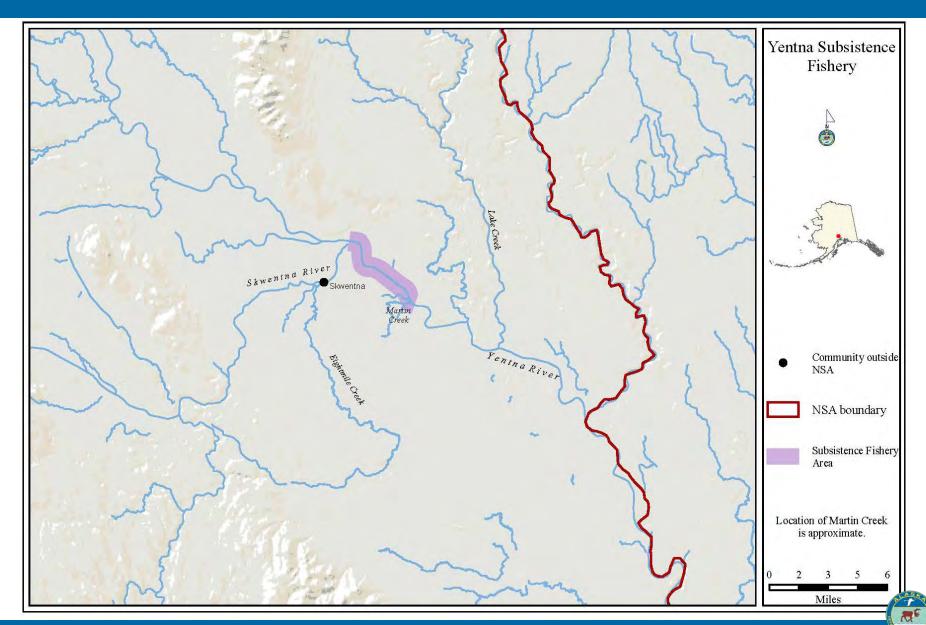


## **Skwentna Harvest Composition, 2012**

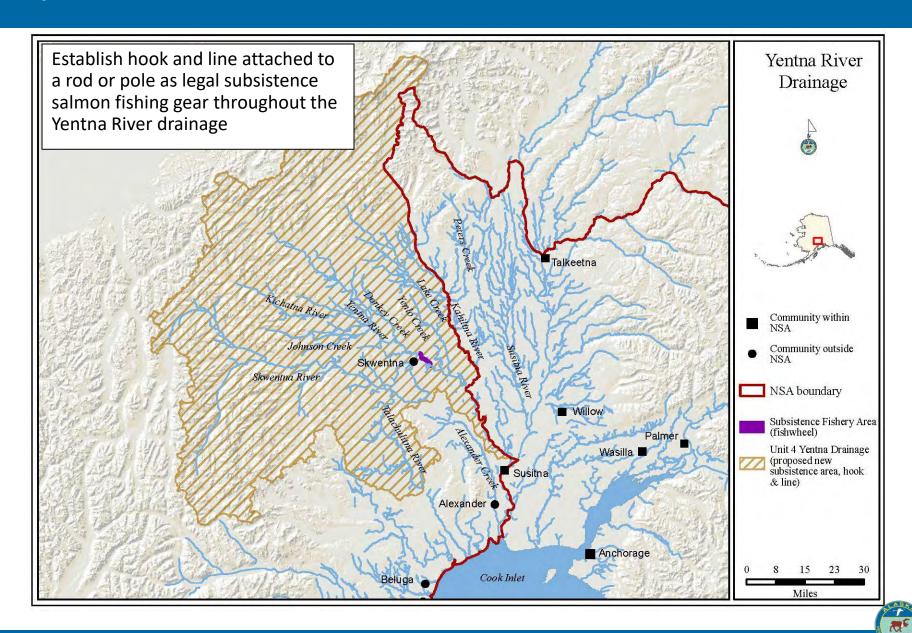
### Salmon = 33% of harvest weight; 54 lbs. per capita.



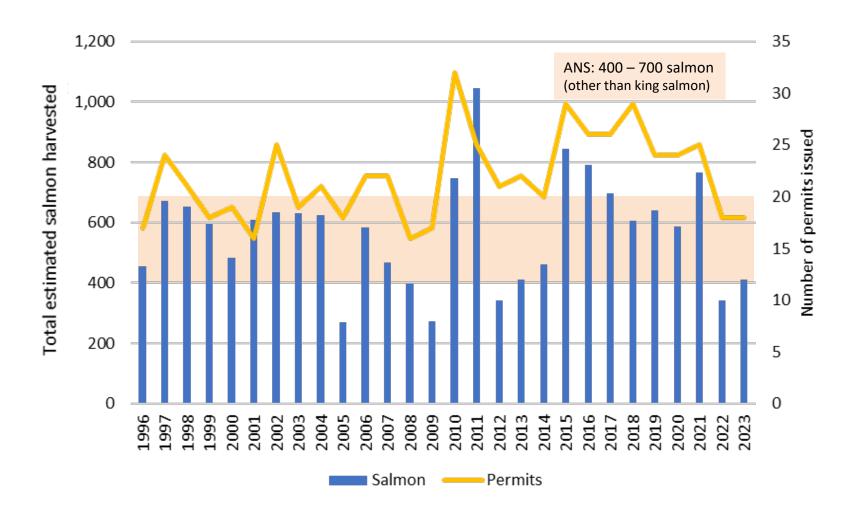
# **Yentna Subsistence Fishwheel Fishery**



# **Proposal 204**



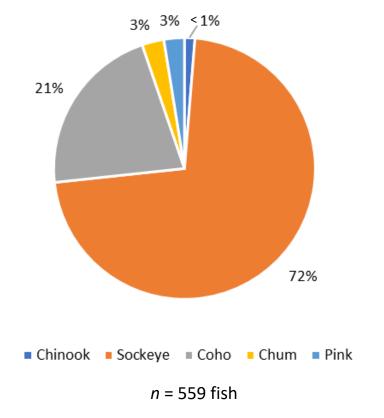
## **Yentna Permit Data: Total Salmon Harvest**



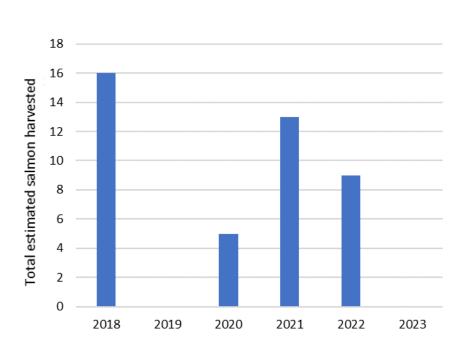


# **Yentna Subsistence Harvest Composition**

# Average Harvest Composition (2018 – 2023)

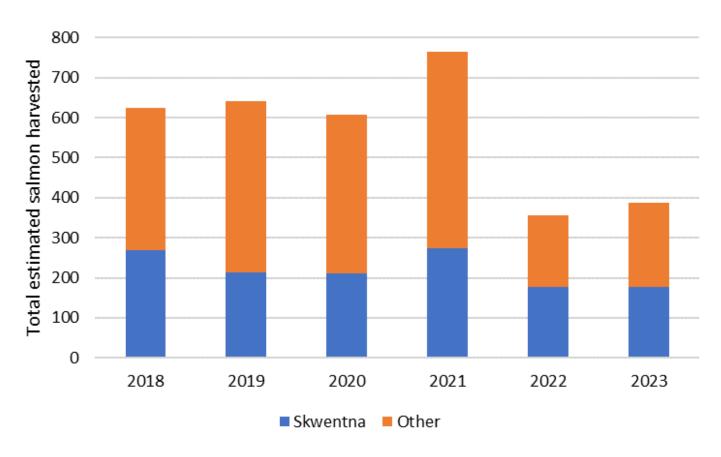


### King Salmon Harvest 2018 – 2023





# **Yentna Subsistence Harvest by Place of Residence**



Other communities = Sterling, Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Palmer, Wasilla, and Willow



## **Additional Cook Inlet Positive C&Ts**

**Smelt** in those portions of the Cook Inlet Area outside the boundaries of the NSA

Bottomfish, halibut, and herring in those portions of the Cook Inlet Area that are outside the boundaries of the nonsubsistence area

**ANS:** 100 - 225 lingcod

**ANS:** 750 - 1,350 rockfish



Photo credit: ADF&G



### Thank you to all the Upper Cook Inlet residents who have participated in this research!

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Community Subsistence Harvest Information System <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/</a>

**Division Technical Paper Series** http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications

#### Photos:

A multi-generational family processes king salmon, Tyonek Fishing at a fishwheel, Yentna River



