

FINAL REPORT OF THE SURVEY OF PERMITHOLDERS
IN THE TANANA RIVER SUBSISTENCE SALMON
PERMIT FISHERY 1981

by
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Abstract

A two-phase study of utilization of the Tanana River subsistence permit salmon fishery near Fairbanks (including subunit Y-6C and the adjacent upriver area to the Salcha River) was conducted by the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game during 1980 and 1981. The purpose of the study was to provide a detailed assessment of variables affecting utilization of the fishery over time and to develop an in-depth characterization of households which currently use the fishery or who have done so in the recent past. The methodology included the use of both survey questionnaires and personal interviews.

Key similarities exist in household characteristics and use patterns for the large majority of those surveyed; these households are characterized by moderate to high incomes, significant involvement in the wage economy, and a relatively short history of participation in the Tanana River fishery. Subsistence-caught salmon are used mostly for household use rather than for dog food or other purposes.

A small percentage of households interviewed--probably less than 20 percent--make more intensive use of the fishery. These households found current harvest limits inadequate, and generally had lower median incomes, less involvement in the wage economy, somewhat larger household sizes, and longer histories of participation.

Purpose of Study

Growth in the number of permitholders and in the total harvest of subsistence-caught salmon in subdistrict Y-6C and the adjacent upriver area to the Salcha River (see Figure I), has been evident over the past several years. The number of permits and overall harvest for both kings and chums has increased steadily since 1971, when harvest limits were first instituted by the Department (see Table I).

Division of Commercial Fisheries staff expressed concern about the impact of the apparent expansion of the subsistence fishery on salmon stocks--particularly fall chums--to the Subsistence Division in 1979. One factor cited as potentially influencing the Tanana River fishery was the introduction of more restrictive regulatory mechanisms by the Board of Fisheries on the Copper River, perhaps bringing about increased pressure on the Tanana by Fairbanks area fishermen. Additionally, continued population growth in the Fairbanks area may also have added pressure to the fishery.

Commercial Fisheries and Subsistence Division staff agreed that development of detailed user data and an assessment of user populations over time would be useful as a baseline for assessing and analyzing trends in the fishery. A research design was developed by Subsistence Division staff in 1980 to conduct a study of the user populations, and a mailout survey was conducted (see "Interim Report on the Survey of Permitholders in the Tanana River Subsistence Permit Fishery, Subunit Y-6C, 1980," ADFG, Subsistence Section, December, 1980). Results were presented to the Board of Fisheries at their December 1980 meeting.

Concurrent with presentation to the Board of results from the baseline report was regulatory proposal to reduce chum salmon harvest limits for

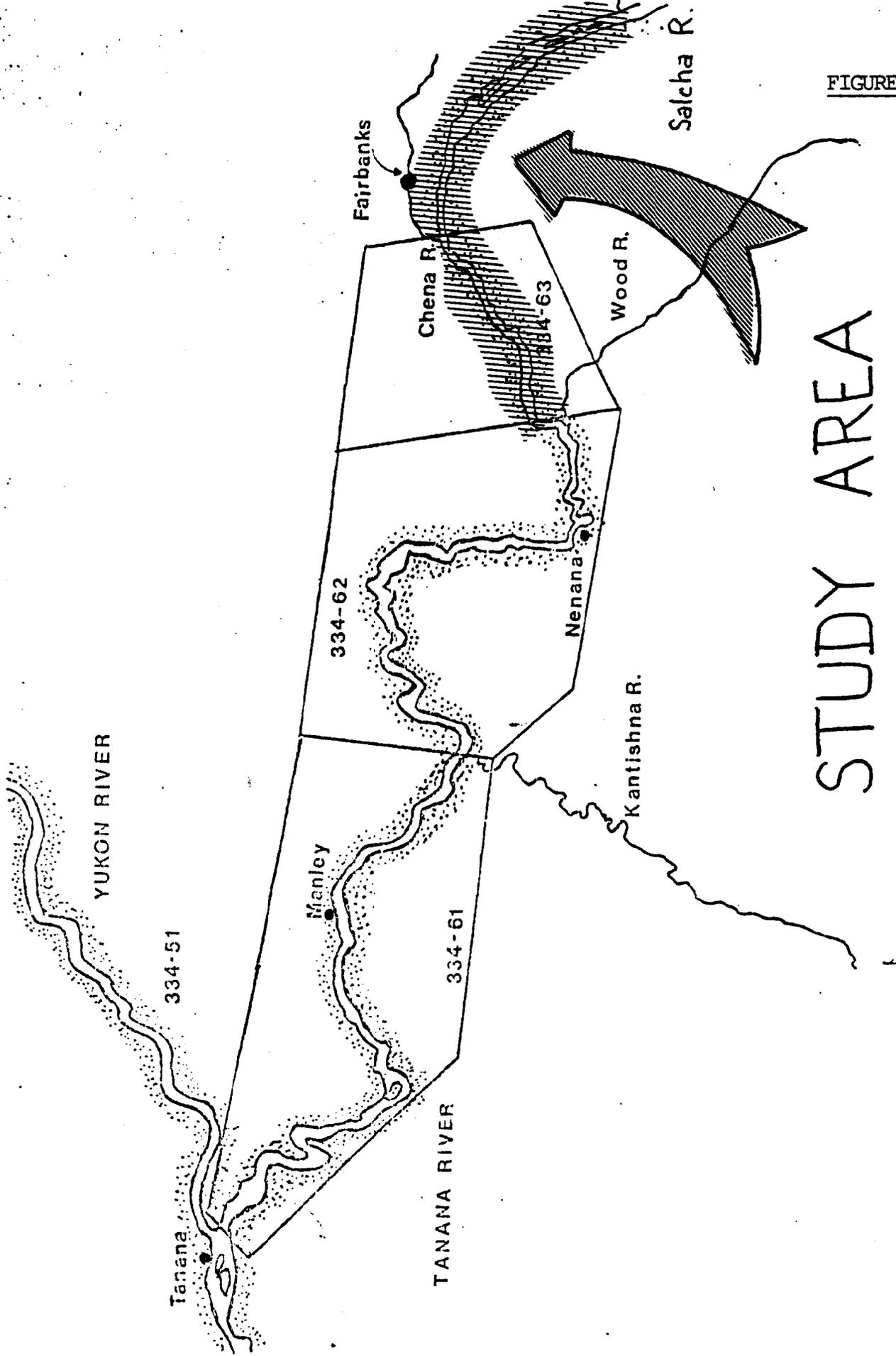


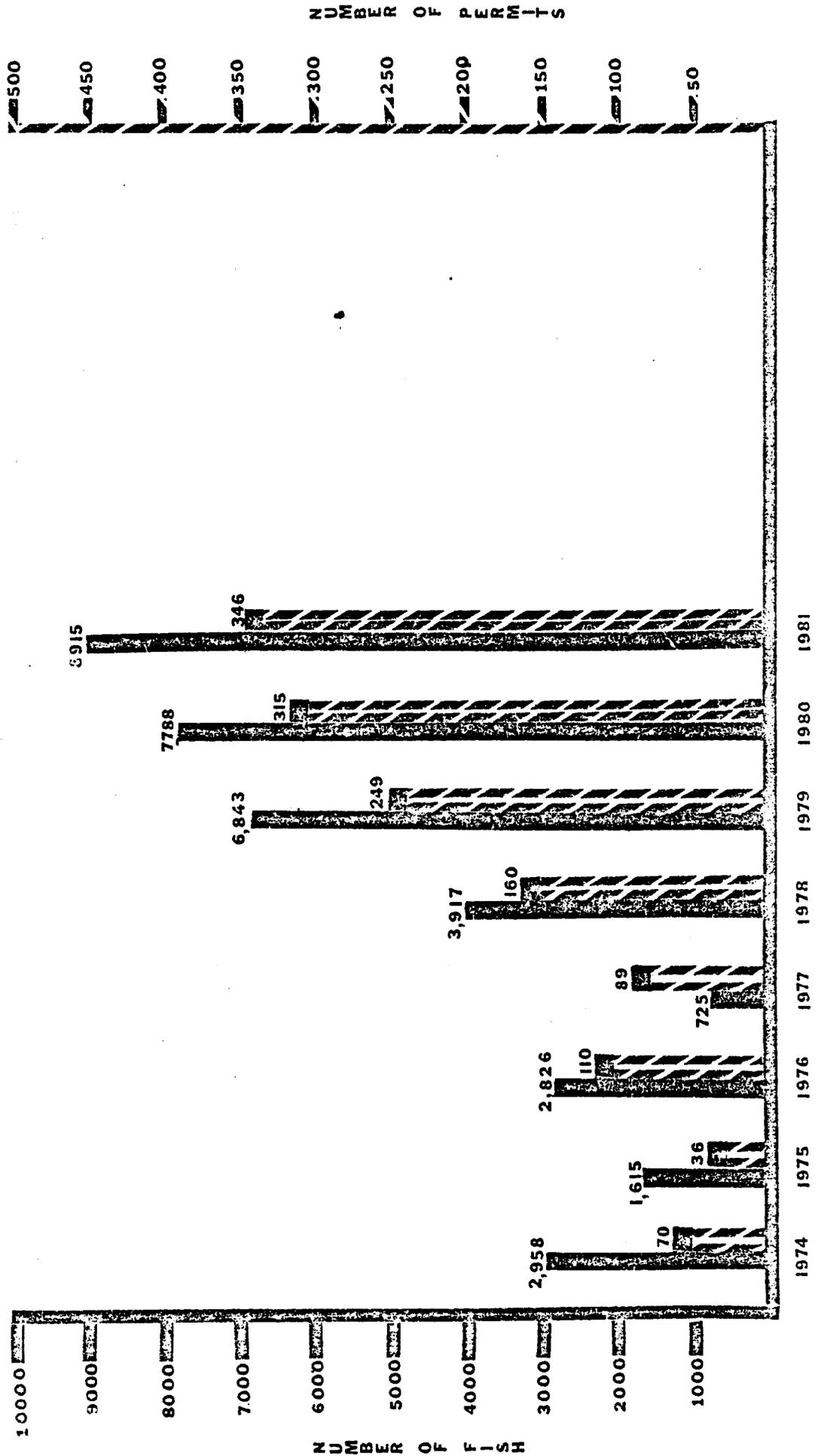
FIGURE I.

STUDY AREA

TABLE I:

**FAIRBANKS AREA SUBSISTENCE FISHERY
1974 - 1981 CHUM & COHO SALMON CATCHES**

(Source: ADFG, Commercial Fisheries Division--1981 data preliminary)



each permitholder. Board consideration of the proposal and management plans for the fishery brought out the need to develop an additional data base from which decisions could be made regarding the subsistence fishery, particularly to address the "customary and traditional" components of the user group analysis.

In spring of 1981 the Subsistence Division developed this expanded study to build upon the 1980 data already collected. The purpose of this study was to develop both a detailed description of variables affecting utilization of the fishery over time and a comprehensive understanding of user populations, beyond that provided by previous research. Included in this final report is a presentation of results developed from both 1980 and 1981 study components and an analysis of variables affecting utilization of the fishery.

Methodology

The first phase of the Tanana River Subsistence Permit Fishery Survey was conducted in 1980 (see "Interim Report..."). A confidential mail-out survey questionnaire (see Appendix I) was distributed by the Subsistence Division to all 1980 permitholders. A followup letter to those who had not responded brought the total response to 217, or 69 percent of all 1980 permitholders (n=315). Selected results of the 1980 survey are incorporated in this final report.

The 1981 component of the survey had the following objectives:

- 1) update survey analysis to include data received too late for inclusion in 1980 "Interim Report...;"
- 2) conduct a literature review to document relevant socioeconomic, cultural and demographic variables useful in analyzing data compiled in the study process;

- 3) review and summarize the history of regulatory policies and procedures;
- 4) document user patterns for the 1980 season through mapping of use areas and access points;
- 5) interview selected informants regarding their perceptions of user characteristics and patterns, management and enforcement problems, and socioeconomic and cultural significance of the fishery. Interviews included: Area Biologist, Commercial Fisheries Division; local Fish and Wildlife Protection (FWP) officers: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee members; Tanana Chiefs Conference personnel, Fairbanks Native Association and others familiar with the fishery;
- 6) Conduct indepth personal interviews with 20 percent of the heads of households (for study purposes "household" was defined as the "residence unit") utilizing the subunit Y-6C subsistence salmon permit fishery in 1980, including:
 - a) households with an established history of use in the Y-6C permit fishery (greater than 3 years);
 - b) households having only recently utilized the permit fishery (1980 only);
 - c) households having an established history of participation (greater than 3 years) in the Y-6C and/or other fisheries (e.g. Copper River, Yukon River);
 - d) households having participated in the Y-6C permit fishery in the past, and which no longer participate (including those who may have moved their fishing activity elsewhere);
 - e) households utilizing the Y-6C permit fishery without a permit, if any;
 - f) households holding a limited entry permit utilized in subunit Y-6C.
- 7) Analyze data and study results, develop management recommendations through consultation with Commercial Fisheries staff and present report of findings to the Board of Fisheries at the December 1981 meeting.

It should be noted that the first objective (updating 1980 data with those who had responded too late for previous coding) brought the total sample size for the mailout survey to 255, or 81 percent of all 1980 permit holders.

Methods utilized to achieve remaining objectives included development of a 1981 Operational Plan and an interview guide (see Appendix II) used

in conducting in-depth interviews of household heads. Contacts were made with selected knowledgeable informants regarding the fishery, including Commercial Fisheries area biologists, local Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, Fish and Wildlife Protection officers, and Tanana Chiefs Conference personnel. A literature review focusing on historic use and current demographic trends in Fairbanks was conducted.

In-depth interviews were conducted with members of a stratified sample of 64 households; 54 were households which had utilized the subsistence fishery in 1980. Interviews conducted with Tanana River fishing households consisted of 17 percent of 1980 permit holders. Ten others were drawn from Yukon River and/or Copper River fishing households located in the Fairbanks area. The latter were interviewed for comparative purposes and for determining the magnitude and scope of any "shift" to other fisheries that had occurred involving Fairbanks area fishermen. Stratification of the sample was developed using the format outlined in objective number six, "a" through "f" above.

Data recorded in interviews were coded for entry in the Division's computer files. Analysis of the 1981 interview data consisted of developing frequency distributions and completing analysis of 109 variables (see Appendix II) using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

A total of eight field trips were undertaken on the Tanana River in 1981 during various parts of the subsistence fishing season. One trip was conducted on the Yukon River near the Haul Road crossing to contact Fairbanks residents fishing there. Field trips involved documentation of fishing locations, access points, interviews with fishermen and other ADFG field staff, staff, and general observations regarding the fishery.

Background

The Tanana River subsistence salmon permit fishery falls within a portion of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) fisheries management subdistrict Y-6C (the Tanana drainage upstream from Wood River and below the mouth of the Chena river, including the entire Chena drainage). The permit fishery also extends up the Tanana from subdistrict Y-6C to the mouth of the Salcha River (see Figure I).

Evidence of historic use of this portion of the Tanana River between Nenana and the Salcha River by local residents was found in the writings of early Euro-American explorers of the area (see Andrews 1975; Olson 1968). Use of the subsistence fishery was essentially unrestricted during the first half of the 20th century, unimpeded by the development of Fairbanks and surrounding communities (Pennoyer, et.al., 1965).

The first significant regulatory mechanism put into place was in 1964, when a subsistence fishery permit was required (M. Geiger, ADFG, Commercial Fisheries, personal communication). Permits were issued on an individual basis with no harvest limits, and no eligibility criteria were established for permit issuance. Fishing was allowed 7 days a week with no closed periods. Harvest reports were required of fishermen within 10 days of the end of fishing, and no sale or barter of salmon was permitted. Permits were not required under specific regulatory direction of the Board of Fisheries, but were issued as part of a Departmental policy established under "general provisions" regulations approved by the Board which gave the Department latitude in managing the fishery.

In 1971 the first harvest limits for salmon were imposed as a condition on the permit; these limits were 25 kings and 200 "other salmon" were allowed to be taken (ADFG, Commercial Fisheries files, 1971).

In 1973 fisheries biologists expressed concern about the effect of

the 1967 Fairbanks flood upon returning salmon stocks. In order to insure adequate escapements, Departmental policy was changed to reduce salmon permit harvest levels to 5 kings and 75 chums and cohos combined. For the first time, subsistence fishing was not allowed before July 15, although fishing was continued 7 days a week after that time.

In 1975 the subsistence fishing period was reduced from seven days to five days per week. In 1979 periods were reduced to 4 days during the fall chum run, and 3 days after the commercial season closed. In 1979 the Board of Fisheries adopted a proposal requiring removal of the dorsal fin from subsistence caught salmon in all of district 6. The decision was made to assist enforcement personnel in identifying subsistence fish illegally entering into the commercial market. Also, in 1979 the Board established regulations allowing the barter of subsistence-caught salmon items when the transaction was of a "limited and noncommercial nature," (Alaska Subsistence Fishing Regulations, 1980).

In 1980 the Board established a "Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Plan, Subdistrict Y6-C" in response to a regulatory proposal brought before it. Designed to ensure adequate subsistence salmon harvests and escapements in the Fairbanks-area salmon permit fishery, the plan established quotas for the subsistence take of king, chum, and coho salmon and a mechanism for concurrent closure of subsistence and commercial seasons if subsistence quotas were met (see summary, Appendix III). Openings in 1980 and 1981 consisted of a uniform 4 days during the commercial season, and 3 days after the commercial closure.

Results

Results from the updated 1980 confidential mailout survey were

compiled from 255 cases out of a total possible response of 315. This represents 81 percent of all 1980 permit holders. Results of this survey are presented, focusing on years involved in the fishery and household characteristics. Additional data regarding patterns of use were developed through in-depth interviews of a stratified sample of the same population. These interviews were conducted in 1981 unless otherwise noted.

1. Years of Involvement in the Fishery

Frequency distributions were developed to show the number of years involved in the fishery and the number of years the permit holders resided both at their current location and in Alaska (see Table II).

TABLE II.

MEAN YEARS OF FISHERY PARTICIPATION, DOMICILE AT PRESENT LOCATION, AND ALASKA RESIDENCY

	No. of Years Involved in Tanana Fishery (mean # years)	No. of Years At Present Domicile (mean # years)	No. of Years in Alaska (mean # years)
All 1980 Responses (n=255)	2.1 (1.88)	8.9 (8.57)	13.8 (10.89)

(note: standard deviations in parentheses)

Figure II shows the percentage of past participation reported by 1980 permit holders in the permit fishery from 1974 to 1980. The data indicate that there is a high rate of turnover among permit holders in the subsistence permit fishery; for example, 66 percent of those who obtained permits in 1979 did not obtain permits in 1980.

2. Household Characteristics

Mean household size, median income, and employment characteristics

were determined for all surveyed households (see Table III). Results reveal moderate median income levels and substantial involvement in the wage economy.

TABLE III.

MEDIAN INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT OF SURVEYED HOUSEHOLDS
(n=255; employment categories not exclusive)

Household Size (mean)	Median Income	% with No Members Employed Full-time	% with No Members Employed Part-time/Seasonal	% with No Members Retired/Unemployed
3.02 (1.75)	\$15-20,000	33.2	52.1	77.0

(note: standard deviations in parentheses)

Income distribution for permit holders responding is shown in Figure III.

3. Patterns of Use in the Fishery

Greater Fairbanks area residents (including Chena Hot Springs Road, Fox, and Goldstream Valley) made up over 80 percent of all 1980 permitholders. All remaining permitholders were from the North Pole, Eielson Air Force Base, and Richardson Highway/Salcha areas.

Fishery stocks utilized by permitholders include a July king salmon run, a summer chum run generally found concurrent with kings, a fall chum salmon run, and a smaller coho salmon run (usually concurrent with fall chums). Fifty-three percent of those households fishing in 1980 fished for both kings and chums/cohos. Net fishermen comprised 83 percent of those reporting. Twelve percent reported using both a net and a wheel at various times.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents reported that they shared their equipment--boats, trailers, nets, fuel, or vehicles--with other fishermen not in their households. Seventy-two percent reported that they fished both weekday and weekend openings. Twenty-four percent fished only on weekends, while the remaining percentage fished only weekdays.

Methods used by permit holders for preparing and storing king salmon centered upon a combination of freezing, smoking, and canning (more than 90 percent), while less than five percent reported making strips. For chums and cohos all respondents (100 percent) reported using either freezing, canning or smoking methods.

Most respondents reported that they learned skills required to subsistence fish on the Tanana from friends or through self-teaching. Nearly 60 percent said they were self-taught. Only 18 percent reported learning from family members or other relatives.

Few respondents reported trading or bartering subsistence caught salmon; 89 percent said they never used subsistence-caught salmon for such purposes. The remainder (11 percent) reported they used "some" of their salmon for bartering or trading, generally for other wild meat or fish. Nearly 50% reported the sharing of "some" or "half" of their salmon with friends.

Data from the 1980 mailout survey show that nearly 80 percent of permittees make no use of salmon for dogfood. An additional twelve percent used "some" of their salmon for dogs, though most informants noted this was generally heads, tails and guts (see Table IV).

TABLE IV

UTILIZATION OF SUBSISTENCE-CAUGHT SALMON
(% of households utilizing; n=255)

	All	Most	Half	Some	None	Not Applicable
Household Consumption	39.2	43.8	5.5	6.5	1.8	3.2
Dog Food	0.9	2.3	3.2	11.5	78.8	3.2
Share with friends	0.5	0.9	4.6	45.6	45.2	3.2
Trade/Barter	0.0	0.0	0.5	6.0	90.3	3.2
Other/Incl. Trapping Bait	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	94.0	3.2

The mean number of dogs owned by permitholders was 2.5. Eighty-nine percent owned 4 dogs or less, and thirty-three percent of those owned no dogs.

Data from the 1980 mailout survey (Table V) indicate that 36 percent of all surveyed households obtain "all" or "most" of their meat or fish from subsistence activities. Relatively few households (7.8 percent) obtain "all" of their meat and fish from subsistence activities. A total of 58.5 percent obtain "half" or "some" of their household meat and fish from subsistence.

TABLE V

PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLD FISH/MEAT OBTAINED THROUGH SUBSISTENCE
(% of households reporting; n=255)

	All	Most	Half	Some	None
All Respondents	7.8	29.0	23.0	35.5	2.8

Questions during in-depth interviews regarding the diversity of food sources utilized by households having permits--including sources such as hunting, fishing, gathering berries, gardening, and domestic animals--revealed a wide range of sources. Table VI shows the percentage of households using different food sources.

TABLE VI.
SOURCES OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD, 1980 PERMITHOLDERS
(% households reporting; n=54)

	Commercial Foods	Hunting	Fishing	Gathering	Gardening	Domestic Animals
Used	96	89	88	92	81	38
Not Used	4	11	12	8	19	62

Data regarding the number of salmon (of any species, from any source) used by the household each year are shown in Table VII.

TABLE VII.
NUMBER OF SALMON USED BY HOUSEHOLD/YEAR
(n=255)

Number of Salmon Used	1-10	11-25	26-50	51-80	101+
% Reporting	10.2	28.6	26.5	24.5	10.2

Several questions were asked during interviews regarding factors affecting fishing harvest and effort. The factor mentioned most often affecting harvest was the quality of the fishing eddy used; 56 percent reported that this was "important" or "extremely important" to their fishing success.

Regulation changes or limits were said to be "important" or "extremely important" for 28 percent. Other factors potentially affecting harvest, such as weather, the availability of other food sources, and the quality of equipment, were found to be of much less significance.

Interviewees were asked whether or not 1981 household permit limits for salmon were adequate for their needs. Responses are shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.

ATTITUDES TOWARD ADEQUACY OF 1981 LIMITS
(% households reporting; n=54)

	King Salmon	Chum/Coho Salmon
Limits Adequate	75	85
Limits Inadequate	23	11
No Response	2	4

Of those who reported that current limits were not adequate for their household needs, over 95 percent said they needed additional fish for household food. Only one respondent (2 percent of total) said that more were needed for dog food.

Factors affecting household fishing effort are summarized in Table IX. "Lower food costs" were noted as "important" and "extremely important" by 85 percent of those questioned. Eighty-eight percent gave the same response when asked about "enjoyment of getting outdoors." Seventy-eight percent reported that "sense of local self-sufficiency" (described as the ability to obtain a variety of locally-produced foods) was "important" and "extremely important." In contrast, "lower dog food costs" were reported to be "not important" by 87 percent of those interviewed. Only 11 percent noted this in the "important" and "extremely important" category. Likewise, 90 percent said that fishing for trade or barter was "not important" to their household's efforts.

TABLE IX
FACTORS AFFECTING 1980 HOUSEHOLD EFFORT
(% households reporting; n=54)

	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Lower Human Food Costs	47.2	37.7	1.9	13.2
Lower Dog Food Costs	5.7	5.7	1.9	86.8
Better Nutri- tional Quality	14.3	40.8	8.2	36.7
Enjoy Being Outdoors	69.8	18.9	3.8	5.7
Like to Go Hunting w/ Fishing	5.8	11.5	9.6	73.1
Trading/ Barter	0.0	3.8	5.8	90.4
Sense of Self-Suffi- ciency	51.9	26.9	3.8	13.5

No consensus emerged from those interviewed regarding feelings toward specific management concepts should resource constraints require reduction of harvest. Sixty percent agreed that commercial harvest should be reduced before subsistence harvests were reduced, while 38 percent disagreed. Furthermore, clear majorities disagreed with reducing or changing fishing periods (75 and 63 percent, respectively). Eighty-five percent disapproved of the concept of allocating access to the fishery based upon household income.

Discussion

The data illustrating household characteristics of 1980 permit holders show a preponderant number having a relatively small household size with few elderly persons. These households show a high level of participation in the wage economy either on a full or part-time/seasonal basis.

Virtually all households are located in or near the greater Fairbanks area, including North Pole and the Richardson Highway south to the Salcha River. The survey reveals relatively recent involvement in the fishery for most households (mean = 2.1 years), even though the length of time at present domicile and in Alaska are considerably longer.

Interview data indicate that many were simply unaware of the fishery for years, or thought that it was limited to Alaska Natives only. As word of mouth spread, more and more persons became involved in the fishery. The data indicate that recent increases in the number of permits issued is caused less by an in-migration of new residents--or residents from other areas of the state--to the fishery than by entry of those already living in the Fairbanks area.

Distribution and sharing patterns of the majority of permitted households primarily involved direct personal or household consumption, rather than on extensive trading, bartering or sharing. Respondents reported sharing fish with friends on occasion, and giving strips or canned or frozen fish as gifts. This pattern, however, does not appear to reflect a major use of fish taken under a subsistence permit.

Most permittees learned the necessary skills of setting and checking nets and/or wheels either on their own or from friends. Most also reported sharing their equipment (e.g. nets, boats, outboards, trailers, truck, etc.) with friends. Often a number of friends join forces to participate in the fishery, reportedly to reduce the capital costs of each person owning the necessary (and often expensive) equipment and to share an outdoor experience. In such

cases it is not uncommon for each participant to obtain a permit, allowing division of the catch among several households.

Clearly the predominant use of salmon caught is for household consumption. Most households with permits do not own dog teams, although heads, tails, and guts of salmon are often fed to household pets. A number of interviewees owning dogs expressed the view that trying to feed teams when so many people desired to fish was not appropriate.

Interviews provided insights into the diversity of food sources used by many households. Hunting, fishing, gardening, and gathering provide significant supplements to commercial food supplies purchased. Nearly two-thirds of all households derived "half" or "some" of their meat/fish from wild foods. Many of those interviewed made clear that continued access to such food sources was a critical component to their perception of an "Alaskan lifestyle;" that they valued highly the sense of satisfaction and self-sufficiency offered by these foods (including salmon). This was true even where there was substantial household income and the opportunity to purchase additional commercial foods. On the whole, the great majority of households reported that current limits on both king and chum/coho salmon were adequate, and many felt that 1981 limits were "more than adequate," especially for chums.

Eighty-eight percent of all households interviewed cited their enjoyment of being outdoors as "important" or "extremely important" to their fishing activity. The importance of this factor came through repeatedly for the majority of households interviewed. Some people spoke enthusiastically about the novelty of the entire experience--operating the boat on the river, dealing with bad weather, and pulling cold fish from chilly water. Others, perhaps with more experience, described the satisfaction of having salmon in the freezer for the upcoming winter. The fishery for them, was not so much a novelty as

a valued part of their life in Fairbanks and in Alaska.

Further analysis was conducted of those users reporting that current limits for king and chums/cohos were not adequate (23 and 11 percent, respectively). Caution must be used in interpreting these data because of a relatively small sample size (n=54). However, an interesting characterization emerged which appears to distinguish between the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the user populations (see Table XI).

TABLE XI
COMPARISON OF SELECTED VARIABLES FOR HOUSEHOLDS
REPORTING "ADEQUATE"/"NOT ADEQUATE" CHUM LIMITS, 1981
(n=54)

	Limits Adequate	Limits - Not Adequate
Income (median)	\$25,001-\$30,000	\$10,001-\$15,000
No. of Months Worked (all workers)	14.76	5.0
No. of Years Fished Y-6C (mean)	3.13	4.86
No. of Dogs (mean)	1.6	7.6
No. of Salmon Used (median)	11-25	80-100
No. of Days Fished (median)	6-15	16-25

Those households which found current limits generally adequate (75 and 85 percent for kings and chums/cohos respectively) appear to have higher incomes, more involvement in the wage economy, and a shorter history of participation in the fishery. Many tended to think that current limits are, in fact, "more than adequate." They also consistently reported that "enjoyment of being outdoors" was an "important"

or "extremely important" factor affecting their fishing effort.

On the average, those who considered current limits inadequate had lower incomes, less involvement in the wage economy, somewhat larger household sizes, and had longer histories of participation. In general they spent more time in their fishing activities than those who found limits adequate, fished both weekdays and weekends equally, and used more fish each year in their households. They typically had more dogs than those satisfied with current limits, and more often cited lower costs of both human and dog food as important factors in their level of effort. Enjoyment of the outdoors was mentioned less often as being important to their household's fishing effort. All who responded in this category noted that hunting was an important activity undertaken in conjunction with fishing.

These contrasting patterns of fishing activity became evident during interviews with permit holders. A majority of respondents seemed to view salmon fishing on the Tanana as a recreational outing which also provided the important satisfaction of bringing home fish for their household use. For these people net fishing was often a novel experience; the experience of being out on the river checking a net provided satisfaction even if the cost of necessary equipment and gas exceeded the cost of buying fish in a store.

In contrast, households making more intensive use of the fishery--probably no more than 20 percent--saw the experience less as a novelty than as a normal component of their lifestyle in Alaska. Often they worked only part of the year, and had been fishing for a number of years in the past. In a few cases, these households also held limited entry permits; household

needs not accommodated through subsistence limits were retained from commercial take. These households also reported more sharing among relatives and acquisition of fishing skills from family members.

Certain factors seem prominent in their effect upon harvest success of all households. The number and quality of fishing eddies is limited, particularly in the heavily-used bluff area below the mouth of the Chena River. Some minor conflicts have developed over prior use of particular eddies; in some cases determined fishermen have attempted to "stake" their sites using buoys or signs. Weather also seems to be an important variable; a number of those interviewed said that poor weather in 1981 reduced their fishing activity. Persons using the fishery more intensely cited this as a factor less frequently.

Interviews with fishing households and with Fish and Wildlife Protection (FWP) officers patrolling the permit area indicated an absence of widespread violation of regulations. Regular patrols by FWP officers ensured that nets and wheels were being fished under permit. Some violations do occur in the permit area, but knowledgeable informants (e.g. FWP staff, Commercial Fisheries Area Biologist, and others) reported that these did not have a significant bearing on 1981 harvest levels (Officer Dalby, FWP, and F. M. Andersen, personal communications).

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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Subsistence Fishery Permit Survey, Tanana River Permit Area - 1980

Dear Subsistence Fisherman:

This survey is being conducted to help the Department of Fish and Game manage the Tanana River fishery and to maintain healthy fish populations. Your cooperation in filling it out and returning it in the envelope provided (no postage required) is appreciated. (PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM)

① Where do you live? _____

(Please specify; e.g., Fairbanks, Chatanika River, etc.)

①a) How long have you lived there? _____ years

①b) How long have you lived in Alaska? _____ years

② Including yourself, how many members are in your household? _____

②a) How many are: less than 18 years old? _____
 18 years to 55 years old? _____
 over 55 years old? _____

③ How many members of your household are: (enter number of each)
 employed full time? _____
 employed part time/seasonal? _____
 retired/unemployed? _____

④ Estimate your household gross annual income (circle correct letter below):
 a. \$0-3,000 d. 10,001-15,000 g. 30,000 +
 b. 3,001-6,000 e. 15,001-20,000
 c. 6,001-10,000 f. 20,001-30,000

⑤ Which years have you fished for subsistence on the Tanana River (check correct boxes)?
 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980

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⑤a) Enter total years checked at right. _____

⑥ Have you fished for subsistence on rivers other than the Tanana River?
YES NO

⑥a) If so, where did you fish (e.g., Yukon, Copper River, etc.)?
 Location(s): _____ Years fished: _____

3. Which years has your household fished for subsistence salmon in subunit Y-6C?

81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71

Kings
Chums/
Cohos

4. What method are you using to fish in 1981?
Net (state length) _____ Wheel _____

Other _____

5. Do you share your gear (nets, wheels, boat, outboard) with others not in your household?
Yes _____ No _____ If yes, who (state relationship) _____

6. Which years did you fish for subsistence salmon outside of subunit Y-6C? On what river?
1981 _____ 1975 _____
1980 _____ 1974 _____
1979 _____ 1973 _____
1978 _____ 1972 _____
1977 _____ 1971 _____
1976 _____

7. If you fished elsewhere, why did you move to subunit Y-6C?
_____ poor harvests elsewhere _____ moved residence _____ better fish quality _____ regulation changes
_____ other (specify) _____

8. How many dogs did you household have in: 1980 _____ 1981 _____
9. Where did you learn to subsistence fish for salmon?
_____ family members in household
_____ family members out of household
_____ friends
_____ selftaught
_____ other (specify) _____

10. Have you taught others to fish for subsistence salmon?
 _____ yes _____ no

If yes, who? (relationship) _____

11. On an average, how many subsistence salmon (all species) does your family use each year?

_____ 1 - 10 _____ 26 - 50 _____ 81 - 100
 _____ 11 - 25 _____ 51 - 80 _____ 101+

12. How does your household use subsistence-caught salmon?

USE	all	most	half	some	none
household consumption					
dog food					
share with friends					
trade/barter					
trapline bait					
other (specify)					

13. If you share with family or friends, with whom?

	all	most	half	some	none
immediate family					
other family					
friends					
other (specify)					

Comment: _____

14. If you barter or trade, for what goods or services?

Traded _____ for _____
 _____ for _____
 _____ for _____

Comment: _____

15. What methods do you use for preparing/storing fish?

Kings _____ Chums/Cohos _____

Comment: _____

10) How do you get from your residence to your fishing site (17.) In 1980, how many days were you primarily involved in fishing activity (setting and checking nets, processing fish, etc.)?

_____ vehicle (car/truck) only _____ boat only
 _____ both of above _____ other
 _____ 1 - 5 _____ 6 - 15 _____ 16 - 25
 _____ 26 - 50 _____ 51+

18.) During openings, do you primarily check nets and process fish:
 _____ weekdays _____ weekends _____ both

19.) Check those below which are sources of household food, comment:

_____ commercial purchases _____
 _____ hunting _____
 _____ fishing _____
 _____ gathering _____
 _____ trapping _____
 _____ garden _____
 _____ domestic animals _____

20.) How important were the following factors in household's 1980 harvest?

	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Regulation Changes or Limits				
Change in Fishing Effort				
Quality of Fishing Site				
Quality of Equipment				
Availability of Other Food Sources				
Weather				
Other				

Comment: _____

21.

	VERY IMPORT.	IMPORT.	SOMEWHAT IMPORT.	NOT IMPORT.
lower food costs				
lower dog food costs				
better nutritional quality				
enjoy being outdoors w/family & friends				
like to go hunting along w/fishing				
trading/barter				
sense of local self-sufficiency				

24.

If the condition of the resource ever required further regulation, indicate your feelings toward the following possible management proposals:

	AGREE	INDIFFERENT	DISAGREE
should reduce household subsistence limits			1
should reduce commercial harvest and leave subsistence unchanged			
should reduce commercial harvest and increase subsistence			
should reduce fishing periods			
should have more enforcement			
should change fishing periods (e.g. not on weekends)			
should allocate based on household size			
should allocate based on household income			
should limit number of subsistence fishermen			

Comment: _____

22.

Are current 1981 harvest limits adequate for your household needs?

	Adequate	Not Adequate
Kings		
Chums/Cohos		

23.

If current limits are not adequate, how would you primarily use additional fish?

	Household Food	Dog Food	Share	Trade/Bar
Kings				
Chums/Cohos				

Comment: _____

25.

Do you have any additional comments or questions about the subsistence salmon fishery in subunit Y-6C?

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
 Yukon Area
 SUBDISTRICT 6-C REGULATION SUMMARY, 1981

1. Permits

- a) Salmon may be taken only under the authority of a subsistence fishing permit. Permits must be obtained prior to subsistence fishing and are available at the Fairbanks Regional office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- b) The annual possession limit for the holder of a subdistrict 6-C subsistence fishing permit is 10 king salmon and 75 chum salmon for the period through August 15, and 75 chum and coho salmon combined for the period after August 15.
- c) Permittees are required to report their catches at the ADF&G check station located at the Chena Pump Campground by the end of each fishing period and are encouraged to report each time fishing gear is checked. Catches must be recorded on a form provided by the Department immediately after the salmon has been taken.
- d) Permits must be retained in the possession of the permittee and be readily available for inspection while taking fish. A person who transports subsistence-taken fish shall have a subsistence fishing permit in his possession.
- e) Only one subsistence fishing permit will be issued to each household per year.

2. Methods, Means, and General Restrictions

- a) Set gillnets and fishwheels are legal gear for the capture of salmon.
- b) Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes only by residents of Alaska
 - 1) A resident is defined as a person who has maintained a permanent place of abode within the state for 12 consecutive months and has continuously maintained his voting residence in the state.
- c) No person may operate a set gillnet having mesh size larger than 6 inches after a date specified by emergency order issued between July 5 and July 25.
- d) It is unlawful to buy or sell subsistence-caught fish or their parts.
- e) Each subsistence fisherman shall plainly and legibly inscribe his first initial, last name, and address on a keg or buoy attached to gillnets. Each fishwheel must have the first initial, last name, and address of the operator plainly and legibly inscribed on the side of the fishwheel facing midstream of the river.
- f) It is unlawful to set subsistence fishing gear within 200 feet of other operating subsistence or commercial fishing gear.
- g) In district 6 (the Tanana River), no person may possess salmon for subsistence purposes unless the dorsal fin has been immediately removed from the salmon. Possession of salmon for subsistence purposes from which the dorsal fin has not been removed is prima facie evidence that the salmon was taken and possessed for commercial purposes.

3. Fishing Seasons and Weekly Fishing Periods:

- a) Salmon may not be taken for 24 hours before the opening and for 24 hours following the closure of the commercial salmon fishing seasons or during weekly closures of the commercial salmon fishing periods.
- b) In subdistrict 6-C (and that portion of the Tanana River drainage upstream to the Salcha River) salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes from 6 PM Friday until 6 PM Sunday and from 6 PM Monday until 6 PM Wednesday.
- c) During closures of the commercial fishing season in subdistrict 6-C salmon may be taken only from 6 PM Friday until 6 PM Monday of each week.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
 SUBDISTRICT 6-C, YUKON AREA, 1981

The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate subsistence salmon harvests and that spawning ground requirements are achieved in that portion of the Tanana River drainage upstream from the Wood River (subdistrict 6-C).

Subsistence harvest limits in subdistrict 6-C are 750 king salmon and 5,000 chum salmon through August 15, and 5,200 chum and coho salmon combined after August 15. When either the king or chum salmon subsistence harvest limit for the period prior to August 15 has been taken, the commercial and subsistence salmon fishing season in subdistrict 6-C will close. If the chum salmon harvest level has not been attained by August 15, the remaining harvest will not be added to the chum and coho salmon harvest limit for the period after August 15.

THIS SUMMARY IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY. THE ABOVE LIST OF REGULATIONS IS NOT COMPLETE NOR SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED AS OFFICIAL. THE OFFICIAL REGULATIONS IN THE ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ARE FILED WITH THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

For Further Information Contact:

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