

An Ethnographic Overview of the Yukon River Salmon Subsistence Fisheries

**An Oral Report to the Board of Fisheries
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RC 3 Tab 10**

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Division of Subsistence

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Overview

- Regional differences within the Yukon salmon fishery

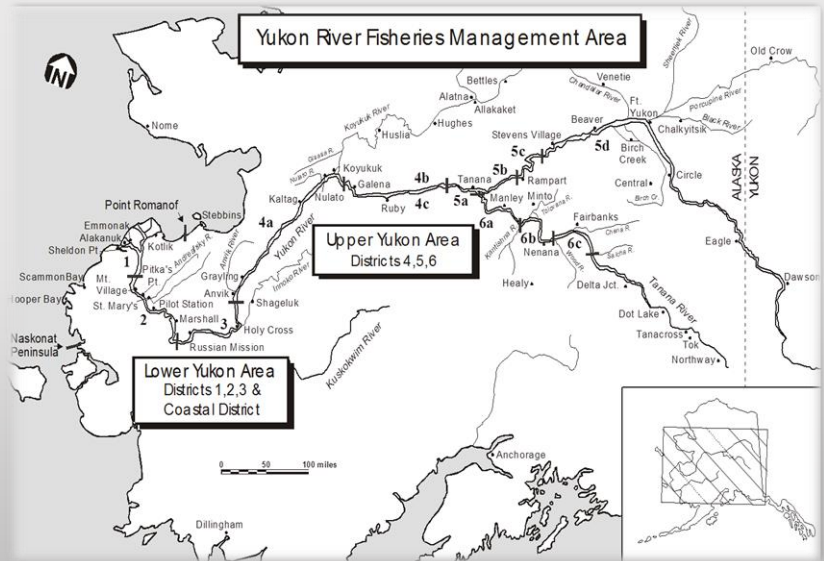
- Contemporary use and harvest of salmon by Yukon River residents
 - Relevant changes to the fishery
 - Adaptations by fishermen
 - Implications for harvest

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Introduction to the Yukon River

- 6 major fishing districts divided into 3 sections



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Introduction to the Yukon River, continued

- Historic reliance on salmon as a primary food source



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Introduction to the Yukon River, continued

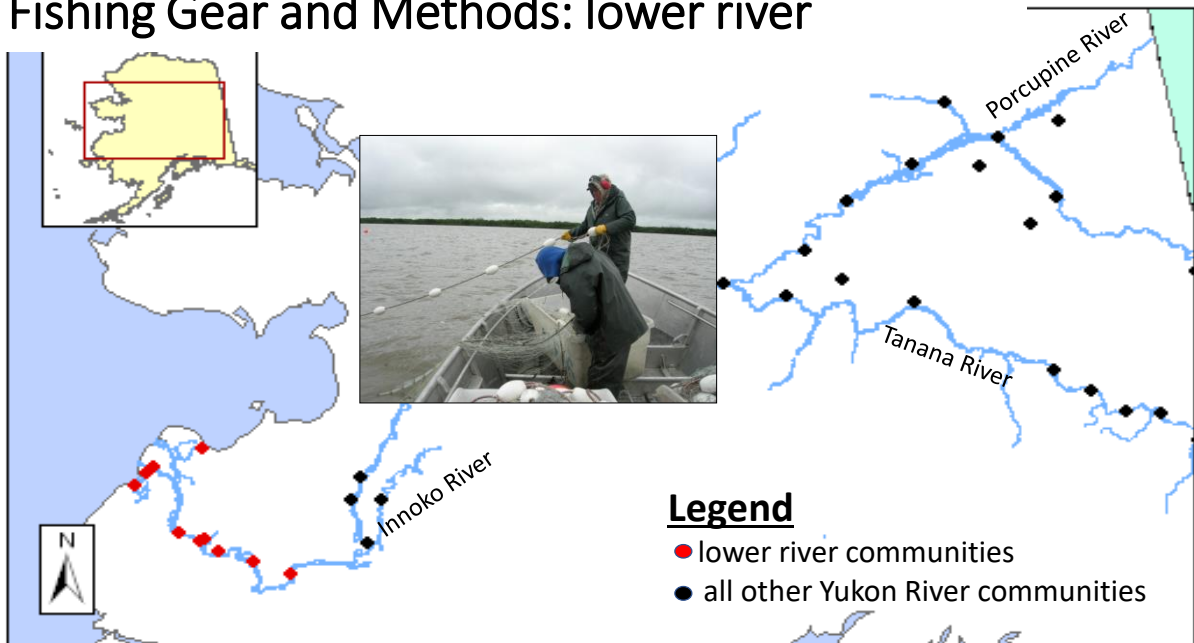
- Over 40 communities throughout the drainage



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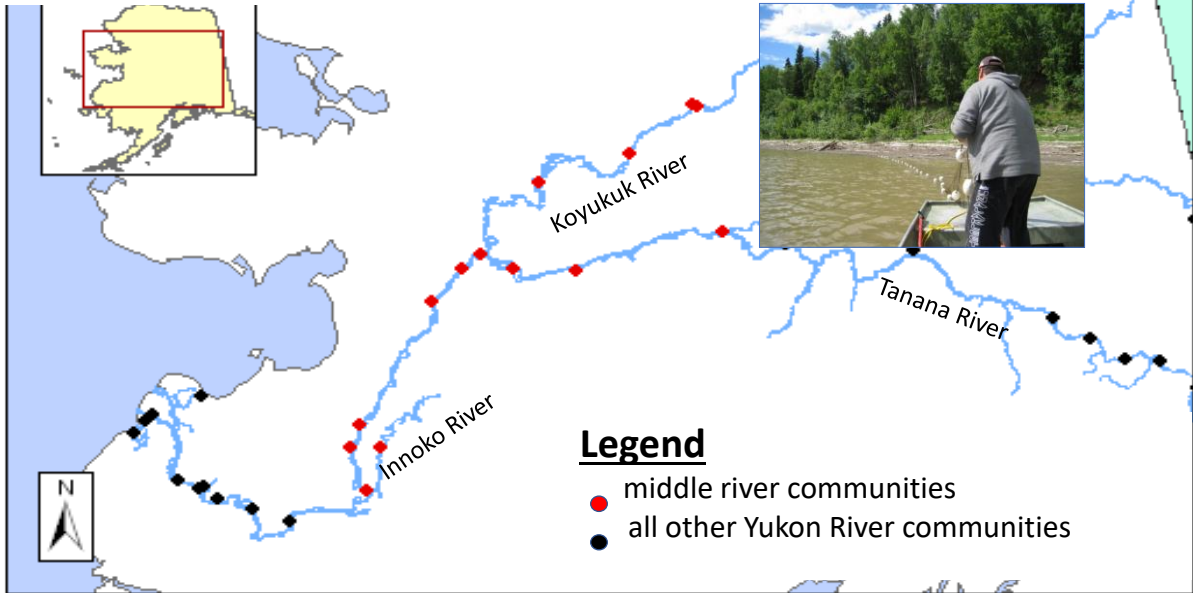
Fishing Gear and Methods: lower river



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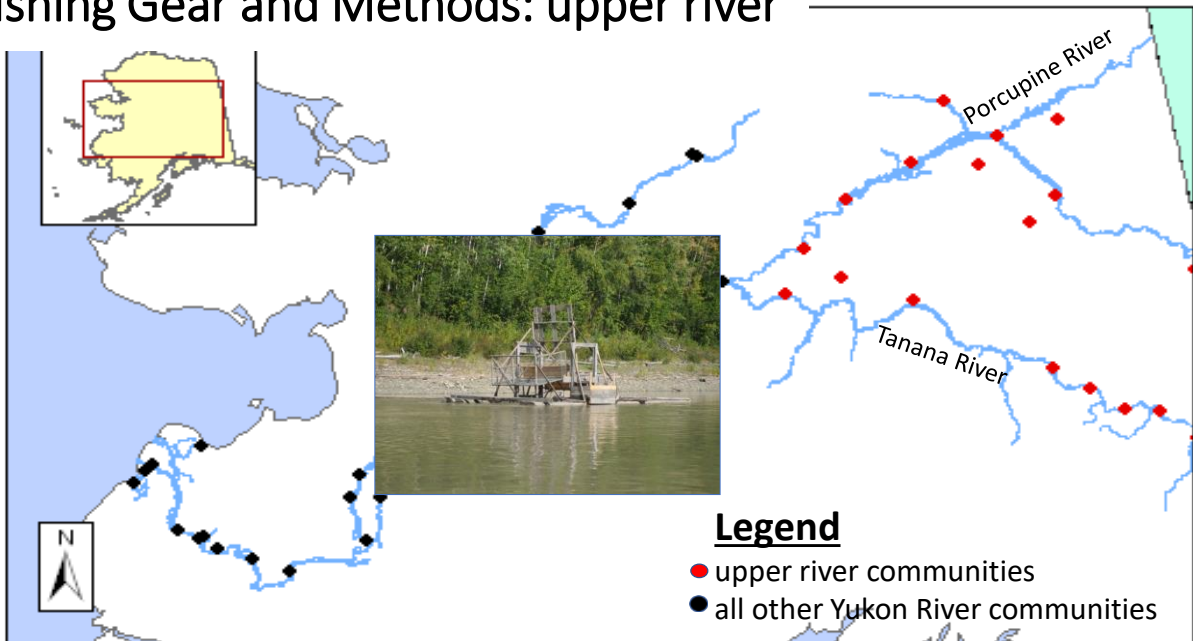
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Fishing Gear and Methods: middle river



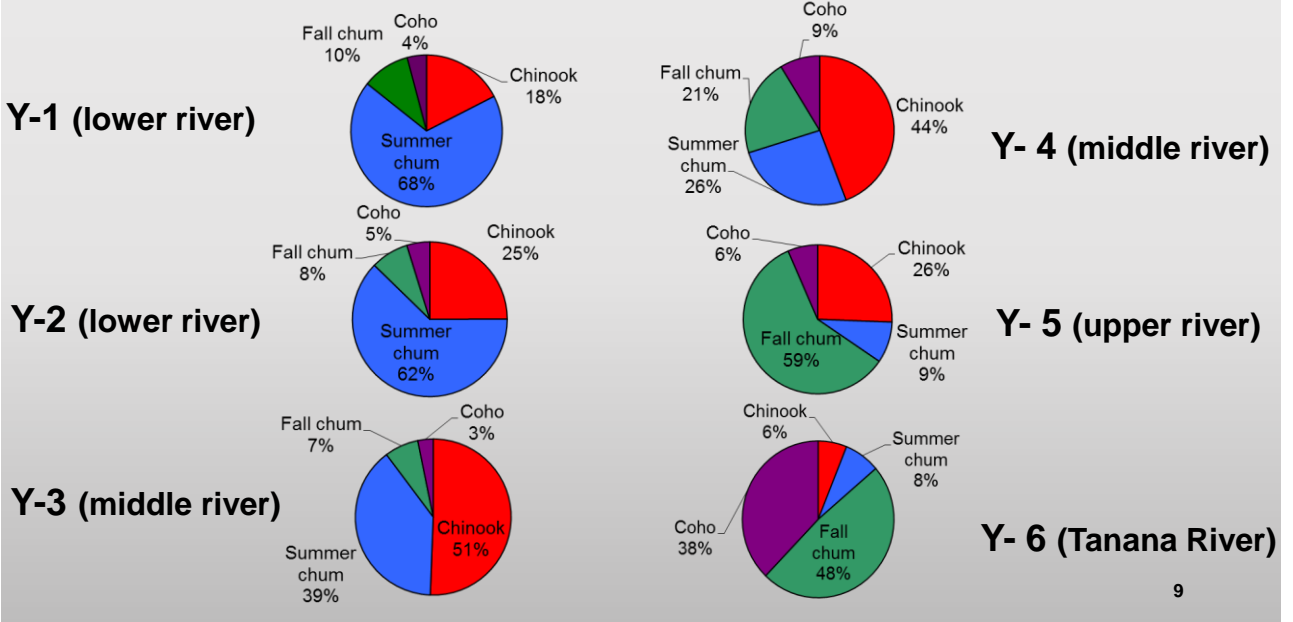
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Fishing Gear and Methods: upper river



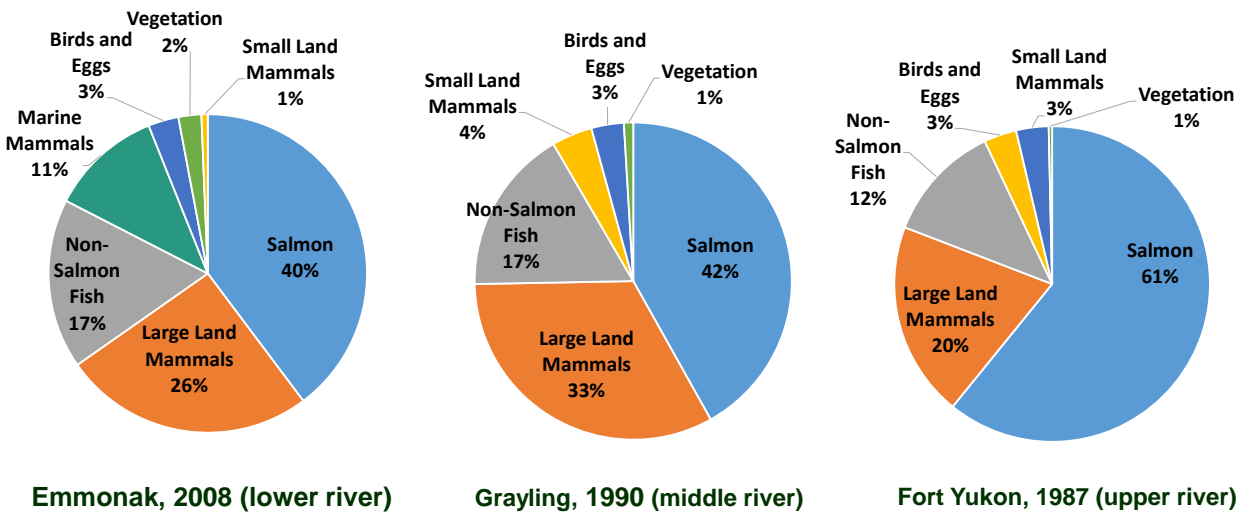
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Percent of Species Harvested by District (1998-2007 average)



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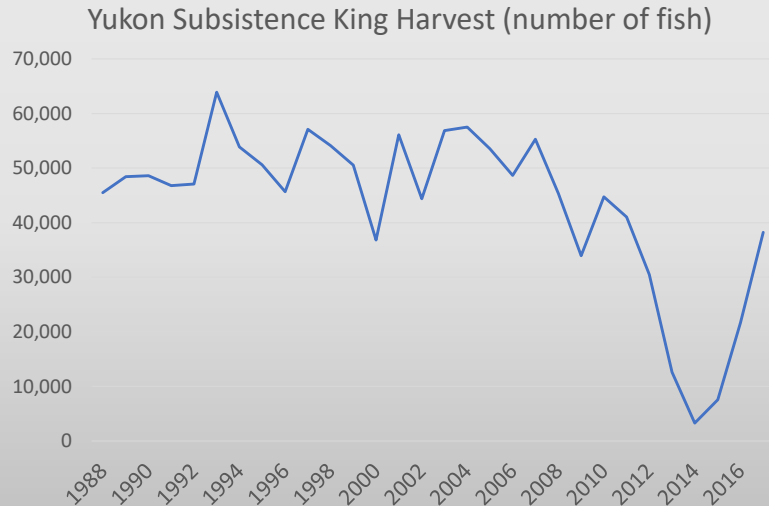
Comparison of Total Subsistence Harvests



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Socioeconomic Effects of King Salmon Declines



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Results

1. Decline of fish camps

Important site of cultural, economic, nutritional, and educational values

2. Wage labor and subsistence

Challenge of balancing schedules of wage employment with need for cash to support subsistence activities

3. Cost of fuel

Compounds problems caused by declining salmon: need to use more gas to get fewer fish

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Results, continued

4. Regulations

Restrictions, while important for conservation, decrease fishing efficiency and opportunity

5. Species replacement and alternative resources

Not always available or accessible because of regulations that have shifted traditional harvest timing

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Final Thoughts

- Salmon remains a vital resource for socio-cultural, economic, and food security reasons on the Yukon River
- Declines in king salmon have encouraged people from different regions of the river to work together for conservation
- Declining king salmon has negatively impacted residents of the river
- While harvests have slightly improved in recent years the needs of the people along the river are still not fully being met

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Questions?



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